



## COUNCIL **Press Statement**

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### **Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2016**

(Hong Kong, 19 April 2016)

The captioned Bill aiming to amend the Medical Registration Ordinance (MRO) to increase lay participation in the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) by the addition of four lay members is supported by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM). To maintain the existing 1:1 ratio of elected to appointed members in MCHK, the Administration proposes that the two existing appointed members nominated by HKAM be converted to two members to be elected by the Council of HKAM, which is similar to the arrangement for the election of seven members of the Hong Kong Medical Association as stipulated in section (3)(2)(i) of the MRO. This proposed conversion does not alter what HKAM is currently practicing, except it no longer requires the appointment by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

HKAM has around 7,400 Fellows embracing 15 specialty constituent Colleges which are equally represented at the HKAM Council. As the number of Fellows in each College varies from under 200 to over 1,600, a general election from all Fellows for representation at MCHK is not practical, as well as unfair to those Colleges with fewer Fellows.

HKAM would, however, like to point out to the Administration that HKAM has a unique role in the MCHK, which is to maintain the standards of medical specialist training and accreditation. This is comparable to that of the two Universities responsible for undergraduate medical education. The vetting and recommendation on admission to the Specialist Register of the MCHK is the responsibility of HKAM and is empowered by statute. Those nominated or elected by the HKAM Council to sit on the MCHK need to have the necessary experience, qualification, reputation and respect of the medical profession. This is different from the Hong Kong Medical Association who may elect members to the MCHK by popular vote.

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