

HONG KONG COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICIANS

Report on the 4th Open Forum on Paediatric Subspecialty Accreditation

Prepared by Dr CW Chan and Dr SN Wong

The Forum was held on 27th October 2009 Tuesday from 8:15 pm to 10:30 pm at the Pao Yue Kong Auditorium, G/F HKAM JC Building. The Forum was intended to be open to all Fellows and trainees so that they will be informed of the progress of subspecialty development, the regulations and logistics of subspecialty accreditation and training, and they can also give their opinions. The Forum was attended by 34 doctors including 33 Fellows and one Member. No Associates attended the meeting.

The schedule of presentations was as in the following table. Because of shortage of time, the fourth presentation by Dr CW Chan was skipped to allow more time for discussion, but all the powerpoint files of the scheduled presentations will be uploaded to the College website for Fellows' future reference.

Title	Content to be covered	Speaker
Opening Remarks		Prof L Low
Introduction	Need for subspecialty development, history of previous work done by College	Dr CW Chan
Guidelines on Accreditation of Subspecialties	Requirements of Academy and College on the subspecialty training programmes, personnels	Dr SN Wong
Procedures of Application and Vetting	Forms, announcements, interviews of First Fellows, accreditation visits, HKMC quotability	Dr Maurice Leung
The Way Ahead	Hierarchy for receiving applications: Vetting Committee and Assessment Committee, appointment of Director of Subspecialty Boards, time-frame, orderly application of different subspecialties	Dr CW Chan
Discussion, Q & A		

There was a fruitful discussion in the Q & A session at the end. The following aspects were discussed.

Questions/comments	Main points of discussion
What do the Fellows who are currently practicing in the subspecialty get by being “First Fellows”?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A First Fellow can simultaneously quote the degrees of FHKAM(Paediatrics) and FHKCPaed. 2. When the subspecialty is accepted by Medical Council as a registered subspecialty, he/she can quote EITHER Specialist in Paediatrics OR Specialist in that subspecialty 3. According to current understanding, a First Fellow cannot quote FHKCPaed(Subspecialty) because he/she did not undergo an examination to get such a degree. Future graduates who have undergone the subspecialty training programme and Board examination can quote such a degree.
The implications of establishing a subspecialty	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Colleagues mentioned that higher fees can be charged or reimbursed by insurance companies. 2. There may be medicolegal consequence when a Fellow being a subspecialist sees general cases not in the subspecialty, or a Fellow not being a subspecialist sees cases in that subspecialty and things go wrong. 3. When a subspecialty is established, new demand for Fellows in that subspecialty will be created. However, there will be limitation of training posts in that subspecialty in HA hospitals. 4. Manpower planning must be made beforehand for the training programme to be sustainable: the programme director or trainers in training institutes may go into private practice.
Subspecialty accreditation in relation to the Centre of Excellence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most colleagues agreed that subspecialty development and CEP project were separate but the CEP served as a stimulus or good opportunity for paediatric subspecialty development. 2. While the hardware of CEP is being planned by government, the College should develop the software of properly trained and accredited subspecialists. 3. This should also be done with cooperation of the other stakeholders, especially the service providers in HA and DH, and research academics in the two

	Universities.
Anticipated difficulties ahead	<p>Colleagues were worried about the grey area of recognizing Fellows' training or experience in a subspecialty; the disagreement among groups of Fellows claiming the same subspecialty or overlapping subspecialties; the compartmentalization of leadership. It was clarified that the mechanism of vetting subspecialty application already provided checks and balances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When a new application is received, the College will announce to all Fellows to invite alternative proposals/objections; 2. The most senior colleagues in the Assessment Committee will examine the qualification of First Fellows; 3. The College will appoint its own External Assessor to vet the proposed programme (including site visits to institutes); 4. The Council will be the final gate-keeper.