



# Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

**Working Group on Accreditation of  
Paediatric Subspecialties in Hong Kong**

**Open Forum on 27 October 2009**

**at Pao Yue Kong Auditorium, HKAM Building**

## THE WAY AHEAD

## College M & A (1991) :

Statutory responsibility to ensure the standard and quality of paediatric practice through a reliable system of training, accreditation, and continuous professional development.

# Paediatric Subspecialty Readiness in Hong Kong

*Results of Submission of Paediatric  
Subspecialty Groups (July 2008)*

## Summary of Data Return in July 2008

- ★ Readiness: 4 Societies
- ★ Partial Readiness: 6 Societies
- ★ No Returns: 4 Societies

Total Subspecialty Groups: 14

## Current situation, based on reports from subspecialty societies / groups

Subspecialty	Professional society	Service infrastructure	Training activities	CME/CPD activities	Research output	Ready to form Subspec Board
Adolescent Med	√		√	√		χ
Child neurology	√	√	√	√	√	√
Developmental paediatrics	√	√	√	√	√	√
Gastroenterology & Hepatology	√		√	√	√	χ
Genetics	√		√	√		χ
Haematology & Oncology	√	√	√	√	√	√
Immunology, ID, Rheumatology	√		√	√	√	
Metabolic diseases	√		√	√		χ
Nephrology	√	√	√	√	√	χ
Respirology	√		√	√	√	√

*Not yet replied: cardiology, endocrinology, intensive care & neonatology*



# Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

## Procedures for Accreditation of Paediatric Subspecialties in Hong Kong

*(Interim guidelines as at 4 Dec 2008 subject to further modifications when necessary)*

# Procedures List

- ★ 1) **Subspecialty Group** to submit application of programme duly endorsed by 2 external referees
- ★ 2) **Vetting Committee** to vet the application / to make recommendation to Council

★ 3) Council to approve the commencement of accreditation procedures

★ 4) **Assessment Committee** : to interview the provisional First Fellows



## 5) Formation of Provisional Subspecialty Board

- ✦ **Composition** : 7-8 members including :
- ✦ i) 5 Fellows nominated by the subspecialty group from the list of potential 1<sup>st</sup> Fellows preferably including representatives from HA, DH, Universities and private sectors; *and to be approved by the College Council;*
- ✦ ii) One Fellow (*not in that subspecialty*) appointed by the Council and *preferably* from the Working Group (with voting right);
- ✦ iii) One external assessor;
- ✦ iv) One counterpart from related subspecialties of sister colleges where appropriate

- ★ 6) Appointment of **External Assessor** by Council (*cost to be borne by College*)
- ★ 7) External Assessor to assess the programme, field visit to potential training centres and to recommend to the College for approval of the programme

- ★ 8) Submission of the training programme and list of 1<sup>st</sup> Fellows to College Council for approval
- ★ 9) Submission of Programme to the HKAM Education Committee and Council for approval
- ★ 10) Application to the MCHK for listing as a Paed Subspecialty Register and for *quotability of FHKCPaed (Subspecialty)*

## 11) Formation of Subspecialty Board

- **Composition:** 6 Fellows of the College including:
  - i) 5 Fellows in that subspecialty (appointed *preferably* from the University, HA, DH and the private sector);
  - ii) One Fellow (*not in that subspecialty*) appointed by Council;
- **Chairman:** to be elected by Subspecialty Board members, appointed by Council

- **Functions of Subspecialty Board:**
- a) Set training and accreditation guidelines for the subspecialty
- b) In coordination with the External Assessor, to accredit training programmes including programme director, training centres, modules, trainers and trainees
- c) Organise Subspecialty Board examinations, and appoint examiners
- d) Administer CME/CPD programme for the subspecialty

## 12) Announcement of the **date of starting of formal training programme**

- ✦ Training programme should start *within 24 months after approval* of the subspecialty by the HKAM Council
- ✦ College should cease admitting First Fellows when such formal training programme has started
- ✦ There will be *no remedial programme* for candidates not fulfilling First Fellow requirements at cut-off date

# Title of a Paediatric Subspecialists

- ★ Fellow of HKAM (Paediatrics)
- ★ Fellow of HKC Paed
- ★ Title of HKCPaed (Subspecialty) : a College Fellow with completion of a formal structural training programme and full assessment process. (1<sup>st</sup> Fellows who had not undergone a structural training programme would **NOT** be able to quote this title.)

The following criteria should be considered for defining a subspecialty, namely:

- ✦ Parallel cases in other places
- ✦ Feasibility of such a subspecialty (or combined subspecialties) in HK
- ✦ Appropriateness and relevance of the training programme
- ✦ Sustainability
- ✦ Mechanism for monitoring
- ✦ External referees' views



# Appointment of Director of Subspecialty Boards

- ✦ Announce to all College Fellows
- ✦ **Criteria for nomination:**
- ✦ 1. A senior Fellow with at least 10 years post College Fellowship experience
- ✦ 2. Having good professional standing and experience in Paediatrics and Child Health
- ✦ **Appointment mechanism:**
- ✦ Council to select among the list of eligible candidates by secret ballot. Consideration given to the following qualities:
- ✦ 1. Having experience in developing and supervising subspecialty training programmes
- ✦ 2. Having served in the Council or Standing Committees of the College (be familiar with the operation of the College)
- ✦ 3. Having been involved in the development of subspecialty accreditation guidelines of the College

## General Principles for Consideration

- ✦ Consensus of opinion arrived at by the **majority view** of members from that subspecialty group is vital
- ✦ No preset priorities for subspecialty implementation by the College
- ✦ Maturation, service needs, readiness are some of the factors for consideration
- ✦ **Final approval** : decided by College Council, basing on the principle of fostering collaboration and avoiding confrontation

# Commonly Asked Questions (1)

- ✦ Quality before implementation
- ✦ Subspecialty implementation voluntary
- ✦ Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics (CEP) a catalyst but not a determining factor
- ✦ No deadlines for implementation by College
- ✦ Subspecialty Society NOT same as College Subspecialty Board
- ✦ Subspecialty Society members NOT necessarily First Fellows of the Subspecialty
- ✦ Hong Kong can have one or more than one programmes for each paed subsp provided accreditation data and requirement permits

## Commonly Asked Questions (2)

- ✦ Consensus programme from subspecialty groups essential for implementation
- ✦ Majority views of potential First Fellows more important than views of solo authorities
- ✦ Views of external assessors important for College consideration
- ✦ The College would adopt flexible approach in the accreditation procedure and for First Fellows
- ✦ Final interview of First Fellows meant for assessment of relevant qualifications and training experience and NOT meant as an examination

# Conclusion

- ✦ This Forum meant for elaboration of the rules and guidelines; way of exchange of views on the issue
- ✦ Working Group keen to collect views and opinions from professional colleagues (Societies and individual Fellows) for future implementation
- ✦ Do submit your application of the programme to the College (first step to initiate the accreditation process) when you are ready
- ✦ College Council and Academy Education Committee reserve the rights to amend the documents as presented at this Forum today
- ✦ Thank you all in advance for the guidance and cooperation



# Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

**Working Group on Accreditation of  
Paediatric Subspecialties in Hong Kong**

**Open Forum on 27 October 2009**

**at Pao Yue Kong Auditorium, HKAM Building**

***Thank you !***