



香港藥學會

The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong

Room 1303, Rightful Centre, 12 Tak Hing Street, Jordan, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2376 3090 | Fax: (852) 2376 3091

E-mail: pharmacist@pshk.hk

Website: <http://pshk.hk>

Pharmacy & Poisons Board of Hong Kong

1/F, Shun Feng International Centre,

182 Queen's Road East,

Wanchai, Hong Kong

19th March 2018

Dear Chairman and Members,

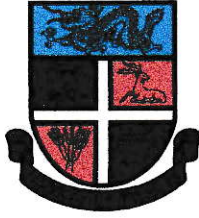
The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong (PSHK) represents Registered Pharmacists amongst various sectors of the Pharmacy Profession in Hong Kong and listens to their concerns. Our members and fellow Pharmacists have recently provided us with comments and opinions on their most concerning issues through various communication platforms. It is apparent that there is an oversupply of Pharmacists in Hong Kong, and this trend would continue if we do not act immediately.

As every student trained at a local School of Pharmacy in Hong Kong is partly funded by the government using taxpayer's money, it is of utmost importance that we act responsibly when spending this money to benefit the patients and the Healthcare system of Hong Kong.

On the other hand, the JUPAS best of five subjects' entry score into Medicine and Pharmacy degrees had been comparable in year 2014 and before, indicating that very high caliber students only are rightfully accepted into both degrees (table 1). However, it is of concern that in recent years (particularly in 2016 and 2017) we have observed that the average score for entry into the Pharmacy degree in both Universities have a decreasing trend. This is alarming and we as the Professional Society representing Registered Pharmacists has a moral obligation to voice our concern to the Pharmacy & Poisons Board of Hong Kong.

Year	CUHK Pharmacy	CUHK Medicine	HKU Pharmacy	HKU Medicine
2017	30.2	33.3	30.9	33.5
2016	30.9	33	31.4	33.7
2015	33.1	32.5	32	34
2014	33.8	32.6	33.2	33.5
2013	33.3	32.8	32.6	33.5

Table 1. JUPAS best of five subjects average score of entry into Medicine and Pharmacy degrees in The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and The University of Hong Kong (HKU) for the years 2013 to 2017



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Whilst PSHK continue to strive for better utilization of Pharmacists' skills and expand our professional services to the public, we feel that it is just as important to uphold the academic caliber of Pharmacy students, responsibly spending taxpayer's money on the healthcare system and to address the current short-term surplus in Registered Pharmacists.

After collecting opinions from our members and discussing extensively within our General Council with consideration of the abovementioned information, we have the below proposal which we would hope the Pharmacy & Poisons Board of Hong Kong (PPBHK) could include into the agenda of your next Board meeting.

1. **Decrease the frequency of licensing exam for overseas pharmacists to one per year.** The pass result of each paper would remain valid only for three years.
2. **A 2000 hour internship for all pre-registration candidates including overseas returning pharmacists.** This is important for overseas pharmacists to have practical experience in Hong Kong for them to better understand the local pharmacy practice and help put their knowledge into practice.
3. **PSHK to nominate one representative into the Examination Committee.** Our Society understands the current training needs of the profession and could provide valuable input to the committee from the practicing professional's point of view. Part of the functions of the Examination Committee is to advise the Board on the registration of Pharmacists and training requirements, and draw up and review the syllabus of the registration examinations. Having PSHK representation is essential to allow the greater voice of profession to be heard on the committee.

At the same time, PSHK will be meeting other bodies and institutions to lobby for an appropriate adjustment of Pharmacy student intake temporarily until the oversupply situation has been controlled.

We look forward to your favorable reply and wish you all the best in the Year of the Dog.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Scarlett Pong, BBS, JP
President
The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong.