

Date: 27 May 2003

To: COS of all Training Centres (Department of Radiology / Clinical Oncology)

From: Dr. F.L. Chan, Warden, HKCR

Re: Interns sitting Part I Examination in Radiology or Clinical Oncology

The College was informed that some medical interns have sat the Part I Examination in either Clinical Radiology or Clinical Oncology organized by The Royal College of Radiologists of the United Kingdom. These are written examinations held in Hong Kong as one of the examination centres. While our College recognizes these examinations as Part I Examinations, the processing and arrangement of the examinations are solely the responsibility of the Royal College.

This topic has been discussed in the College Council and Education Committee. The College considers that:

1. For the specialty Radiology, the important issue for the Part I Examination is that the radiology trainees do learn the essentials of medical physics in connection with radiology, and the related principles of radiation protection. Attendance of the full course of the Part I Training Course organized by the College is advisable prior to sitting and passing the Part I Examination.
2. For the specialty Clinical Oncology, the trainees would sit the Part I Examination after attending the corresponding course. The current examination regulations require a candidate to pass all 5 subjects in Part I Examination within 18 months in a total of only 4 attempts to be taken consecutively once the first sitting is made. An intern sitting one subject will impose an even greater time constraint in passing the 5 subjects even if he/she is recruited into the specialty later.

The College opines that interns sitting Part I Examination in either Clinical Radiology or Clinical Oncology should not be encouraged.

In view of such scenario, the College would like to seek your help in

- (a) advising intern doctors not to sit such examinations at their stage, with explanation on the situation as stipulated above, if you are being approached by these doctors for advice; and

(b) avoiding the consideration of passing Part I Examination as a criterion for priority in recruitment exercises for entry into the corresponding specialties.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

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