

Important Announcement on Post SDA-SDC Dialogue session held on 13th April 2019

Dear Esteemed Members,

Once again, I write to update on the topic of utmost importance, the issue of definition of dental practice classification and dental procedures accreditation by the Singapore Dental Council (SDC).

We hear you!

Firstly, I wish to thank members for taking valuable time off on a Saturday afternoon to join in the dialogue with the SDC, on the 13th April 2019. A total of 248 members attended and it was heartening to see the active engagement of our members with the SDC. For those who had submitted queries and feedback, I would like to assure that all were submitted to the CDO's office prior to the dialogue.

For members who were not able to attend, we are in the process of formulating the FAQ, incorporating the submitted queries as well as those raised during the dialogue, for your reference. I seek your understanding and patience as our council is working furiously to facilitate this, alongside our commitments to the upcoming SDA Convention this weekend.

We want you!

Following up from the dialogue session on the 13th April, and in response to a call from our Chief Dental Officer for viable options and alternative proposals to the recently announced plans for definitions of dental practice classifications and dental procedure accreditation, my council and I, on 16th April 2019, made a decision to convene a committee to spearhead this exercise.

This ad-hoc committee, known as the Special Steering Committee on Dental Classification and Dental Procedures Accreditation, will be 15-member strong. The Committee will comprise, in accordance to the membership percentage distribution, General Practitioners and Specialists. There will be no Council representatives on this Committee. This Committee will be vested special considerations and not be subjected to council oversight. The Committee will exercise their rights to appoint a suitable chairperson, and will present their findings and recommendations direct to the SDA President and the SDA member body. The Committee will be expected to keep members updated regularly on their work. Recognizing the need for transparency and proper governance, any final recommendations made by the Committee will be subjected to the consensus of the SDA member body prior to any follow up action. The Committee will be called upon to assist the President in any communications with other stakeholders, eg the Singapore Dental Council.

My council and I pledge, to this Committee, our full financial and secretariat support, unlimited access to legal counsel and unlimited access to members, whenever and wherever necessary. We have on board already, some respected and distinguished volunteers from our membership and would like to make a sincere call for more volunteers to come forth. It is our aim to have a committee with representatives spanning the age and experience stratum.

Interested members can contact me at this email; president@sda.org.sg for more details.

The SDA is your voice, and let us be united in working towards a cohesive and inclusive dental landscape.

I thank members for your patience with my council and I. As your council, we identify with your concerns and the need to call for action. I seek your understanding that we cannot provide snap responses and immediate replies, as it would not be considered responsible actions of a national dental body.

Lastly, just a reminder that the SDA Convention is only 3 days away. I sincerely thank members for their overwhelming support of our biennial event. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours in service,
Lim Lii