ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COUNCIL FOR THE PROFESSIONS
COMPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE
MALTA
YEAR 2014
Contents

Foreword by the President of the CPCM 7

1. Composition of the CPCM 8

2. Meetings and Attendances 9

3. CPCM Sub-committees 10

4. Request to verify whether qualification/s would be accepted for eventual registration in the Registers kept by the CPCM 12

5. Request to insert additional qualifications from members in the CPCM Registers 12

6. Interviews held by the Council’s sub-committees 13

7. Training programme 14

8. Appeal Cases 14

9. Case of a registered healthcare professional who was found guilty by the Maltese Law Courts 14

10. Case of a registered healthcare professional who was struck off from a register held by the HCPC (UK) 16

11. Court case 17

12. Complaint lodged to the Ombudsman Office by a registered healthcare professional 17

13. Complaints 18

14. Requests to consider the inclusion of new professions under the list of Professions regulated by the CPCM 18

15. Consultation Reports submitted by Local Authorities 19

16. Meeting held with Health Officials regarding the Legal Notice concerning the Professional Indemnity Insurance 21
17. Meetings with Dr. Richard Zammit, Superintendent of Public Health 21

18. Code of Practice for the Chiropractic profession 22

19. Code of Practice for the Dental Hygiene profession 22

20. Codes of Professional and Ethical Standards for the Professions of Nutrition and Dietetics 22

21. CPCM Registers 23

22. Applications for Registration 24

23. New Registrations 24

24. Licence to Practise 26

25. Concurrent practice of two health care professions 27

26. Legal Notice 399 of 2014 – Health Care Professions Act (Amendment of Third Schedule) Regulations, 2014 27

27. Proposals for changes in the composition and workings of the Council 28

28. Conclusion 28
Foreword

It has been an honour to preside on the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine for the past year. It was yet another year full of new challenges and interesting experiences.

Throughout the year the Council met on a regular basis to fulfil its day to day functions and maintain professional and ethical standards for all the professions regulated by the Council. This year was characterised by the addition of two new professions to be regulated by the Council, namely Medical Physics and Nutritional Therapy. With these two new additions now the Council is responsible for 21 professions. It was in the year 2011 when the Council last saw a new addition.

Whilst recognizing the importance of regulating professionals and maintaining the required standards for the benefit of the patient, the Council members emphasized the need for an imminent restructuring of the Council to be able to face the new challenges and difficulties encountered due to the number of professions regulated by it which all bring along their own particular issues.

After long discussions and following previous analysis of the situation of the Council, this year the Council drew up a report with a suggested way forward with the aim to strengthen the structure of the Council. Special thanks go to the committee which was entrusted with this challenging task. The final report was subsequently presented to the Superintendent of Public Health, Dr Richard Zammit.

The Council is now looking forward for the next step ahead and is positive that during the months to come all stakeholders will take cognisance of its challenges, cooperate and give a helping hand to assure that the Council is given the resources to be able to fulfil its functions and be beneficial to the Maltese Health Care System.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank the Registrar, all members of the Council, and all members of the sub-committees for their commitment and whose input is central to the workings of the Council.

Dr. Lydia Abela LL.D.
President

March, 2015.
I. Composition of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine (CPCM)

In 2014 the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine was composed as follows:

President

Dr. Lydia Abela LLD

Appointed Members

Dr. Charles Azzopardi  
Ms. Julia Farrugia  
Mr. Joseph Piscopo  
Ms. Maria Schembri  
Mr. Christopher Vella

Elected Members

Dr. Joseph Agius  
Ms. Liliana Agius  
Mr. Mario Camilleri  
Mr. Edward Gruppetta  
Mr. Andrew Scicluna  
Dr. John Xerri de Caro  
Mr. Renato Zerafa

Registrar

Ms. Gillian Mifsud
2. **Meetings and Attendances**

i. During 2014 the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine held sixteen (16) meetings all of which were of an administrative nature and two (2) inquiry sittings held on 17\textsuperscript{th} June and 28\textsuperscript{th} October.

ii. Dr. Lydia Abela attended sixteen (16) meetings of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine after her appointment as President of this Council. Dr. Abela was excused for the meetings of the 4\textsuperscript{th} February and 1\textsuperscript{st} April, 2014.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Member</th>
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<th>Excused</th>
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<td>Ms. Julia Farrugia</td>
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<td>Ms. Maria Schembri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Christopher Vella</td>
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<td>Dr. Joseph Agius</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Liliana Agius</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Mario Camilleri</td>
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<td>Mr. Edward Gruppetta</td>
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<td>Dr. John Xerri de Caro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Renato Zerafa</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
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3. Sub-committees of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine

i. The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine appointed the sub-committees shown hereunder in accordance with Part V Article 26 (3) and (4) of the Health Care Professions Act, Cap. 464 to recommend upon specific matters pertaining to each of these professions and to report and advise the Council upon documents and qualifications from both local and foreign healthcare professionals regulated by the CPCM :-

**Acupuncturists** sub-committee
- Dr. Charles Azzopardi (Chairperson)
- Ms. Shan Jin
- Mr. Ronglian Ma

**Audiology** sub-committee
- Dr. John Xerri de Caro (Chairperson)
- Dr. Nadine Calleja
- Mr. Andrew Sciberras

**Chiropractors** sub-committee
- Mr. Andrew Scicluna (Chairperson)
- Ms. Elaine Marie McDougall
- Mr. Nicolo Orlando

**Clinical Perfusionists**
Sub-committee
- Mr. Renato Zerafa (Chairperson)
- Mr. Peter Gatt
- Mr. Jeffrey Muscat

**Dental Hygienists** sub-committee
- Ms. Maria Schembri (Chairperson)
- Mr. Jeremy Lanfranco
- Mr. Francis Lau

**Dental Technologists**
sub-committee
- Mr. Edward Gruppetta (Chairperson)
- Mr. John Salomone Reynaud
- Mr. Christopher Vella

**Dietitians** sub-committee
- Ms. Julia Farrugia (Chairperson)
- Dr. Mario Caruana
- Ms. Maria Schembri

**Environmental Health Officers**
sub-committee
- Mr. Renato Zerafa (Chairperson)
- Mr. Mario Camilleri
- Mr. Clive Tonna

**Medical Lab. Scientists**
Sub-committee
- Mr. Mario Camilleri (Chairperson)
- Mr. Noel Ciantar
- Mr. Renato Zerafa
During the meeting held in June, a sub-committee was appointed with their terms of reference being to consider the current EU scenario vis-à-vis the regulation of the professions regulated by the CPCM and to submit recommendations and proposals to the CPCM for consideration on the re-structuring committee of the Council and the way forward. This sub-committee was composed of Dr. C. Azzopardi (Chairman), Ms. L. Agius, Mr. A. Scicluna, Dr. J. Xerri de Caro and Mr. R. Zerafa.
4. **Request to verify whether qualification/s would be accepted for eventual registration in the Registers kept by the CPCM**

During the year 2014 the Council received requests from Maltese citizens who were interested to undergo courses being run by foreign institutions in professions regulated by the CPCM including the field of Nutrition. They wanted to confirm whether the training will be recognised by the Council for eventual registration. After evaluating the prospectus of the courses in question and the confirmation that the Institutions from where the training is Accredited by MQRIC, the CPCM confirmed or otherwise these training courses.

5. **Request to insert additional qualifications from members in the CPCM Registers**

During 2014, the Council approved the requests from Health Care Professionals to have their qualifications inserted in the respective registers of the Council. The Council approved these additional qualifications after evaluating the course transcript and ensuring that the Institutions concerned were accredited.

**Qualifications considered and approved**

- BSc (Hons) Health Science, University of Malta.
- Masters in Food Law, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.
- Doctor of Philosophy, Sheffield Hallam University, UK.
- BSc (Hons) Medical Laboratory Science, University of Malta.
6. **Interviews held by the Council’s sub-committees**

- The Dental Technology sub-committee conducted two interviews during 2014

  - A non-EU national was interviewed in June. The applicant’s competency in the subjects of orthodontics and partial dentures was found to be lacking both in theory and practice and as a consequence did not meet the minimum standard required. The decision of the Council was to propose to the applicant to follow the second year of the current BSc Dental Technology Course being run by the University of Malta or a training programme in the areas identified by the Council from an Accredited/Recognised Institute.

  - In August an interview was conducted to an applicant who holds EU nationality and who applied for registration in the Dental Technology Register. On the basis of a number of factors, but particularly the fact the professional qualification presented by the applicant, and in accordance to the MQRIC being at Level 4, and also during the interview the applicant was found lacking in both theoretical and practical aspects in all areas of Dental Technology, the Council decided to advise the applicant to follow a further course in Dental Technology such as that currently offered by the University of Malta or at an equivalent Academic Institution, with the same level of qualification.

- The Medical Laboratory Science sub-committee conducted two interviews during 2014. The interviews were held to clarify certain details regarding the applicants’ professional qualities in Medical Laboratory Science.

  - The interview held on the 7th February was in regards to an applicant who is a non-EU Citizen. Following the said interview the applicant was granted registration in the Medical Laboratory Science Register for a period of two years in accordance to the provisions of the HCPA.

  - The other interview was held on the 25th April to a non-EU Citizen. The applicant was granted registration in the Medical Laboratory Science Register for a period of two years.
- The Physiotherapy sub-committee conducted an interview to an EU National in February to clarify further on the clinical practice during the programme of studies. On the basis of the evidence submitted and the clarifications made by the applicant the sub-committee confirmed that the applicant met the criteria for registration in the Physiotherapy Register.

7. **Training programme**

The Council was in receipt of five applications for registration in the Radiography Register from non-EU Citizens. Their qualifications were in Radiotherapy. After due consideration and evaluation of the documentation presented by these applicants, it transpired that they lacked training in certain areas of studies. The Council recommended that the applicants had to follow a structured programme in theory (equivalent to 12 ECTS) and clinical radiography (therapy) (equivalent to 8 ECTS) with a minimum duration of 4 months in the identified areas. It was recommended that this training be carried out at an Institution approved by the Council. At the end of the programme they would be assessed in both theory and practice and a certificate of successful completion is to be issued by the said Institution.

The applicants accepted to undergo the said training. It was planned that the said training will be held during 2015 under the auspices of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Malta.

8. **Appeal Cases**

- An applicant, who failed the 2nd aptitude test in connection with her request for registration in the Register of Dental Technology kept by the CPCM and who had filed an appeal in May 2013 was still pending since in 2014 the Health Care Professions Appeals Committee did not communicate to the Council a date for the hearing of this case.
The Council considered and discussed the decision of the Health Care Professions Appeals Committee taken in the previous year in regards to an applicant who was not favourably considered by the CPCM to be registered as a Psychotherapist. The Appeals Committee had decided in November 2013 that the appellant must be registered and such registration had to be backdated from the date of the appellant’s application. The Council was not in agreement with the said decision for various factors. The Council had to abide by the Appeals decision and registered the application in the Psychotherapy Register in terms of the decision of the Health Care Professions Appeals Committee (Appeal No. 108) of the 7th November 2014.

9. Case of a registered healthcare professional who was found guilty by the Maltese Law Courts

The CPCM had received information that a Professional registered in the Speech Language Pathology Register kept by the CPCM had been found guilty of thefts by the Court of Criminal Appeal in July 2013. The decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal was of a 30 months imprisonment.

In terms of Article 32 of the HCPA the Council had to consider disciplinary measures vis-à-vis the registration of the healthcare professional who had been convicted by any Court in Malta of any crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

The professional was invited to present his submissions in writing related to the decision taken by the Court of Criminal Appeal. This was submitted through the professional’s legal representative in May 2014.

After due consideration, the Council agreed that an Inquiry had to be conducted in accordance to the Procedure for the Erasure of Names of Professionals Complementary to Medicine Rules.

The Council held an inquiry sitting on the 17th June. A decision was taken by the Council on the same day of the inquiry i.e. 17th June, whereby the Council confirmed that on the basis of the evidence and documentation presented the professional had been
found guilty of thefts and was sentenced to a 30 months imprisonment. After taking into consideration Articles 32 and 33 of Cap 464 of the Laws of Malta and considering the commitment of the applicant whilst serving his sentence, the Council decided that on these circumstances, Article 32 (1) (iv) be applied i.e. the health care professional be issued with a caution.

10. **Case of a registered healthcare professional who was struck off from a register held by the HCPC (UK)**

In January 2014 the Council received information that a Professional registered in the Occupational Therapy Register kept by the CPCM had been struck off from the Occupational Therapy Register kept by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) in UK due to professional misconduct as from 14th June 2013.

The Professional was invited to present his submissions in writing related to the decision taken by the HCPC. The Professional submitted his reply in July.

After due consideration, the Council agreed that an Inquiry had to be conducted in accordance with the Procedure for the Erasure of Names of Professionals Complementary to Medicine Rules.

The Council conducted an inquiry sitting on the 28th October. The Professional in question (Mr. Ruben Bartolo) who was duly notified through the prescribed notice of inquiry ‘Form A’ did not attend for the inquiry sitting. The notice was sent by registered post to the address indicated by Mr. Bartolo and the Council was in receipt of the signed confirmation of collection.

Therefore the Council proceeded to take the decision *in absentia*. The Council evaluated the evidence and documentation, in particular the decision taken by the HCPC in June 2013.

The Council confirmed that Mr. Bartolo who was registered with the CPCM in 1994 and granted the Licence to Practice by the President of Malta in 2009 was found guilty of professional or ethical misconduct and also failed to comply with professional and ethical standards that where applicable and this is in accordance to what results from the details of the said decision.
Therefore the CPCM, after taking into consideration Article 32 and 33 of the Health Care Professions Act (Cap. 464) and after noting that the professional did not attend the sitting to defend the accusations against him before the HCPC and from which decision no appeal was filed, and also having failed to attend the CPCM inquiry sitting to defend the accusations against him, decided that in the circumstances, Article 32 (1) (i) be applied and thus the Council ordered the Registrar to erase the name of the charged (Mr. Ruben Bartolo) from the Occupational Therapy Register and recommend to the President of Malta that the Professional’s Licence to Practice be withdrawn.

A copy of the decision was sent to Mr. Bartolo on the 6th November.

In view that Mr. Bartolo did not lodge an appeal within the timeframe established by the Health Care Professions Act the decision of the Council came into effect as from the 28th October.

11. Court case

During the year in review the CPCM legal counsel continued to attend the court sittings held in connection with the writ of summon filed in April 2012 by Malta Dental Technologists Association against the Superintendent of Public Health and the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine regarding official recognition by the Health Authorities of the Clinical Dental Technologists/Denturists and the proposed changes in the programme of the Dental Technology Course being organised by the University of Malta. The case was still ongoing by the end of 2014.

12. Complaint lodged to the Ombudsman Office by a registered healthcare professional

Dr. Anthony Vassallo, Administrative Consultant at the Ombudsman Office informed that he had received a complaint from a professional regarding a Council’s ruling in respect of an advert that the individual had published in a local publication in the field of Nutrition/Dietetics. After consulting with the relevant
Professional committees the Council submitted its clarifications/explanations/position to Dr. Vassallo.

13. Complaints

Allegations of illegal practice by individuals not registered with the Council

During the year in review, the CPCM received information from Healthcare Professionals, Professional Associations and/or the public regarding individuals who were not registered with the CPCM and who were allegedly performing the duties of Healthcare Professionals regulated by the Council and/or advertising such practices. These were varied and included the professions of Acupuncture, Physiotherapy, Osteopathy, Nutrition and Dietetics.

The Council forwarded the information to the competent Authorities so as to investigate and take the necessary steps to verify/stop the abuses.

The Council regularly notified the individual concerned or his/her employer/advertising agency that according to the Health Care Professions Act no one could practice any Healthcare Profession regulated by the CPCM if not duly registered with this Council.

The Council is concerned about allegedly illegal practices and feels that it is imperative that the health and wellbeing of the public is safeguarded.

14. Requests to consider the inclusion of new professions under the list of Professions regulated by the CPCM

♦ Behaviour Analyst

In February the Council received a request from an individual who was requesting state registration for the profession of Behaviour Analyst with the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine. After due consideration the Council agreed that before the Council can decide whether the studies followed in Positive Approaches to Challenging Behaviour fits within the Psychotherapy standards set by the Council, the Council needs to
have further information. Subsequently the individual was requested to submit relevant literature about this profession including details of training from the relevant Authorities. Till the end of the year in review no information was forthcoming by the said individual.

♦ Sport Therapy

In November an individual wrote to the Council for guidance as to the way forward to include Sports Therapy as one of the list of Professions Complementary to Medicine. The Council agreed that the individual is to be informed that it is not the role of the Council to recommend/not recommend or refuse/accept the inclusion of this profession with this Council. The Council believes that it is the role of the Health Minister and/or Director General to decide whether this profession should be recognized/regulated by a Board/Council or not.

♦ Arts Therapies

The Secretary of the Creative Arts Therapies Society (CATS), Ms. Lou Ghirlando requested again the Council to consider the validation of the title of Arts Therapist in its own right, beginning with Drama Therapy as the most prevalent form of Arts Therapy in Malta. The CPCM re-confirmed its previous decision and Ms. Ghirlando was informed that the Council considers Arts Therapies under the Register of Psychotherapy Register. If the position of the Council is not accepted, the Society may wish to make a formal request to the Minister regarding this issue. Ms. Ghirlando informed the Council in April that due to the fact that the Society is of the opinion that the title of Arts Therapist is to be given its own framework they intended to make a formal request to the Minister.

15. Consultation Reports submitted by Local Authorities

♦ Professional Training in Systemic Family Psychotherapy course being proposed by the Institute of Family Therapy, Malta (IFT)

The Director of the Institute of Family Therapy (IFT) contacted the Council. He requested the Council for its review and approval of the Professional Training in Systemic Family Psychotherapy
course so that eventual graduates can be considered and registered with the Council in the Psychotherapy Register. After various considerations the Council requested the assistance of a foreign consultant (Professor of Family Psychology and Family Therapy) in order to evaluate the contents of the programme and submit his professional opinion regarding the standard of the course vis-à-vis the studies achieving the level upon which one can qualify as a Systemic Family Therapist and also provide recommendations as to how these programmes can reach such standard (if not already achieved) or improved. The report was submitted to the Council in November. The Council discussed the contents of the report drawn up by the foreign Consultant in December.

The Council agreed to invite the Director of the IFT to submit their comments regarding the recommendations and provisions indicated in the report. The comments were not received till the end of the year in review.

♦ Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Dental Technology, Faculty of Dental Surgery, University of Malta

The Council evaluated in detail the course contents of the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Dental Technology which was being offered by the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the University of Malta, duration of 3 year full time program vis-à-vis the previous programme which was over a 4 year full time course. Following several clarifications regarding certain modules with the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery, in April the Council agreed that the Council was in a position to endorse the 3 year programme. However, the Council informed the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery that whilst this approval is being communicated, the Council is not imposing its’ decision on any other decision that the Law Court may take in regards to the court case instituted by the Malta Dental Technologists Association that included one of the pleas regarding the Dental Technology course being run by the University of Malta and will not be held responsible for any consequences.
16. **Meeting held with Health Officials regarding the Legal Notice concerning the Professional Indemnity Insurance**

A meeting was held on 4th February between representative of the Regulatory Councils constituted under the Health Care Professions Act and Dr. Denis Vella Baldacchino (A/Chief Medical Officer), Dr. Paul Cachia and Dr. Kathleen England. During this meeting the Health Officials briefed the respective Council about the proposed legal notice concerning the Professional Indemnity Insurance.

The Legal Notice 84 of 2014 which was then published on the 14th March under the Health Act (Cap. 528) titled ‘Indemnity Insurance for Healthcare Professionals Regulations, 2014’ stated that:-

“It shall be the duty and responsibility of every healthcare professional providing healthcare to patients in Malta to ensure that he is covered by a professional indemnity insurance policy, or a guarantee or similar arrangement that is equivalent or essentially comparable as regards its purpose, which is appropriate to the nature and extent of the risk which he undertakes when providing healthcare services to patients.”

17. **Meetings with Dr. Richard Zammit, Superintendent of Public Health**

- The Council invited Dr. Zammit to attend the Council meeting held on the 1st April. The main issues tackled during the meeting were:
  - the professions currently regulated or not by the CPCM
  - the current composition of the CPCM and the way forward
  - enforcement issues in respect of individuals performing duties of regulated health care professionals but not duly registered.

- Dr. Zammit attended another meeting on the 7th April. This meeting was held specifically to discuss the way forward regarding a decision taken by the Health Care Professions Appeals Committee in regards to a health care professional who had applied to be regulated by this Council.
18. **Code of Practice for the Chiropractic profession**

The President of the Malta Chiropractic Association, Mr. Nicolo Orlando contacted the Council in January proposing an updated version of the Code of Practice for the profession of Chiropractic so to better conform to the European Standards. This Code was being adopted from the Code of Good Practice of the Malta Chiropractic Association. After due consideration and some minor amendments to the proposed document, the Council approved a new Code of Practice for the Chiropractic profession. This Code replaced the previous one that was duly published on the CPCM website in September.

19. **Code of Practice for the Dental Hygiene profession**

The President of the Malta Association of Dental Hygienists Association, Ms. Veronica Montebello contacted the Council in April proposing an amendment in the Code of Practice for the profession of Dental Hygiene. After several discussions and consultation with the Association, the Code of Practice for the Dental Hygiene profession was amended and the updated Code of Dental Hygiene was published on the CPCM website in October.

20. **Codes of Professional and Ethical Standards for the Professions of Nutrition and Dietetics**

The Council urged the Nutrition sub-committee and the Dietetics sub-committee to formulate their respective Code of Professional and Ethical Standards and if necessary to amend the current Codes of Practice. The relevant sub-committee submitted draft documents of the Codes of Professional and Ethical Standards for the professions in question. These drafts were still under consideration by the Council by the end of the year in review. Further discussions will be held in 2015.
21. The Registers of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine

The current registers consist of the names, addresses, relevant qualifications, registration date and number of Health Care Professionals registered with the Council.

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<th>Profession</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACUPUNCTURISTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUDIOLOGISTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIROPRACTORS</td>
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<td>CLINICAL PERFUSIONISTS</td>
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<td>DENTAL HYGIENISTS</td>
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<td>DENTAL TECHNOLOGISTS</td>
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<td>DIETITIANS</td>
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<td>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS</td>
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<td>MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS</td>
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<td>NUTRITIONISTS</td>
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<td>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS</td>
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<td>RADIOGRAPHERS</td>
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<td>SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS</td>
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</table>
22. Applications for Registration

During the year 2014, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine received the following new applications from Health Care Professionals for registration:

- Dental Technologists: 3
- Dietitians: 2
- Environmental Health Officers: 7
- Medical Laboratory Scientists: 27
- Nutritionists: 9
- Occupational Therapists: 5
- Optometrists: 3
- Osteopath: 1
- Physiotherapists: 29
- Podiatrists: 9
- Psychotherapists: 5
- Radiographers: 21
- Speech Language Pathologists: 17

The majority of the applications were received from Maltese citizens who followed successfully health care related courses held at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Malta.

Other applications were submitted from European Union and Non-European Union citizens.

23. New Registrations

i. During the year in review, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine approved the registration of:

- Dietitian: 1
- Medical Laboratory Scientist: 1
- Nutritionists: 7
- Occupational Therapists: 2
- Physiotherapists: 4
- Podiatrist: 1
- Psychotherapists: 4
- Radiographers: 3
in accordance with Article 28 (1) of the Health Care Professions Act (Cap. 464). These healthcare professionals hold European Union citizenship including Maltese.

ii. The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine also approved the registration of:-

Medical Laboratory Scientists 2
Nutritionist 1
Occupational Therapist 1
Optometrists 2
Physiotherapist 1
Radiographers 2

for a period of two years in accordance with Article 28 (2) of the Health Care Professions Act since they are all Non-European Union citizens.

iii. During 2014, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine received the following applications for temporary registration from:-

Dental Technologists 2
Environmental Health Officers 7
Medical Laboratory Scientists 23
Occupational Therapists 3
Physiotherapists 20
Podiatrists 9
Radiographers 10
Speech Language Pathologists 17

They had successfully completed their respective course at the University of Malta. All were given temporary registration up till 31st December 2014 in accordance with Article 28 (3) of the HCPA.

After they graduated on the 9th December 2014 the CPCM approved their registration at the next CPCM meeting in the respective register as from 22nd December 2014 in accordance with Article 28 (1) (a) of the HCPA. A Dental Technologist, two Environmental Health Officers, one Medical Laboratory Scientist and two Speech Language Pathologists had not applied for permanent registration before the last meeting of the CPCM was held for 2014. All of these Healthcare Professionals were Maltese.
A Medical Laboratory Scientist who was successful in the BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science course did not apply for temporary registration but submitted her request for registration after the graduation. The Council approved the registration of this professional in the Medical Laboratory Science Register with effect from 22nd December 2014.

Approval to perform temporary healthcare services within Mater Dei Hospital

During 2014, the Council approved the requests made by the Manager of the Treatment Abroad Committee, to allow two healthcare professionals, who form part of medical teams, to perform their professional duties within Mater Dei Hospital for a specific period of time. The healthcare professionals involved submitted proof of their current registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) in the UK:-

- A Dietitian – 30th September to 1st October
- A Physiotherapist – 30th September to 1st October
- A Physiotherapist – 23rd October to 29th October.

24. Licence to Practise

During the year 2014, the Council continued to receive requests from Healthcare Professionals to be granted the Licence. After the necessary evaluation, the following 6 professionals were approved for the granting of the Licence and the licences to practise were issued:

Dental Technologist 1
Physiotherapists 3
Radiographers 2.
25. **Concurrent practice of two healthcare professions**

During the year 2014 the Council approved three (3) requests for concurrent practice of two health care professions namely:-

- Psychotherapy and Nurse
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Nutrition and Nurse.

26. **Legal Notice 399 of 2014 – Health Care Professions Act (Amendment of Third Schedule) Regulations, 2014**

Legal Notice 399 of 2014 which was published on the 11th November 2014 specified that:-

In the Third Schedule immediately after the words "– Medical Laboratory Science" there shall be added the following: -"
– Medical Physicists
– Nutritional Therapists".

During the Council meeting held on the 18th November, the attention of the Council was drawn to this legal notice. A discussion was held whereby it was noted that the Council was discussing with Dr. R. Zammit, Superintendent of Public Health for the restructuring of the Council to address more effectively the growing needs and challenges of the diverse 19 healthcare professions regulated by the CPCM.

Following the publication of this Legal Notice regarding the inclusion of the Medical Physicists and Nutritional Therapists with the CPCM, the Council requested a meeting with the Minister for Energy and Health and the Parliamentary Secretary of Health to discuss concerns regarding the registration of these new professions and clarification on the process/procedures of CPCM enlargement.
27. Proposals for changes in the composition and workings of the Council

A specific meeting was held in January to discuss proposals for changes in the composition and workings of the Council.

A report including the points discussed and agreed upon during the said meeting was compiled by the Registrar.

Discussions regarding this issue were held in other CPCM meetings. A sub-committee was appointed in June to evaluate what was discussed till that day and propose recommendations on the future structure of the Council. This sub-committee was chaired by Dr. Azzopardi and Ms. Agius, Mr. Scicluna, Dr. Xerri de Caro and Mr. Zerafa were nominated as members. They presented a report in October including two different options.

A specific Council meeting was held in November to discuss the options drawn up by the sub-committee. It was agreed that further details had to be included in the said report before further discussions could be held. Dr. Xerri de Caro, on behalf of the sub-committee presented a detailed report in December. Further discussions regarding this matter will be held early next year.

28. Conclusion

The Council is performing in a professional, proficient and effective way and is doing its utmost to be an accountable Professional Regulatory Authority to meet to the challenges that the Council encounters. The Council needs to be adequately and sufficiently prepared to face the years to come. The increase in the number of regulated professions, besides other issues, makes it imperative for the Council to adapt itself according to today’s needs. With the proper tools and professional goodwill the Council will persist in achieving and maintaining a regulatory system which is sensitive to local contexts and which meets the demands that a modern society needs.

Gillian Mifsud
REGISTRAR