

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

In April 2008, a complaint from a client of Dr. Alexander Lo Che-wah was received. In November 2009, a Committee of Enquiry (COE) was set up to investigate the complaint.

The gist of the complaint was that Dr. Alexander Lo Che-wah, being a Registered Psychologist and Member of the Educational, Clinical and Counselling Divisions of the HKPS, after having conducted psychological assessments on his clients issued to them on or about 26 May 2007 psychological assessment reports which were not up to a professional standard of practice, viz: (1) lack of basic background information essential to guide a psychologist to decide on the most relevant tests to be used; (2) the choice of tests was not fully explained; (3) interpretations did not follow test results; (4) recommendations/ suggestions were too general and vague, misleading and /or harmful; thus, contravening to 1.9(b) of the Code of Professional Conduct of HKPS – “Members endeavour to maintain high standards of competence in their work. They provide services to clients only within the boundaries of their competence, based on their education, training, supervised experience and practice.”

The COE hearing was conducted on 24 and 27 September 2010. The COE comprised 4 Fellows / Associate Fellows of the Society and 2 lay persons from other professional societies, and unanimously found Dr. Lo’s assessment reports to be not up to the professional standard of practice for the following reasons:

- (1) Dr. Lo made misleading claims (saying he had done a “Specific Learning Disorder” assessment when he had not; listed “Gifted Children Assessment” along with three actual assessment instruments in the Assessment Tools Section).
- (2) Having listed “Specific Learning Disorder”(SLD) in the Assessment Tools Section, Dr. Lo used only the term “learning difficulties” repeatedly in discussing the test results, and categorically denied ever mentioning “Specific Learning Disorder” or “Dyslexia” in either written or oral explanations of the test results.
- (3) The reports were filled with expressions of jargon and vague and confusing claims.

The Council is satisfied with the findings of the COE that Dr. Alexander Lo Che-wah had indeed infringed 1.9(b) of the Code of Professional Conduct of HKPS. After reviewing the written submissions made on behalf of Dr. Lo by his legal representatives on 31 December 2010 seeking a review of the COE’s decision, the Council did not find any grounds for a review and made its final decision in January 2011 to adopt the COE’s recommendation to expel Dr. Lo from the Society. Dr. Lo was therefore expelled from the Society on 14 February 2011.