

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**MEDICAL SPECIALIST**

**ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

**MALTA**

**YEAR 2025**

Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee  
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March 2026

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## Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I again present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Specialist Accreditation, a year that has been marked by progression, achievement, and a steadfast commitment to our core values. This report summarises our dedication to ensuring the highest standards in the medical specialisation training in Malta and in the accreditation of medical specialisation qualifications obtained from abroad. This service to the medical profession is provided with resilience and adaptability, demonstrating our continued dedication towards upholding this goal.

The Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee continues to navigate a changing environment towards providing further medical specialisation training. This year marks the introduction of three other postgraduate training programmes, two in medical specialities and one sub-speciality in Paediatrics.

I want to express my gratitude to every member on the MSAC representing their Professional Association. Their dedication, resilience, commitment and professional knowledge have been the cornerstone of the Committee's success. As a committed team we have demonstrated flexibility, adaptability, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

I want to thank the Registrar for her hard work, constantly driven by enthusiasm and pride in aiming to achieve the goals of the MSAC through her exceptional organisation skills and leadership qualities.

Prof. Stephen Fava MD, MRCP(UK), FACP, FEFIM, FRCP(Lond), MPhil(Melit), PhD(Exeter)  
Chairperson, Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee

March 2026

## ***1. Functions of the Specialist Accreditation Committee***

The Specialist Accreditation Committee is established by Art. 30 of the Health Care Professions Act 2003 (Cap. 464).

Article 30(6)(a) specifies that the functions of the Specialist Accreditation Committee shall be: -

- To issue Certificates of Completion of Specialist Training in the specialities listed in the relevant part of the Fifth Schedule, upon the fulfilment of criteria recommended by the relevant Professional Associations listed in the Fourth Schedule within three months from the date of receipt of the application or from the day any documentation which the Committee may request, whichever is the later;
- To advise the Minister and the relevant Council on issues concerning Specialist Training and registration, and any other matter that may be referred to it;
- To act as the advisory body for training in any of the special areas of practice;
- To accredit post-graduate training programmes;
- To levy such fees for accreditation, as may be prescribed.

## ***2. Composition of the Specialist Accreditation Committee***

In accordance with Article 30(2) of the Health Care Professions Act, the Specialist Accreditation Committee shall be composed of the following members: -

- a) One member appointed by the relevant Council;
- b) One member, not being a member of the relevant Council, appointed by the Dean of the relevant Faculty or Director of the relevant Institute of the University of Malta;
- c) One member, not being a member of the relevant Council, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Health;
- d) One member, not being a member of the relevant Council, appointed by each of the relevant Professional Associations.

The members of the Specialist Accreditation Committee shall be so appointed for a term of three years and may be re-appointed for a further term or terms.

The members of the Specialist Accreditation Committee shall, every three years, elect a Chairperson from among themselves.

### **3. List of Members and Substitutes of the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee**

In 2025 the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee was composed as follows:

#### **Chairperson**

Prof. Stephen Fava MD, MRCP(UK), FACP, FEFIM, FRCP(Lond), MPhil(Melit), PhD(Exeter)

*(During the MSAC meeting held in January, Prof Fava was re-elected as Chairperson of the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee)*

#### **Members and the Body Represented**

##### **SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Prof. Anton Grech MD, PhD(Maas), MSc(Psych)(Lond), FRCPsych(UK)

##### **FACULTY OF MEDICINE & SURGERY (UNIVERSITY OF MALTA)**

Representative: Mr. Matthew Joe Grima MD(Melit), MRCSEd(Intercoll), MScEd, ChM, FEBVS, PhD

Substitute: Prof. Josanne Vassallo MD(Malta), MSc(Lond), Dr med (Munster), MRCP(UK), FRCP(Lond), FACP, FACE, PhD

##### **MEDICAL COUNCIL**

Representative: Dr. Daniel Farrugia MD(Malta), DEAA, EDIC

Substitute Dr. Doriella Camilleri MD, MRCP (UK), MSc Family Medicine, MRCP Geriatrics, MA Ageing and Dementia Studies, SCE Acute Medicine

##### **MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF MALTA**

Representative: Prof. Stephen Fava MD, MRCP(UK), FACP, FEFIM, FRCP(Lond), M.Phil(Melit), PhD(Exeter) *(until 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025)*

Substitute: Dr. Martin Balzan MD, MRCP(UK), FRCP(Lond), FEFIM *(until 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025)*

Representative: Dr. David Bilocca MD, FRCP, PhD *(from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025)*

Substitute: Mr. Charles Cini MD, FEBS Gen.Surg, FRCSED (GenSurg), Cert.Spec.(ColoRect & Min,Inv.) Surg. Leuven *(from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025)*

##### **ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS AND INTENSEVISTS OF MALTA**

Representative: Dr. Anne Marie Camilleri Podestà MD, EDAC, EDIC, FERC

Substitute: Dr. Petramay Attard Cortis MD(Melit.), DESA, MMed(Dundee)

##### **ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS OF MALTA**

Representative: Dr. Agnes Portelli MD, MCEM (UK)

Substitute: Dr. Anna Spiteri MD, Dip.IMC RCSEd, FRCSEd(A&E)

**ASSOCIATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC AND TRAUMA SURGEONS OF MALTA**

Representative: Mr. Thomas Azzopardi MD, FRCS, FRCSED(Tr&Orth). MSc(OrthopEngin)

Substitute: *Vacant*

**ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF MALTA**

Representative: Prof. Stephen Fava MD, MRCP(UK), FACP, FEFIM, FRCP(Lond), M.Phil(Melit), PhD(Exeter) (*from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025*)

Substitute: Dr. Martin Balzan MD, MRCP(UK), FRCP(Lond), FEFIM (*from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025*)

**ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS OF MALTA**

Representative: Mr. Gordon Caruana Dingli MD, LRCS(Edinburgh), LRCP(Edinburgh), LRCP&S(Glasgow), FRCS(Edinburgh), FRCS RCP&S(Glasgow)

Substitute: Prof. Joseph Galea MD, MD(Sheffield), MRCS & LRCP (Edinburgh), LRCPS(Glasgow), FRCS(Edinburgh), FRCS(CTh), FETCS(Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery)

**GERIATRIC MEDICINE SOCIETY OF MALTA**

Representative: Dr. Mark Anthony Vassallo MD, FRCP(Edin), FRCP(Lond), DGM(Lond), MA(Melit) Bioethics (*until 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025*)

Substitute: Dr. John Cordina MD, FRCP(Edin), CCT(GIM/GER) (*until 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025*)

Representative: Dr. John Cordina MD, FRCP(Edin), CCT(GIM/GER) (*from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025*)

Substitute: Dr Stephanie Dalli MD, MRCP(UK) (*from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025*)

**MALTA ASSOCIATION OF DERMATOLOGY AND VENEREODOLOGY**

Representative: Dr. Lawrence Scerri MD, FRCP(Lond), FRCP(Glasg), CCST Derm (UK)

Substitute: Dr. Susan Aquilina MD, FRCP(UK)

**MALTA ASSOCIATION OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

Representative: Mr. Adrian Mifsud MD, MRCS, FEBO

Substitute: *Vacant*

**MALTA ASSOCIATION OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGISTS AND HEAD AND NECK SURGEONS AND ALLIED SPECIALITIES**

Representative: Ms. Alison Abdilla MD, MRCS, DO-HNS, EBE, ORL-HNS, MSc Cancer Therapeutics(Lond)

Substitute: Mr. John Cutajar MD, MRCS, DO-HNS, FEB ORL-HNS, MSc(Aud)

### **MALTA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE**

Representative: Prof. Sandra C. Buttigieg MD, PhD(Aston), FFPH(UK), MSc , MBA, MMCFD

Substitute: Dr. Mariella Borg Buontempo MD, MSc(Newcastle), FFPH(UK), CCST(UK)

### **MALTA COLLEGE OF FAMILY DOCTORS**

Representative: Dr. Edward Zammit MD, MMCFD, MRCPG(INT)

Substitute: *Vacant*

### **MALTA COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNAECOLOGISTS**

Representative: Dr. Katia Vella MD, MRCOG

Substitute: Ms. Helga Consiglio MD PG Cert(Melit) (Patient Safety & Clinical Risk Management) MSc(Melit) (Radiography Ultrasound)

### **MALTA COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS**

Representative: Dr. David James Camilleri MD, MRCP(UK), FMCPATH, FRCPath CST(UK)

Substitute: Dr. Christopher Barbara MD, MSc(Lond), DLSHTM, FMCPATH

### **MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHIATRY**

Representative: Dr. Rachel Taylor-East MD, MSc, MRCPsych

Substitute: Prof. David Mamo MD, MSc (Lond), MS (UoT), FRCPC, Dip ABPN General Adult & Geriatric Psychiatry (*until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025*)

Substitute: Dr Chantelle Azzopardi MD, CCST (*from 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025*)

### **MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF RADIOLOGISTS AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE PHYSICIANS**

Representative: Dr. Ruben Depasquale MD, MRCSEd, FRCR

Substitute: Dr. Adrian Mizzi MD, MRCP, FRCR, EDiR

### **MALTESE CARDIAC SOCIETY**

Representative: Prof Maryanne Caruana MD(Melit.), PhD(Melit.) FRCP(Edin), FESC

Substitute: Dr John Bonello MD, MRCP(UK), CCST(Cardiology) (*until 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025*)

Substitute: Dr Alice May Moore MD, MRCP(UK), FHFA (*from 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025*)

### **MALTESE PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION**

Representative: Dr. Mark Buttigieg MD, MSc (Lond), MRCPCH

Substitute: Dr. Ruth Farrugia MD, MRCPCH, MSc, PEM(Edin)

Included as Professional Associations in the Health Care Professions Act (Chapter 464) Fourth Schedule Part II (Medical Practitioners) through Legal Notice 190 of 2025 published on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**MALTA ASSOCIATION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY**

Representative: Dr. Jurgen Gerada MD, MRCP(UK), MSc Gastro (Lond), FRCP, FEBGH  
 Substitute: *Vacant*

**MALTA ASSOCIATION FOR NEUROLOGISTS AND NEUROSURGEONS**

Representative: Dr. Nicola Dingli MD, MSc MRCP(UK), FEBN  
 Substitute: Dr. Maria Mallia MD, MRCP(UK), FRCP(Edin), FEBNM MMed(Dundee)

**Registrar**

Ms. Gillian Mifsud Dip Public Mangt

**4. Meetings and Attendances**

- i. In 2025 the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee held 9 meetings, all virtually through Microsoft Teams.
- ii. Prof. Stephen Fava as Chairperson of the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee attended all the meetings of the Committee.
- iii. Attendance by members for the meetings held during 2025.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>
<b>Representative of the Superintendent of Public Health</b>	5	4
<b>Representative of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery</b>	6	3
<b>Representative of the Medical Council</b>	9	-
<b>Medical Association of Malta</b>	9	-
<b>Association of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Malta</b>	8	1
<b>Association of Emergency Physicians of Malta</b>	7	2
<b>Association of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgeons of Malta</b>	2	7

<b>Association of Physicians of Malta</b>	4*	-
<b>Association of Surgeons of Malta</b>	4	5
<b>Geriatric Medicine Society of Malta</b>	8	1
<b>Malta Association of Dermatology and Venereology</b>	8	1
<b>Malta Association of Gastroenterology</b>	2**	-
<b>Malta Association for Neurologists and Neurosurgeons</b>	2**	-
<b>Malta Association of Ophthalmologists</b>	5	4
<b>Malta Association of Otorhinolaryngologists and Head and Neck Surgeons and Allied Specialists</b>	8	1
<b>Malta Association of Public Health Medicine</b>	6	3
<b>Malta College of Family Doctors</b>	5	4
<b>Malta College of Obstetricians &amp; Gynaecologists</b>	9	-
<b>Malta College of Pathologists</b>	9	-
<b>Maltese Association of Psychiatry</b>	8	1
<b>Maltese Association of Radiologists and Nuclear Medicine Physicians</b>	6	3
<b>Maltese Cardiac Society</b>	9	-
<b>Maltese Paediatric Association</b>	9	-

\* Previously vacant

\*\*appointed in September 2025

## 5. *Applications received by the MSAC*

During the year 2025, the MSAC received the following new applications from Maltese Nationals, European Union Citizens and Non European Union Citizens who have pursued their specialisation training locally and abroad.

A total of 125 applications were received for the following specialities:

Specialisation	No. of applications
Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine	11
Baromedicine	1
Cardiology	2
Cardio-thoracic surgery	1
Clinical Neurophysiology	1
Community Paediatrics	1
Dermatology	2
Dermato-Venereology	3
Emergency Medicine	3
Endocrinology and Diabetes	1
Family Medicine	21
Gastroenterology	3
General/Internal Medicine	9
General Surgery	9
Geriatrics	1
Haematology	1
Infectious Disease	3
Microbiology/Bacteriology	4
Nephrology	1
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	9
Oncology and Radiotherapy	1
Ophthalmology	2
Oral and maxilla-facial surgery	1
Orthopaedic Surgery	3
Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery	1
Paediatric Nephrology	1
Paediatrics	5
Plastic Surgery	2
Psychiatry	7
Public Health Medicine	3
Radiology	5
Respiratory Medicine	2
Urology	3
Vascular Surgery	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>

**6. Applications approved for the issue of the Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) and recommendation for inclusion in the Specialist Register**

During the year in review, a total of 86 Medical Practitioners were approved by the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee for the issue of the CCST in the particular speciality and were recommended to the Malta Medical Council for inclusion in the respective Specialist Register as follows:

Specialisation	No. of applications
Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine	8
Cardiothoracic Surgery	1
Community Paediatrics	1
Emergency Medicine	5
Endocrinology and Diabetes	1
Family Medicine	18
Gastroenterology	2
General/Internal Medicine	9
General Surgery	2
Geriatrics	2
Haematology	1
Infectious Disease	3
Microbiology/Bacteriology	1
Nephrology	2
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	7
Orthopaedic Surgery	1
Paediatrics	4
Psychiatry	6
Public Health Medicine	2
Radiology	2
Respiratory Medicine	4
Urology	2
Vascular Surgery	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>

**7. Applications approved for recommendation for inclusion in the Specialist Register following training abroad**

During the year 2025 the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee approved 25 requests for recommendation for inclusion in the Specialist Register, from Medical Practitioners who have pursued their specialisation training abroad.

Specialisation	No. of applications
Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine	1
Baromedicine	2
Cardiothoracic Surgery	1
Dermato-Venereology	2
Emergency Medicine	1
Family Medicine	2
Gastroenterology	1
General Surgery	4
Microbiology/Bacteriology	2
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	1
Ophthalmology	1
Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery	1
Paediatrics	1
Plastic Surgery	2
Psychiatry	1
Public Health Medicine	1
Radiology	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

## **8. *Approval of specialisation training to be pursued abroad***

During the year in review, the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee endorsed various requests received from 17 Medical Practitioners, to pursue a period of specialisation training abroad, as part of the local training programme and also requests for extension of training abroad. The areas of specialisation were as follows:

- Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine
- Cardio-thoracic Surgery
- Dermatology
- General Surgery
- Neonatology
- Nephrology
- Neurosurgery
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Paediatric Endocrinology
- Psychiatry
- Vascular Surgery.

## **9. *Applications approved for the issue of the Certificate of Completion of Basic Specialist Training (CCBST)***

During 2025 the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee evaluated and approved 72 requests for the issue of the CCBST in the following specialisations:

Specialisation	No. of applications
Chemical Pathology	1
Emergency Medicine	6
General/Internal Medicine	27
General Surgery	22
Haematology	1
Histopathology including cytopathology	1
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	2
Paediatrics	5
Public Health Medicine	4
Psychiatry	2
Radiology	1
Total	72

## ***10. Approval of Medical Postgraduate Training Programmes***

A. The following Medical Postgraduate Training Programmes were **revised** and approved during the year in review:

- Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine
- Baromedicine
- Gastroenterology
- Paediatrics
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Radiology.

B. The Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee considered and approved **three new** postgraduate medical specialisation training programmes, two in specialities and one in a sub-speciality, that are already included in the Health Care Professions Act (Chapter 464), namely that of:

- Occupational Medicine

During the meeting held in February 2025, Dr Mark Rosso presented to the MSAC a detailed draft Postgraduate Training Programme in Occupational Medicine. The committee appointed by the MSAC to draft this programme was composed of Dr Mark Rosso, Dr Mariella Borg Buontempo, Dr Joseph Portelli Demajo (on behalf of the Association of Occupational Medicine, which is not recognised as a Professional Association) and Dr Caroline Gouder (nominated by the Association of Physicians). This programme was endorsed by the Association of Physicians. Dr Rosso explained that Occupational Medicine is the branch of medicine that deals with the prevention and treatment of diseases and injuries occurring at work at specific occupations (UEMS 1997).

The training programme is based on the UK training programme in Occupational Medicine of the National School of Occupational Health, UK, which is endorsed by the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the UK.

After due consideration the MSAC endorsed this Training Programme during that meeting. The Registrar uploaded this programme on the MSAC website.

- Virology

The Malta College of Pathologists presented a draft training programme in Virology. During the meeting held in July 2025, Dr Christopher Barbara and Dr Claire Cordina, on behalf of the College, attended the MSAC meeting to explain the details of this programme. This programme is based on the same structure of the programme for Medical Microbiology, with a duration of five years, two of Basic Specialist Training and three years of Higher Specialist Training.

The MSAC approved this Training Programme during the meeting. The Registrar uploaded this programme on the MSAC website.

- Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

During the meeting held in July 2025, the Maltese Paediatric Association presented to the MSAC the draft Training Programme for the sub-speciality of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. Dr Anne Marie Grima who prepared this programme on behalf of the Association explained that this programme has the same format as the ones already approved for other sub-specialities in Paediatrics. The first part includes the general provisions that were previously approved for the other similar programmes, whilst the second part is based on the European training requirements as established by the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

The MSAC endorsed this Training Programme during the meeting. The Registrar uploaded this programme on the MSAC website.

C. The Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee considered postgraduate Training Programmes for the two **new specialities and a sub-speciality in Emergency Medicine** that are being proposed for inclusion in the Health Care Professions Act (Chapter 464).

- Addiction Medicine

The MSAC had received a request in 2024 from Dr Anna Maria Vella and Dr Gianluca Bezzina proposing the inclusion of Addiction Medicine as a medical specialisation in Malta. Dr Vella and Dr Bezzina prepared a draft Training Programme for Addiction Medicine and presented it, with supporting literature, in January 2025. The members of the MSAC considered the documentation presented by Dr Vella and Dr Bezzina and after due consideration the MSAC accepted this proposal.

- Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine

The College of Pathologists informed the MSAC that they would like to propose the inclusion of Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine in the Health Care Professions Act. Dr Denise Borg Aquilina, who represented the College and prepared the draft training programme in Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine, attended the SAC meeting held in May and explained the need for this speciality and also the contents of the programme. The MSAC agreed to propose the inclusion of this speciality.

- Paediatric Emergency Medicine via the route of Emergency Medicine

During the year in review the MSAC considered a draft postgraduate Training Programme of Paediatric Emergency Medicine. A proposal to include Paediatric Emergency Medicine as a new sub-speciality under Emergency Medicine was received by the MSAC from the Association of Emergency Physicians. Dr Agnes Portelli explained the details of this programme, which was discussed during the meeting held in April 2025.

The MSAC agreed to propose the inclusion of this sub-speciality.

As directed by the MSAC, the Registrar wrote to the Ministry for Health and Active Ageing and the Superintendent of Public Health in June 2025 informing them that the MSAC is proposing the inclusion of the specialisations of Addiction Medicine, Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine and the sub-speciality of Paediatric Emergency Medicine within the speciality of Emergency Medicine in the Health Care Professions Act (Chapter 464). The MSAC is aware that in accordance with the EU directive 2018/958 regarding proportionality testing, transposed in the Laws of Malta in July 2020 in Chapter 612, a proportionality test is required before the enactment of legislation, including amendments to current legislation, that will impact the access to that regulated profession, particularly if the law to be enacted makes access to the profession more restrictive.

In August 2025 the Superintendent of Public Health requested some further information regarding the proposal of Addiction Medicine and this was submitted to her following consultation with Dr Vella and Dr Bezzina. MSAC has not as yet received any communication from the SPH office about the other two proposals.

## ***11. Proportionality tests for the consideration for inclusion in the Maltese legislation***

### ***• Paediatric Allergology***

In August 2025 the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee was informed that a company had been awarded the tender issued by the Superintendent of Public Health to draw up the report on the proportionality test, in line with the EU directive 2018/958, with regard to the MSAC proposal for inclusion of the sub-speciality of Paediatric Allergology) in the Fifth Schedule of the Health Care Professions Act (Chapter 464).

A meeting was organised by the SPH office between the officials representing the contractor and experts in this sub-speciality appointed by the Maltese Paediatrics Association. Other meetings were held with these officials with the SPH representative, the Mutual Recognition Co-ordinator and the Registrar, to clarify information regarding this request.

### ***• Paediatric Emergency Medicine (as a sub-speciality in Paediatrics)***

During this year several meetings were held with the officials representing the contractor, including one with experts in this sub-speciality appointed by the Maltese Paediatrics Association; other meetings were with the SPH representative, the Mutual Recognition Co-ordinator and the Registrar to discuss further this matter.

## **12. *Conference attended***

The Registrar attended the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Designated Authorities Conference held locally on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025. This conference was organised by Mr Philip Vella, the Mutual Recognition Co-ordinator.

Various issues were addressed, including the following:-

- New Digital Solutions proposed by the European Commission; Update on the last initiatives implementing the Single Digital Gateway
- Data Protection regulations and the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications
- Latest updates from the European Commission: -
  - The enhanced Alert Mechanism as proposed by the European Commission.
  - Report on the recognition of Qualifications of Third Country Nationals by the European Commission Proportionality Test Directive

## **13. *Meetings attended***

The Registrar attended the three meetings of the Professional Council Forum held during 2025 by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Health and Active Aging, Mr Joseph Chetcuti, in which discussions were held regarding common issues pertaining to the different professional councils regulated under the Health Care Professions Act. The meetings were held at the Ministry for Health and Active Aging in Valletta on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

## **14. *Legal Notice 190 of 2025***

The legal notice that was published on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025 specified that

(a) the item "Association of Anaesthesiologists of Malta" shall be substituted by the following new item: "Association of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Malta";

(b) immediately after the item "Malta Association of Public Health Medicine" there shall be added the following new items: "Malta Association of Gastroenterology" "Malta Association for Neurologists and Neurosurgeons".

On the basis of the above legal notice, Dr Jurgen Gerada started representing the Malta Association of Gastroenterology on the MSAC. The Malta Association for Neurologists and Neurosurgeons nominated Dr Nicola Dingli as representative and Dr Maria Mallia as substitute on the MSAC.

The nomenclature of the Association of Anaesthesiologists was changed to Association of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists.

## ***15. Legal Notices 140 and 201 of 2025***

Legal Notice 140 was published on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and specified that in the Fifth Schedule of the Health Care Professions Act (Chapter 464) will be added this new item: 52. Medical Oncology.

These regulations will come into force on such date as the Minister responsible for Health may establish by notice in the Gazette.

The legal notice 201 published on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025 referred to the Legal Notice 140 and specified that the date of publication of this legal notice was the date on which all the provisions of the said regulations shall come into force.

The MSAC members were glad that finally Medical Oncology was included as a medical speciality in the Health Care Professions Act (Chapter 464).

## ***16. Court cases***

The Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee is presently involved in two court cases respectively filed by the late Dr Naged Megally in November 2021:

1. An action for Judicial Review on the basis of Article 469A of Chapter 12 of the Laws of Malta against the State Advocate, Ministry for Health, Director General (People Management) Ministry for Health, Chief Medical Officer and the Specialist Accreditation Committee with regard to the post issued by the Ministry for Health for a Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology with special interest in Feto-Maternal Medicine; and
2. A constitutional action filed against the State Advocate, Ministry for Health, Chief Medical Officer and the Specialist Accreditation Committee This case was filed in the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Jurisdiction), whereby plaintiff claims that his fundamental rights have been breached due to the allegedly discriminatory nature of the provisions of the Health Care Professions Act (Chapter 464) which regulates medical specialisation.

During the year in review the MSAC legal counsel attended the court sittings held in connection with these two lawsuits. The heirs of the late Dr Megally are presently in the process of regularizing their position in order to formally request that they be called into the respective suits in his stead.

The cases were still ongoing by the end of 2025.

## 17. *Appeal cases*

During the year 2025, the Health Care Professions Appeals Committee delivered a decision with regard to a pending appeal case in respect of a decision taken by the Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee.

Date when appeal was filed	28/04/2023
Specialisation	Audiology/Phoniatry
Detail of case	Request for inclusion in the Audiology/Phoniatry Register
Date of Appeals decision	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
Decision	<i>“the appeal is being upheld. It is hereby ordered that the appellant be entered into the Specialist Register of Audiology/Phoniatry with effect from the date of this decision”</i>

### New appeal case

Date when appeal was filed	12/05/2025
Specialisation	Family Medicine
Detail of case	Request for inclusion in the Family Medicine Register
Appeal sittings	No sittings were held in 2025

## ***18. Conclusion***

The Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee continues to enhance and maintain its postgraduate medical training programmes, to guarantee the highest level of standards is attained in the training, leading to the best skilled and competent medical specialists.

The MSAC is committed to ensure that its actions are proportionate, consistent, targeted, transparent, accountable and agile.

The Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee looks forward to continuing to execute its legal roles together with all stakeholders, including trainees, postgraduate training co-ordinators, and officials of both the Health Ministry and Mater Dei Hospital departments, with a view towards excellent postgraduate medical training for a healthier service for the general public.

Gillian Mifsud  
Registrar  
Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee