

# Academy of Medicine to open next year

By FIONA CHAN

THE Hongkong Academy of Medicine, the first local institute for specialist training and accreditation, will be established in November next year.

The chairman of its interim council, Professor David Todd, yesterday said 11 colleges and two faculties would be formed under the future independent institution.

The six-member council is reviewing standards, constitutions and qualifications of the colleges and faculties.

The first batch of fellows would

graduate in the year 2000 after six years of post-graduate training, Professor Todd said.

He urged the Government to increase consultant posts at public hospitals by 20 per cent in order to provide sufficient trainers for the academy.

Saying that public hospitals were currently the major training ground, Professor Todd said, if the request could not be met, the training programmes could be conducted only in phases.

Colleges are carrying out stud-

ies to find out the number of specialists needed.

Academy secretary Dr David Fang Jin-sheng said he was confident the academy would have sufficient funds, even though it had so far received less than half of its \$100 million target.

The academy has received \$19 million in donations, and pledges of \$20 million.

It is still awaiting a reply from the Royal Hongkong Jockey Club on its request for \$15 million.

He said the annual recurrent expenditure of about \$5 million

could be covered by fellowship fees.

Yesterday, it received \$5 million from the Pao Yue Kong Charitable Fund.

The academy will be responsible for organising, monitoring, assessing and accrediting all post-internship training, which is now absent in Hongkong.

Undergraduate medical training is currently carried out by the University of Hongkong and the Chinese University, but there is no funding or fixed training programmes for post-graduate spe-

cialist qualifications.

Meanwhile, the controversial use of camp beds for patients at Princess Margaret Hospital had ended, even though admission rates remained at around 6,800 a month, the hospital's chief executive, Dr Tsang Chin-wah, said.

He added that this had been made possible by moving patients to specialty wards if the admission ward was full.

"Patients in need of admission will not be refused, nor will they be discharged before it is safe to do so," Dr Tsang said.