

# GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER

DUKE KUNSHAN UNIVERSITY

ISSUE 2 | FEB 2015

## Leaders from 10 Countries Convene in Kunshan to Strengthen Institutional Partnership in Global Health

Global health leaders from around the world gathered for the third Global Health Institutional Partnership Network Meeting last week in Kunshan, China, where the new Duke Kunshan University (DKU) is located. Building on the charge from the inaugural Network meeting in the fall of 2012 – improving health and reducing health disparities worldwide while advancing global health education and fostering global health research collaborations – network partners reported on progress on a number of fronts from the past two years. The meeting was jointly sponsored by DKU, Duke Global Health Institute, and Fudan University.

Shenglan Tang, the Duke Global Health Institute associate director for DKU and China Initiatives and director of DKU's Global Health Research Center, served as chairman of the meeting that brought together partners from 10 countries and nearly 20 institutes from China and other parts of Asia and Africa, as well as Duke Global Health Institute partners from Peru and The Netherlands.

Members provided updates on partnership projects on diabetes, injury, and primary health care funded with seed grants from the Duke Global Health Institute and Fudan

University that were made available following the first Partnership Network Meeting. Many Network partners secured funding through the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) global health program and reported on the progress of those collaborative projects. These presentations were followed by group discussions on the broader research and education collaboration being undertaken by network members.

Duke Global Health Institute Deputy Director Randy Kramer moderated a discussion among partners about how to accelerate the development of undergraduate and graduate-level education programs in China and other countries. Given the setting of the meeting at DKU, a subsequent roundtable discussion titled "Post 2015 Health Development Agenda and the Role of China," was of particular interest to attendees.

"I am delighted with the progress made since the first Network Meeting in advancing global health through collaborations in education and research," said Tang. "This meeting served to bolster existing relationships and foster collaboration between new partners. It was exhilarating to witness the energy in the room for this important work."

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Participants of the Network Meeting in front of Lamborghini Hotel, Kunshan City, November 21, 2014

The **Health Policy and Systems** research program headed by Prof. Chee-Ruey Hsieh at the Global Health Research Center conducts research that monitors and evaluates the progress of the health reforms being enacted, with the goal of informing better policy decisions.

### Project Update: Influential Tuberculosis Project Reaching Important Milestone

The health policy and systems research program is working with China CDC on the project "China-Gates Tuberculosis (TB) prevention and control project (Phase II): Developing and evaluating finance approaches for TB and Multi-Drug Resistant TB treatment." The fieldwork of the mid-term evaluation of China-Gates TB project Phase II in Zhenjiang, Yichang and Hanzhong was completed in September 2014. Data from the study hospitals were collected to evaluate the impact of the innovative policies and practices of financing of TB care and provider payment systems. The study also examined access to TB service and the financial burden of TB patients. Qualitative interviews with key stakeholders, including TB patients, directors from health and civil affairs bureaus, health insurance department, CDC and TB-designated hospitals, were conducted to understand the status of project implementation as well as their opinions concerning the sustainability of current TB policies. The mid-term evaluation reports, including hospital compensation strategies for TB-designated hospitals, were presented at a workshop in Beijing convened by the Gates Foundation and China CDC on Jan 29 and 30, 2015.

### Capacity Building: Center Faculty Contributes to Training Program in Health Policy

Under the main theme of consulting service for center of excellence in global health policy development and governance in China. Professors Shenglan Tang, Keith Dear, and Abu Abdullah from the Global health Research Center took part in the Output3 training program funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) along with Dr. Michael Merson of the Duke Global health Institute and colleagues from Fudan University in Shanghai from Nov. 16-22. The training programs focused on four aspects: Landscaping, Role, Practice and Methodology in Global Health and Case Study, which provide opportunities for exchange and further cooperation between the Global Health Research Center and other top researchers and scholars in China.

### Media Coverage: Center Director Shares Views on Healthcare Reform with 21st Century Business Herald

"After health insurance coverage expanded in China, did the financial burden of health care placed on ordinary people decrease?" Prof. Shenglan Tang, the director of the DKU Global Health Research Center, raised this question in the interview with 21st Century Business Herald.

The positive results of the health system reform, particularly the achievement of universal health care since 2009 has been widely appreciated. However, the development of health systems in China continues to face many problems and challenges. Prof. Tang summarized the two major problems of the system: funding and management. Currently, the primary goal of health system reform, according to Tang, should be to improve the efficiency of health service provision with limited resources. For more details, please read the full interview below:

<http://bit.ly/1CM4LCC>



Newspaper page of Prof. Tang's interview with 21st Century Business Herald



### Personnel Update: Dr. Qian Long Taking on New Roles at the WHO

**Qian Long** is a postdoctoral fellow whose research focuses on health equity in relation to health systems development, including maternal health and tuberculosis control in poverty-stricken areas and among vulnerable groups in China and Mozambique. She has worked at the global Health Research Center since 2013. She has been recruited to join the Department of HQ/RHR-Reproductive Health and Research, the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva and will start to work there in February. We wish her the best for her new endeavor and look forward to collaborating with her in her new role.

## TACKLING THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES OF NCDS

The **Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases (NCDs)** research program headed by Prof. Lijing Yan at the Global Health Research Center currently focuses on heart disease, stroke, hypertension and diabetes and common risk factors for these conditions including tobacco use, unhealthy diet, inadequate physical activity, overweight/obesity and mental illness.

### Project Update: Helping Disabled Stroke Patients in Rural China

Stroke is the leading cause of morbidity, mortality and disability in China. However, in rural China, disabled stroke patients often do not receive any rehabilitation services. Global Health Research Center researchers are conducting a randomized controlled trial on rehabilitation through caregiver-delivered nurse-organized service programs for disabled stroke patients in rural China. The RECOVER trial aims to develop, implement, and evaluate a stroke rehabilitation program designed to improve the physical functioning of disabled stroke patients in Zhangwu County, Liaoning and in Qingtongxia County, Ningxia. Patients in the intervention group will receive stroke care from a family-nominated caregiver, who will be trained by a nurse and guided by an easy-to-understand rehabilitation manual. This study seeks to improve the health and functioning of stroke patients, relieve caregiver burden, and build capacity within the care delivery system.



Dr. Ruqi Gan (left) from the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Peking University First Hospital training nurses in Qingtongxia Hospital, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, October 21, 2014

### Dissemination and Advocacy: Cardiovascular Trial Results Presented at Leading International Cardiology Conference

Prof. Lijing Yan attended the 2014 American Heart Association Scientific Session held in Chicago. Her research team presented the results of a study using smart phones as an intervention for boosting cardiovascular disease (CVD) management in poor areas in Tibet, China and Haryana, India. This was the first trial that used Electronic Decision Support System (EDSS) based on smart-phone to manage local high-risk patients with cardiovascular disease (CVD) in China.



Dr. Maoyi Tian (left) and Prof. Lijing L. Yan at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, November 18, 2014, Chicago, USA

### Program Update: Healthy Aging Grant Awarded by the Natural Science Foundation

As part of a research team led by Prof. Yi Zeng at the National Development Research Institute at Peking University, Prof. Lijing Yan received a grant from the Natural Science Foundation of China to begin a project titled "Healthy Aging – Influencing Factors of Aging Population and Effective Interventions." This project is part of a major 5-year program grant entitled "Responses to An Aging Society: Basic Scientific Problems Research" awarded to Prof. Xizhe Peng from Fudan University. The total amount of funding for the program grant is 18 million RMB (approximately 3 million USD).

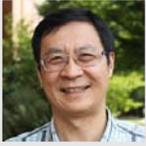


### Personnel Update: NCD Group Welcomes a New Research Assistant

The NCD Group at the Global Health Research Center is pleased to welcome **Xiaolin Xu**, a research assistant with a bachelor's degree in medicine and a master's degree in epidemiology and health statistics. Formerly with the China CDC, WHO, a healthcare consulting company and hospital, Xiaolin brings a depth of interesting in disease control and prevention, health systems and health policy, and health metrics and evaluation.

## IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The **Environmental Health** research program headed by Prof. Keith Dear examines environmental health hazards, their relationships with cross-cutting issues affecting human health, and approaches for reducing or eliminating these hazards.



### **Project Update: Grant Award on Indoor Air Purification Technology**

Jim Zhang, professor of environmental health program at DKU Global Health Research Center and the Duke Global Health Institute, has received a 5-year, ¥1.25 million grant from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

The grant is a subcontract of an award to Tsinghua University in Beijing. Zhang will use an innovative biomarker approach to evaluate the effectiveness of various air purification technologies in reducing the cardiopulmonary health risks resulting from the outdoor air pollution infiltrating the indoor environment. The findings of the study will inform air purification technology companies and policymakers about which air purification technologies are best for reducing the health burden of air pollution.



From left to right: Professors Allan Burns, Zhijun Zhou, Keith Dear, Alba Amaya-Burns, Pin Sun, Chuhua Wu and Xiuli Chang

### **Project Update: Collaboration on Pesticide Exposure and Risk Behavior Research Established**

Professors Alba Amaya-Burns, Keith Dear and Allan Burns, have initiated a research collaboration with colleagues from the Occupational Health Department, at Fudan University School of Public Health. This multi-disciplinary team will examine pesticide exposure and risk behavior in the Jiangsu Province, China.

### **Project Update: Collaborations with Wuhan University School of Public Health**

Professor Keith Dear has initiated collaborations with researchers in the Global Health Institute at the School of Public Health at Wuhan University. Topics include lead exposure in children and the health consequences of air pollution in the Wuhan region.



Prof Dear with Professor Liang Xiaohui and some of her students at Wuhan Global Health Institute



### **Personnel Update: Environmental Health Group Welcomes a New Research Assistant**

**Zhan Wang** is a new research assistant with bachelor's degrees in environmental science and psychology from Peking University, and a master's degree in environmental management and environmental economics from Duke University. His research interests include valuation of ecosystem services and environmental assets, statistical analysis of air pollution and environmental policy evaluation.

# NEWS & ACTIVITIES

## BECOMING A WHO RESEARCH HUB

**Duke Kunshan University (DKU)** has been selected as one of three Health Policy and System Research Hubs by the Asia Pacific Observatory (APO) on Health Systems and Policies hosted by the WHO Regional Office in Manila. The research hub will be led by Prof. Shenglan Tang, Director of the **Global Health Research Center** at DKU, and combine the strengths of 10 research institutions in China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Laos and Fiji with complementary expertise.

The DKU Research Hub will conduct comparative country studies on health system development, develop evidence-informed health policies and strengthen national and regional capacities in health system and policy research.



Asia Pacific Observatory  
on Health Systems and Policies



World Health  
Organization

## GLOBAL HEALTH SEMINAR SERIES

The seminar series is an open lecture event on global health research, policy, and practices organized by the Center for students and faculty members of Duke Kunshan University as well as the general public. There are 2–3 seminars per month and each seminar is 1–1.5 hours long. You are welcome to attend our future events!

**November 20, 2014:** Prof. Randall Kramer (Duke Global Health Institute) | “Building Effective and Long-Lasting Global Health Partnerships for Research and Education”

**December 4, 2014:** Prof. Xiaofei Zhang (Zhejiang University) | “Interpretation of CVD Risk Calculator in ‘Joint British Societies’ Consensus Recommendations for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease (JBS3)”

**December 10, 2014:** Prof. Fu Hua (Fudan Health Communication Institute, Fudan SPH) | “Population Aging and Global Health Challenges: China’s Action Plan to Promote Healthy Aging”

**January 8, 2015:** Dr. Maria Rendon (U.S. Agency for International Development) | “USAID Global Health Strategy and Priorities”

**January 13, 2015:** Prof. Melissa Watt (Duke Global Health Institute) | “Understanding Alcohol Use During Pregnancy in South African Bars: Identifying Opportunities for Early Intervention”

**January 16, 2015:** Dr. Ana Amaya (United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies) | “Using Participatory Methods to Develop Indicators to Measure Pro-Poor Health Policy Success: Ongoing Lessons from a Regional Comparative Study”

**February 5, 2015:** Allan Burns, Ph.D (Duke Kunshan University) | “Oh Tobacco! Children, Ethnography, and Public Health”

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS FROM NOVEMBER 2014 TO JANUARY 2015

Sun J, Deng S, Xiong X, **Tang S**. Equity in access to healthcare among the urban elderly in China: does health insurance matter? *Int J Health Plann Manage*. 2014;29(2):e127-44.

**Tang S**. Developing more equitable and efficient health insurance in China. *Paulson Policy Memoranda*. Paulson Institute, Chicago. 2014.

Zhao X, Yin X, Li X, **Yan LL**, Lam CT, Li S, et al. Using a low-sodium, high-potassium salt substitute to reduce blood pressure among Tibetans with high blood pressure: a patient-blinded randomized controlled trial. *PLoS One*. 2014;9(10):e110131.

Lucas R, Swaminathan A, **Dear K**. Shining light on human immunity. *Health of People, Places and Planet*. Reflections based on Tony McMichael’s four decades of contribution to epidemiological understanding. Editors Colin Butler, Jane Dixon and Anthony Capon. CABl. 2014.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## First Kunshan Forum to be Held on Campus, May 29-30

The Global Health Research Center will hold the inaugural conference of the Kunshan Forum at DKU on May 29 and 30. The forum serves as a platform to disseminate research findings and encourage dialogue among scientists, professionals, policymakers and other stakeholders engaged in broad issues surrounding education, the environment and health care.

The theme of the 2015 conference is Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) and China's Health System Reform. Populations in China and many other low- and middle-income countries are undergoing rapid changes that include growing rates of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, stroke, mental health problems and other non-communicable diseases. As the disease pattern transitions toward non-communicable diseases, there is a wide public concern on whether the reform of health system in China is organized and financed appropriately to cope with several challenging issues arising from the increasing prevalence of NCD. The Forum focuses primarily on the discussion of the interaction between the increasing importance of NCD and the reform of health system in three different sectors: primary care, hospitals and long-term care.

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** The deadline to submit the abstract of a research article is March 31, 2015. Young researchers are especially encouraged to apply. Send abstracts in PDF format to [chee.ruey.hsieh@duke.edu](mailto:chee.ruey.hsieh@duke.edu)

**NOTIFICATION of ACCEPTANCE:** April 15, 2015.

**REGISTRATION:** April 30, 2015.

**ACCOMMODATION and TRAVEL EXPENSES:** The Forum will cover the presenter's hotel, food and local transportation costs, up to three nights of hotel costs. Hotel accommodations will be at the DKU conference center. Presenters must cover their own travel expenses.



**Prof. Keith Dear** will lead the 2nd Healthy-Polis workshop "Challenges and opportunities for Urban Environmental Health and Sustainability" will be held during the second day of the Forum. This workshop follows the inaugural Healthy-Polis workshop which was held in Manchester, UK, in March 2014. It will again be an opportunity for researchers and stakeholders to share experiences, exchange views on the management of health risks in the urban environment, and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Abstracts for presentations (oral or poster) should be sent to the organizer, [keith.dear@dku.edu.cn](mailto:keith.dear@dku.edu.cn). As for the main Forum, local expenses will be paid for accepted speakers: you only need to provide your own return transport to Shanghai. In addition, competitive travel scholarships are available to students currently enrolled at a university in Asia. More details at <http://healthy-polis.org>



## Conference Update: Check Out the Podcast on Ebola

The 75th annual meeting of Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) will be held from March 24-28 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. The roundtable session "**Ebola: Applied Social Science,**" organized by the Global Health Research Center's **Prof. Alba Amaya-Burns**, in collaboration with DKU's Visiting Prof. Allan Burns, and Prof. Peter Kunstadter, from the HIV Prevention and Treatment Program (Chiang Mai, Thailand), has been selected by popular vote to be a podcast by the SfAA Podcast Project. This podcast (along with 19 others at the Annual Meeting) will be made available free to the public online via [SfAAPodcasts.net](http://SfAAPodcasts.net)



Prof. Chee-Ruey Hsieh lecturing the Health Economics course to MSc Global Health students



Celebrating a successful trip to a migrant community in Sanqiao, Shanghai, where students observed and reported on community development, health ethics and health disparities, and eventually provided recommendations on how to address the health and socio-economic issues encountered during the trip. From left to right: Shuyu Guan, Shangzhi Xiong (undergraduate), Wanbing Gu, Miao Tong, Dr. Amaya-Burns, Florence Tesha (undergraduate), Kennedy Opondo, Ginny De La Cruz.

Duke's MSc-GH program is one of the first programs of its kind in the United States, and has been rated as one of the **top global health programs** in the country by experts in the field. The Duke Global Health Institute brought innovative international global health education to China in 2014.

Emphasizing **interdisciplinary collaboration, funded research** experience, and **mentorship by renowned faculty**, the DKU MSc-GH program is modeled after the highly successful program pioneered at Duke University.

Based in China, a country with a diverse population facing a variety of health challenges across its social, cultural, economic and geographic divides, the DKU program is well-situated to offer a unique setting in which to study global health. Students who successfully complete the program requirements at DKU will receive a Master of Science degree awarded by Duke University.



*Scholarship opportunities available for students applying before March 15, 2015.*

## Global Health Leaders Start Here

For more details, visit:  
[www.dukekunshan.edu.cn/en/master-science-global-health](http://www.dukekunshan.edu.cn/en/master-science-global-health)

For further information, please contact:  
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Associate Director, MSc-GH at Duke Kunshan  
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Melinda Shu Chen (front row, third from left) and Weixi Jiang (front row, fourth from right)

### Center Staff Attends Implementation Science Workshop

Global Health Research Center research assistants Weixi Jiang and Shu Chen attended the 2014 Implementation Science Workshop in Xi'an, China on Nov 10 and 11. The conference brought together professors and young researchers who share a common interest in the fields of NCDs and implementation science. The workshop was organized by Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD), an alliance of health research funders hosted by the University College London Institute for Global Health.



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