

Fall 2015

Systems-oriented Global Childhood Obesity Intervention Program (SGCOIP)

## Dr. Youfa Wang elected Chair-Elect of The Obesity Society (TOS) Pediatric Obesity Section

Dr. Youfa Wang was elected as the Chair-Elect of The Obesity Society (TOS) Pediatric Obesity Section for 2015-2016. He will become the Chair in the fall of 2016. During 2014-2015, Dr. Wang served as the Secretary and Treasurer of the TOS Pediatric Obesity Section. TOS is the largest society for obesity research in North America.

## Meeting of the Presidents of the North America Chinese Society for Nutrition (NACSN) and the Chinese Nutrition Society (CNS)

Prof. Youfa Wang, President of the NACSN, and Prof. Yuexin Yang, President of the CNS met in Beijing on October 13th, 2015. The professors set the groundwork for future collaboration between the sister societies. In April of 2016, the NACSN will hold an inaugural scientific meeting in San Diego during the week of the Experimental Biology (EB) conference, and members of the CNS plan to attend. The professors discussed the potential for personnel exchange and mentorship programs for junior researchers. Profs Yang and Wang are also interested in developing guideline and policy papers regarding the key nutrition problems in the greater China region. The papers would cover such topics as, obesity, bone health, and diabetes. The pair will also work together and participate in the first global Chinese nutrition conference in 2016.



Dr. Youfa Wang (Center) with Dr. Yuexin Yang (Right)

## Dr. Youfa Wang Chaired the 1st International Congress on Childhood Obesity and Hypertension



The 1st International Congress on Childhood Obesity & Hypertension was held in Beijing May 29th - 31st. The congress was hosted by the Chinese Hypertension League (CHL), Chinese Preventive Medicine Association (CPMA),

Beijing Health Bureau Office for Childhood Chronic Disease Prevention and Management (BJBU-CCDP office), and organized by the Capital Institute of Pediatrics (CIP). UB-SUNY based SGCOIP, directed by Dr. Wang, was a co-sponsor. Dr. Wang is the Chair of the International Scientific Committee of the conference. This conference provided the opportunity for scientists and health professionals in the fields of childhood obesity and hypertension to interact and network. The congress covered topics including: childhood obesity, hypertension and metabolic disorders. Presentations covered genetic and molecular research, epidemiological research, screening and research techniques, health risk assessment, clinical treatment, risk factors, fetal and developmental origins, exercises and diets, related psychological problems, and prevention and policy issues. Distinguished international and domestic leading experts presented their research. SGCOIP program faculty, Drs. Youfa Wang and Liang Wang, served as judges for the presentation awards during the congress.

## The SGOIP conducted field data collection in major cities in China

In late October, the SGOIP program conducted field data collection in four Major cities in China: Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, and Xi'an, from 3,324 subjects including: 1,609 students and their parents as well as 16 related school administrators, PE teachers and nurses. Rich data on growth and health, family characteristics, household, community & school environment, dietary intake, physical activity, social network, and more were collected. This data collection is part of the ongoing China Project, which falls under a 16 million dollar U54 Center grant. Dr. Youfa Wang was the PI of the U54 grant while he was at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, before he took his position at UB in the Fall of 2013. Dr. Wang, the SGOIP director and China Project PI, traveled to all study sites and supervised the data collection during his most recent visit to China.



## Dr. Youfa Wang's Research Seminar at Xi'an Jiatong University



Dr. Wang was invited to give a presentation at Xi'an Jiaotong University in Xi'an, China. The research seminar was subsequently held on October 15th, 2015 and was titled: "Current Status and Future Development in the Global Obesity & Non-communicable Chronic Disease Epidemic." The seminar was well attended by an enthusiastic audience.

## The SGOIP Team Launches New Collaboration with NASA on Childhood Obesity Prevention

As one of the key collaborative projects with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Dr. Youfa Wang's team launched a new web-and family-based childhood obesity prevention program on November 1, 2015, visit the website at:

<http://www.planetfitkids.org/>



The program is an innovative pilot study that aims to improve the global childhood obesity epidemic by making use of technological advancements. The website includes comprehensive intervention components on family, nutrition, physical activity, and behavior changes. Dr. Wang's team has been collaborating with NASA on several projects in multiple countries. NASA's childhood fitness promotion program is currently utilized in 28 countries, with plans for continued expansion. Dr. Wang's team is a formal partner of the NASA program. The two teams have signed a "Space Agreement Act," which outlines their commitment to work together to promote child health and prevent childhood obesity on a global scale.

## Dr. Xue gave UB Community Health & Health Behavior (CHHB) Brown Bag Seminar on November 12th

The Community Health and Health Behavior department in the School of Public Health and Health Professions invites one student, scientist, or faculty member to present their research at a monthly “Brown Bag Seminar.” Dr. Hong Xue presented a seminar titled, “Obesity Prevention: Applications of Economics, Systems Science Models and Big Data,” to a full and engaged room for the November session. His seminar explained the potential for using economics and systems modeling to identify the various causes of obesity, as well as how to use these disciplines to identify effective primary prevention solutions and intervention programs or policies.

## Dr. Hong Xue Receives The Obesity Society Pat Simon’s Travel Grant to attend and present at the 2015 Conference

Dr. Hong Xue, Research Scientist and Project Director of the SGOIP was awarded a 2015 Pat Simons Travel Grant by The Obesity Society (TOS) for his research entitled “Spatial Analysis of Childhood Obesity and Local Food Environment Inequalities in China.” Dr. Xue’s paper and research is part of a funded NIH U54 center grant project in China. The SGOIP team congratulates Dr. Xue on his research and this well-deserved award.

## Closing and Future Contact

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