Dr. Youfa Wang was invited by the World Obesity Federation (WFO) to give a talk entitled “The Costs of Obesity: Labour, Productivity and Healthcare,” at the International Congress on Obesity (ICO) in Vancouver, Canada, on May 3rd, 2016.

Dr. Wang was also chosen by the WFO to chair the scientific session: Home Environment and Influences of the Wider Environment at the ICO on May 2nd, 2016.

Dr. Youfa Wang was invited to present at the 2016 International Pediatric Association (IPA) Congress

Dr. Wang will return to Vancouver in August 2016 to give an invited talk at the International Pediatric Association (IPA) Congress.


The North America Chinese Society of Nutrition, for which Dr. Youfa Wang is the President, organized the International China Forum during the EB meeting and held the North America Chinese Society of Nutrition Scientific Symposium in San Diego. About 220 people attended the China Forum during EB and 100 attended the first symposium. A number of the American Society of Nutrition and Chinese Society of Nutrition senior leaders, such as the ASN President and the CNS Vice President attended the events.

Dr. Youfa Wang (right) issuing a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Parick J. Stover (left), President of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), on behalf of NACSN for his outstanding contribution, support, and collaboration with the North America Chinese Society for Nutrition (NACSN). Including, the support of some of the NACSN members’ participation in the 2016 Experimental Biology Meeting.
**Dr. Hong Xue Received a Travel Award from the North America Chinese Society of Nutrition and the American Society for Nutrition**

Dr. Hong Xue was awarded the North America Chinese Society of Nutrition and the American Society of Nutrition Travel Award. He was one of two junior faculty members selected for the award at EB and the NACSN Scientific Symposium in 2016.

**New Projects in Asia as Part of the Systems-Oriented Global Childhood Obesity Intervention Program (SGCOIP) and NASA Collaboration**

Dr. Youfa Wang and team members in Taiwan and South Korea initiated new intervention projects in collaboration with NASA on global childhood obesity prevention in 2016. The international partners recently received new funding from the Ministry of Education in South Korea and the Ministry of Science and Technology in Taiwan to support the projects.

**The South Korea Project and Team**

Dr. Gilsook Kim, Associate Research Fellow of the Korea Institute of Child Care and Education and Dr. Hyunjung Lim, Assistant Professor at Kyung-Hee University are the PI and the collaborator of the South Korea project. 772 children aged four and five have been recruited and separated into an intervention or control group. The intervention is delivered three times per week for ten weeks utilizing eight physical activity modules and 16 education modules that were developed from the NASA Train Like an Astronaut: Mission X curriculum. The teams are collecting pre-and-post-test data, which includes child weight and height measurements as well as parental and teacher reports on the children’s behavior and knowledge changes over the intervention period.

**The Taiwan Project and Team**

Dr. Hsinjen Chen, Assistant Professor at National Yang-Ming University and Dr. Hsing-Yu Yang, Assistant professor of Mackay Medical College are the co-PI’s of the Taiwan project. Four intervention schools and four control schools have been recruited and 320 children aged eight and nine are projected to participate. Recruitment, intervention, and pre-and-post data collection will take place from September 17th, 2016 through February 17th, 2017. The intervention will last eight weeks. Data will be collected on child weight and height measurements, as well as self-reported behavior and knowledge changes.
Dr. Margarita Teran-Garcia, Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, Visits the SGCOIP at UB and Gives Two Seminars

Dr. Teran-Garcia visited the SGCOIP at UB on April 26th. She gave two seminars: “Obesity prevention programs: international collaboration to reduce health disparities” and “Child well-being and obesity: current and future research directions.” Dr. Teran-Garcia received her medical degree from the National Autonomous University in Mexico City. She then went on to complete her PhD at UT Austin in Metabolism and Nutrient-gene interactions. In August 2008, she joined the faculty of Food Science & Human Nutrition as Assistant Professor in Nutrition of the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. Dr. Teran-Garcia introduced foundations of her research background in genetics and childhood obesity as well as the strategies employed by her ongoing project Abriendo Caminos, which targets health disparities among Hispanic populations in the US. She also discussed her international project UP amigos, based in Mexico. Dr. Teran-Garcia’s visit provided great insight and inspiration to Dr. Wang’s Obesity Epidemiology students and the SGCOIP research team.

The SGCOIP Team Gave Multiple Oral and Poster Presentations at the Experimental Biology Conference, Apr 1-6, San Diego


6. H Chang, F Xu, H Xue, Y Wang. Changes in Physical Activity Patterns and Dietary Intake in Chinese Youth and their Associations with Obesity: A Longitudinal Study in Nanjing City, China. (Huiru Chang is pictured right with her poster)

Congratulations to Zhengqi Tan, MPH student, & Huiru Chang, MS student. They were each awarded the GSA Travel Award, by the Graduate Student Association of SUNY Buffalo.
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS FROM DR. WANG’S TEAM SINCE JAN 2016, INCLUDING PUBLICATIONS IN TOP JOURNALS, SUCH AS, AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HYPERTENSION AND JOURNAL OF PEDIATRIC OBESITY


THE SGCOIP TEAM 2016 GRADUATES

Congratulations to our graduates!

Huiru Chang received her Master in Nutrition and successfully defended her thesis entitled, “Changes in Physical Activity Patterns and Dietary Intake in Chinese Youth and their Associations with Obesity: A Longitudinal Study in Nanjing City, China.”

Kelseanna Hollis-Hansen received her Master in Public Health in the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior with the presentation of her integrative project titled, “PlanetFit Kids: Promoting Lifestyle and Nutrition Education: Teaching Families (through) Interactive Technology.”

Zhengqi Tan was granted his Master in Public Health in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health. He successfully defended his thesis entitled “Parenting Practices and Weight Status in Junior High School Students in China.”

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To learn more, visit our website:

http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/childhoodobesity.html