

DR. CHUCK LLOYD, MANAGER OF THE NASA HUMAN RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS (HREC) PROGRAM, VISITS THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO TO ENRICH THE UB-NASA PARTNERSHIP ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION

AUGUST 12TH, 2015

DR. LLOYD'S VISIT OVERVIEW

Dr. Charles Lloyd, Manager of the NASA Humans Research Engagement and Communications Program (HREC), visited University at Buffalo, the State University of New York (UB-SUNY) from June 29th to July 2nd. The working visit consisted of meetings on ongoing projects and development of strategic plans for future collaboration between NASA and the UB-based Systems-oriented Global Childhood Obesity Intervention Program (SGCOIP).

During Dr. Lloyd's visit, he and a number of members from the SGCOIP, as well as UB colleagues, Buffalo community members, and international collaborators met in person or via teleconference. The working groups discussed how the partnership is achieving the mission goals (right) as well as development of future collaboration plans. Dr. Lloyd and UB team members also worked on related working papers and discussed future research grant application plans.



Dr. Charles Lloyd (Left) with Dr. Youfa Wang (right)

UB-NASA PARTNERSHIP MISSION

- 1) To develop effective and sustainable solutions to prevent childhood obesity
- 2) To facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and the integration of resources in childhood obesity prevention programs worldwide
- 3) To promote and develop innovative childhood obesity prevention research
- 4) To work with interdisciplinary public health professionals and train future leaders on childhood obesity prevention

NASA OUTREACH & MISSION X: TRAIN LIKE AN ASTRONAUT

The Train like an Astronaut curriculum was developed to teach children about the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math, as well as to promote international relations, child fitness and childhood obesity prevention. Mission X is the "action," piece that challenges students to perform the physical activities in their respective P.E. classes or after-school programs around the world. In 2015 the MX program had participants from 28 countries and an enrollment of nearly 40,000 children. While the program has clearly been a success based on the great presence and community involvement around the globe, measuring specific outcomes to test improvements has been a challenge, which is why the systems-science and data analysis expertise of Dr. Youfa Wang and his SOGCOIP team has been invited to join forces with NASA.

DR.LLOYD'S SEMINAR & NASA HREC CONTINUED

On Wednesday July 1st, 2015 Dr. Lloyd gave a seminar at UB's Kimball Tower to discuss why NASA has been involved in global child fitness promotion and childhood obesity prevention. He explained how the HREC team approaches the global childhood obesity epidemic through the use of the Mission X (MX) outreach project. The end of his presentation focused on the future plans for the project expansion. The Mission X expansion is a major aspect and goal of the UB SUNY-NASA collaboration as is made evident in the partnership mission on page one.

NASA APPRECIATION FOR DR. YOUFA WANG'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLABORATION



SUNY Buffalo faculty, staff, and students with Dr. Lloyd after his July 1st seminar

Dr. Lloyd presented Dr. Youfa Wang with a certificate of appreciation from NASA which was signed by related NASA personnel and astronauts in recognition of Dr. Wang's contributions to help develop the successful collaboration.



Dr. Lloyd (center) presenting a commemorative piece to Dr. Lorraine Collins (left) and Dr. Youfa Wang

The event was a great way to inform the Buffalo community about the direction of this important partnership as it was well attended by UB faculty, staff, students, and a few local collaborators.

MEETINGS WITH LOCAL COLLABORATORS AND UB-SUNY LEADERSHIP

Dr. Lloyd held a number of individual and group meetings with UB faculty, administrators, and students as well as selected local partners such as: Dr. Lorraine Collins, Associate Dean for Research at the School of Public Health and Health Professions, Dr. Gary Giovino, professor and chair of the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior, and Assunta R. Ventresca, director of Health Related Services for the Buffalo Public School District. Meeting discussions focused on potential for collaboration on child obesity prevention at UB and within the Buffalo community.

DISCUSSION ON FUTURE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AN INTERNATIONAL TELECONFERENCE

Dr. Lloyd, Dr. Wang's SGCIOIP team and collaborators from Taiwan and South Korea held an international teleconference on July 1st. The participants of the conference updated about their progress in the collaboration programs and discussed future plans for the MX projects in their respective regions.

WORKSHOPS ON ONGOING PROJECTS

Dr. Lloyd and SGOIP team members worked on related working papers, a new website-and-family-based intervention program, and improved Mission X (MX) evaluation tools and questionnaires. The future MX program may include new nutrition and exercise components, as well as improved survey questions to better evaluate the program's effectiveness to promote child health and wellness.

The SGOIP team presented and discussed the findings from MX 2014 in South Korea and MX 14 & 15 in the U.S. Three working papers on the related finding are expected to be published. Preliminary results were presented at the 2015 Experimental Biology conference, which was held in April of 2015. Additional findings will be presented at the Obesity Society's Annual Scientific Meeting in November of this year.

THE PLANETFIT KID'S PROJECT

A NEW WEBSITE-AND-FAMILY BASED CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION PROGRAM

SGOIP team members, Dr. Lloyd, and international collaborators discussed the progress of the innovative website-and-family-based extension of Mission X, the PlanetFit Kid's project. The project that the UB team has been developing with support from the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health at UB-SUNY and the NASA team is a pilot study to promote family health and wellness through an online platform. The program uses education materials adapted from the Mission X physical activity and nutrition curriculum as well as new social and behavioral components. The project will begin enrolling participants in the fall of 2015. SGOIP is expected to apply for additional funding support for this this project in early 2016.

PARTNERSHIP ON SUMMER PROGRAMS AT NASA JSC FOR SGOIP TRAINEES

A successful interdisciplinary summer training collaboration program between NASA and UB-SUNY has been developed. The NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) hosted the first SGOIP team member and graduate student from UB-SUNY, Kelseanna Hollis-Hansen, in June of 2015.

Kelseanna thoroughly enjoyed her learning and research experience at NASA JSC as it contributed to related research and projects for both teams. NASA and UB-SUNY are very happy for the successful experience and are committed to maintaining and expanding the internship program for young researchers from the SGOIP team in the future.



Kelseanna at NASA JSC with the HERA study analog as part of her summer training experience

CLOSING AND FUTURE CONTACT

The UB-SUNY based Systems-oriented Global Childhood Obesity Intervention Program (SGCOIP) and the NASA HREC team have developed a successful collaboration, and have achieved many accomplishments and advances thus far.

The teams will expand their collaboration on global childhood obesity prevention in the future. New funding, research projects, and publications geared toward the fight against the global childhood obesity epidemic are expected.

To learn more, visit our websites:

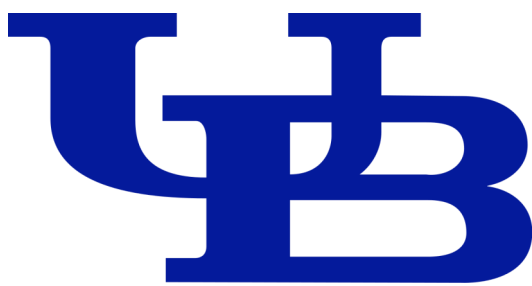
SGCOIP website: <http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/childhoodobesity.html>

NASA HREC website: <https://www.nasa.gov/hrp/communications>

NASA Mission X website: <http://trainlikeanastronaut.org/>

For newsletter comments and suggestions, please contact the editors:

Dr. Jungwon Min, Kelseanna Hollis-Hansen, Dr. Youfa Wang (youfawan@buffalo.edu)



Contact Us at UB:

Jungwon Min, PhD, MS
Research Scientist and Project Manager
Email: jungwonm@buffalo.edu
Telephone: (716) 829 - 5355

Kelseanna Hollis-Hansen, BA
MPH Candidate
Project Coordinator, PlanetFit Kids
Email: kasmith6@buffalo.edu or planetfitkids@gmail.com
Telephone: (716) 829 - 5345

For donations, please contact:

Hong Xue, PhD, MS, Project Director
Systems-Oriented Global Childhood
Obesity Intervention Program
University at Buffalo,
The State University of New York
801 Kimball Tower
Buffalo, NY 14214-8001
Telephone: (716) 829-5346
Email: hongxue@buffalo.edu