



**CENTER FOR  
BEHAVIORAL  
EPIDEMIOLOGY  
AND  
COMMUNITY  
HEALTH**

9245 SKY PARK CT, STE 230  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-4388  
PHONE: (858) 505-4770  
FAX: (858) 505-8614  
behepi@rohan.sdsu.edu

*Director*

Melbourne F. Hovell, PhD, MPH

*Associate Director*

Linda L. Hill, MD, MPH

*Assistant Director*

Elaine J. Blumberg, MA

*Investigators*

Elaine J. Blumberg, MA  
Michael Buono, PhD  
Christina Chambers, PhD  
Terry Conway, PhD  
Linda L. Hill, MD, MPH  
C. Richard Hofstetter, PhD  
Suzanne Hughes, PhD  
Ming Ji, PhD  
Nada Kassem, MS, RN, DrPH  
Ana Martinez-Donate, PhD  
Georg Matt, PhD  
Mary Mulvihill, PhD  
Jeanne Nichols, PhD  
Edward Riley, PhD  
Stergios Tsai Roussos, PhD, MPH  
Liza Rovniak, PhD  
James Sallis, PhD  
Suzanne Schweikert, MD  
Audrey Shillington, PhD  
Carol Sipan, RN, MPH  
Joy Zakarian, MPH

*Research Associates*

Katy Schmitz, MPH  
Claudia Carrizosa, MD  
Veronica Irvin, MPH  
Jennifer Jones, MPH  
Norma Kelley, BS  
Sandy Liles, MPH  
Susie Meltzer, MPH  
Dennis Wahlgren, MA



San Diego State University  
College of Health & Human Services  
Graduate School of Public Health

## Faculty Report

Name: Ming Ji & Melbourne Hovel

Faculty/Rank: Assistant Professor & Professor

Department: Graduate School of Public Health

College: College of Health and Human Services

Office phone: (619) 594-3454

Other phone: (619) 397-6805

Email address: mji@mail.sdsu.edu

Proposal title:

**Establishing International Health Programs in China**

Country/ies visited: China

Institution visited:

Fu Dan University  
Shanghai Second Medical University  
Shanghai Institute of Planned Parenthood Research

Dates of travel: 03/05/04 - 03/15/04

Number of student participants: 0 from SDSU; ~ 20 from China

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded

(list titles, countries and dates): None

Have all required reports been submitted? NA

Other funding for this activity available/applied for:

Cost Sharing from CBEACH

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

The purpose of this travel grant is to establish exchange programs with schools of public health in China. The target institutions are the Graduate School of Public Health of Fu Dan and the GSPH of Beijing Medical University. We plan to meet with the faculty of the two institutions to discuss how to develop, establish and sustain exchange programs for students and faculty with GSPH, SDSU.

## **Travel report:**

### **I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity**

The purpose of this trip was to establish initial contact with potential collaborators in China for faculty research and student exchanges. We visited three institutions: (1) School of Public Health, Fu Dan University (2) School of Public Health, Shanghai No. 2 Medical University (3) Shanghai Research Institute of Planned Parenthood. Dr. Hovel and Dr. Ji each presented seminars at the schools we visited to introduce SDSU and its international exchange programs and the behavioral research at Center of Behavioral Epidemiology and Community Health. We also had intensive meetings with faculty and students at the Chinese institutions to learn each other's research and curriculum. We also visited two community hospitals to observe the community health promotion activities in Shanghai. We exchanged our reprints with Chinese researcher's book, reprints and reports.

Our planned visit resulted in a far more profound and enthusiastic reception than ever expected. In each institution we were presented with senior faculty and some of the strongest students in their programs. Faculty and students alike expressed serious interest in collaborations for both teaching and research purposes. Faculty in all three institutions provided us with an overview of their research and training programs. This enabled us to identify possible points of collaboration. For instance, faculty at Fu Dan University expressed interest in collaboration on research conducted in Shanghai (with possible parallel studies in California) concerning adolescent health, diet, physical activity, tobacco control and infectious diseases. The faculty from the Shanghai Second Medical School expressed more serious interest in joint degree programs in public health, especially in epidemiology and behavioral science. Through this same institution, access to hospital and clinic patients could be provided for clinical and preventive medicine research, concerning all possible sources of morbidity, including pediatric through geriatric services.

Finally, our reception from Dr. Wu and her research team from Shanghai Institute of Planned Parenthood Research was even more enthusiastic. Dr. Wu made it quite clear that they were actively involved in HIV/STI research nation-wide; choice family planning/birth control and infertility. The range of research stemmed from basic science in their well-equipped animal labs to field research for preventive medicine and health promotion.

Clearly, the student and faculty talent, access to patients and community populations, and the motivation for collaboration with us was overwhelming. Thus, our initial visit resulted in a strong base for building a long-term collaborative program with faculty and investigators from Shanghai.

### **II. In preparation for the trip abroad**

- collaborated with the Deans of the two Schools of Public Health and a Chinese postdoc who is working in the US.
- e mail contacts: Dr. Jiang Qingwu
- Dr. Bao Yong

- Dr. Wu Yunqing
- Dr. Wang Bo
- researched university statistics and compared to SDSU(e.g. number of students enrolled.)  
Yes.
- confirmed that prospective university is “recognized” by the Ministry of Education: Yes

### **Upon arrival/specific activity**

What/who are the contacts made at the prospective partner university?

Dr. Jiang Qingwu and Dr. Zhao Naiqing at Fu Dan.

Dr. Bao Yong at Shanghai Second Medical University.

What particular major/minor is of interest?

Epidemiology of TB and HIV/AIDS, and chronic diseases such as diabetes and others related to limited physical activity and malnourishment

Behavioral Research

Community Health

Student Exchange

### **Conclusion, recommendation, and next step?**

- Why is this particular institution valuable for SDSU?
- Fu Dan University is a top university in China and their School of Public Health is the largest one in China. Both Fu Dan and Shanghai Second Medical University are located in Shanghai, the largest city in China and currently the economic center of China. With a history of more than a hundred years and a population of about 20 million, Shanghai poses unique challenges for public health. From the two universities and the one Planned Parenthood institution, collaborative projects could be conducted in Shanghai or throughout China. Exchange programs for faculty and students with these advanced institutions in Shanghai will provide unique research and learning opportunities.
- Sustainability of project (is there a high likelihood that students in the department will be interested in studying the proposed subject area at the prospective partner university and vice versa)?
- China , with the largest population in the world and a decade of economic booming, is becoming a more important member of the international community. However, there are enormous public health problems in China which can greatly impact the rest of the world such as the outbreak of SARS. The scale of public health risks in China and the humane response to these requires an international approach. This is because the problems are so large in China as to be unlikely to be resolved by any one Nation's efforts. It is also because the health of all Nations is dependent on understanding and effective public health control of the wide range of devastating diseases now plaguing about 50% of the world's population. These diseases include but are not limited to TB (with over 400million LTBI cases in China and over 2.5million active disease cases/year), HIV, and malaria. These and other diseases are in the context of over 60% of

males smoking, increasing rates of obesity and malnourishment, and diseases such as diabetes. The combination of these conditions, along with poverty, poor sanitation, high-density population living conditions, sets the stage for new and deadly infectious diseases that can span the globe. SARS, while not as virulent as initially thought, is an example of a possible epidemic that could cause untold disease and death to both China and numerous countries, including the U.S.

We think the School of Public Health, SDSU should be party to the study of these public health risks, our students should be fully informed about them, and both students and faculty should be actively involved with our Chinese counterparts to affect public health control of these incredible threats to the world's health. Given the reception from our Chinese counterparts, SDSU has an opportunity to establish a long-term educational and research program that could become a model for other Universities in the U.S. and other western countries.

This will require an administration commitment to this agenda, identification of seed funds to initiate student and faculty exchanges beyond our initial visit, establishment of distance learning classes and means of including students in SDSU classes even if only from long distance and vice versa; and the possible development of joint degree programs. While these educational efforts are developing, similar support will be needed to establish a collaborative research program, with as much student involvement as possible. This too will require initial support from the SDSU administration to establish pilot studies and demonstrate our ability to conduct small studies that reach the quality of peer reviewed publication. This will set the stage and establish our credibility for foundation and NSF/NIH support for larger scale science. Thus, we believe our initial visit to China has provided such overwhelming positive response, that it is now critical for the SDSU administration to partner with us to develop a proximal program of collaboration that could lead to a successful long-term and larger scale collaborative program of education and research.

- How will this exchange program (or expansion) increase participation by students in international activities, or enhance international learning environments for students?
- Students should be able to participate in long-distant educational classes via distance learning technology such as video conferencing and by collaborative participation in thesis and dissertation projects. We are prepared to work with the SDSU administration to identify possible sources of funding for collaborative educational purposes. If possible, good will be greatly enhanced if SDSU can provide initial support for educational initiatives to launch possible

collaboration. This will sustain the relationships established to date and allow time to identify possible extramural support. As funds are identified students may be able to visit China to complete classes, work more closely with colleagues and more fully understand the culture and its public health implications. The same should be true for Chinese students work with SDSU students and, once a system of clearing visa requirements are developed, Chinese students should be able to visit SDSU.

What students will benefit?

- These collaborative education opportunities will provide students with a competence in international health well beyond that possible by instruction absent the international and collaborative process. This will benefit the specific students without doubt. However, it should also benefit the world community as we become more familiar and tolerant of one another's culture. This will also benefit the world community as we provide a new cadre of professionals in public health who are cross-culturally competent for increasingly cross-cultural public health threats.

What will be their activities (e.g. course work, international internships, field research, etc.)?

- The ultimate answer to these questions is to be developed by administrators at SDSU in concert with Faculty from both SDSU and our Chinese counterparts. Academic administrative leadership is necessary to move the potential collaboration now started to a long-term and large-scale program. We are prepared to work with the SDSU and Chinese institutional administration to this end.

What will be your role in promoting and supporting these activities?

- The exact scale and organization of an international program with China remains to be developed by administrators in China, at SDSU and their respective faculty. However, we believe it is now possible to initiate such a collaborative program.
- Drs Hovel and Ji will oversee the construction of the exchange programs, identify potential funding sources, help writing grant proposals, direct scientific research and publication and provide staff support from his CBEACH research center. As these initiatives take shape, Dr. Hovel will oversee the emerging research program and promote active participation of a wide and interdisciplinary group of faculty from SDSU in the leadership role for studies to be conducted in China, or in both China and the U.S/California. Dr. Ji will coordinate the educational program to be established with the GSPH (and possibly other departments at SDSU). He also will serve as the liaison with our Chinese colleagues for both research and educational program purposes.

## **V. Additional Information**

### **V.1. Research Groups Identified**

From this visit, we have identified two groups for potential research collaborations including scientific publications and research grants. They are:

(1) The behavioral research group at Fu Dan headed by Dr. Fu Hua.

Dr. Fu Hua is the deputy Dean of the School of Public Health, Fu Dan University. He is an eminent researcher in behavior studies. He has been the leader of multiple projects in tobacco control and physical activities which lead to numerous journal publications. Recently, he published a book in China introducing new behavioral theories. He has obtained international funding from the Ford Foundation.

(2) The HIV/AIDS research group at Shanghai Research Institute of Planned Parenthood headed by Dr. Wu Yunqing

Dr. Wu obtained her PhD from London School of Tropical Medicine. She has been working in reproductive health for many years. Dr. Wu has recently initiated her research in HIV/AIDS prevention in China and has already been very successful in research grants. She is doing high quality research in HIV/AIDS surveillance and prevention among the migration workers in Shanghai. This overlaps with CBEACH's work on HIV/AIDS prevention among Mexican migrant workers. Dr. Hovel is also interested in working with Dr. Wu on FAS (Fraternal Alcohol Syndrome).

The collaboration may start with exchanging research work, analyzing data and writing scientific papers, visiting, organizing international workshop and applying for external funding such as from the Fogarty International Foundation.

### **V.2 Copy of the Business Cards**

Here is a copy of the business cards of the people we met.

(See the attached PDF file: faculty.PDF)

### **V.3. Photos**

Here are annotated photos we took from this visit.



PICTURE 1: Dr. Hovel is giving a talk on Behavioral and Ecological Model at School of Public Health, Fu Dan University



PICTURE 2: Dr. Hovel and Dr. Ji at the gate of the Medical School of Fu Dan University



**PICTURE 3:** Dr. Hovel and Dr. Ji in front of the School of Public Health Building at Fu Dan University



**PICTURE 4:** Dr. Hovel is meeting with the faculty in the Department of Health Statistics and Social Medicine at Fu Dan University



**PICTURE 5:** Dr. Hovel and Dr. Ji at the School of Public Health Building at Shanghai Second Medical School



**PICTURE 6: Dr. Hovel is meeting faculty from School of Public Health, Shanghai Second Medical School**



**PICTURE 7: Dr. Hovel and Dr. Bao, the Deputy Dean of the School of Public Health, Shanghai Second Medical School**



**PICTURE 8 : Dr. Hovel is visiting a community hospital affiliated with Shanghai Second Medical School**



**PICTURE 9 : Dr. Hovel is meeting faculty and students at Shanghai Research Institute of Planned Parenthood**

**All information should be sent to The Office of International Programs via e-mail:**

**[oip@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:oip@mail.sdsu.edu)**