

Dr. Matthew Boulton signs accord with Dr. Xiexiu Wang in Tianjin, China in 2007.



Sharing Ideas

China Scholar Exchange Program

University of Michigan School of Public Health establishes scholar exchange program with Tianjin Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in China.

The Office of Public Health Practice is pleased to announce the launch of the China Scholar Exchange Program. Spearheaded by Dr. Matthew Boulton, the Associate Dean for Practice at the University of Michigan School of Public Health (UM SPH), this major initiative will bring together faculty, graduate students, and preventive medicine residents at UM SPH and physician scholars from China's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Tianjin.

UM SPH is the first public health school in the United States to establish this level of partnership with the Chinese government and its public health system. In addition to

creating a forum to better understand each other's public health systems, the collaboration will also enhance each institution's ability to conduct applied research and engage in public health practice. The partnership is expected to increase opportunities for online continuing education, collaborative research, and sharing of scientific symposia.

Those participating in the exchange from UM SPH will learn about a public health system that differs from the one found in the U.S. in both disease reporting and clinic management. Dr. Boulton explains, "Their CDC system is different than ours in that there is a central, national CDC which is only a

fraction the size of ours and then there are four very large provincial CDCs in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Chongqing. Each of these large provincial CDCs oversees a complex network of provincial and district hospitals, rural village clinics, and other intermediate outpatient facilities over a large geographic area, so their CDC system includes lots of oversight for hospital and clinic services."

The China Scholar Exchange Program (CSEP), which began in the fall of 2007, has already sent its first preventive medicine resident, Dr. Julie Vaishampayan, to Tianjin's CDC for a three-month rotation. Her experiences in Tianjin are
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Guohong Jiang, MD, MS, is Professor and Director at the Institute of Non-Communicable Diseases Control within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Tianjin, China. She seeks to improve the communication between different levels within China's CDC public health system. She is most interested in nutrition intervention for chronic disease prevention.



Wenti Xu, MD, MS, is Doctor of Communicable Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Tianjin, China. She seeks to improve the level of control and prevention of communicable disease in China. She is most passionate about research related to influenza.

*China Exchange Scholars
hosted by UM SPH
Jan 2008—April 2008*

China Scholar Exchange Program, cont.

chronicled blog at www.sphchina.blogspot.com.

More exchanges are planned for 2008. During the University of Michigan spring break period, 30 UM SPH graduate students, as part of the Public Health Action Support Team (PHAST), will travel to Beijing and Tianjin. The team will spend time working with the Tianjin CDC to learn about China's public health infrastructure at the national, regional, rural and district hospital levels. Projects in which the students can actively participate in public health practice are planned. In the summer, up to three graduate students from UM SPH will participate in internships, co-sponsored by the Tianjin CDC, that are in the areas of environmental health sciences, epidemiology, and health behavior and health education.

As a vital part of this exchange program, the UM SPH welcomed its first two physician scholars, Dr. Guohong Jiang and Dr. Wenti Xu, in January 2008. (See sidebar.) During their three months in the United States, the scholars will work with UM SPH faculty members on projects close to their interests and rotate among public health organizations inside and outside the state of Michigan. UM SPH will continue hosting scholars from Tianjin CDC throughout the year.

For information about International Practice Programs, including CSEP, visit the Practice Office website at www.umsphpractice.org.

Training the Future Public Health Workforce: Internships

Internships provide graduate students in the MPH program with opportunities to put classroom lessons to practice and to explore the field of public health. In addition to training the next generation, internships provide organizations with assistance in addressing unmet needs. "By taking on several important but time-consuming supportive tasks, the intern enabled other project staff to be more productive. The intern was able to step in at short notice to help out when we lost a permanent employee, until that position was filled" stated one organization.

Time commitment is often a barrier to public health organizations that are considering taking a graduate student intern. Dana Thomas, Internship Coordinator for the Office of Public Health Practice, surveyed placement sites in previous years. Evaluations from preceptors—who supervise student interns—revealed that an overwhelming majority of those

polled found the Practice Office internship process easy and that selected students were well prepared.

If you are interested in having a public health graduate student intern work for your agency, please contact Dana Thomas, internshipcoordinator@umich.edu or 734-763-9234.

The Who Will Keep the Public Healthy (2002) report suggested that stronger linkages between academia and the practice community are needed to adequately train the next generation.

Information about all courses and trainings can be found through the new Practice Office website, www.umsphpractice.org.

Public Health Lifelong Learning Opportunities

The Office of Public Health Practice houses two organizations that provide lifelong training for public health practitioners. The Michigan Public Health Training Center (MPHTC) offers training to strengthen technical, scientific, managerial and leadership skills and abilities. The Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness (MI-CPHP) offers free emergency preparedness and other training through face-to-face and distance learning courses.

Michigan Public Health Training Center

Upcoming online, mentored courses:

- Beyond Numbers: Qualitative Research Methods, Application and Analysis, March 10 – April 25, 2008
- Conducting Useful Program Evaluations, March 17 – May 2, 2008

- Demystifying Data: Accessing, Interpreting and Using Health Data, May 27 – July 14, 2008

Self-paced online courses:

- Effective Leadership for Healthy Communities: Concepts, Collaborations and Case Studies
- Measuring Health Disparities - now available as a computer download
- Six Weeks to Genomic Awareness

Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness

Upcoming on-site courses:

- Applied Incident Command for Public Health, March 19, 2008 in Detroit
- Tools for Investigating Outbreaks, March 19, 2008 in East Lansing
- Active Duty: Making Data, Policy and Politics Work for Public Health, May 16, 2008 in Lansing



Public Health Grand Rounds:

- Public Health in China, March 26, 2008 in Ann Arbor and live webcast

Self-paced online courses:

- Epidemiology for Non-Epidemiologists
- Bioterrorism & Emergency Preparedness for Public Health & Dental Health Care Professionals
- Coping with Disasters – CD-ROM or computer download

MPHTC courses are made possible through funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions. MI-CPHP courses are made possible through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Workforce Assessment: Profiling State-Employed Public Health Workers

Through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness, the Office of Public Health Practice conducted an assessment of Michigan's State-employed public health workforce in 2007. The intent of this assessment was to identify training needs and inform succession planning as a significant number of public health employees leave the workforce. The assessment surveyed workers about items related to the 10 Essential Public Health services, emergency preparedness and response, and training modality and topic preferences. One major finding of the assessment was that approximately half of the respondents intend to leave the public health workforce in the next 10 years. The top two training preferences for respondents were leadership skills and management skills. About two-thirds of respondents endorsed face-to-face training within

their county and computer-based training. The complete report is available on the Office of Public Health website at <http://practice.sph.umich.edu/practice/resources.php>

Leadership Courses:

The Practice Office will be offering free courses to enhance leadership and management skills for public health workers. *Active Duty* is a hands-on half-day workshop focused on the leadership aspects of data and policy issues for public health; it will be on May 16, 2008 in Lansing. *Effective Leadership for Healthy Communities* is a self-paced, online course on fundamental concepts of collaborative leadership, and includes tools for building personal leadership awareness and case studies drawn from Michigan leadership experiences.



Accolade: Outstanding Educational Program of the Year

The Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) has selected the Preventive Medicine Residency (PMR) Program to receive an award for *Outstanding Educational Program of the Year*, to be presented at the APTR annual meeting in February 2008. The award seeks to recognize innovative programs for involvement in advancing undergraduate or graduate medical education in preventive medicine and public health and furthering student interest.

Matthew L. Boulton, MD, MPH, serves as Residency Director; Angela Beck, MPH, is the PMR Program Manager, and Mary Weigelin served as Project Secretary from 2004 to 2007. Congratulations to all.

Vereen Named Director, Community-Based Public Health

Donald R. Vereen, Jr., MD, MPH has joined the Office of Public Health Practice as Director of Community-Based Public Health. "Our communities are the key to advancing our nation's public health," says Dr. Vereen, who will develop and facilitate a wide range of partnership-building projects and activities that link students and faculty with community-based organizations, health departments, other health-related organizations, and government agencies throughout Michigan and elsewhere.

Dr. Vereen brings with him a fifteen-year history of federal government service that includes work at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the White House. During his tenure at NIH, Dr. Vereen worked on the development of new research strategies to address public health issues such as drug abuse,



addiction, mental illness, and violence by establishing research programs and projects that included active

community involvement. His work developing interdisciplinary research projects led to key partnerships within the NIH and among the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Education, Housing and Urban Development and other non-governmental institutions.

Dr. Vereen holds an MD from Tufts University School of Medicine, and an MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. Contact information:

dvereen@umich.edu

This newsletter is produced by the

UM SPH Office of Public Health Practice.
For more information about Office of Public Health Practice projects, please email

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