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Proposal title: Partnership With Peking Union Medical College

Country/ies visited: China

Institution visited: Peking Union Med College, WHO China, China CDC, US CDC, Beijing Chest Hospital

Dates of travel: August 12-20, 2011

Number of student participants: 2 from US, 3 from PUMC

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded (list titles, countries and dates): None

Have all required reports been submitted? Yes

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: NIH R03 Grant

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum): We have NIH funding for collaborative research with PUMC, and have completed field work on tobacco use among young women. We hope to expand our research with PUMC faculty, and to send students at graduate and undergraduate levels to learn about China and its health systems.
Travel report: Peking Union Medical College

I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity.
PUMC collaborators completed field work with Chinese CDC on smoking initiation among young women. Research findings were published in May 2011, and now we set up a policy meeting with women’s groups, WHO, Bloomberg Foundation, Gates Foundation, Tobacco Free Kids, and the Union Against TB and Lung Disease (THE UNION) to discuss options for prevention. We also planned new research on the interaction between smoking and tuberculosis.

II. In preparation for the trip abroad
We have collaborated for more than five years under US National Cancer Institute funding on two separate projects. We have visited China several times in the past, and in addition have made other contacts with organizations working in China (both Chinese and US based): the US CDC China office, THE UNION, PUMC, Beijing Chest Hospital, Chao-yang Hospital’s WHO Collaborating Centre on Smoking Cessation, Emory University-China Tobacco Control Initiative, Gates Foundation China Office, and Bloomberg’s Tobacco Free Kids partnership in China. Email contacts are available for all of the above.

In preparation for trip, I met with the SDSU Dean of College of Arts and Letters (Paul Wong) to discuss a visiting scholar for fall semester from PUMC (Yuhong Jiang) who will be here under Rockefeller Foundation (China Medical Board) funding. I have visited PUMC several times over the last five years, and know the administrators very well. The prospective university is “recognized” by the Ministry of Health (not the Ministry of Education), and is the leading medical school in all of China. I have supervised many medical students in exchange FROM and TO PUMC.

III. Upon arrival/specific activity
We worked with our current partners: Wan Xia, PhD—co PI, Gonghuan Yang, PhD—Deputy Head of China CDC, Dan Xiao, MD—Head of WHO collaborating center, Yuhong Jiang, Head of International Office, PUMC, and participated in a bilingual meeting to determine future directions for research and intervention on smoking among young women in China.

As for the exchange possibilities, health sciences (nursing, public health, basic sciences) are of great interest to PUMC. We are also interested in China’s role in global health, and in continuing our research linkages with PUMC and other universities. CHHS will send undergraduates on a study tour during the winter or spring break; Yuhong Jiang will help organize that and also host the students. She will be at SDSU for the fall semester.

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next steps
PUMC is the leading health sciences institution in China. We have a successful research relationship for more than five years, and this has included graduate student involvement. For CHHS, this is another site where undergrads may safely travel and learn about alternative health systems and new cultures. We expect many students to be interested in
travel and learning in China, especially from the public health, nursing, speech and language, physical therapy, and sciences areas. This environment will help students engage in research at master’s and doctoral level. We have two projects on which they are currently working, and two more in the pipeline; this site would qualify for field practica for public health and nursing students in particular. Undergrads will experience short course type academic programs in China, with travel around to more than just Beijing. I will continue to develop research opportunities and assist the Department in the establishment of a field site for undergraduate experiences.

V. Additional Information
We will develop a MOU while Yuhong Jiang is here as a visiting scholar during the Fall 2011 Semester.