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EDITORIAL

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Improving population health and eliminating health inequity are of growing importance to China. Anyone who opens an online Chinese news portal are likely to stumble on headline news related to health, be it mental health (the series of suicides among Foxconn workers), or food safety (contaminated baby formula), or health systems (the new rural cooperative medical insurance). Existing news portals and online communities rarely offer an opportunity to examine the social and economic roots of these problems or issues, to discuss the possible consequences and policy implications, or to debate on potential solutions. The need to establish a forum for discussions and reviews, and to provide a portal for health research, policy and practice updates in China is noted by members of the nascent China Health Policy and Management Society (CHPAMS). And voila! You are reading the very first issue of China Health Review -- the official magazine of the CHPAMS!

China Health Review, hereafter referred to as The Review, is devoted to discussions of population health issues in China. It is a collective effort of many members of CHPAMS, of which the brief history will be laid out by Dr. Jian Li later in the section *About CHPAMS*.

A key component of the Review is an overview on a population health topic from a subject expert. In this issue, Dr. Youfa Wang of Johns Hopkins University brings us a thought-provoking review on the emerging obesity epidemic in China. As China is going through an economic transition, nutrition and epidemiology transitions are to follow. The direct and indirect consequences of such changes are discussed in the section *Topical Review*.

During the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, an NBC commentator had the following comment on the amazingly synchronized drum and moving block performances powered by thousands of actors. "They did it with people! ... It's unbelievable." Yes, people is the immense resource that was harnessed at the ceremony, has been harnessed in the everyday lives of human kind, and will be harnessed in the process of making Chinese people healthier and stronger. We had the honor to interview Dr. Lincoln Chen, President of the China Medical Board, on the issue of human resources for health. Readers can find his incisive comments and visions in the *Interview* section.

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In a world with zillion pieces of information swooping around, you probably do not have time to read every piece of news or every scientific article. Rather, you will probably like the contents in *Research Twitter*, which summarizes academic papers on China's health issues, and *Policy and Practice Updates*, which provides you latest news on health policy and practice in China. In this issue, we have summarized recent research papers on population health topics in China and updates on essential drug system and public hospital reforms.

The last section, *News and Announcements*, brings you event news, information calls, and announcements that are relevant to China's health issues. We wish you would start to think about contributing to the Review. We also hope the announcements we collected are useful for your research and career.

Bon reading!

ABOUT CHPAMS

A Brief History of the China Health Policy and Management Society

As its economy boomed in the past several decades, China is now facing both huge opportunities and massive challenges to improve its health care system, and ultimately, improve the health of its people. The fragmented health system, significant disparity in health status across different sub-populations, ongoing epidemiological transition, and the worsening environmental condition, etc., point to an immediate need for a large-scale health system reform. The success and sustainability of this historical reform hinges on a thorough understanding of fundamental issues in China's health care system, and the emerging of a generation (or generations) of well-trained researchers and professionals equipped with needed skill sets to tackle such issues.

CHPAMS was founded for this exact reason. In 2008, with the support from China Medical Board (CMB), an independent U.S. foundation that aims to advance health in China and other Asian countries, a group of overseas Chinese young scholars from several top U.S. public health schools and research institutes gathered together and founded the China Health Policy and Management Society (CHPAMS) in Cambridge, MA. As an independent nonprofit organization, CHPAMS was founded with an overarching goal to improve the health of Chinese people through advancing population health research in China. In particular, it aims to foster academic exchanges and collaborations among health scholars from academic communities in China and overseas, to facilitate young scholars who are working or studying overseas to return to work at China, and to help building health research capacities in Chinese institutions.

In February 2009, being still a very young organization, CHPAMS selected about ten young health scholars to participate in the Second West Lake Forum on Health Policy in China, a conference funded by CMB and hosted by Zhejiang Medical University. This conference



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