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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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brought together top academics and more than 100 health leaders from China to discuss key economic and policy issues in China's current health reform, including Professor William Hsiao from Harvard University, Professor Qide Han, the Vice-Chairman of the People's Congress, and senior leaders from the Ministry of Health. The West Lake Forum also featured CHPAMS' debut – Dr. Lincoln Chen, the President of China Medical Board formally announced the formation of this Society at the conference. Its initiatives and mission were highly applauded by both health researchers and policymakers at the meeting.

In December 2009, CHPAMS received a seed grant from CMB to support its ongoing activities in the next two years. This fund will be used to build CHPAMS' infrastructure, membership base, and to support the publication and circulation of its' own magazine – China Health Review (CHR). Meanwhile, we are actively planning for a series of exciting activities, including forming an advisory board, merging with several other organizations with similar objectives and missions, organizing seminars given by renowned health scholars in the U.S. or China, and planning for annual conference for our members and other interested health scholars.

We are very excited about the idea that through CHPAMS we can participate in China's health care reform, and eventually get our voice heard and make a difference! It is also our hope that CHPAMS will serve as a platform for young and established health scholars to network with each other and to grow professionally. We look forward to having you joining this Society! We believe that with your participation and support, the Society as a whole and we as individuals will grow in tandem.

For more information about this Society, please visit our website at www.chpams.org. If you have any feedback to our work or are interested in joining this Society or participating in any of our activities, please do not hesitate to contact us at chpams.org@gmail.com. Thank you for your interests, and the warmest welcome from the Planning Committee!

Jian Li, PhD, MS, Cornerstone Research

On behalf of
The Planning Committee of
The China Health Policy and Management Society (CHPAMS)

TOPICAL REVIEW

The Growing Obesity Epidemic and Its Health and Financial Consequences in China

INTRODUCTION

Over the past three decades, China has enjoyed impressive economic development. Chinese People have experienced many dramatic changes in their lifestyles thanks to the increases in family income and availability of food as a result of China's economic reform and the growing global trade. People's lifestyles are becoming increasingly sedentary. Compared to other groups, children and adolescents are likely to be affected to a greater extent by these changes, partially due to China's 'one-child policy'.

Increasing research including ours suggests that the prevalence of obesity has increased in China both in children and adults.



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