

ABOUT CHPAMS: FEATURE MEMBER

Qi (Harry) Zhang, BA, PhD

Qi (Harry) Zhang (张琪) is a tenured Associate Professor in the College of Health Sciences at Old Dominion University (ODU). He graduated from Fudan University with a BA in Economics in 1998, University of Alabama with a PhD in Economics in 2001. Dr. Zhang worked as a Senior Health Outcomes Researcher at Section of General Internal Medicine at University of Chicago for four years prior to joining ODU in 2005. His research interest focuses on the socioeconomic disparity in health outcomes, including obesity and food insecurity among low-income population. Dr. Zhang has published 21 peer-reviewed papers on journals such as *Social Science & Medicine*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. He has been the Principal Investigator of numerous research grants funded by the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention, and U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Zhang serves on the editorial board of three international journals and periodically reviews manuscripts for about thirty academic journals. He also serves as a proposal reviewer for the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the China Medical Board.



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1. What inspired you?

Almost 15 years ago when I first arrived in the United States, a Chinese professor from Emory University encouraged us: "From now on, you should live with passion, imagination, and ambition." After striving in the United States for 15 years, the quote still is a source of inspiration for me. Life is not an easy journey for most people and how to maximize the meaning of our lives is a challenging question, even to the best economists in the world.

2. If you had not entered your current profession, what would you have liked to do?

Perhaps I would be a historian. It might sound boring to a lot of people, but history is always a fascinating topic for me throughout my life. History major was in my deep heart when I was applying for college. Unfortunately due to the fad at that time, I ended up majoring in international finance, which was the most popular major with decent salary expectation. Ironically, I settled my job neither in Investment Banking nor Museum. Retrospectively I learned two lessons: "Follow your heart" and "Do not chase fashion trends."

3. What is your worst working habit?

Although specialization and becoming a guru in one narrow area is desirable for most people, I just cannot focus my interests either in work or in my life. I have so many uncontrollable curiosities in a variety of fields, such as history, politics, laws, religion, etc. Perhaps I could have achieved more in my own profession if I limit the efforts only to the job-related fields. I think the world and life as a complex system and every part could be related. Thinking like a baby and exploring the unknown fields sound exciting and refreshing to me.