

**George Bush China-U.S. Relations Conference:  
Development, Energy, and Security  
October 22-25, 2007  
Washington, D.C**

**FORUM FINAL REPORT**

**Forum Title: *China-U.S. Health Forum: Emerging Health Issues Associated with the Rural-Urban Continuum in an Emerging Economy***

**Session Summary:**

1. Attendance at the Health Forum was approximately 20-25, 12 of whom were speakers. All the scheduled participants were on schedule.
2. The keynote address by Dr. Roger Glass, Director of the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was the highlight of the session. Dr. Glass brought greetings from the director of the NIH. In addition to a discussion about the health issues in China, Dr. Glass provided an excellent overview of the many opportunities for funding of collaborative research projects by international teams of scientists.
3. The Chinese scholars each provided excellent discussions based on community health research and clinical research in hospitals in both urban (Beijing and Shanghai) and rural (Fudan, West China) hospitals.
4. Dr. Lillibridge, who is now with the School of Rural Public Health in the Texas A&M Health Science Center, gave an excellent overview of health crisis management as it relates to disaster relief in China and homeland security in the U.S.
5. Dr. Don Wilson provided a summary of his pediatric clinical research and training activities in rural China.
6. It was specifically noted that, in hindsight, the SARS issue of about four to five years ago was probably not consequential for world health, as the number of cases was so limited. However, it did provide a very good model and exercise for international response to the treat of an emerging infectious disease. Bird flu and HIV/AIDS, on the other hand, are true health problems that have no international boundaries.

**Findings/Recommendations:**

1. Several participants discussed collaborations on projects that might include study of epidemiology and clinical treatment of HIV/AIDS in China.
2. One specific outcome that emerged from the forum was a plan to establish an ongoing, web-based *Environmental and Community Health Forum* for scholarly exchanges between interested scientists, public health officials, and clinicians in China and the U.S.

**Future Collaborations:** Potential for collaborations on studies of epidemiology and clinical treatment of HIV/AIDS and for training of rural physicians.

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**China-U.S. Health Forum:  
Emerging Health Issues Associated with the Rural-Urban  
Continuum in an Emerging Economy**

Economic and social reforms as well as major advances in technology have led to significant changes both in Chinese society and in the role of China internationally. Globalization of the Chinese economy is characterized by recent development of cities and rapid transition from a rural, agrarian-based society to a more urban, industry-based economy. Associated with this sociocultural transition and economic growth, public health concerns have been raised about the impact of rapid economic-industrial development on the environment and on the prevalence and spread of disease between rural, agrarian communities and large population centers in China. Examples of the list of growing health concerns include: global pandemics such as HIV/AIDS; emerging infectious disease such as SARS and avian-influenza; respiratory illnesses due to exposure to environmental pollutants associated with the use of fossil fuels; and the effect of changes in life-styles on health and disease, such as type II diabetes and cardiovascular syndrome. The relationship between economic and health concerns has been made even more apparent recently with respect to issues relating to food safety and manufacturing practices. Finally, the rural-urban continuum raises awareness of concerns about public health, health care delivery, and health economics as China continues to develop and populations move from farms into expanding cities. To some extent, the current as well as emerging health issues in China reflect previous experiences of developed countries. At the same time, globalization and the scope of the changes in China present unique challenges. Hence, it is beneficial to people of both China and the US to share the lessons learned and the measures developed to cope with emerging health problems.

This China-U.S. Health Forum will address broad issues of emerging health concerns associated with the rural-urban continuum in China. The forum is coordinated also with the round table discussion on “Environmental Pollution and Metabolic Syndrome,” which will provide an opportunity for subsequent discussion of more detailed research collaborations between biomedical and environmental scientists from China and the United States.

**PROGRAM**

***Impact of infectious disease and environmental pollution on human health***

- 8:30 a.m. David S. Carlson, Ph.D., Moderator  
Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, Texas A&M Health Science Center
- 8:45 a.m. **Keynote Lecture**  
Roger I. Glass, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health
- 9:30 a.m. **Keynote Lecture**  
Li Taisheng, M.D.  
Professor, Peking Union Medical Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Jia-Sheng Wang, M.D., Ph.D.  
Professor of Molecular Toxicology, Texas Tech University
- 11:00 a.m. Wei Zheng, Ph.D.  
Professor of Health and Toxicology, Purdue University

- 11:15 a.m. Yanan Tian, Ph.D.  
Graduate Program of Toxicology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M  
University
- 11:30 a.m. Discussion
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch

***Emerging infectious disease, environmental pollution and community health***

- 1:30 p.m. Nancy W. Dickey, M.D., Moderator  
President, Texas A&M Health Science Center  
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, Texas A&M University System
- 1:45 p.m. **Keynote Lecture**  
Scott Lillibridge, M.D.  
Director, Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness, University of  
Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- 2:30 p.m. **Keynote Lecture**  
Yuxin Zheng, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director, National Institute for Occupational Health and Poison Control,  
Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- 3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Siro Sumaya, M.D., MPH  
Dean, School of Rural Public Health, Texas A&M Health Science Center
- 3:45 p.m. Professor Zhijun Zhou  
Associate Dean, School of Public Health, Director, Institute of Radiation  
Medicine, Fudan University
- 4:00 p.m. Don P. Wilson, M.D.  
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, Scott and White Memorial Hospital
- 4:15 p.m. Discussion
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn