Dr. Youfa Wang and his team recently moved to the Ball State University (BSU) based on Dr. Wang’s new leadership roles. Dr. Wang joined BSU as John & Janice Fisher Endowed Chair of Wellness, Associate Director of Fisher Institute of Health and Well-being, Director of Systems-Oriented Global Childhood Obesity Intervention Program (SOGCOIP) and as Professor in Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences. Key team members, Dr. Hong Xue joined BSU as Project Director of SOGCOIP and Assistant Professor at Fisher Institute and Dr. Jungwon Min, as Program Manager of SOGCOIP and Research Associate in the Fisher Institute.

See more information on our program at www.childhoodobesityintervention.org

Recently SOGCIP received two new grants from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to support childhood obesity and WIC program related research. SOGCIP Director, Dr. Youfa Wang, is the PI of the subcontracts at BSU of these federal grants, and his long-term collaborators Dr. Harry Zhang at the Old Dominion University is the PI. Drs. Wang and Zhang’s team will examine the health outcomes including childhood obesity and redemption behaviors among WIC participants, study recent national patterns of WIC and/or SNAP participation by socio-demographics, identify valid statistical techniques to address statistical analysis issues, and assess WIC/SNAP participation’s effects on children’s dietary intake/weight status. The projects may provide new collaboration and research opportunities for faculty and students in the College of Health and across campus.

In 2015 the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) convened a Working Group of 17 international experts from several countries, including Prof. Youfa Wang and other leading experts such as Prof. Walter Willett to review the evidence regarding energy balance and obesity, with a focus on Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC). The group held a meeting in December 2015 in Lyon, France, and thereafter developed a long report. Recently a short version of their long report was published as a research paper: Energy balance and obesity: what are the main drivers? Cancer Causes Control. 2017;28(3):247-258.

The expert panel concluded that energy intake that exceeds energy expenditure is the main driver of weight gain. The quality of the diet may exert its effect on energy balance through complex hormonal and neurological pathways that influence satiety and possibly through other mechanisms. The food environment, marketing of unhealthy foods and urbanization, and reduction in sedentary behaviors and physical activity play important roles. More research is needed in LMICs.
THE WHO’S 9TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH PROMOTION HELD IN NOVEMBER 2016

The WHO’s 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion held in November 21-24 in Shanghai, China. As an invited internationally known health expert, Prof. Youfa Wang met and discussed with multiple parties from different countries and organizations including such as WHO Officials and Officials from the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China about future collaboration. The main theme of the Conference is “Health for all, and all for health.” During the conference, leaders from governments and United Nations organizations, city chiefs and health experts from around the world made two landmark commitments to promote public health – stressing the links between health and wellbeing and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals – and to advance health through improved management of urban environments.

The Shanghai Declaration on Health Promotion is an important outcome from the conference, which commits to making bold political choices for health, stressing the links between health and wellbeing and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

More information on the conference and related WHO reports including policy briefs can be found at the WHO website, [http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/9gchp/en/](http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/9gchp/en/).

DR. YOUFA WANG WAS ELECTED CHAIR OF THE OBESITY SOCIETY (TOS) PEDIATRIC OBESITY SECTION (POS)

Starting in November 2016, Dr. Wang became the elected new Chair of The Obesity Society (TOS) Pediatric Obesity Section (POS) in North America. Before he served as the Secretary, Treasurer and Chair-elect during 2014-2016. Dr. Wang is a Fellow of The Obesity Society and has been playing leadership roles in the society over the about past ten years. TOS is a scientific society dedicated to the study of obesity and its treatment. It was founded in 1982 and has approximately 2500 members. TOS is committed to lead the charge in advancing the science-based understanding of the causes, consequences, prevention and treatment of obesity.

POS is one of largest sections of TOS and has several hundred members. Its purpose is to support and promote scientific efforts to understand the correlates, causes, and consequences of pediatric obesity and to inform its treatment and prevention. It promotes networking and collaboration among TOS Pediatric Obesity researchers and practitioners; promote pediatric obesity clinical practice; and increase the national visibility of the pediatric obesity section as a leading resource for research, practice, and advocacy.

THE CHINESE PREVENTIVE MEDICINE ASSOCIATION GLOBAL HEALTH SECTION ELECTED PROF. YOUFA WANG AS VICE CHAIR

In December 2016, Prof. Youfa Wang was elected Vice Chair of the Chinese Preventive Medicine Association Global Health Section. The Global Health Section was established to promote global health-related research, collaboration and international aids among researchers, health professionals, government and other organizations in China and other countries. Leading experts in the field were elected and joined the leadership of the Section. Global health-related research, training, and international aid programs are developing rapidly in China in recent years related to the expansion of China’s interactions with other countries worldwide and China’s ambitious national “One Belt One Road” Initiative, which at present covers 65 countries and aims to promote global collaboration in trade, research, education and health issues.
THE 2016 CHINA HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT SOCIETY (CHPAMS) INSPIRATION AWARD WAS GIVEN TO PROF. YOUFA WANG

CHPAMS recently announced the winner of the 2016 Inspiration Award. Prof. Wang was chosen for this award by a distinguished five-member Award Committee for his impressive research achievements and significant scientific contributions in global health and his outstanding leadership and contributions to several international and domestic organizations. CHPAMS established the Inspiration Award to recognize members who overcome significant barriers and achieve accomplishments in scientific research, community service or innovative activities. CHPAMS has formed a five-member Award Committee including distinguished scholars such as Teh-Wei Hu, PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of California at Berkeley and Winnie Yip, PhD, Professor at Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T. Chan School of Public Health) in the US.

CHPAMS was founded with the overarching goal to improve the health of Chinese people through advancing health research in China. Particularly, it aims to foster academic exchanges and collaborations among health scholars from the overseas and China academic communities and to help to build the health research capacities of Chinese institutions.

GLOBAL CHILD FITNESS PROMOTION AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION PROJECTS IN ASIA AS PART OF THE SOGCOIP AND NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) COLLABORATION

The SOGCOIP and NASA Mission X team are working with collaborators worldwide to expand child health promotion programs and evaluate the intervention effects on child health as well as their knowledge and behaviors. Currently more than 800 teams in 38 countries are participating in this Mission X (MX) project.

Taiwan Team
SOGCOIP team members in Taiwan recruited about 200 9-to 10-year-old children in four rural schools of Taiwan MX project, led by Dr. Hsing-Yu Yang, Assistant Professor of Mackay Medical College and Dr. Hsinjen Chen, Assistant Professor at National Yang-Ming University. Rich data before and after eight-week obesity intervention program including anthropometrics, nutrition knowledge, dietary behaviors, and physical activity were collected in Jan 2017.

South Korea Team
As part of the collaboration between SOGCOIP and NASA, about 700 four- to five-year-old children in three cities joined MX childhood obesity intervention project from April to July 2016 as Team South Korea, led by the Korea Institute of Child Care and Ed-ucation (KICCE) and Prof. Hyunjung Lim in Kyunghee Univ. Team South Korea completed an intensive ten-week MX challenge in seven kindergartens/daycare centers, consisting of activities three times per week using the NASA-KICCE MX modules for young children, including eight nutrition and 16 PA activities. The MX project resulted in desirable changes for young children’s physical developments and fitness levels. The levels of children’s flexibility, balance, and agility in the MX intervention group were statistically higher than those in the control group.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS FROM DR. WANG’S TEAM SINCE 2016 FALL


THE SGCOIP TEAM’S SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AT TOS 2016, NEW ORLEANS AND THE EB 2017, CHICAGO


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