UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey Gold, M.D., celebrated the university’s growing presence in China with UNMC leadership and Chinese alumni in Shanghai.

Reflections on First Trip to China as UNMC Chancellor

Words from Jeffrey Gold, M.D.

“As you know, a UNMC delegation returned recently from our latest exchange trip to China. It was a truly wonderful week with our hosts. We toured cities, met with other universities, health centers and cancer centers. And, in my first trip to China as Chancellor, I learned about the history of our 10-year relationship and explored more ways in which we will build a wonderful future together. We were welcomed by remarkable individual leaders from major medical centers as well as from higher education and health professions. We had an opportunity to talk about more than 10 years of successful partnerships, including exchange of students, faculty and research. Wonderful relationships have been built and strengthened over the last decade. But the most important thing to me was to look to the future. A future that will hold new opportunities

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Highlights Spring 2015

• The Asia Pacific Rim Development Program has created a video to introduce its program. Check it out here with your smartphone or on our homepage: www.unmc.edu/aprdp.

• The UNMC-China Scholarship Council program had a successful recruitment season. Seventeen students were accepted to pursue a Ph.D. or health professional degree thanks to generous funding from the CSC.

• UNMC hosted various delegations from China this spring. Representatives from Tianjin Medical University and Shanghai Cancer Center explored partnerships in cancer research. A delegation from Shaanxi province participated in infectious diseases training. Guotong Xu, M.D., Ph.D, from Tongji University visited to celebrate the first CSC physical therapy graduate. See page 6 for more.
The Asia Pacific Rim Development Program (APRDP) organizes educational and professional programs designed for students, scholars, scientists and health care practitioners in China and at UNMC. Here are descriptions of our programs.

**UNMC-China Scholarship Council (CSC) Program**

The UNMC-CSC program’s aim is to provide excellent training to Chinese students and scholars under the guidance of outstanding researchers and faculty at UNMC. Since 2007, more than 120 Chinese CSC scholarship recipients have come to UNMC for scientific or health professional training. The China Scholarship Council is a non-profit institution affiliated with the Ministry of Education. Its objective is to provide financial assistance to the Chinese citizens wishing to study abroad and to the foreigners wishing to study in China in order to develop the educational, scientific, technological, cultural and economic cooperation between China and other countries.

“In developing a strategic international focus, we saw the Asia Pacific Rim, and specifically China, as a fertile field to develop relationships with top-ranked universities,” said Don Leuenberger, UNMC vice chancellor for business and finance. “Over the past ten years, these efforts have blossomed into rich and diverse opportunities for the future.” UNMC is a member of a group of select universities that the CSC supports by providing prestigious scholarships. Applicants must meet the rigorous academic and admission requirements of UNMC, their home universities and the CSC. This program is therefore highly competitive and well-known at top Chinese universities.

**Health Professional Degree**

This extraordinary program is the first-ever of its kind between the U.S. and China. Individuals earn a professional degree in Medicine (M.D.), Nursing (D.N.P.), Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), Dentistry (D.D.S.), Physical Therapy (D.P.T.), or in Family Medicine Management (Ph.D.). They are 16 other CSC health professional students currently on campus.

“UNMC is known for its Midwestern identity, but we are truly a cosmopolitan place. The new mission statement motivates us to continue to make an impact both locally and globally. The number of UNMC alumni in China continues to grow. It is to UNMC’s advantage to have emerging health care professionals that have experienced UNMC. This relationship will provide UNMC students and faculty opportunities to experience China and to partner on mutually beneficial projects that advance health care worldwide.”

Don Leuenberger, UNMC vice chancellor for business & finance

“Nebraska’s greatest resource is our people. We have a great work ethic and are loyal, successful, and well educated. Nebraska is steeped in tradition, and one of those traditions is working together with others in a spirit of collaboration, locally and globally. Nebraska is on the front lines of fighting highly infectious diseases, the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) made international headlines with its successful response to the Ebola outbreak, further solidifying its world-class status as an institution. UNMC’s position as a global leader is enhanced by more than a decade of formative and enduring relationships with China. These partnerships have expanded educational and scientific opportunities for Nebraska and produced many mutually beneficial results that will influence the future of health care education, science, and clinical care worldwide. UNMC creates everyday heroes that can be found in the clinic, the laboratory, the classroom, the field, and thanks to the Asia Pacific Rim Development Program, around the world.”

Governor Pete Ricketts

Xin Zhang, D.P.T., celebrated with faculty from UNMC’s School of Allied Health Professions and the dean from her home university, Tongji University School of Medicine, Guotong Xu, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Zhang is the first doctor of physical therapy graduate in the UNMC-CSC program.

Yimei Huang, Pharm.D., shakes hands with the dean of UNMC’s College of Pharmacy, Courtney Fletcher, Pharm.D., during her hooding ceremony in May. Dr. Huang is the first doctor of pharmacy graduate in the UNMC-CSC program.
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

APRDP coordinates short-term research and health professional exchange programs between UNMC and partnering Chinese institutions. UNMC’s College of Medicine, College of Nursing and College of Pharmacy are integral partners in the delivery of medical, nursing and pharmacy exchange programs.

APRDP’s Summer Research Program invites Chinese students to spend the summer working under the guidance of one of UNMC’s outstanding researchers. The program gives many interested students the chance to experience UNMC before applying to complete a PhD program through the UNMC-CSC program.

These exchange programs foster diversity and cultural understanding. They encourage global friendships and provide opportunities to widen a student’s perspective and professional network.

Students who are interested in study abroad opportunities in China can contact our office to learn more: aprdp@unmc.edu or visit our website www.unmc.edu/aprdp.

Sponsors interested in contributing to a scholarship fund to help students participate in this unique experience can contact aprdp@unmc.edu.

More than 300 students have benefited from APRDP exchange programs since 2005.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH FORUM

APRDP supports UNMC’s students’ participation in the International Student Research Forum. This forum provides an international stage for graduate research students to collaborate beyond the boundaries of disciplines and nationalities. The forum aims to attract the world’s brightest upcoming scientists and provides an opportunity to showcase world-class education and research. This year’s forum will be held in July at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Visit the website: www.internationalstudentresearch.com

Or contact us: aprdp@unmc.edu

How the UNMC-CSC Scholarship process works:

Interested Chinese students apply to UNMC’s graduate or health professional programs. There is a modified deadline for these applicants. Committees are formed, and applications are evaluated. For many programs, an interview via videoconferencing is conducted. Students must meet the same or equivalent admission requirements as all international applicants.

UNMC offers conditional acceptance to selected candidates. Students then apply through their home university or province. If approved, they are able to apply online for a CSC scholarship. CSC notifies scholarship recipients late spring.

If you are a UNMC faculty member who is interested in learning more about the CSC, please contact us: cscscholarship@unmc.edu

Joint M.D./Ph.D. Degree-Seeking

This unique joint program is among the very first of its kind. The program accepts students from select universities who complete the first two years of medical school in China, study at UNMC to receive a Ph.D., then return to China for their remaining medical school training. Since 2005, ten students have enrolled in this program.

Ph.D. Degree-Seeking

Students train and perform research projects for four to five years supported by a principal investigator at UNMC and earn a Ph.D. degree from UNMC. Sixty-one students have enrolled in this program as of 2015.

Postdoctoral & Visiting Scholars

Graduated M.D. and/or Ph.D. scientists perform one to three years of research supported by a principal investigator at UNMC. Fourteen Chinese scholars have participated since the program began in 2010.

Joint Research Training

Ph.D. candidates spend one to two years performing research projects supported by a principal investigator at UNMC, then return to their Chinese university for thesis defense and degree award. Sixteen Chinese students have participated in long-term research experiences in a UNMC laboratory since 2010.

Chancellor Gold learns about the UNMC-CSC students that are currently on campus over lunch.
UNMC-CSC Students Community Connections

There are more than 70 UNMC-China Scholarship Council students and scholars currently on UNMC’s campus. When they are not studying or performing research, they are immersing themselves in the Omaha community.

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for our students, who through exchange programs can learn about traditional and Western medicine in China. And we will welcome more Chinese students at UNMC, so they can bring the knowledge and skills of our brand of medicine back to the Chinese people.

We signed several memorandums of understanding, including a sister-city agreement between the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center and Tianjin Medical University Cancer Hospital in Tianjin, China, the birthplace of Chinese oncology; we exchanged gifts; and we were welcomed by our friends in China with incredible warmth and hospitality. It was a great honor. It was truly a remarkable week.

This highly orchestrated and carefully planned trip took months to put together. But, it was truly worth it. It set in motion the future of our Chinese collaborations that advance UNMC’s mission of leading the world in transforming lives for a healthy future.”

TRAINING FOR FACULTY & ADMINISTRATION

APRDP works with UNMC experts to provide training to faculty, practitioners, and administrators from China in the following areas: family medicine, medical education, physical therapy, Ebola and other infectious diseases, and scientific research.

This spring, UNMC hosted Xiaoming Wang, M.D., Ph.D., vice president of Capital Medical University, to launch a new partnership. The director of international affairs and the dean of nursing visited UNMC in June. See A.

Xiang Du, M.D., chairman of pathology from Shanghai Fudan University Cancer Hospital, made a follow-up visit after Chancellor Gold’s trip to China in April. See B.

In April 2015, UNMC hosted the first Chinese training course for Ebola and other infectious diseases for Chinese health care officials from the Shaanxi Province. The delegation learned safe care of infected patients by practicing proper procedures for donning and removing personal protective equipment (PPE) at Nebraska Medicine’s Biocontainment Unit. See C.

A delegation from Tianjin Medical University Cancer Institute and Hospital visited with Ken Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Eppley Institute and Mike Boyer, director of global relations, and other Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center representatives to plan further joint research initiatives and a symposium that will be held in fall 2015. The Tianjin delegation met with UNMC’s hematology and oncology division including Julie Vose, M.D., M.B.A., as well as with the department of radiation oncology including Charles Enke, M.D., to discuss partnerships for clinical trials and telemedicine. The delegation also met with Steve Hinrichs, M.D., professor and chair of the department of pathology and microbiology, to discuss telepathology, and with Chancellor Gold to celebrate the institutions’ joint efforts in cancer research and treatment. See D.

There are more than 70 UNMC-China Scholarship Council students and scholars currently on UNMC’s campus. When they are not studying or performing research, they are immersing themselves in the Omaha community.

Hang Su, Xiaoting Sun and Lingyun Wu were selected to be MCs for the Omaha Chinese Cultural Association’s annual Chinese Gala.

Many students and scholars joined Kai Fu, M.D., Ph.D., APRDP associate director and professor of pathology and microbiology, and his team at the Nebraska Lymphoma Walk in April 2015.

Many students and scholars joined Kai Fu, M.D., Ph.D., APRDP associate director and professor of pathology and microbiology, and his team at the Nebraska Lymphoma Walk in April 2015.
Asia Pacific Rim Development Program's (APRDP) mission is to leverage UNMC’s global position as a leader in health education, research and patient care, especially in the Asia Pacific. It strives to increase research scope and efficiency, provide meaningful exchange programs for faculty and students, and foster friendships and cultural understanding, ultimately improving health education, care and science in China, the U.S. and worldwide.

To support this mission, please consider contributing to the:

**Asia Pacific Initiative Fund**

by visiting our website or contacting Melonie Welsh at the University of Nebraska Foundation, mwelsh@nufoundation.org

“The graduation of Yimei Huang, Pharm.D., and Xin Zhang, D.P.T., marks an important milestone for APRDP and for a country that at this time does not have a developed network of doctors of pharmacy or physical therapy. Both women are committed to being Chinese ambassadors of UNMC’s mission of leading the world to transform lives for a healthy future. It is in great thanks to the supportive faculty and administration that made this day possible,”

Jialin Zheng, M.D., Director, APRDP

In this issue:
Learn more about the UNMC-China Scholarship Council program and APRDP exchange programs