

Global Health Program

2022 Annual Report



全球健康项目
Global Health Program

Duke

GLOBAL HEALTH
INSTITUTE

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Director's Message

With the vision of “promoting health equity and improving health for all in China and worldwide”, Duke Kunshan University’s (DKU) Global Health Program has continued working closely with partners around the world in 2022, actively conducting research, generating robust evidence, and providing policy advice. In collaboration with the World Economic Forum and others, the Global Health Program published the white paper *Chronic Diseases 2030: Innovation Accelerates Transformation* to draw on best practices from the pandemic response to help developing countries build more resilient health systems and accelerate the prevention and control of non-communicable chronic diseases (NCDs). The newly established Vaccine Delivery Research Innovation Laboratory organizes collaborative research among domestic and international institutions to develop strategies for strengthening the national immunization program. These activities include enhancing the efficiency and coverage of vaccine delivery, improving vaccine financing and services, and advocating for the inclusion of key vaccines recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) into the national immunization program. In 2022, several high-quality policy briefings and scientific papers were produced. The study on Integrated Care for Tuberculosis and Diabetes Mellitus Comorbidity in Asian Countries: Health System Challenges and Opportunities was published by the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies of the WHO. The case study on purchasing instruments and arrangements to improve the quality of health services for chronic diseases in China, funded by an international organization, has achieved preliminary results. Important progress has been made in the study of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Our research report on the policy of free influenza vaccination for older adults has attracted widespread attention. Five Global Health professors have received grants from the Hou Tu Research Fund to conduct research on healthy aging, chronic disease and infectious disease prevention and control. Biological research on zoonotic disease prevention and control continues.

The Global Health Research Center received a total of 14.259 million CNY (2.192 million USD) in funding in 2022—the highest since its establishment. A total of 92 academic papers were published, with 52 as first or corresponding authors, 12 in journals with impact factors above 10, and 34 in journals with impact factors above 5. Under the guidance of the Global Health faculty, students actively participated in global health research and practice, including two master students who received incentive grants for Young Researchers offered by the Global NCD Platform and the Defeat-NCD Partnership. These students were invited by the WHO to attend the Young Researchers Grants Award Ceremony at the World Health Summit in October 2022 in Berlin, Germany. The multidisciplinary global health research projects conducted by undergraduate students have been completed with papers submitted for publication. According to the latest Essential Science Indicators (ESI) statistics released by Clarivate Analytics, Duke Kunshan has been ranked among ESI Global Top 1% in Clinical Medicine for the fifth consecutive year.

The Master of Science in Global Health education program made a new breakthrough in 2022, with the highest enrollment ever. To meet the diverse needs of students, we reached an agreement with Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business in the United States to open some of its courses to students in the Master of Science in Global Health program at DKU. In terms of internship sites, students in the program can choose existing domestic and international internship bases or apply to participate in internship activities within the Duke Global Policy Program in Geneva at various United Nations agencies and international organizations. It is expected that, in the future, students will have even more diverse and rich opportunities for overseas summer internships and research activities.

Our cooperation with domestic universities, media, think tanks and international educational and research institutions has been further consolidated and expanded, including the signing of a strategic cooperation agreement with the National University of Health Sciences of Cambodia for exchanges and cooperation in the field of global health research, education, and training. An agreement was also signed with the Health Human Resources Development Center of China’s National Health Commission to jointly train global health professionals in the coming years. The Global Health Research Center of DKU, the Duke Global Health Institute in the United States, and the SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute of Singapore will work closely together to promote scientific research and exchanges on global health in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

Building on the achievements of the Global Health Program since its establishment in 2013, and in accordance with DKU’s mission of building a “highly selective research-oriented, liberal arts and sciences university in China to enable students from around the world to lead purposeful and productive lives”, and based on global health trends and environmental analysis, the Global Health Program formulated the Strategic Plan (2022-2027). In the next five years, we will focus on global health research, education and training, knowledge translation and partnership. With the support of the Kunshan Government, Wuhan University, and Duke University, we will make unremitting efforts to improve health in China and around the world, promote health equity and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation and cooperation.

Dr. **Shenglan TANG**



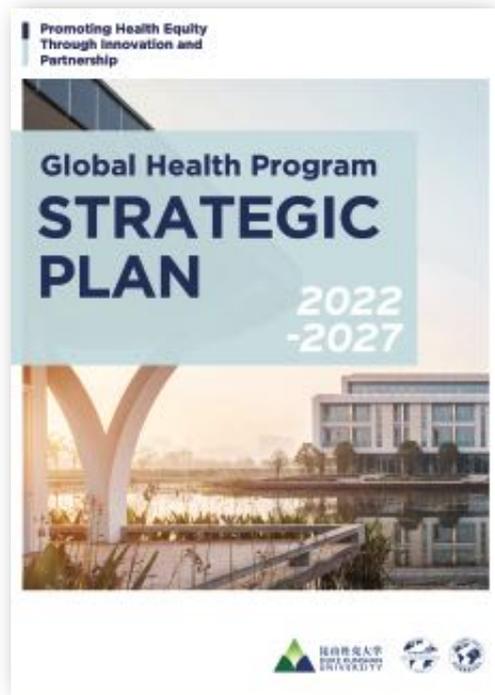
Dr. **Yunguo LIU**

Co-Directors, the Global Health Program,
Duke Kunshan University

Research Center

Strive for Excellence and Reshape the Future

The Global Health Research Center was established in 2013 and co-founded by Duke Kunshan University and the Duke Global Health Institute. Our mission is to improve health and promote health equity in China and globally. Through conducting high-quality research, the Center aims to provide policy recommendations, explore innovative solutions to national and global health challenges, and support national goals set by policies such as *Healthy China 2030*. It also contributes to achieving the United Nations' health related Sustainable Development Goals, including facilitating universal health coverage, strengthening health systems, and reducing the risk of communicable and non-communicable chronic diseases.



To adapt to global health development trends and strengthen innovation and cooperation, the Global Health Program has developed and released *the Strategic Plan (2022-2027)* with scientific research, education and training, knowledge transfer, and partner cooperation as its pillars. Building on previous achievements, the project expands interdisciplinary collaboration and technological innovation. In terms of global health research, the focus has expanded from a past emphasis on health systems and policies, NCDs, environmental health, and healthy aging, to the following three research areas and nine key research directions.

Bring Together Multidisciplinary Forces to Strengthen the Global Health Faculty

One feature of global health is the promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration within and outside the health sciences to address and solve transnational health issues by integrating population-based and individual-level interventions.

As the undergraduate and master’s programs at DKU continue evolving, the Global Health Research Center has expanded from a team of nine in 2013 to forty-four in 2022, including thirty-three full-time and part-time faculty members. Their academic fields cover public health, medicine, health management, public policy, behavioral science, philosophy, economics, sociology, applied mathematics, environmental science, biology, data science, and more. Several health-related multidisciplinary collaborative research projects have been carried out, such as data science, artificial intelligence, and implementation studies.

The Global Health Program regularly organizes academic research exchanges for faculty and staff, provides research funding, technical guidance, and administrative support to junior faculty, regularly shares opportunities for domestic and international research grant applications, and encourages interdisciplinary research collaborations domestically and internationally. Our junior faculty members are rapidly becoming the backbone of global health research and education.

For example, Dr. Meifang Chen, Assistant Professor of Health Policy, and Dr. Fan Liang, Assistant Professor of Media Studies led the Media Academy Project implementation in cooperation with MSD (China) and the Center for International Communication Studies of Tsinghua University. Dr. Yu Wang, Assistant Professor of Sociology, has been actively involved in the Vaccine Delivery Research and Innovation Lab project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, applying sociological theories and methods to address the issue of vaccination hesitancy. Assistant Professor Dr. Sajid Umar serves as the Manager of the Global Health Biology Laboratory, providing laboratory biosafety training to students and researchers, and conducting research on the molecular detection of multidrug-resistant bacteria and screening of antimicrobial resistance genes. Dr. Shixin Xu, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, used a model-data integrated method for acute ischemic stroke core volume estimation to help assess the extent of brain tissue damage in patients. We hope that, in the near future, more faculty members from other disciplines will join us in global health research and teaching.

RESEARCH DOMAINS

PRIORITY AREAS



By the Numbers

In 2022, the Center received

external funding support of

USD

2,191,952



The funding mainly comes from

organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, United Nations agencies, Duke University, the National Health Commission, and Kunshan Municipal Government.

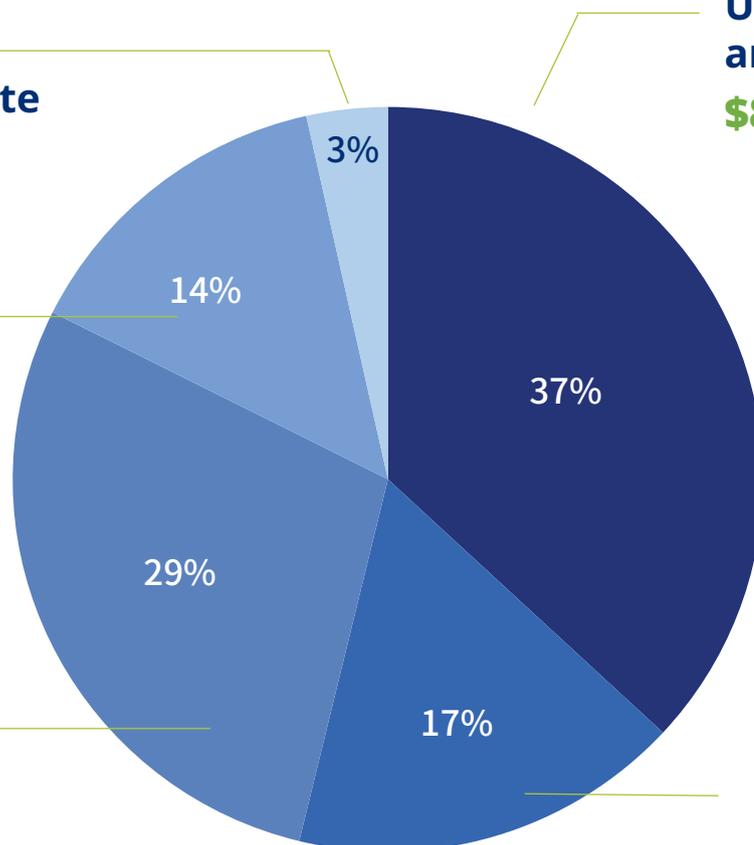
**University and
research institute**
\$76,373

**Development
Foundation**
\$307,955

Government
\$624,443

**United Nations
and NGO**
\$814,234

Industry
\$368,947



A total of

92 Papers

18 Seminars

52

Published as first author or corresponding author

12

Impact Factor over 10

34

Impact Factor over 5

16

Student-engaged papers

Including:

The Lancet Global Health

Circulation

PLoS Medicine

Age and Ageing

JAMA Network Open

20 keynote speakers

from

7

Different countries and regions

13

Internationally-renowned universities, research institutes, organizations, and companies

Project Highlights



Duke Kunshan University Vaccine Delivery Research and Innovation Lab



Innovation Lab for
**Vaccine Delivery
Research**

In December 2021, with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Health Research Center at Duke Kunshan University established the Innovation Lab for Vaccine Delivery Research (VaxLab). Led by Professor Shenglan Tang, VaxLab aims to strengthen the national immunization program and improve people's health by producing high-quality scientific evidence and conducting policy advocacy activities. To comprehensively strengthen the immunization program in China, the VaxLab has identified four key research areas, including developing relevant strategies to strengthen the national immunization program, improving vaccine delivery efficiency and coverage, enhancing vaccine fundraising and services, and advocating for the inclusion of key vaccines recommended by the WHO in the national immunization program.

Since its inception, VaxLab has established close cooperative relationships with domestic centers for disease control and prevention, think tanks, academia, and institutions. Major partners include the Development Research Center of the State Council, China National Health Development Research Center, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing Center for Disease Prevention and Control, Peking University, Fudan University, Zhejiang University, Sichuan University, and others.

With the strong support of the sponsors and partners, VaxLab plans to further expand the content and scope of its research. In the next two years, VaxLab will work on exploring collaboration with partners in ASEAN and other Asian countries, along with deepening exchanges and discussions with partners, policymakers, and academics about vaccine delivery, communication promotion, and exchange on the project's platform.

The project's teams have cooperated on multiple parts of the vaccine delivery research and have achieved major milestones. VaxLab regularly produces high-quality policy briefings on the project's WeChat Official Account (vaxlab_dku) to share important research findings with policymakers and the academic community. Partnered with experts from the Development Research Center of the State Council, VaxLab has published three high-quality policy briefings in 2022, entitled *Strategic Thinking on Strengthening China's National Immunization Program*, *Improving HPV Vaccine Access to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer in China*, and *Increasing Uptake of Key Non-National Immunization Program Vaccines in China*.

VaxLab has published several peer-reviewed articles in top international and national academic journals, including *The Lancet Public Health*, *Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics*, *China Public Health*, *Modern Preventive Medicine*, and *China Health Economics*.

In addition, VaxLab regularly invites national and international experts to hold technical workshops, and actively conducts quarterly exchange meetings to facilitate networking and share current research findings. The first workshop in November 2022 focused on vaccine procurement and financing. Furthermore, the Clinton Health Access Initiatives were invited to share their insights on PCV introduction in Indonesia. The second workshop was held in January 2023 with the theme "Reducing Vaccine Hesitancy and Increasing Vaccine Uptake." Professor Lavanya Vasudevan of Emory University was invited to share and discuss with the internal team the key challenges and interventions for addressing global vaccine hesitancy. On a virtual social landscape, VaxLab has created a website to build a vibrant online vaccine delivery research community.

Policy Briefing Series

The Innovation Lab for Vaccine Delivery Research (VaxLab) regularly invites experts and scholars from China and abroad to write targeted policy briefings on topics related to vaccine delivery research for the promotion of policy advocacy and strengthening China's national immunization program.

The first policy briefing issue *Strategic Thinking on Strengthening China's National Immunization Program* discussed the achievements, challenges, and optimization strategies of China's current national immunization program from a national strategic perspective. This issue, a collaboration between Researcher Yanfeng Ge, Researcher Jiahui Zhang, and Associate Researcher Shenglan Liu of the Development Research Center of the State Council and Professor Shenglan Tang of Duke University and Duke Kunshan University, received an enthusiastic response upon its publication.

The second issue *Improving HPV Vaccine Access to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer in China* discusses the current barriers to increasing HPV vaccination rates and offers recommendations for future development. The second issue was co-authored by Duanduan Yuan, senior medical and health columnist, Shu Chen, senior consultant of Duke University and deputy director of the VaxLab, Jiahui Zhang, Researcher of the Development Research Center of the State Council, and Youlin Qiao, Professor at the School of Population Medicine and Public Health at Peking Union Medical College. In the report, People's Daily Health highlighted the current situation and challenges of HPV vaccine prevalence in China and provided suggestions to increase HPV vaccination rates among women.

The third issue *Increasing Uptake of Key Non-National Immunization Program Vaccines in China* presents the status of vaccination rates for vaccines not included in the national immunization program in China. It also analyzes the reasons for low vaccine uptake from the supply-side and demand-side perspectives and makes strategic recommendations to improve vaccination rates in this regard. This issue was co-authored by Shu Chen, senior consultant of Duke University and deputy director of the VaxLab, Mingzhu Jiang, Ph.D. student from Fudan University School of Public Health, Shenglan Tang, Professor at Duke University and Duke Kunshan University, and Xiaohua Ying, Professor at the Fudan University School of Public Health.



Research Makes Ground on Treating Antibiotic-Resistant Infection

A collaborative study involving researchers at Duke Kunshan University's Global Health Research Center and Wang-Cai Biochemistry Laboratory has made important ground in understanding *Clostridioides difficile* infection (C. diff), an antibiotic-resistant pathogen that can cause severe diarrhoea, belly pain, and fever and potentially lead to death.

C. diff is a "significant threat to public health," said Linfeng Huang, Associate Professor of Biology at Duke Kunshan University, who led the research. "As a global health care problem, there is an urgent need to understand the infection mechanism and develop efficient therapeutics."

The researchers used a human intestinal cell model and toxins produced by C. diff to simulate the C. diff infection process in the laboratory. They discovered several novel genes that are important in initiating C. diff induced cell death, including plakoglobin, a gene previously known for its role in cell-to-cell attachment, and demonstrated that by using small molecules and siRNAs to block specific gene functions, they could potentially treat the infection.

The research, published in the American Society for Microbiology journal *mBio*, sheds light on key genes that are involved in tissue damage caused by the infection. While the research is promising, there is a "long road" ahead before any treatments are approved, added Huang, as drugs will have to be tested vigorously for safety and efficacy in animal models and then in clinical trials first.



Dr. Linfeng Huang

National Basic Public Health Chronic Disease Management Service Quality Evaluation Project

With the support of United Nations agencies, the Health Policy and System Research Team led by Professor Qian Long at the Global Health Research Center participated in a series of studies on the quality of healthcare services for chronic disease management in low- and middle-income countries. The research team targeted the National Basic Public Health Services Project and analyzed the current situation and quality of chronic disease management services in China using quantitative and qualitative research methods. The research focused on the impact of current financing and payment models on the quality of

chronic disease management services and summarized the experience and challenges during the implementation phase.

The study found that current chronic disease management interventions have not achieved the expected results. Preliminary results summarized the reasons from different perspectives, such as (1) insufficient project funding and a lack of effective incentive mechanisms; (2) a shortage of primary healthcare workers and inadequate professional skills among existing healthcare workers; (3) insufficient information to effectively evaluate project performance.

The research team submitted the mid-term research report on October 2022 and the final report was completed on April 2023.



Professor Yunguo Liu and Professor Qian Long's team, as well as the Health Commission and primary medical workers in Zhongmou, Henan Province



The Media Academy Project

Initiated by MSD (China), and supported by the Global Health Research Center at Duke Kunshan University together with the International Center for Communication at Tsinghua University, the Media Academy Project (also known as the Knowledge Camp project) was launched in September 2021. The project is jointly led by Dr. Meifang Chen, Assistant Professor of Health Policy, and Dr. Fan Liang, Assistant Professor of Media, both of whom are from the Global Health Research Center. This project aims to provide more cutting-edge, professional, and reliable health education, information and insights to journalists working in health-related fields, and to foster a more sustainable educational ecosystem for health promotion.



Dr. Fan Liang (first from the left) and Dr. Meifang Chen (second from the left) attended the launch ceremony.

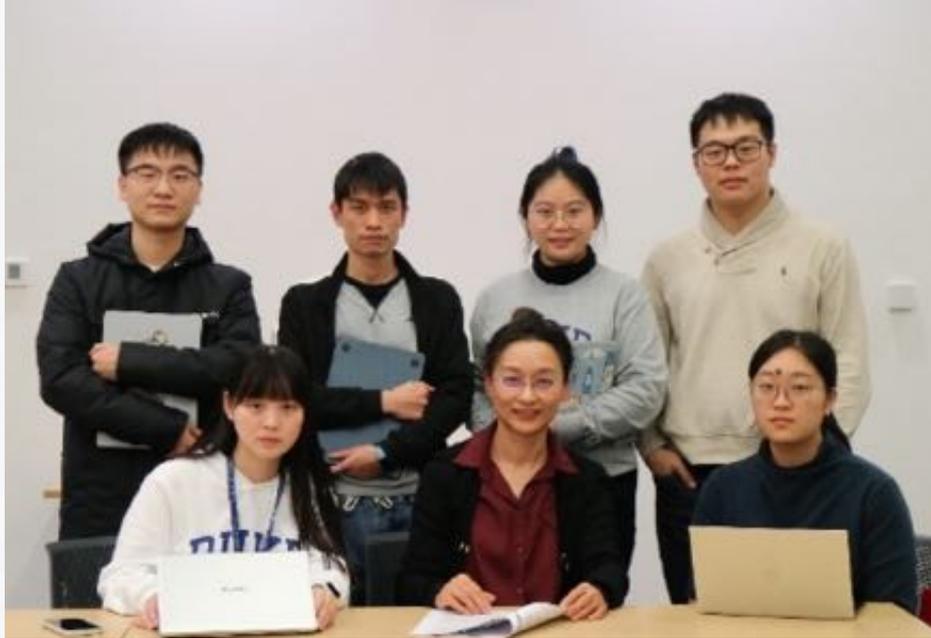
In 2022, the Global Health Research Center invited 16 internal and external experts to write twelve health education articles around four themes: Health Policy, Disease Management, Healthy Lifestyle, and Innovative Medical Technologies. The Center has also invited Dr. Youlin Qiao, Professor from Peking Union Medical College, and Prof. Yu Wang and Prof. Xin Tong from the Global Health Research Center, to produce educational videos for Health Knowledge Camp users. They discussed cervical cancer and cervical cancer vaccines, declining fertility and birth rates in China, and the challenge of building a friendly environment for people with disabilities.

At the 5th China International Expo in 2022, the launch ceremony of the Health Knowledge Camp was successfully held. Prof. Yunguo Liu delivered an opening speech, stating that the transformation of scientific research results and knowledge management is one of the four key strategic goals of the Global Health Research Center. The Center has always been committed to translating cutting-edge scientific research results into easy to understand science content, which has facilitated public embrace of healthier lifestyles.

The launch of the Media Academy Project marks an important exploration by the Global Health Research Center to popularize health science and strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration. As one of the academic support parties of Health Knowledge Camp, the Center will continue bringing together multiple sectors such as industry, academia, research, media, and others. The goals of these collaborations include: integrating high-quality academic resources, fostering health information dissemination activities with a global perspective, promoting the transformation of cutting-edge scientific research results and knowledge dissemination, and expanding the breadth and depth of science popularization content of the Health Knowledge Camp.

Five Professors at the Global Health Research Center Receive Funding from the Hou Tu Research Fund

The Duke Kunshan University Foundation received a donation in 2022 to establish the Hou Tu Research Fund. The fund is primarily used for research in fields such as art history, philosophy, anthropology, archaeology, and global health. After two rounds of selection, a total of five professors from the Global Health Research Center received support from the fund: Professors Lijing Yan, Chenkai Wu, Meifang Chen, Sajid Umar, and Xin Tong. Their research topics are: "Community Centered eHealth Smoking Cessation Intervention Based on the Smoking Rationalization Beliefs Framework for Chinese Male Smokers", "Burden of Polypharmacy and Attitude towards Deprescription among Frail Older Adults in China", "Evaluation of the Nepal's Primary Health Care System Performance in Diabetes Prevention and Management", "Molecular detection of routine and novel canine respiratory viruses in Kunshan China", and "Pilgrimage to Pureland Art Perception and the Wutai Mural VR Reconstruction".



Dr. Lijing Yan's Team

Professor Lijing Yan's Team won first-prize on the 5th China Healthy Economy Development Forum

On November 27th, "the 5th China Health Economics Development Forum and the 4th Health and Medical Big Data Forum" (hereafter referred to as the "Forum") was held online. The paper *Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Free Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccination Policy for the Elderly: A Real-World Study in Yinzhou District* by Professor Lijing Yan's team at the Global Health Research Center of Duke Kunshan University was awarded the first prize for excellent papers at the forum.

At the meeting, Xian Zhang, the first author of the paper and a research fellow at the Global Health Research Center of Duke Kunshan University, shared research results showing that both free trivalent influenza and quadrivalent vaccination programs for older adults are cost-effective in Yinzhou District, compared with a no-policy scenario. They found that quadrivalent vaccination programs are cost-effective for trivalent influenza.

Using Yinzhou district as a case study, this research applied real-world data from Yinzhou Health Information System to a real-world program for older adults subsidized by the local government in 2020. The study used parameters collected from literature and estimated from Yinzhou Health Information System to generate evidence to inform influenza vaccination policy and practice. The research results were further translated into real-world policy advice: we should promote a free influenza vaccination policy for older adults.

The research team members included Professor Lijing Yan, Xian Zhang, Xinyue Ji, Rundong Hu, Kehan Su, and other researchers from collaborating units at the Global Health Research Center of Duke Kunshan University.

Duke Kunshan University Signs Memorandum with University of Health Sciences, Cambodia



昆山杜克大学
DUKE KUNSHAN
UNIVERSITY



Duke Kunshan University has signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Health Sciences, Cambodia (UHS) aimed at promoting research collaboration, facilitating exchange programs for faculty and students, and guiding students in conducting field visits at the partner institution. The first joint research project to be undertaken by both institutions will focus on chronic disease prevention and control under various social health protection mechanisms in Cambodia. The project will be jointly implemented by Dr. Marius Wamsiedel from the Global Health Research Center of DKU and Dr. Dyna Khuon from UHS.

WHO Appointed Professor Shenglan Tang as a Member of the Public Health and Emergency Workforce Steering Committee

Professor Shenglan Tang, Co-Director of Duke Kunshan Global Health Program, has been appointed as a member of the Public Health and Emergency Workforce Steering Committee by the WHO. He attended the committee's first meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 17-19, 2022. The committee will allocate more resources to basic public health functions, skills education, collaboration and communication, and international cooperation on global health issues.



Dr. Shenglan Tang

The Global Health Research Center and World Economic Forum Jointly Released the White Paper *Chronic Diseases 2030: Innovation Accelerates Transformation*

On November 15, 2022, the white paper *Chronic Diseases 2030: Innovation Accelerates Transformation*, compiled jointly by the World Economic Forum, the Global Health Research Center of Duke Kunshan University, and Access Health, was officially released at the G20 Bali Leaders Summit.

Dr. Yunguo Liu, Co-Director of the Global Health Program at Duke Kunshan University and one of the editors of the white paper, said: "At the time of writing this article, the pandemic is in its transition, and now is the best time for reflection. We need to summarize the experience and best practices that can be normalized to help developing countries establish more resilient health systems."

Mr. Liming Chen, President of the World Economic Forum Greater China, wrote in the preface: "The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of global and national health systems. Health systems that are already struggling to allocate resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, which further exacerbates the risks and burdens of chronic disease patients, leading to interruptions in their normal diagnosis, treatment and recovery."



The white paper's team reviewed literature and conducted in-depth interviews with policymakers, industry leaders and academic experts in developing countries, summarizing experiences and refining efficient methods and innovative strategies. The results showed that transitioning to an integrated healthcare system would bring long-term benefits to developing countries. Such a transition would require a focus on people-oriented prevention as well as science and technology. These replicable practices include cross-disease, people-centered integrated healthcare service models, innovative attempts to empower and mobilize primary healthcare capabilities at the community level for early screening and diagnosis, and increasing accessibility and improving diagnosis and treatment measures through intelligent integration with digital technology.

Seminar Series

Since 2014, the Duke Kunshan University Global Health Research Center has held a series of global health seminars during the fall and spring semesters, featuring three to four talks per month. These seminars invite leaders, scientists, and industry experts in the global health field to exchange information on the latest research progress, international and domestic development trends, and global health teaching and practice experiences. Since 2020, Xingzheng Global Fund Management Co. and Ningquan Asset Management Co. have provided funding support to hold the global health seminars, which have now been named the Aegon-Industrial Global Health Seminar Series. As of the end of 2022, 165 seminars have been successfully held.

In 2022, the Global Health Research Center

hosted a total of

18 Seminars

mainly through a combination of offline seminars and online live streaming.

The seminar series guests and topics include:



7 Speakers

from United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations, and national government agencies, including

- World Health Organization
- World Bank
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Korean Health Bureau

They shared their expertise and practical experiences in the field of global health, particularly in relation to

- the role of national health organizations in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic
- universal health coverage and global public health management
- the Gates Foundation's role in global health
- the demand and expectations of United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations for global health talents

9 Professors/
Scholars

from well-known universities and research institutions at home and abroad, including

- Duke University
- University of Nottingham Trent
- Georgetown University

These professors and scholars shared their latest research progress and topics in the field of global health, such as

- the optimization of cholera vaccine deployment in Bangladesh
- the role of remote medical and health services in elderly care
- efficacy trials for reducing HIV infections in Thai youth

This section covers a diverse range of topics and introduces students to cutting-edge research and achievements in the field of global health.



4 Guests

from leading global medical and health consulting companies, including

- Novartis (China)
- IQVIA

They introduced students majoring in Global Health to

- the role of companies in the Global Health agenda
- the professional development path
- market demand and skill requirements for talents

Three of these guests were alumni of the Master of Science in Global Health Program at DKU, who provided more practical advice and assistance to students based on their past learning and work experience.

Master's Program

Mission

To train the next generation of researchers, practitioners, and leaders in the global health field through high-quality educational programs and opportunities for scientific research participation.

The Master of Science in Global Health (MSc-GH) program at Duke Kunshan University received a record number of admission applications in the 2021-2022 application cycle, demonstrating increased interest in global health. The newest cohort consists of twenty talented students, exceeding the all-time enrollment record.

To make the course curriculum more attractive to students and to provide career development for students who aspire to work in the healthcare and pharmaceutical industry, the MSc-GH program has collaborated with Duke Fuqua Business School to offer more options for selective courses in healthcare management and business. Our long-term goal is to expand this initiative into a certificate program.

Our students have been involved in world-class research. Two second-year students, Bolu Yang and Yue Suo, were elected from hundreds of competitors around the world to receive research awards from the World Health Organization. Additionally, Bolu and Yue were invited to attend the World Health Summit 2022, where they met the other six recipients of the award.

The fieldwork is an integral part of our program. MSc-GH students set foot in over twenty countries and six continents to conduct global health research and fieldwork projects. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed daunting challenges for students to conduct research in the field over the past three years. Fortunately, our faculty, unit heads, and supportive staff have worked together collaboratively and creatively to bring fieldwork projects back to normal. We have also secured funding to support students' field research projects as well as internships at international organizations.

Student Fieldwork

Chenxinan Ma

 Durham, North Carolina, USA



Chenxinan Ma (in the middle of the first row) with his classmates at Duke University

In mid-November 2021, I began planning for my fieldwork project. After much consideration, with the help of Professor Shenglan Tang and Professor Chenkai Wu, I was introduced to Professor Rae Jean Proeschold-Bell at Duke University, whose research focuses on clergy. At first, I knew very little about this group, but Rae Jean patiently introduced me to the world of clergy and their health needs through online meetings, and I decided to conduct fieldwork and write a paper under her guidance.

The three months leading up to my departure were hectic, with many small incidents involving visas, medical examinations, housing rentals, and project writing. Fortunately, Rae Jean was there to not only help me revise my research plan, but also to kindly resolve issues with housing and lost luggage, and regularly invite me to local church events, allowing me to get closer to the research group. Every morning, Rae Jean would propose a writing-related question for everyone to freely share their thoughts and solutions, all of which provided me with a new understanding of the mental health of clergy.

As I gradually immersed myself in the local life, I participated in numerous data analysis tasks and annual report writing related to the clergy health research project. Extensive reading and on-site investigation gave me a deep understanding of the impact of Christianity on various aspects of American society. I learned and grew through communication and exploration. Without this trip, I may never have known the richness of religion, different beliefs, and human nature. I am grateful to Duke Kunshan University, Duke University's faculty and staff, and everyone I met during my research for providing me with beautiful memories beyond numbers and words.

The poster of Iris' research project



Iris Parshley

 Durham, North Carolina, USA

The difficulties I encountered during several months of fieldwork were far more than I imagined, but each step was meaningful to me.

First, we needed to choose our mentors based on our interests, experience, location, and other factors. In this regard, the Duke Kunshan University Global Health Program provided me with a lot of help, allowing me to find a mentor who shared my interests and was very supportive. Based on the theme of "global health," we chose to study the behavior of immigrant pregnant women and needed to submit application materials to the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Faced with dozens of pages of complex documents, I felt a lot of pressure, but I learned to use Gantt charts to help me complete tasks efficiently.

Finally, we implemented the project by posting project posters in many communities and research centers in Durham, North Carolina, and finally recruited participants. Although the project had to be abandoned due to a small final sample size, my efforts were not in vain. Each step brought different gains and helped me grow every day at Duke Kunshan University.

Ziyu Qiao

 Chongqing & Nanjing, China

During the summer of 2022, I conducted my fieldwork in Chongqing and Nanjing, interviewing the younger generation in China about their willingness to choose plant-based diets. The entire process, from filling out the ethical review procedure to conducting the actual research, was extremely challenging, and the pandemic made fieldwork even more difficult than before. However, the teachers and staff at the Global Health Research Center were very enthusiastic and provided me with many resources. During this period, I learned two important things.

Firstly, being prepared is always a method that can help people stay calm. The potential difficulties in the research made me very anxious, but with the help of my teachers and classmates, I started to focus on the research plan, consulted nutrition experts, and constantly improved the interview outline, which gave me more confidence before departing for the field.

Secondly, having a Plan B and embracing the unexpected. During my trip to Chongqing, two interviewees could not participate for various reasons. Fortunately, after confirming all the interviewees, I prepared a candidate list, and with their understanding and support, I successfully completed the research.

 Ziyu Qiao, second-year student of MSc-GH program



During the research, I worked together with my classmate Yang Bolu in Chongqing. We viewed each other as friends and "comrades" who supported each other when encountering difficulties, proposed corresponding solutions, inspired each other, and witnessed the high-lights of each other's research.

Study at Duke

In the warm summer breeze of North Carolina, I began my Duke semester. During an outdoor team-building event, Loreнна and I became "hug buddies" because we had to hug each other to complete a rope challenge. Hugging then became our tradition when we met. Later, I also befriended Karipa from Tanzania, and we sat together in the stands at Durham Bulls Athletic Park, cheering for the Durham Bulls baseball team.

Daily life at Duke is colorful and vibrant. The school has well-equipped gyms, world-class swimming pools, and facilities that keep you energized at all times. The problem of inconvenient parking is a piece of cake for Blue Devils, as Duke students are called. As the first smoke-free university in the United States, there are many cigar elements on campus, such as the Duke statue holding a cigar in the middle of the campus and many places named "Tobacco," forming a unique and interesting Duke scenery.

Of course, Duke's courses are thought-provoking, the professors are erudite, and the students are outstanding, all of which are to be expected from a top-ranking American university. But how did I manage to complete a massive amount of coursework, write a graduation thesis, defend it, and apply for countless job opportunities in just three short months? This is still a mystery to me. I think this is the power of education. I am grateful for the experience of Duke University in my life.



Duke University Campus

Rui Wang

Second-year student of
MSc-GH program



Student News

Two MSc-GH Students Received Research Awards from the World Health Organization (WHO)

In October 2022, the "World Health Summit" was held in Berlin, the capital of Germany. Two second-year MSc-GH students, Yue Suo and Bolu Yang, were invited to attend and received research awards from the WHO. "It is a remarkable achievement that two of our students were selected for such a competitive research award," said their research supervisor, Dr. Qian Long, Associate Professor of Global Health at DKU. Dr. Chenkai Wu, the Director of the MSc-GH Program, pointed out that "this also strongly demonstrates the excellent research level of the faculty and student body at Duke Kunshan University."



Yue Suo (fourth from the right) with other researchers

Yue and Bolu focus on health policy research related to various health issues in China. Yue Suo's research focuses on "policies related to sugary drinks," and Bolu Yang's research centers on "smoking bans and regulations."

After attending the award ceremony in Berlin, Yue said: "I am very happy and surprised to have this experience of participating in an international health conference. This was also my first close contact and participation in a global health conference. I am very grateful for the recognition of my research by these two global health organizations, and I also want to thank the teachers and classmates at Duke Kunshan University for their help, especially the professors of global health who encouraged me to apply for this opportunity and inspired me to explore global health issues more deeply. I sincerely hope that there will be more voices from China on the world stage of global health in the future."

Bolu Yang said, "I am honored to receive the support and recognition of the WHO! I am also grateful for the help of the professors of the Global Health program in the early stages of the application process. They also led me to focus on tobacco control, and I hope to contribute more to China's future tobacco control legislation through this research."

The World Health Summit was first held in 2009 and aims to improve global health conditions. It is one of the most important health strategy conferences in the world, bringing together leading international scientists, politicians, and business representatives to focus on and discuss key global health issues and their solutions. About 6,000 representatives from various fields from approximately 100 different countries participated in this year's summit.

MSc-GH Program Alumnus Was Selected for the Schwarzman Scholars

Nicholas Peoples, a graduate of the 2018 MSc-GH cohort at Duke Kunshan University, has been selected as a Tsinghua University Schwarzman Scholar for the class of 2023. The Schwarzman Scholars program is one of the most competitive scholarship programs in the world, with only a 5% acceptance rate from approximately 3,000 applicants worldwide.



Nicholas Peoples, Class of 2018 student of MSc-GH program

Peoples, 27 years old, expressed excitement upon knowing of his selection and saw it as both an honor and a responsibility. He looked forward to studying with his peers at the Schwarzman Scholars and "embracing the challenges of the 21st century, promoting social welfare, and working with innovators from around the world to advance universal basic health services."

Peoples first set his sights on becoming a doctor at the age of 18 in order to provide medical support to those who cannot afford it. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with the highest honors from Southern Nazarene University. During his undergraduate studies, he also participated in Duke Kunshan University's Spring 2015 study abroad program on the second campus.

In 2016, he returned to Duke Kunshan University and graduated with a Master of Science degree in Global Health in 2018. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Emergency Medicine. Peoples believes that his experience at Duke Kunshan University has "completely changed" him.

According to Professor Shenglan Tang, Co-Director of the Global Health program at Duke Kunshan University, Peoples has "both talent and initiative." "During his time in the MSc-GH program at Duke Kunshan University, our teachers and classmates greatly appreciated his efforts and talents," Tang said. "The selection of our graduate as a well-known Schwarzman Scholar once again demonstrates that our MSc-GH program is dedicated to cultivating global health leaders and improving the health and well-being of people worldwide."

Bolu Yang (the first from the left), second-year student of MSc-GH program, with interviewees in Chongqing



Student Interdisciplinary Research Projects Successfully Completed

To promote interdisciplinary research capabilities, integrate undergraduate and graduate projects, and cultivate young global health researchers, the Global Health Program provides special funds for student-led interdisciplinary research projects. These projects are supervised by professors from Duke Kunshan University and consist of graduate and undergraduate students from different majors.

In 2021, after an anonymous review by an expert panel, five student projects were selected for funding support with a total budget of 150,000 CNY. These five projects were implemented by twelve undergraduate and six graduate students for a period of one year. Among these projects, four were successfully completed. These four research projects focused on: "the possible mechanisms of age-related decline in exercise planning ability", "the regional study of the inertia of antibiotic resistance, antibiotic resistance genes, and environmental pressure using mathematical models", "the best financing approach for off-grid renewable energy solutions at the health center in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo", and "the employee health management project of Kunshan TONGLI Elevator Co., Ltd."

2024 Graduate School Opening Ceremony

In Aug 2022, the Opening Convocation for the Class of 2024 was held in the university auditorium and hosted by Dr. Xin Li, Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate School and Research at Duke Kunshan University. The Interim Executive Vice Chancellor, Dr. Jennifer Francis, delivered a speech welcoming the new cohort to Duke Kunshan University: "I hope you will seek every opportunity to apply what you learn here. Whether that's through assignments and research projects, internships, or giving back to the local community, take every possible opportunity to put what you are learning into action."

Dr. Marius Wamsiedel, Assistant Professor of Global Health, encouraged the students to face new challenges positively. "The first challenge you face is adjusting to an unfamiliar place and a new educational environment," said Dr. Wamsiedel. "All of you are starting a new chapter in your lives here. It's normal to miss your old life and friends, but don't forget: this is not an end, but a new beginning."

Ms Zhangyang Pan, a first-year graduate student in global health, spoke on behalf of this year's incoming graduate students. Her speech referred to her past experiences and expectations for the life at Duke Kunshan University from a female perspective. "When you reach your thirties, those around you tend to presume that you are entering a default mode, with increasing certainty. Women tend to receive higher expectations in terms of maintaining a stable life path - getting married, raising children, having a fairly decent job and, most importantly, not taking a big turn for the worse. However, I am interested in breaking away from some of these 'shoulds' and embracing an uncertain future," Zhangyang said. "As a new Sino-foreign international university, DKU has almost no paradigm to follow. As a path creator, it shows us how much possibility can be unleashed when we courageously embrace uncertainty; it shows us the need to define our own path by defining it, rather than just following it, which will ultimately reveal novel solutions. And here we are."

The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Scott MacEachern, gave the closing remarks to students: "Duke Kunshan University is committed to the promotion of cross-cultural understanding and international collaboration, and to the search for common ground in human cultural and social systems across the world, at every level from the global to the national to the local. We believe that human futures require that, and that people desire it. We look forward to engaging you in this project."





Gathering for the Mid-autumn Festival and Teachers' Day



Color Run on Campus



Professor Marius Wamsiedel with Students

Master's Student Activities

Duke Kunshan University is committed to providing students with diverse student activity programs and services, encouraging students to explore interests beyond the classroom and enriching their learning and life at Duke Kunshan University. These activities aim to strengthen cross-cultural understanding, promote extracurricular learning, increase community engagement, enhance peer interaction and communication, explore arts and culture, and promote the personal development of students. Whether you enjoy sports and fitness, arts and culture, or community volunteering, you can always find like-minded partners at Duke Kunshan University.



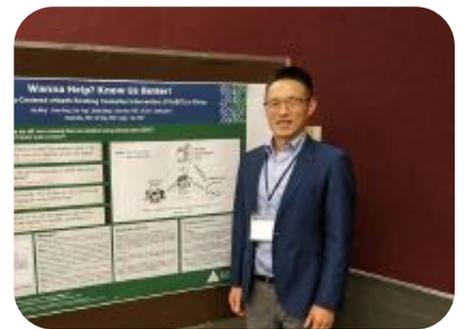
Yiqing Jin's (Second Left) Thesis Defense



Professor Lijing Yan and Students' Lunch Meeting



Ema Hsiao Elected as the Student Ambassador



Rui Wang in North Carolina Global Health Annual Conference



Professor Marius Wamsiedel with First-year Students in the MSc-GH Program



Halloween Party



Christmas Concert

Undergraduate Program

At the core of Duke Kunshan University's education is the Liberal Arts undergraduate degree program which has a distinctive feature of knowledge integration and interdisciplinary fusion, bringing together advanced teaching methods and values from China, the United States, and the world. The world-class faculty team of the university upholds the purpose of "serving society with knowledge" and combines student education with innovative academic and scientific research. Each undergraduate major adopts a dual-structure design, covering both broad interdisciplinary content and focusing on key knowledge in each major field, so that each major can provide different professional directions according to students' different learning priorities. Global Health is not only one of the first majors offered by Duke Kunshan University, but also one of the most popular majors.

Global Health Youth Leaders Club - 2021-2022 Annual Report

Summary of Main Achievements

- Received the annual student organization award from the Student Affairs Office at Duke Kunshan University
- The Global Health Research Center sponsored more than ten young club members to attend the annual conference of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health
- Club membership increased by 67%, with the core team growing from 33 to 55 members
- Successfully established a new partnership with the Career Services Office at Duke Kunshan University
- Organized three virtual events:
 - ◆ Chats with representatives from a leading biotech company in partnership with the Career Services Office at Duke Kunshan University;
 - ◆ An online event for World Mental Health Awareness Day;
 - ◆ The 2022 Duke Kunshan University On-Campus Global Health Case Competition
- Hosted two virtual seminars:
 - ◆ "Human Rights Issues in Mental Health: Global Health Framework" by Dr. Daniel Weissglass of Duke Kunshan University
 - ◆ "Mental Health in Socioeconomic Contexts" by Dr. Jenifer Hamil-Luker of Duke University

Undergraduate Student Research Projects

Project 1: Overview of Obesity in Mainland China: A Multidisciplinary Systematic Review Project

This project, which involves nine undergraduate students at DKU, aims to mentor undergraduate students as they conduct a systematic review on the current situation of obesity in Mainland China from various perspectives (e.g., built environment, food policy, GIS and AI application, community-based interventions, economics, mass media, educational curriculum, etc.). This project has yielded fruitful academic products, including six presentations at top-leading global health conferences, three student poster awards, and a student-co-authored journal publication.

Project 2: Improving Cancer Control Equity in China: Visualizing and Analyzing the Gap

The goal of this project is to investigate cancer control inequity-related issues in China and to develop an interactive, participatory and evolving website that presents a comprehensive picture of cancer burden, disparities and practices in China to aid cancer prevention and control advocacy and research. So far, this project has yielded a series of academic products, including five international conference abstracts (under review), four manuscripts and a cancer advocacy website in development. Six students from this project (two from DKU) have also been selected as UN Millennium Fellows—a prestigious global fellowship initiated by the United Nations. As UN Millennium Fellows these students will carry out cancer advocacy and prevention interventions to support and contribute to the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This also made DKU the first school to win the UN Millennium Fellowship in Mainland China.

Project 3: “Public Health Security Governance: A View of Global Health” Book

In this project, Prof. Meifang Chen worked with a team of experts in Chinese health governance, public administration, and law from several prestigious Chinese universities to review Chinese public health security governance practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, and discuss the challenges faced by the Chinese public health security system in the current pandemic and global context. This work has resulted in a book named *Public Health Security Governance: A View of Global Health* published by the Social Sciences Academic Press (China) – a leading Chinese press specializing in the field of humanities and social sciences, directly sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The book has been included in the “One Road One Belt” database as one of the Chinese “Thirteenth Five-Year” National Key Publications that represent the latest achievements in academic research in China.



The World AIDS Day Event



Undergraduate Student Activities

Over the past year, undergraduate students of the Global Health Program have participated in many joint curriculum activities to improve their knowledge and skills. Students applied their expertise and worked hard in teacher-led interdisciplinary research projects. Many students also participated in internships and practical activities, applying the skills they learned in the classroom to the real world. For example, a student from the class of 2023 assisted in redesigning a hospital's digital blueprint planning system during an internship at PwC.

In addition, some students formed teams to participate in the Duke Kunshan University Innovation Incubator competition, which provided them with an excellent opportunity to integrate research and entrepreneurship, enhance innovation capabilities, and clarify social responsibility. Among them, a team of global health majors from China, the United States, and India proposed a startup plan to develop a sleep application tailored for college students to monitor the impact of sleep quality on academic performance and productivity.

Undergraduate students also initiated the Global Health Youth Leadership Club, and their efforts have been recognized domestically and internationally. For example, Ross Ran, a student of the class of 2024, was selected as a United Nations Millennium Fellow for her efforts in cervical cancer prevention in China.

On World AIDS Day on December 1, 2022, the Global Health Youth Leadership Club held multiple events, including a quiz with prizes and the distribution of posters, to raise awareness among students.

Faculty and Staff News

The Global Health Program Welcomes Dr. Marius Wamsiedel

Duke Kunshan University Global Health Program welcomed the joining of Dr. Marius Wamsiedel on July 1st, 2022. He serves as an Assistant Professor of Global Health, conducting research and teaching at Duke Kunshan University.

Dr. Wamsiedel received his Ph.D. from the University of Hong Kong (2016), M.A. from the University of Bucharest, and B.A. from the University of Arizona (2009, magna cum laude). As a medical sociologist by training, Dr. Wamsiedel conducts research at the intersection between society, culture, and health. His works have examined the social categorization of patients, the structural and interpersonal barriers to health care, and racial health inequities. He is currently working on a monograph about the moral evaluation of emergency room patients and a study of cultures of learning in international universities in China. Prior to joining Duke Kunshan University, Dr. Wamsiedel was a Lecturer in the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (2017-2022). Since 2020, he has been a fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy.



Dr. Qian Long, Dr. Linfeng Huang, and Dr. Jianbo Yue Were Appointed as Tenured Professors at Duke Kunshan University



Qian Long, Associate Professor of Global Health

Dr. Long's research interests and experience center on health equity in relation to the development of health systems, with a focus on financing and services organization and delivery. She specializes in maternal and child health, tuberculosis control and NCDs management in poor areas and among vulnerable groups. Prior to joining Duke Kunshan University, she was based in Geneva for over two years working in the World Health Organization's Department of Reproductive Health and Research. She completed her doctoral degree at the University of Helsinki, Finland, and undertook postdoctoral training at the Duke Global Health Institute.



Linfeng Huang, Associate Professor of Biology

Dr. Huang is passionate about advancing the understanding of ribonucleic acid (RNA) biology to develop powerful RNA-based biotechnology and therapeutics.

He has made highly significant contributions to the RNA interference (RNAi) field. At Duke Kunshan, his teaching interests include microbiology, genetics, cell biology and molecular biology.

Dr. Huang has a B.Sc. from the College of Biological Sciences, China Agricultural University, Beijing, and a Ph.D. from the University of East Anglia, U.K. He completed his postdoctoral training at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School and was an associate professor at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, City University of Hong Kong.



Jianbo Yue, Professor of Biology

Dr. Yue's research focuses on cell signaling related to autophagy, endosomal trafficking, metastasis, anti-cancer immunity, Ca²⁺ and reactive oxygen species (ROS). Dr. Yue graduated from Sichuan University with a B.Sc. in biochemistry, Peking University with an M.Sc. in genetics and Pennsylvania State University with a Ph.D. degree in pharmacology. After postdoc training at Stanford University, he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology at the University of Hong Kong before joining the City University of Hong Kong as an Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Duke Kunshan University Appointed Kaikai Yang as Assistant Director of the Global Health Program



In August, Ms. Kaikai Yang was appointed Assistant Director of the Global Health Program.

Her responsibilities in this capacity include providing leadership and coordination to support the Global Health Research Center and the MSc-GH program, leading and supervising the administrative team to support faculty and researchers in education, training, and research projects, and contributing to the efficient management of program operation and finance in collaboration with relevant units of Duke Kunshan University and partners.

Ms. Kaikai Yang has extensive administrative experience. She has worked as Senior Program Coordinator for the MSc-GH program (since February 2021) and Senior Administrative Coordinator in the Global Health Research Center at Duke Kunshan University (2015-2019).

"We are confident that Kaikai's promotion, along with her rich experience, would shine a light on the prosperous development of the Global Health Program." Said Dr. Yunguo Liu, Co-Director of the Global Health Program.

Career Development



Weixi Jiang

Former research fellow and coordinator in the Health Policy and System Research Team, now a young associate researcher at the School of Public Health, Fudan University.



Tianze Lin

Former data analyst in Professor Chenkai Wu's research team and now a visiting scholar at Southern University of Science and Technology.



Jie Tan

Former intern in Professor Chenkai Wu's research team, and now a doctoral student at Wuhan University supervised by Professor Lijing Yan.



Bairu Zhao

Former administrative assistant at the Global Health Research Center, now pursuing Ph.D. in Health Outcomes and Implementation Science at the University of Florida's College of Medicine.

Faculty

AMAYA-BURNS, Alba

MD, MSc
Adjunct Associate Professor of Global Health, Duke Kunshan University

BURNS, Allan F.

PhD
Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, Duke Kunshan University

CAO, Huansheng

PhD
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CHEN, Meifang

PhD, MPH, MCHES
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DONG, Di

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Adjunct Assistant Professor of Global Health, Duke Kunshan University

GU, Ming

PhD
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HUANG, Linfeng

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HOCK, Rebecca

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LUO, Baozhen

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WEISSGLASS, Daniel

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WU, Chenkai

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WAMSIEDEL, Marius

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WANG, Yu

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XU, Shixin

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Publications

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