

## UMMS Hosts Chinese Medical Exchange Students

Through the joint efforts of the [UMMS China Program](#) and the UMMS Office of Medical Education's [International Medical Education Program](#), the University of Massachusetts Medical School recently hosted its first group of Chinese medical exchange students. Zhe Shi, Weilin Wang, Mingfeng Yang and Ling Zhang came from Tongji University School of Medicine (TUSM) in Shanghai to complete two month long clinical electives in anesthesiology, emergency medicine, palliative care, pediatrics, and radiology. With their official collaborative relationship established last February, TUSM is the first Chinese institution to partner with UMMS.

During their eight weeks working in local hospitals, the Chinese students gained tremendous experience from different supervising physicians/teachers, an experience they would not have had



Dr. Michael Godkin meeting with the four TUSM students and their professor, Dr. Qiaoling Cai. (from left to right: Weilin Wang, Ling Zhang, Michael Godkin, Qiaoling Cai, Mingfeng Yang, Zhe Shi)

otherwise. While learning clinical skills was the focus of the rotations, having access to a totally new environment with very different cultures and ideas also made a significant impact. "I have learned to look at things with an open mind and critical eyes", said Ling Zhang. "With this mind set, we may be able to come up with more possible treatments and better serve the patients."

When asked what impressed them most during their experiences here, the unanimous answer was "professionalism." Ling Zhang explained, "Being professional not only means dressing like a professional, but, more importantly, it means love and care of your patients."

"I was really amazed by the trust I saw between the patient and the doctor," said Zhe Shi. "Patients are treated like family members. The process of a patient interview is like friends chatting. It is usually done in a relaxed and humorous environment." This approach to the physician-patient relationship is eye opening to these students.



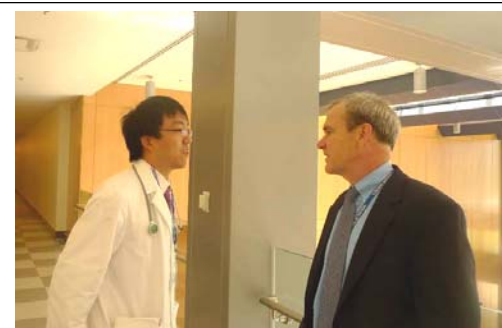
Chancellor Michael Collins and Dr. Guangping Gao with the Executive Dean of TUSM, Dr. Guotong Xu, and two TUSM visiting professors. (from left to right: Drs. Qiaoling Cai, Guotong Xu, Michael Collins, Guangping Gao, Honghua Sheng)

This is the first year Michael Godkin, PhD, director of the International Medical Education Program, who has been working with foreign medical students for many years, received applications from medical students from China. In order to get these students placed into summer rotations, which are very competitive, staff members in the International Medical Education program worked tirelessly with departmental course coordinators. The successful experiences of these Chinese students were a result of the joint efforts of many. Some

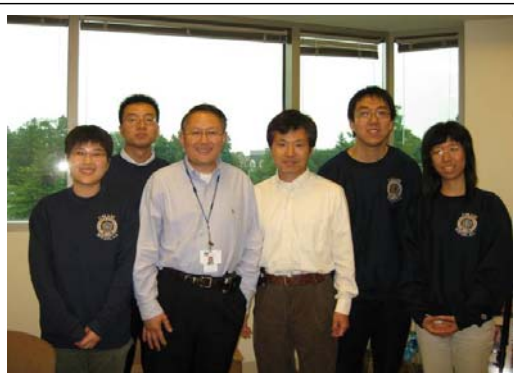
teaching physicians went the extra mile to extend the students' experiences far beyond clinical matters. For example, Suzana Makowski, MD, a palliative care physician who supervised three of the four students in July, introduced them to American culture, inviting them for a weekend at her beach house and also taking them out after work. All these experiences made the students feel very comfortable and at home.



Dr. Marcellet Williams (center, Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and International Relations) with Dr. Jun Zhang (left, Deputy Director of Research and Technology, Tongji University) and Dr. Qiaoling Cai.



Dean Terry Flotte talks with Zhe Shi, one of the Tongji students.



Drs. Guangping Gao and Hui Zou of the UMMS China Program with the Tongji students.

Also for the first time this summer, UMMS sent two American exchange students, UMMS Preventive & Behavioral Medicine resident Megan McCoy, MD, and second year medical student Vincent Mitchell III, to visit Chinese medical schools and hospitals including TUSM. On August 24, a forum sponsored by the [UMMS Office of Global Health](#) featured presentations reflecting on the personal experiences from both the TUSM and UMMS learners. This forum provided a platform for UMMS faculty and medical students to learn about Chinese culture and medical training in China. The presentations were very well received by faculty and students, provoking strong interest in training and collaboration opportunities in China.

The exchange program reflects the vision and ambition of UMMS leaders. To reach one of the institution's strategic goals to "have a significant impact on the world," UMMS leadership has made a series of initiatives promoting the relationship with China, a country of significant influence and potential in the world: setting up a China Program Office; visiting Chinese medical institutions and hospitals; and establishing formal collaborative relationships with leading Chinese counterparts. As Guangping Gao, PhD, director of the [UMMS China Program](#), summarized, "These student exchanges are one of the first successful steps for UMMS to bring its impact on medical education into China. With continued support from UMMS leadership, administration and faculty across departments, we are looking forward to a bright and fruitful future in our collaborations with Chinese partners."

### Acknowledgements

Chancellor's Office; Dean's Office; UMass President's Office; Office of Medical Education; [International Medical Education Program](#); Office of Students Affairs; [Office of Global Health](#); [UMMS China Program](#); Michael Kneeland, MD, Associate Dean for Allied Health and Inter-professional Education Programs; Bill Lian, MD, Department of Medicine; Lan Qin, MD, Department of Neurology; Sandra Gray, Office of Public Affairs and Publications.