

## Cancer investigation of the CEU at FMMU

The newly created CEU of the Fourth Military Medical University, headed by Drs. Xu Dezhong and Huang Jiuyi, spearheaded a baseline epidemiologic investigation in Longling Village at Shan'xi Province in China. This aimed to investigate the unusually high cancer mortality rates observed in the village. A review of records revealed that the population decreased from 150 residents in 1974 to 95 at the present time. The mortality rate attributed to neoplasms was 917.4/100,000 person-years, which accounted for 63.8% of the overall causes of mortality. Mortality rates from esophageal cancer, hepatoma, bladder cancer, gastric carcinoma, and rectal and lung cancer were also calculated. More deaths were observed among residents born in the village compared to migrants into the village. Compared to the surrounding villages, the mortality rates from neoplasm in Longling Village were much higher. Existence of environmental factors inherent to the village is hypothesized to be contributory to the increased risk of mortality from neoplasms. This will be the thrust of further investigations by the CEU.