

Government of China taps ChinaCLEN in its war against SARS

The China Clinical Epidemiology Network (ChinaCLEN) organized a team of experts for the Ministry of Health to function as advisers and reviewers for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) during the epidemic that attacked the country and its neighbors in the early part of 2003. Members were Drs. Wang Jialiang, Xu Dezhong, Dong Birong and Kang Deying. Aside from serving as advisers, the team also conducted research projects assessing the efficacy of SARS interventions. Members of the CEU of the Fourth Military Medical University were transferred temporarily to Xiao Tang Shan Hospital, one of the hospitals specifically designated by the Ministry of Health to manage SARS. The team was also active in information dissemination on the disease. Dr. Xu Dezhong appeared on China Central Television to talk about SARS.

Meanwhile, ChinaCLEN is sponsoring the production of an undergraduate textbook on clinical epidemiology. The textbook is envisioned to be a national textbook for undergraduate medical students. A meeting of editors was held on August 15, 2003 in Chengdu, China. This project is part of the effort to upgrade medical textbooks in China.

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