

## The Lancet – Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) Health Conference 2019 was successfully held

- The Lancet – Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) Health Conference was held on Oct 19 – 20, 2019, in Chengdu, China, by CAMS and The Lancet. West China Hospital, Sichuan University, was the local co-organiser
- Dedicated to evaluating China's ten-year health reform, the Lancet launched its ninth China themed issue, which found that substantial progress has been made to improve equitable access to care and financial protection
- The Lancet pledged its continued support for its Chinese partners, and was preparing commissions in various healthcare areas, including The Lancet Commission on women's reproductive, maternal, new-born, child, and adolescent health in China
- This year's Lancet – CAMS Health Conference showcased and promoted the progress and academic achievements of Chinese medical scientists in high-level international health research, and widely expanded opportunities for international collaboration. More than 400 delegates attended the conference.

The Lancet launched its ninth China themed issue at The Lancet – Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) Health Conference, held in Chengdu on Oct 19 – 20, 2019, evaluating the progress of China's new health reform since 2009. A review states that China's ten-year health reform has delivered substantial progress in improving equal access to care, such as hospital admissions, and enhancing financial protection. However, gaps remain in quality of care, control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), efficiency in health-care delivery, control of health expenditures, and public satisfaction with health services.

Authors of the review, Prof. Winnie Yip from Harvard and colleagues, set out to assess whether progress against China's ten-year goal - to provide equal access to quality health care with financial risk protection - was commensurate with the quadrupling of Chinese Government health expenditures on health care from 2008 to 2017. Addressing more than 400 Lancet-CAMS delegates, she presented five policy recommendations for improving the health-care reform from the perspective of primary health care (PHC), the delivery system, purchase of services, insurance protection, and local policy implementation of China's top-level policy directives.

In addition to this review, another four reviews and one research article were published in the Lancet's China themed issue, expanding health-reform discussions on the themes of medical education reform, China's NCD control, PHC system and rare diseases. The authors of these articles also shared their main ideas and research findings with the delegates at the Lancet – CAMS Health Conference.

Academician Wang Chen, an expert in respiratory and critical care medicine, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, president of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, and president of Peking Union Medical College, delivered a keynote speech titled "Launching China's 4+4 Medical Education Model", introducing the "4+4" clinical medical education model (i.e., four-year non-medical undergraduate teaching + four-year medical school curriculum) for top medical students. Peking Union Medical College offered a pilot class in clinical medicine in 2018. The program provided high-quality medical training to meet the public's growing expectations for health services. As detailed in a Comment by Xinhua Li, the deputy director of Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC) and colleagues published in the issue, some positive progress has been made toward tobacco control in China since 2009 — a 1 • 5 percentage point decline in overall

adult smoking prevalence. The just-released Healthy China 2030 Initiative and Action Plan also seeks to address the risk factors of Non-Communicable Diseases with a target to decrease adult smoking prevalence to 20% by 2030.

Celebrating the fifth year of The Lancet-CAMS Health Conference, The Lancet launched its ninth China themed issue. Hosted by Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) and The Lancet, 2019 The Lancet - CAMS Health Conference was held in West China Hospital of Sichuan University, which was the first time to be held outside Beijing. Chen Wang - Vice President of Chinese Academy of Engineering and President, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Xu Weilin - Executive Vice President of Sichuan University and Weimin Li- President of West China Hospital of Sichuan University attended the conference and delivered speeches. Dr. Gauden Galea, the WHO Representative in China delivered the Keynote Speech - Healthy China 2030: An opportunity for tobacco control. Peixin Wu- Secretary of the Party Committee and Vice President of Peking Union Medical College of Chinese Academy of Medical, Qing Li and Jianwei Wang - Vice President of Peking Union Medical College of Chinese Academy of Medical, Helena Wang - Editor of The Lancet's Asia Executive, Niall Boyce - editors-in-chief of The Lancet Psychiatry and Peter Hayward - editors-in-chief of The Lancet HIV attended The Lancet-CAMS Health Conference this year.

Dr. Richard Horton, Editor-in-Chief of The Lancet Family of Journals, said in the video: “Since the establishment of The Lancet’s Beijing Office ten years ago, we are proud to have built a fruitful relationship with our Chinese partners and hold a firm belief that many of the solutions to China’s healthcare challenges can, and will, come from within China’s thriving research community. Just last year, we successfully launch a new Commission on Healthy Cities in China in partnership with Tsinghua University.”

Dr. Horton added: “We pledge our continued support for our Chinese partners. Alongside the fifth Lancet-CAMS Health Conference and the China-themed issue, we will also co-host the Peking University People's Hospital – the Lancet Clinical Research Symposium focusing on rheumatology and digital health, announce the winner of the Wakley-Wu Lien Teh Prize, and launch Lancet Commissions on various health challenges in China in collaboration with our Chinese partners.”

The Lancet’s new Commission on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health will take around two-three years to complete by the best local and international research teams. One of the chairs of the Commission from National Office for Maternal and Child Health Surveillance, Jun Zhu, will lead a session on maternal and child health during this year’s conference.

A tightly packed The Lancet-CAMS Health Conference agenda includes nine sessions covering topics across mental health, maternal and child health, clinical practice, cancer and planetary health, as well as China’s health-care reform. Helena Wang, Executive Editor of The Lancet in Beijing, said; “Like an old famous Chinese saying: ‘The last leg of a journey just marks the halfway point’ ; the more progress is made in China’s health-care reform, the more challenges will arise for further improvements. Knowing that the hardest challenges are still to be overcome, we will work with Chinese colleagues to identify effective solutions to bridge the gaps in the current health-care system via robust scientific evidence. The launch of new Lancet Commissions on China provides a perfect spring-board to foster greater collaboration with our Chinese partners and accelerate further progress in health across China.”

The Lancet-CAMS Health Conference 2019 showcased the major progress of China’s academic medicine in terms of disciplinary development and theoretical innovation in recent years. The

conference provided an international medical exchange platform to facilitate closer international collaboration between domestic and global experts and researchers. What's more, the issue discussed at the conference will support the "Healthy China 2030" initiative and China's health-care reform.