

United States Department of Health and Human Services

There is an agreement between HHS and the Ministry of Health of the PRC to facilitate cooperation in disease control and prevention, public health, biomedical research, health services and health policy research, and health administration and finance. In the biomedical research area, HHS's National Institutes of Health (NIH) participates in exchange of scientists, joint seminars and meetings, and joint research projects.

The U.S.-China Health Protocol, most recently renewed in November 2003 and originally signed in 1979, is an example of the length and strength of our mutual work on health over the past 25 years. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, HHS funded over \$33 million in research and technical assistance with China under this Protocol. This includes \$28,405,000 in funds to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for four research grants and three research contracts, 73 foreign components of domestic awards (U.S.-based scientists), and 469 Chinese scientists in the visiting program at HHS. Of this total, \$17 million (60 percent) supported the HHS/NIH Intramural Visiting Scientist Program. HHS, through its Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded **\$4,573,000** in activities in support of 36 activities with China. These activities cover a wide range of topics including studies on the prevention of birth defects; HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention and control efforts; capacity-building for influenza surveillance and epidemiology; training activities aimed at strengthening the Chinese public health system; genetics research on osteoporosis, hypertension, and schizophrenia; and studies to examine environmental and dietary factors in the etiology of cancer. In addition to these activities, HHS supported seven full-time staff in Beijing in 2004-2005 — two who work with HIV/AIDS; one assigned to the Peking University Medical Center coordinating a large cohort birth defects study; one assigned to the World Health Organization working on immunization practices in China; two staff who coordinate the China-Field Epidemiology Training Program (C-FETP), an activity based on the Epidemiological Intelligence Service (EIS) of HHS/CDC, but with an in-country focus; a Health Attaché assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing; and one person from HHS/NIH assigned to work on the HHS/NIH HIV/AIDS research activities with China. With the signing of the HHS-Ministry of Health Memorandum of Understanding on Emerging Infectious Diseases on October 31, 2005, HHS expects to expand its footprint in China by at least two new assignees. We anticipate these new assignees to not all be based in Beijing, and hope to place at least one new assignee in a province outside the capital. HHS expects the \$33 million figure for FY 2004 to increase by about \$2 million in FY 2005, as HHS/CDC expanded its activities and HHS/NIH continued its current levels of funding; however, final numbers are not available at this time.