

# Preface

This book is a collection of the papers presented at the first interdisciplinary forum on “Public health challenges in contemporary China” held during May 8–9, 2014 at the United International College, Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University, China. More than 100 participants had shown up at the forum including 20 external guests. Apart from other activities ten papers were presented in the two-day forum. I acknowledge the Research Office, United International College for providing a convening academic conference grant for hosting this forum.

Professor Ng Ching-Fai, the President, United International College, Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University spent valuable time in giving a remarkable opening speech during the forum. Professor Zee Sze Yong, Vice-President, United International College provided valuable suggestions. Last but not the least, Prof. Lilian Kwan, Associate Vice-president, United International College was with the forum from the beginning till the end and offered the welcome speech and chaired a session. I acknowledge their sincere cooperation and contributions.

As an organizing unit General Education Office, United International College did all the paved work. I acknowledge the Director of General Education Office Prof. Mildred Yang for providing guidance. I also acknowledge two administrative staff from the same office, Ms. Stacey Su and Ms. Carol Huang, for their hard work and sincere effort to make this forum a reality. My student volunteers Dong Xixi and SHI Shaofeng from 2011 cohort, Ji Zizhu and Luo Rui from 2012 cohort and many others spent valuable time and did hard work for preparing the health show and in entertaining the guests. This forum could not become a reality without their sincere effort. I truly acknowledge their enthusiasm and creativity.

I acknowledge all the internal and external participants of the forum for coming over to Zhuhai and spending time with us. All the paper presenters and session chairs gave sincere effort. I pay special thanks to Prof. Samuel M.Y. Ho, Associate Head, Department of Applied Social Studies, City University of Hong Kong; Prof. Yingyao Chen, Associate Dean, School of Public Health, Fudan University; Prof. Hengjin Dong, Executive Director, Center for Health Policy Studies, Zhejiang University School of Medicine; Dr. K.E. Kuah-Pearce, Associate Professor,

Department of Sociology, The University of Hong Kong; Dr. Lihua Pang, Associate Professor, Institute of Population Research, Peking University; and Dr. Spencer D. Li, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, University of Macao for finding time to travel Zhuhai within their busy schedule. I also owe thanks to Prof. Genfa Zhang, Director, Research Office, United International College for giving the concluding speech and to Prof. Stephen S.M. Chung, Dean, Division of Science and Technology, United International College for chairing a session. Dr. Barbara Dalle-Pezze, an Assistant Professor from the United International College spent many hours voluntarily reading the manuscript and provided valuable feedback during her busy semester time. I truly appreciate her sincere effort and sacrifice. I believe this book will be a major contribution in the field and open the door addressing public health challenges from the interdisciplinary perspective. I also hope that this forum will be organized on a regular basis with new themes and publish new volumes under this series.

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