

# UCM sponsors free lab screening at Chicago Chinatown Health Fair 2014

-submitted by Jerry Yeo, PhD

*A Simple Test...  
Could  
Save Your Life!*



## Chicago Chinatown Summer Festival - Health Fair

**Free Cholesterol, HDL and Glucose Checks**

(First come, first serve, limited first 150 participants)

**Free Hepatitis C Check**

(First come, first serve, limited first 100 participants)

Come and Learn about Diabetes, Cancer Prevention,  
Cardiovascular Disease and More.....

**When:** July 26, 2014, 10AM to 1PM

**Where:** Chinatown Square, 2128, Archer Ave, Chicago, IL 60616



### Supported by



### Participating Organizations



On Saturday, July 26 2014, volunteers from the University of Chicago Medicine, University of Chicago BSD and Pritzker Medical School participated in the first-ever Lab screening event at the Chicago Chinatown Health Fair held in Chinatown Sq. Participants were screened for cholesterol, HDL, glucose and hepatitis C infection.

This event was collaboratively planned and organized by **Jerry Yeo, PhD** (Professor of Pathology and Director of Clinical Chemistry Labs), **Karen Kim, MD** (Professor of Medicine, Dean of Faculty Affairs), **Helen Lam, PhD, RN** (Assistant Director of Research, Lead Community Health Educator, Office of Community Engagement and Cancer Disparities) and **Edward Leung, PhD** (Assistant Professor of Pathology and Assistant Director of Clinical Chemistry). The supporting organizations included the following:

- The Department of Pathology, UCM/BSD
- The Office of Community Engagement and Cancer Disparities, UCM
- Urban Health Initiative, UCM
- Chicago Department of Health
- Partnership for Healthier Asians
- Chicago Section of AACC

The free lab tests were generously provided by Orasure Technologies, Inc (Bethlehem, PA) and Alere Diagnostics (Waltham, MA).



*[The Organizing team: l-r, Karen Kim, MD, Helen Lam, PhD, RN and Jerry Yeo, PhD]*

This idea for this free lab screening event was first suggested to Dr Jerry Yeo by his colleague, **Dr David Koch**, (President-elect) and supported by **Dr Steve Wong** (President) of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC). AACC is an international society comprising of medical professionals with an interest in clinical chemistry, clinical laboratory science, and laboratory medicine. The idea was to hold a lab-based health fair in a venue close to McCormick Pl during the July 26-31 period when AACC was having its annual convention to highlight the importance of laboratory tests and contribution of laboratory medicine in promoting better health in the community.

Dr Yeo, who is also chair of the local Chicago section of AACC then approached Dr Kim to solicit her help to collaborate on such an event, since Dr Kim had experience with community health outreach all around Chicagoland. We formed a planning team made up of Drs Kim, Lam, Yeo and Leung to work out the logistics of holding this event.

Through the connections in the Chinese community, we decided to hold the free lab screening during the annual Chicago Chinatown Healthfair on Saturday, July 26, 2014 from 10am-1pm. To staff the event, we were able to recruit 9 Pritzker medical students and 6 medical technologists from UCM Clinical chemistry labs. This event showed the great teamwork at UCM, with volunteers recruiting and registering participants, the medical students performing fingerpricks, medical technologists testing the bloods on the various screening devices, and faculty physicians offering counseling.

Dr Wong, Dr Koch and Jesse White (Illinois Secretary of State) showed up at this event to lend their support at this event.



*[Karen Kim, MD, Steve Wong, PhD, Jesse White, Jerry Yeo, PhD, Dave Koch, PhD] (photo courtesy of D. Christopher)*

A total of 114 participants (mostly elderly) filled out the registration forms and 96 actually completed the screening tests of cholesterol, HDL and glucose. 55 participants consented to be screened for hepatitis C and all of them came back non-reactive (negative).



*Helen giving last minute instructions to UCM medical technologists and Pritzker medical student volunteers.*



*Participants were lining up even before the 10am start time.*



*Great teamwork between medical students and medical technologists.*



Checking for Cholesterol, HDL & Glucose (photo courtesy of D. Christopher)



The HCV screening team (photo courtesy of D. Christopher)



Pritzker medical student volunteers (2<sup>nd</sup> year) and faculty.



Thanks to all our volunteers (UCM Faculty, Staff, Medical students).

This free screening was publicized widely in the Chinese news media before and after the event and was well received by the Chinatown community. We thanked all our volunteers, the sponsoring and supporting organizations for making this valuable lab screening outreach to the Chinatown community possible.



*UCM-sponsored Healthfair publicized in Chicago Chinese News.*