

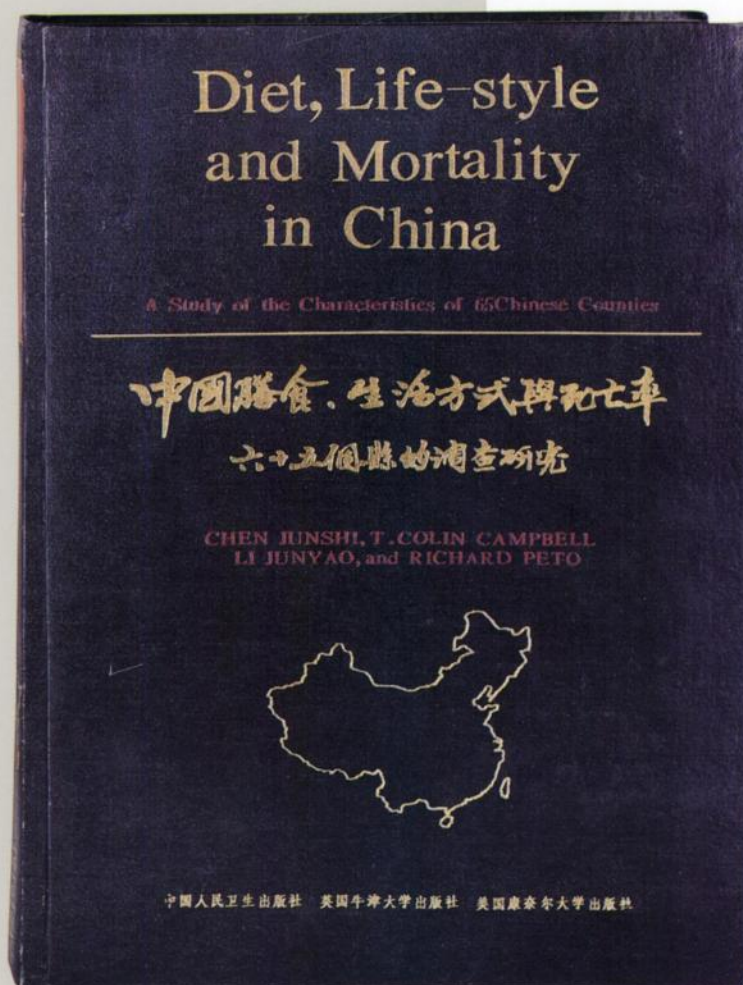
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Society for Biological Therapy Annual Meeting



SBT'92

October 29-November 1, 1992

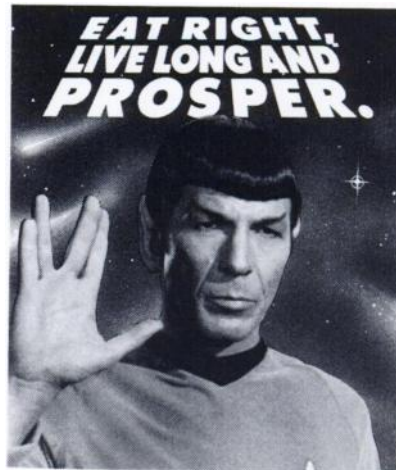
*1992 Williamsburg
Conference on Biological
and Immunological
Treatments for Cancer*

*Williamsburg Lodge and
Conference Center
Williamsburg, Virginia*

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

*Recombinant Vaccines
Genetic Modulation of the Immune Response
Cytokines and Lymphokines
Anti-Idiotypic Therapy
Monoclonal Antibody-Based Therapy and Diagnostics
Differentiating Agents
Combined Therapies With Biologicals
Breaking T-Cell Tolerance
Hematopoietic and Other Growth Factors
Interferons
Gene Therapy*

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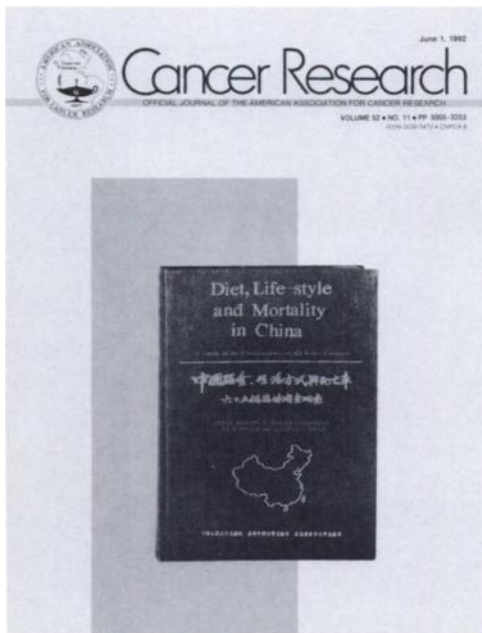
Recommendations:
Eat high-fiber foods, such
as fruits, vegetables, and
whole grain products. Eat
fewer high-fat foods.
Maintain normal body
weight. And live long
and prosper.

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COVER LEGEND



Earlier this century, tens of millions of people in China were killed by conflict or by malnutrition and hundreds of millions by acute infective or parasitic diseases. In the last few decades, however, the effects of war, famine, and pestilence have been so enormously diminished that, even though many chronic diseases remain, life expectancy in China is currently about as great as that in the United States. In both countries, about 95% of the population can now expect to survive to middle age and 70% to old age, and in both countries most of the deaths in middle age are due to the remaining vascular, neoplastic, respiratory, or other chronic diseases. However, the similarities end there; the patterns of chronic disease differ enormously between the United States and China and also between one part of China and another. For example, ten years ago the nationwide Cancer Atlas showed that in certain Chinese counties, more than 10% of the men would die from liver cancer, while only a few hundred miles away, fewer than 1% would do so. Understanding the reasons for some of the large disease variations between one Chinese county and another may help avoid chronic disease, in China or elsewhere. Chen Junshi, Colin Campbell, Li Junyao, and Richard Peto have been involved in a series of particularly large studies of the way people live and die in China.

A monograph (*Diet, Life-style and Mortality in China*, pictured on this issue's cover) has been published jointly by Cornell University Press, Oxford University Press, and the People's Publishing House in Beijing on the first of these projects. Rural China is extremely heterogeneous, and for 65 Chinese coun-

ties with widely varying cancer rates, this study (which depended on the collaboration of several hundred fieldworkers and several thousand subjects) gives detailed data on and the correlations among 82 disease rates, 121 blood or urinary measurements, and 154 other characteristics, including representative sample analyses, weighed three-day nutritional surveys, and dietary and other questionnaires. This work of reference, together with the Cancer Atlas, describes China in transition and provides the basis for a wide range of epidemiological inquiries.

An extended repetition of this survey of characteristics is nearing completion, along with a study (in collaboration with Liu Boqi and Guo Wan De) of the causes of 1.5 million deaths, a case-control study of the smoking habits of half a million of those who died and of their surviving spouses, and a prospective study (with Niu Shiru and others from the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine as principal investigators) of the relevance of current blood pressure and smoking habits to future mortality in half a million adults. These and other large studies, such as the nationwide smoking study of 1984 and the largest hepatitis B vaccine trial in the world, together with a number of smaller analytical epidemiological studies (several in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute or the International Agency for Research on Cancer) will characterize the main health problems that remain in China. This should eventually yield ways to help control some chronic diseases (in China or in the West) and ways to plan further research into others.

While research continues, it is already becoming increasingly clear that, based on present smoking patterns, tobacco will, over the next few decades, become the most important cause of premature death in China. Indeed, the early studies already suggest that about 50 million of the children age 0–19 years now living in China will eventually, in adult life, be killed by tobacco, and the first law on cigarette tar levels, packet warnings, and advertising was passed in July 1991 in Beijing.

Chen Junshi is Deputy Director of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Hygiene of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine, Beijing, China; Colin Campbell is the Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; Li Junyao is Chief of Epidemiology in the Chinese Cancer Institute of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing, China; Richard Peto is Director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Cancer Unit in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine at Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Richard Peto