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Towards Mutuality in the Canada-China Relationship: The Experience of the Department of Surgery at Laval University since the 1980s

Abstract The Department of Surgery at Laval University has been a key player in the development of Canada-China cooperation since the 1980s. The projects initiated and developed by Jean Couture and Guojin Liu to address cancer issues, and specifically breast cancer, were heralded as outstanding successes. In the meantime, the Department of Surgery at Laval University trained numerous Chinese scholars, students, and post-doctoral fellows who became leaders in their fields of expertise. A few of these scholars and students settled in Canada, but the vast majority returned home. Since 2007, a highly specialized research program related to surgical implants with the College of Textiles at Donghua University has been opening new avenues in medical textiles to develop expertise through student training, to launch bridges between textile engineers and clinicians, and to provide the industry with a unique expertise. The final goal is to improve the accessibility and affordability of health care delivery in both Canada and China. China is now a key player in related research and no longer requires foreign assistance. Since it can easily find multiple partners, Canada must be alert to building on its legacy and maintaining its privileged position. China is now a place for Canadian champions.

Keywords Canada-China cooperation, mutuality, Changchun, Laval University, Donghua University

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Introduction

The recent conference *Transforming Canada-China Educational Cooperation: Significant Legacies and Future Challenges* held at Tsinghua University, Beijing on May 9–10, 2014, heralded the depth of the relationship between the universities of both countries.¹ The purpose of this conference was to bring together leading scholars who had been involved in previous collaborative projects, from both sides, and who could look back on the impact of these projects. Needless to say, the legacy of these projects should be preserved and can help to invigorate scholarship on both sides. The future of Canada-China cooperation looks highly promising; however, as discussed by Leng and Pan (2013), the debate about mutuality should be addressed. In these projects, Canadian and Chinese scholars showed great respect to each other and were determined to learn about each other's culture, values, and academic norms. In the 1980s, China was still considered a developing country. Nevertheless, Canada wisely developed a genuine partnership rather than a donor-recipient relationship (Hayhoe, Pan, & Zha, 2013).

Since early Chinese immigration to Canada in the 18th century, a multitude of different experiences have linked China and Canada, resulting in a multi-faceted and somewhat kaleidoscopic relationship between these two countries. Although the political rationales behind this relationship were not always clear-cut, the Chinese and Canadian peoples have developed a sound esteem for each other and a real friendship. Based on the experience of the Department of Surgery at Laval University, the authors hereby propose to analyse their understanding of the Canada-China relationship. This relationship, as observed, has been developing in three main directions:

- The Changchun-Laval collaboration in cancer research under the leadership of Jean Couture in Quebec and Guojin Liu in Changchun, with Jean Deslauriers, Luc Deschênes, and Yvan Douville on the Canadian side, and Zhimin Fan, Dong Song, Songling Zhang, Shucheng Hua, and Guanjun Wang on the Chinese side;
- The training of numerous post-graduate Chinese students, fellows, and scholars who have visited the department of surgery since Deng's era, most of whom have returned to China; and

¹ See the conference handbook for *Transforming Canada-China Educational Cooperation: Significant Legacies and Future Challenges*. Retrieved February 2, 2015, from http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/cidec/UserFiles/File/Research/CIDEC_Projects/Conference2014/Handbook_TsinghuaConference.pdf

- The participation of scholars from Laval University in the 111 Program in Biotextiles at Donghua University, Shanghai, under the leadership of Lu Wang and Martin W. King, illustrating how a Canadian institution can actively participate in and contribute to the success of an international program led by a Chinese institution.

Laval University as a Major Player in CIDA

Canada-China university linkages date back to the 1980s. The Canada-China Management Education Program (CCMEP, 1983–1990 and 1991–1996) sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) supported Chinese universities in contributing to China's development in the field of management. Then in 1988, with the support of both governments, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), in collaboration with the CIDA, launched the Canada-China University Linkage Project (CCULP), which addressed the areas of health, agriculture, education, and engineering. The subsequent Canada-China Special University Linkage Consolidation Program (SULCP, 1996–2001) involved 25 Canadian and more than 200 Chinese universities in a consolidation of these collaborations. The combined span of CCMEP, CCULP, and SULCP coincided with a period of pivotal change in Chinese society. The Soviet model for the organization of universities as highly specialized institutions was progressively abandoned as universities were reformed along the lines of Western paradigms. Today, top Chinese universities are aiming at world-class standing. The history of the collaboration in this section is based on the archives of the Department of Surgery at Laval University (Liu, 2014; Deschenes, 2014).²

The Early Steps of the Laval-Changchun Collaboration

Dr. Guojin Liu from the Norman Bethune University of Medical Sciences (NBUMS) in Changchun, Jilin province, completed a fellowship in thoracic

² This section is based on the documents of the archives of the Department of Surgery at Laval University dedicated to the collaboration with Changchun, including papers written by Dr. Guojin Liu (2014), and Dr. Luc Dechenes (2014), and presented by Dr. Zhimin Fan at the conference *Transforming Canada-China Educational Cooperation: Significant Legacies and Future Challenges* held at Tsinghua University, Beijing on May 9–10, 2014.

surgery at Hospital Laval in Quebec City in the late 1980s, working with Jean Deslauriers. Pierre Potvin was the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Laval and Jean Couture was the Chair of the Department of Surgery, while Shuzhang Liu was the President of NBUMS at that time. These five scholars joined their efforts to propel Canada-China cooperation forward. A mission to Changchun was organized between Laval and NBUMS in 1989, during which great opportunities for cooperation in oncology became evident, including the urgent need for specialized training in China. An oncology unit was established at the First Teaching Hospital of NBUMS, following the model developed at l'Hôpital Saint-Sacrement in Quebec City. Chinese health professionals involved in the project were trained in Canada.

NBUMS Cancer Control Network: The Bethune Laval Oncology Unit (BLOU)

After the Chinese health professionals completed their training and returned to China, they were assigned to the new Bethune-Laval Oncology Unit (BLOU) at the First Teaching Hospital of NBUMS. A computerized tumour registry was developed for the purpose of identification, follow-up, and treatment evaluation regarding mortality and survival. Research activities began at the same time. Over a nine-year period, more Chinese students travelled to Quebec City to learn about cancer care. In 1999, health professionals from BLOU started a training program in oncology to assist their Chinese colleagues with developing oncology units in other hospitals. These new units were called “mini-BLOUs.” Units were opened at the Second and Third Teaching Hospitals and at the Jilin Hospital, all affiliated with NBUMS. The tumour registry developed at the BLOU was expanded to include other NBUMS hospitals in a single regional network. The Quebec section of the Canadian Cancer Society prepared a public education program, with the assistance of NBUMS and the Jilin public health department. This scientific material, in the form of brochures, was translated and adapted to the needs of the Chinese population. At the First Teaching Hospital, a department of oncology was established, and the BLOU was transformed into a cancer centre, with Dr. Guojin Liu as its director. The centre had 60 beds divided among lung, breast, and other cancers, and consultation services for early diagnosis of breast and cervical cancers. A cytopathology laboratory was organized, later followed

by a colposcopy clinic. A palliative care unit of 10 beds was organized according to the model existing in Canadian hospitals. The significant social improvements and the important economic developments occurring in China created a favourable environment for continuing and expanding on what had been accomplished so far. Over the years a cooperation network developed between the institutions that adopted the BLOU model: Tongliao City in Inner Mongolia, the Shenyang Railway Hospital, the Fifth Hospital of Zhuhai, the Breast Department of Qingdao Medical College, and Shenzhen Hospital at Peking University.

Recognition and Completion of the AUCC/CIDA Projects

In June 1993, an international conference on cancer was held in Changchun for the first time. The conference included about 100 representatives from China, and was also attended by the Canadian ambassador to China, Fred Bild, and the president of the AUCC, Claude Lajeunesse. Mark Rowswell (Dashan), a well-known Canadian cultural ambassador in China, launched the regional tumour registry that facilitated the development of clinical and epidemiological research in oncology.

In 1997, Chunhua Song, the mayor of Changchun, along with the minister of health of Jilin province and the president of Jilin University, visited Quebec City and met Jean-Paul L'Allier, the mayor of Quebec City. They discussed the development of a friendly relationship between the two cities, and their shared commitment to supporting the collaboration in oncology between Laval University and the NBUMS.

In 2000, an international meeting on tumour palliative care was held in Tianjin with the cooperation of NBUMS, Tianjin Medical University, Laval University, and the University of Ottawa. The meeting was attended by 150 health professionals.

In May 2001, 300 participants attended the second international tumour meeting, along with a substantial representation from Quebec City. The AUCC/CIDA linkage projects were now finished, and it was the end of 11 years of exchange and cooperation. The legacies of the Bethune-Laval linkage project included the building of a regional cancer-control network, and the development of a well-trained team of over 75 professionals dedicated to the care of cancer

patients. Looking back at the Bethune-Laval linkage project, the decision to develop collaboration in oncology was visionary. Although the linkage projects were terminated, Jean Couture was determined to continue the collaboration with his colleagues in Changchun.

Exploring New Avenues of Collaboration

Inspired by the success of the earlier campaign in the Changchun area, Couture proposed an extension of the education program to four Western provinces. Funding came from the government of Quebec, and was administered by Laval University with the same collaborators as before. The campaign was conducted in Shijiazhuang (Hebei), Xi'an (Shaanxi), Guiyang (Guizhou), and Lanzhou (Gansu). Lung cancer being the number-one killer in China, the campaign placed emphasis on the dangers of smoking. The campaign was considered to be a great success, and was covered by many news reports.

With funding from the government of Quebec, Laval University sponsored a program in which five students per year for three years were offered a rotation of at least eight weeks at the Norman Bethune Health and Science Center (the newly-named NBUMS, after joining Jilin University). The program objective was for students to learn about China's culture and medical sciences. With strong financial support from the Chinese government, Chinese universities by then were emerging as centres of knowledge and innovation.

By 2007, considerable advances had occurred in the Changchun healthcare system. Billions of dollars had been invested in a 4,000-bed hospital, which included a 600-bed cancer centre, the largest in China. In addition, the Norman Bethune Health and Science Center of Jilin University had emerged as a major institution in China. Although the situation had changed significantly since 1990, leaders at the First Hospital still desired cooperation with Laval University. Therefore, they devised and funded a new exchange program. In 2007, President Guanjun Wang of the First Hospital of Jilin University came to Quebec City with a new proposal that was accepted by Laval. According to this new partnership, senior surgeons from Laval would visit the First Teaching Hospital for a period of up to one year. Jean Deslauriers, as one of the initiators of this program, went to Changchun during his sabbatical leave. Senior Chinese physicians, surgeons, directors, and scholars were also given the opportunity to come to Quebec City to

study various specialities such as cardiology, pneumology, vascular surgery, gastro-intestinal surgery, and haematology-oncology; or to do research work towards a master's or doctorate degree. Similarly, medical students from Laval University were able to study at the First Teaching Hospital.

Dr. Jean Couture's Legacy

In 2009, the 70th anniversary of NBUMS and the 60th anniversary of the First Hospital were celebrated amidst many social and academic activities. On this occasion, Dr. Jean Couture, who was 85 years old, travelled to China with his wife for the last time, to meet old friends and partners from the 20 years of collaboration. Today, Couture's legacy continues. Exchanges between Laval and the Norman Bethune Health and Science Center still occur, and the current chair of the Laval Department of Surgery, Yvan Douville, is planning further collaboration. Although he is now retired, Guojin Liu still acts as a facilitator of the ongoing relationship.

Laval University Training Post-Graduate Experts

From the 1980s until about 2010, the Laval Department of Surgery was fortunate in hosting many talented and hard-working Chinese graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and invited scholars. One such visitor, Dr. Tianjian Rao, a senior investigator in cardiovascular devices at the Shanghai Chest Hospital, Shanghai, shared his expertise in the development of devices such as vascular prostheses and heart valves (Awad et al., 1990; Rao et al., 1991). During the Mao era in China, devices such as these were developed domestically due to the U.S. embargo. Once the Chinese market became more open under Deng Xiaoping, U.S. manufacturers quickly began to sell their devices in China. The surgical community enthusiastically adopted the Western devices, preferring them to domestic ones. The Shanghai Chest Hospital stopped manufacturing cardiovascular devices, and Tianjian Rao retired.

A Chinese student at Laval, Ze Zhang, was the first to complete a PhD in biomaterials in 1993. His work contributed to a better understanding of polyurethane in cardiovascular devices (Eberhart et al., 1999; Shi, Zhang, & Rouabhia, 2008; Zhang, Rouabhia et al., 2007; Zhang, Briana et al., 2007; Zhang

& Zhang, 2011). Another Chinese visitor to Laval, Xiaoyan Deng, undertook a post-doctoral fellowship in hemodynamics after his PhD at McGill University. Both scholars obtained funding in 1997 to begin a faculty career at Laval University. Zhang now develops extensive research programs on cardiovascular biomaterials, conductive polymers to promote nerve regeneration, functional conductive polymers, and treatment of myocardial infarction using collagen binding endothelial cell growth factors. Deng eventually returned to China, where he currently holds a faculty position at Beihang University in Beijing. He has been investigating the role of local hemodynamics in the localization of atherosclerosis, the physiological significance of swirling flow, and the potential application of swirling flow. He is also investigating the role of vascular cells in sensing gravity (Chen, Fan, Deng, & Xu, 2011; Ghalichi et al., 1998; Kang, Liu, Fan, & Deng, 2013; Sun, Fan, & Deng, 2012; Zhan, Fan, & Deng, 2010; Zhang, Deng, Fan, & Guidoin, 2008). Among the other Chinese MSc and PhD trainees at Laval, Zaipin Xu is now a faculty member at Guizhou University, Zhaoxu Wang is a research officer at the China Food and Drug Administration in Beijing, and Ming Jing founded a diagnostic devices company in Shantou. Linli Zhang and Guixin Shi joined private companies. As a result of our deep relationship with Professor Zaiping Jing, established after our regular participation in the endovascology, Bin Li from Changhai Hospital in Shanghai came to Laval University in 2010, and after his regular participation in the endovascology conference established a yearly event that has been chaired by Professor Jing for more than a decade. Bin Li is currently founding a department of Vascular Surgery at the Shanghai Traditional Chinese Medicine Integrated Hospital (Feng et al., 2010; Yuan, Feng, & Jing, 2008).

Several post-doctoral fellows from China, who were supported by the China Scholarship Council at Laval, have now returned home. Today, Guixue Wang and Tieying Yin are faculty members at Chongqing University, and Dangheng Wei is a faculty member at South China University. Visiting scholars from China were always welcome at Laval, including Jun Pan from Chongqing, Xingyi Xie from Chengdu, Xufeng Niu from Beihang University, and Shenguo Wang from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. As these examples show, most of the Chinese trainees at Laval have established their careers as faculty members, predominantly in China. These scholars have been able to take advantage of the academic opportunities opening up in China over the last few decades, thanks to

the breathtaking development of Chinese universities. The Canadian-Chinese collaboration at Laval is now extended to undergraduate students. Every summer, three students from Shanghai Jiao Tong University complete an internship at Laval University.

Laval University-Donghua University Linkages: A New Era

China has recently acquired international visibility and leadership, both of which are demonstrated in the international programs led by China that include participation from international scholars. The collaboration with Donghua University in Shanghai, described below, is representative of the wide new avenues that have opened up for foreign scholars to contribute to research in Chinese universities.

The *First International Forum on Biomedical Textile Materials* (IFBMTM) began in July 2007 under the leadership of Professor Martin W. King from the North Carolina State University, and Professor Lu Wang from Donghua University, as an international interdisciplinary research and educational network. The Ministry of Education of China provided funding, and the program was identified as 111 Project No. B07024 (Biomedical Textile Materials) in December 2006.

The Mission of the IFBMTM³

The mission of the 111 Project No. B07024 includes:

- Joint research collaboration between foreign scholars, Chinese university professors, healthcare professionals, interns, and graduate students;
- Visitation by foreign scholars to China to give lectures, provide research directions and collaboration, write and submit grant proposals, and publish original research findings in refereed scholarly journals;
- International exchange for Chinese graduate students and junior faculty members;
- Establishment of a biomedical textiles fabrication and testing laboratory for support of collaborative research and graduate student research projects; and

³ As highlighted in the first IFBMTM conference in 2007.

- Provision of seed funding to encourage active research projects that lead to substantial interdisciplinary and collaborative research teams being awarded major external research funding.

Spectacular Achievements in Education and Research

After seven years of intensive international collaboration, the IFBMTM and related projects have gained considerable visibility in many areas.

Advancing research in biomedical textiles materials. Research in biomedical textile materials was selected to fast track with the support of the Ministry of Education in Beijing through the Ninth Five Year Plan, Tenth Five Year Plan, and Project 211, and especially through the Biomedical Textile Materials Project No. B07024, also called the 111 Project. Biomedical textile materials research was promoted to a first-level national key discipline, based on the Key Lab of Textile Science and Technology and the recognition of graduate programs to train both master's and doctorate students.

Developing and nurturing talented scientists. Foreign scholars involved in the 111 Project cooperate with professors at Donghua University for joint mentorship of doctoral candidates, who go abroad to study. The annual IFBMTM conference is privileged to welcome these students' presentations, which are jointly evaluated by scholars from China and abroad. The successes of Huijing Zhao in 2008 at the National Innovation Projects and Xiaohong Qin at the 2008 National One Hundred Excellent Dissertation Awards illustrate the quality of training at Donghua University.

Cultivating talented researchers and research teams. Professors Gang Sun from University of California in 2007 and Seeram Ramakrishna from Singapore in 2008 were confirmed as Changjiang Scholars. These scholars organized two research innovation teams of young professors in the field of antiviral and antibacterial textile materials and nano-biomedical textile materials.

Establishing stable cooperative relationships. Several overseas specialists have stable ongoing cooperative relationships with scholars at Donghua University. Professor Martin W. King from North Carolina State University has developed a thriving research group. Scholars from Laval University actively participate in Donghua research involving cardiovascular implants to be deployed in the body through minimally invasive techniques. To date, four young teachers have

benefitted from these cooperative relationships.

Facilitating frequent and effective academic exchange. With the advent of the IFBMTM, international meetings of the 111 Project are held yearly. Additional forums were held in 2008 related to biomaterials for blood vessel reconstruction, biodegradable high molecular biomaterials, and fiber-based scaffolds for tissue engineering. In 2013, the meeting was held at North Carolina State University under the auspices of Med Tex 13.

Extending international sci-tech cooperation. Cooperative projects include the University of California project titled “Health Protective Textiles: Bridging the Disposable/Reusable Devices,” which receives funding from the American National Science Foundation; projects with City University London, UK, involving the research and development of medical bras to prevent hyperplasia of mammary glands; projects with the National University of Singapore on rapid prototyping bone scaffold fabrication; projects with the Singapore General Hospital and the Shanghai First People’s Hospital regarding development and property of perineural regenerated conduits; and projects with the Swinburne University of Technology in Australia on the development of remote control active nanofiber nerve conduit and heart valves.

Evolution of the Laval University-Donghua University Collaboration

The relationship between Laval University and Donghua University has evolved considerably during the past seven years. During the first few years of the collaboration, Donghua University simply provided assistance on understanding issues related to the research program on endovascular devices from Laval University (Lin, Guidoin, Wang, Zhang, Nutley, 2013; Lin, Guidoin, Wang, Zhang, Paynter, 2013). Very rapidly, it became evident that Donghua could do much better than providing just a technological service. Joint programs were launched based upon the complementarity of these two institutions (Ji et al., 2010; Lin, Guidoin, 2011; Lin, Wang, 2013; Lin, Shen, Wang, & Guidoin, 2011; Liu, Wang, Lin, & Guidoin, 2012; Wang et al., 2014). Cardiovascular devices were investigated at both places: In general, biological and surgical aspects were investigated at Laval University, while materials aspects were investigated at Donghua University. Recently, it became evident that Donghua University could contribute more in the field of minimally invasive techniques.

Young teachers have also developed their own programs that encompass and

go beyond the links between Laval University and Donghua University. Universities in Montreal, Winnipeg, and Calgary are also involved on the Canadian side, while scientists from Fudan University are also involved on the Chinese side. The Laval University-Donghua University linkage is not a closed undertaking, but rather is open for multi-university participation, innovation, and excellence. In the meantime, the relationship between these two universities has deepened with initiatives in the field of hernia repair. There is a considerable need in gynaecology to develop safe and sufficient transvaginal meshes. Based upon the Laval-Donghua collaboration, we are confident that we can go far beyond present boundaries.

What Comes Next?

What can we anticipate for the future? With the shift of global economic power to Asia, China has emerged as the world's second-largest economy. Its leadership in Asia is undisputed. China is now a global key player, and no longer requires foreign assistance.

Assessing Past Canadian-Chinese Cooperation

It is inappropriate to analyse the results of past Canada-China cooperation in terms of delivering Canadian expertise to China. Such an attitude of compassionate assistance is neither appropriate nor accurate. China has offered a large number of workers and scientists who have contributed to the development of Canada, so our assistance has been mutual. The challenge of the future is to provide and develop initiatives based upon excellence. A recent bilateral symposium between the Université of Montréal, Peking University, and the Institute of Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences represents a cornerstone of how collaboration between China and Canada should be developed. The mutual respect and esteem of these institutions has accelerated research progress in the areas of polymers and materials on both sides, and could be extended to other fields (Zhu & Prud'homme, 2013).

The Future of Healthcare in Canada and China

The future of medical devices and healthcare delivery requires dramatic change

that goes far beyond academic exchanges. The patient, whether Chinese or Canadian, can no longer be processed; he or she has become a key partner in healthcare delivery. China must make healthcare accessible to more people, and Canada must prevent the collapse of its medical system despite soaring costs. New and fantastic innovations must be accessible to everyone at controlled costs. The initiatives of multinational companies such as Medtronic to develop the "Hospital of the Future" must be received with enthusiasm. This company has established four "Hospital of the Future" centres: Minneapolis, US; Galway, Ireland; Tachenaz, Switzerland; and Shanghai, China. Thus as Canadians go abroad to develop their training, Shanghai has become a city of choice.

In the meantime, both Canada and China must address the issue of nursing homes. Due to the one child policy and the mobility of the population, China is beginning to experience similar difficulties with an aging population to those currently observed in Canada. Joint ventures in geriatrics would cover areas that both countries urgently need to explore. Canada must offer an original and modern perspective for the health sciences to China.

The Future of Canadian and Chinese Graduate Programs

Regarding the training of graduate students, it is important to better match our organizations. Graduate studies in North America are currently losing most of their glamour: Less than one third of PhD graduates pursue a career in research. On the other hand, competition in China is increasing rapidly. Chinese students now have access to worldwide investigative methods since their laboratories are no longer second to Western laboratories. For Chinese students, however, it is still a key issue to be able to publish in highly ranked journals with qualified peer review boards.

Under these circumstances, Canada must realize that China can easily find multiple partners, and must be alert to building on its legacy and keeping its privileged position in China. No situation of privilege is permanently granted in this changing world. Fortunately for Canada, the Chinese are very loyal in relationships and the existing links are frequently extended due to mutual achievements. Although any new venture requires a solid background, the Canada-China relationship is straight from the heart. However, the flow of graduate students and scholars must go in both directions. As we continue to

welcome visiting students and scholars, Canadian universities should also encourage our students and faculty members to spend time in China (Oleksiyenko, 2013; Oleksiyenko, 2014).

Bilateral exchange programs between Chinese institutions and their foreign counterparts are more and more frequently transformed into international programs due to the Chinese commitment to internationalization. China is a place for Canadian champions. Canadian researchers involved with Chinese universities must be leaders in their respective fields in order to actively participate in and contribute to such international programs.

The Future of Medical Textiles

The collaboration between Laval University and Donghua University clearly demonstrates that far from being an old technology, medical textiles can be very innovative and can contribute to the betterment of healthcare delivery. The contribution to this field from the Ministry of Education in Beijing is breathtaking. Regretfully, the Canadian government appears to have given up any ambition in this sector of activities. Thanks to the development of minimally invasive technologies and 3D printing, medical textiles are now at the cutting edge of innovations in medical devices. It is mandatory for Canada to preserve its expertise in this area. The department of surgery at Laval University was visionary in integrating medical devices into its research activities, permitting cross-fertilization between engineers and physicians. The success of the collaboration between the Department of Surgery at Laval University and the College of Textiles at Donghua University would not exist if the commitment of Wilfrid Caron and Jacques Turcot had not opened up this avenue of research at Laval in the early 1970s.

Conclusion

The breathtaking growth of China during the last decades raises questions about the Chinese: How have they achieved such sudden progress? Are they supermen? In a somewhat facetious book published in 2012, Ruolin Zheng answered as follows: “Les Chinois sont des hommes comme les autres [The Chinese are people like any others].” The motto of the Montreal International Exposition in

1967 was “Man and His World” and that of Shanghai in 2010 was “Better City, Better Life.” Both Canadians and the Chinese are searching for better quality of life. Public health as observed through multi-faceted visions must be the ultimate goal and challenge for both our countries. The Department of Surgery at Laval University has proved to be highly innovative since the 1980s in exploring new avenues for collaboration with China. More achievements can be anticipated in forthcoming years.

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