



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE

“Obesity in Asia: A growing public health and economic challenge”

Dr Joceline POMERLEAU
Epidemiologist and Independent Researcher

Date : January 8, 2016 (Friday)
Time : 12:30 – 14:00 (*sandwich lunch from 12:30 to 12:45; seminar begins at 12:45*)
Venue : Seminar Room 1, G/F, Laboratory Block, LKS Faculty of Medicine Building, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Abstract:

Excess body weight is one of the most serious threats to future health around the world. Overweight, defined by the World Health Organization as a body mass index (BMI) greater than 25 kg/m², affects approximately 1.9 billion adults worldwide (600 million being obese, BMI≥30 kg/m²) and 42 million children under the age of 5 years; in 2010, it caused 3.4 million deaths and 4% of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs). For several decades, overweight and obesity have been recognized as major health problems and key risk factors for non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and some cancers) in high-income countries of North America, Europe and Australasia. However, it is the recent alarming increases in obesity in several low- and middle-income countries that constitute a new cause for concern for the health and economy in these countries, including in Asia. In China for example, it is now estimated that more than one in four adults have an excess body weight and that children are increasingly affected. This seminar will discuss the rising burden of obesity in adults and children in the region, its contributing factors, and the need for coordinated scientific, regulatory and policy responses to address this challenge and its key determinants, and ultimately control the obesity epidemic.

Bio-sketch:

Dr Joceline Pomerleau is an epidemiologist with a BSc and MSc in nutrition from the University of Montreal (Canada) and a PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Western Ontario (Canada). She worked as a post-doctoral fellow and lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, with research focus on the socioeconomic and lifestyle determinants of non-communicable diseases in different populations. She was involved in interventions and cross-sectional studies of ethnic differences in cardiovascular and diabetes risk factors in England, and participated in several international collaborative projects, including the WHO Global Burden of Disease Study (working on the burden of low fruit and vegetable intake) and the ‘Living Conditions, Lifestyle and Health Project’ which examined factors influencing



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health in countries of the Former Soviet Union. She was the scientific coordinator of a large European Commission funded 3-year project (EURO-PREVOB) involving 15 partners from 10 countries, the project of which aimed at promoting and supporting collaboration across existing network to tackle the social and economic determinants of obesity in Europe.

***For registration and enquiries, please contact Ms Karen Lau at 3917 9928
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