

Communication with Zhang

As we have discussed, substantial progress has been made in obtaining additional information from Dr. Zhang regarding his research on cancer and chromium exposure via drinking water in JinZhou County, China. Our progress has been at times slower than we would like for a number of reasons including:

- i) Language;
- ii) Time differences (5pm Monday in SF is 8am Tuesday in JinZhou);
- iii) Communication equipment (FAX) is less accessible to Dr. Zhang;
- iv) Dr. Zhang is elderly and retired and, thus, does not on every day have as much energy for this project as we would like;
- v) Zhang conducted his study more than a decade ago and:
 - a) Paper records of the research may not be available. There were never computer records for this research.
 - b) In the absence of the paper records, Dr. Zhang cannot always at first effort remember the specifics of the background data of his research.
- vi) It is at times difficult to convince Dr. Zhang of the importance to us of the specific details of his studies so that we can execute our own analyses. The absence of the regard for the background data/ details of the research is indicated in the level of detail provided in Dr. Zhang's own manuscripts as well as the manuscripts of other Chinese researchers.