



Zhong (seated at table, right) provided health information to earthquake victims in China in 2008.

## *Victor Wenze Zhong* *Doctoral student, Nutrition*

*Sanofi/UNC Global Nutrition Scholar*

“ I was so impressed by the power of scientific research and its role in improving people’s health that I decided to devote myself to public health research in the future. ”



Victor Wenze Zhong

Victor Zhong’s interest in public health was triggered by a national catastrophe. A destructive 8.0-magnitude earthquake occurred in China’s Sichuan province on May 12, 2008, killing more than 86,000 people.

“My strong compassion and sense of responsibility were stimulated when I heard that public health and reconstruction work required more volunteers,” Zhong says. Despite the risks from frequent aftershocks, he organized a voluntary service team of eight undergraduates and went to affected areas to provide assistance.

He is most proud of a statistical analysis he and his group conducted from first-hand data in the field and the subsequent submission of proposals to local governments. Some of the proposals, like sterilizing water regularly and giving sufficient first aid, were adopted.

When he began work as a research assistant in Tongji Medical College’s public health school, he was attracted to a project about diabetes, an illness from which a dear friend was suffering.

“Diabetes undoubtedly has become a worldwide epidemic and a leading threat to human health and development,” Zhong says. “The world calls for more people to join the battle against diabetes, taking up the challenge as a lifetime career. I am one of them.”