

Webinar Speakers

Webinar 1: Methods for Dietary Assessments during Pregnancy

Anne-Sophie Morisset, Ph.D., dietitian, was trained in the laboratory of Dr. André Tchernof at Laval University where she obtained her PhD in 2012. The objective of her work was to examine the links between nutritional factors gestational diabetes and gestational weight gain. After obtaining her PhD, she joined the laboratory of Dr. William D. Fraser at the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center. From 2013 to 2015, she focused her research on large provincial and Canadian birth cohorts (MIREC and 3D), where she studied, among others, vitamin D, iron and calcium intakes in pregnant women. She was recruited as a professor at the School of Nutrition of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences of Laval University in July 2015, where she obtained her agrégation in 2020. She is a researcher at the Centre de Recherche du CHU de Québec – Laval University and at the Centre Nutrition, Santé et Société (NUTRISS), of the Institute on Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF) at Laval University. Dr. Morisset's research program aims to optimize nutrition during pregnancy in order to promote adequate gestational weight gain, decrease pregnancy complications and reinforce current nutritional recommendations for both normal and at-risk pregnancies. She works closely with clinical nutritionists in the province of Quebec working in the area of perinatal nutrition. Her work has been funded to date by the Fonds de recherche Santé - Québec, the CHU de Québec Foundation, the CMDO network, the Danone Institute and the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

Katherine Sauder, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Nutrition at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and the Assistant Director for Translation Research at the Lifecourse Epidemiology of Adiposity and Diabetes (or LEAD) Center. She completed her doctoral training in biobehavioral health at Penn State University, and her postdoctoral fellowship in nutrition at the University of Colorado. Dr. Sauder's research examines how nutrition and other health behaviors are related to chronic disease risk in women and children. She uses both observational and intervention methods to identify and target health behaviors that can reduce risk for diabetes and obesity, with on-going projects spanning the transgenerational cycle from pregnancy, infancy, childhood, adolescence, and the child-bearing years.

Daniela Sotres-Alvarez, Dr.PH., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biostatistics at UNC Chapel Hill. She has over 14 years of nutrition research experience as a biostatistician and collaborator in large epidemiologic studies, with expertise in measurement error in dietary intake and physical activity, dietary patterns, latent variable models, longitudinal data analysis, and complex survey analysis. Her collaborations include research in obesity, diabetes, preconceptional and cardiometabolic health. She is a co-Investigator at the Coordinating Center of the Hispanic Community Health Study / Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL), the largest multi-site community-based cohort of Hispanic/Latino adults in the US (N=16,415). Currently, Dr. Sotres-Alvarez is mPI of HCHS/SOL ancillary

study “Preconceptional Health of Latinas and its Association with Child Adiposity” (R01 DK116028). Dr. Sotres-Alvarez has served as scientific reviewer for NIH Biostatistical Methods and Research Design (BMRD) Study Section and has participated in several NIH Special Emphasis Panels for cancer, cardiovascular, and sleep epidemiology. To date, Dr. Sotres-Alvarez has co-authored over 130 scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals including over 80 with a focus on diet.

Beth Widen, Ph.D., is a Registered Dietitian and Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin in the Department of Nutritional Sciences within the School of Human Ecology in the College of Natural Sciences. Widen is also faculty at Dell Pediatric Research Institute, faculty research associate at the Population Research Center, and affiliate faculty in the Departments of Women’s Health and Pediatrics at Dell Medical School. Widen is a nutritional and perinatal epidemiologist and takes a life course approach to her research at the intersection of nutrition, perinatal, and pediatric epidemiology, and human biology. She develops and applies advanced analytic methods and interdisciplinary approaches to rigorously evaluate the role of nutrition during the first 1,000 days on short and long-term health of mothers and their children. Widen leads a nutritional phenotyping pregnancy cohort study, Mother Infant NutriTion Study (MINT), and is Co-PI of Mothers and CAREgivers Investing in Children (MAGIC), a mother-caregiver-infant feeding intervention program among low-income Hispanic families that focuses on healthy eating during infancy and responsive caregiving. In addition, she leads several other projects focused on maternal and child nutrition among high-risk populations, including examining pregnancy outcomes among women with twin gestations and women with obesity, and investigating maternal and offspring body composition among HIV-exposed and unexposed dyads in Kenya and Uganda. Widen holds a BS in Dietetics from Miami University, and a PhD in Nutrition from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to completing her PhD, Widen was an Intramural Research Training Award Fellow at the National Institutes of Health. Following her PhD, she completed an interdisciplinary postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University in the Institute of Human Nutrition and the Department of Epidemiology. Widen has received many accolades including a K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, and an Early Career Award from the Thrasher Research Fund.