

Webinar Speakers & Panelists

Webinar 4: Innovations and Special Considerations in Assessing Dietary Intake During Pregnancy and Ages 2-11 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.

Tom Baranowski, Ph.D., is an applied behavioral scientist with a substantial understanding of diet/nutrition. I see myself as a “social problem solver”, using the best behavioral and related sciences has to offer to solve meaningful social problems. Sometimes this involves observational, preferably longitudinal research, and sometimes designing and testing interventions, but always being concerned about the quality of the measures employed. I was an early leader in the development of self report indicators of dietary intake among children (1980’s). I pioneered the use of home and school based observations of child dietary intake as the primary method of validation of self report methods, and proposed a conceptual model of children’s dietary self reporting. After more than 30 diverse methodological studies, I led the team that did the formative research for the development of the ASA24-Kids, a computer-assisted self completed method of diet assessment among children, formerly available on the NCI website (they ran out of funds to maintain it), and consulted on the development of comparable methods for use with children in England, Portugal and Brazil. I recently co-authored a paper on best practices for validating self report measures of dietary intake and am collaborating on adapting a chest worn camera procedure (taking images at 4 second intervals throughout the day), developed by M. Sun and colleagues for use by adults, to the needs and abilities of 8+ year old children. This method offers the promise of substantially reducing self report error in the objective assessment of children’s dietary intake, but faces new method challenges. I attended Princeton U for my undergraduate degree in Politics, and the Univ of Kansas

(Lawrence) for my masters and doctorate in social psychology. I have over 500 publications.

Carol Boushey, Ph.D., is an Associate Research Professor in the Epidemiology Program at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center. She directs the Nutrition Support Shared Resource (NSSR) for the Cancer Center. She also holds an adjunct professor position in the Nutrition Science Department, Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Her research focuses on dietary assessment using technology and examining the relationship of dietary intakes or dietary patterns as an exposure for health or risk for disease. She was appointed to the 2020 United States Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and served as the chair of the Dietary Patterns Subcommittee. Dr. Boushey serves on the Board of Editors of the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and Nutrition Today. She is a member of the JAND 'statistical team' which has published papers and book chapters to guide practitioners, students, and scientists to conduct successful research and report findings. She received the B.Sc. degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA, and the Masters of Public Health from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI, USA, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Washington through the interdisciplinary nutrition program and the epidemiology program.

Diane Catellier, Dr.PH., is senior statistician at RTI. She has more than 20 years of experience in collaborative research and coordination of large-scale public health studies. She has been principal investigator (PI) for the coordinating centers for five multisite clinical trials and four prospective cohort studies funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). In this role, she has contributed to the design, implementation (data management and monitoring), analysis, and publication of study data. She is currently PI for the Clinical Trials Development Resource for Hematologic Disorders, which provides assistance to investigators supported by the NHLBI to develop clinical trials to test new therapies for hematologic disorders, and engaged in two nutrition-related studies—one which will provide data on feeding patterns of U.S. infants, toddlers, and preschoolers and another which will evaluate the effectiveness of campaigns to increase child access to and participation in federal nutrition programs on child hunger. Dr. Catellier has helped develop and evaluate interventions for treatment of depression in cardiac patients and treatment of schizophrenia or metabolic disorders associated with use of antipsychotic medications for treatment of the disease and to increase physical activity in children and adolescents. She has been involved in exploring risk factors for heart disease, heart failure, stroke, and cognitive impairment and the impact of acculturation on the health among U.S. Hispanics in two NHLBI-sponsored cohort studies. She has also helped design and implement an evaluation of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-supported community-based public health prevention and control programs using data from existing surveillance systems and primary data collection efforts.

Roberta De Vito, Ph.D., is a statistician with a passion for developing statistical tools for cancer research and disorder risk, with a particular focus on epidemiology and genomics. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and at the Data Science Initiative at Brown University. The main research interest is on machine learning and statistical tool to understand public health issues. In this big picture, she develops Bayesian approaches and machine learning techniques to investigate overall diet, or critical aspects of the diet, and its contribution to health and disease, including cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Angela D. Liese, Ph.D., is a Professor of Epidemiology at the University of South Carolina. She received her PhD at the University of North Carolina and her MPH at the University of Massachusetts and holds a masters degree in nutrition from the University of Bonn, Germany. As a nutritional epidemiologist, Dr. Liese has focused on dietary patterns, food groups and foods and their interactions, using a wide variety of methods. She is one of the founding members of the Dietary Patterns Methods Consortium which has been supported by the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Liese also has a long-standing track record of research in diabetes epidemiology with a focus on diabetes in youth and young adults. She is an investigator of the SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth Study and the DiCAYA Network. Dr. Liese's recent research has focused on social determinants of health, food security, hunger, the community food environment, and spatial food access issues, nested within the larger domain of diabetes epidemiology. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the US Department of Agriculture, the American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association. Dr. Liese has published more than 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts, including many with her students or mentees. Dr. Liese is a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology where she chairs the Career Mentoring Committee.

Katie Loth, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Loth's programmatic line of research has focused on social and environmental influences on the dietary intake, eating behaviors and weight status of individuals from ethnically/ racially diverse and low-income backgrounds. Dr. Loth brings to her research a strong background of multidisciplinary training in nutrition, public health, epidemiology, childhood obesity and eating disorders, mixed methods and methodological research. Particularly relevant to her involvement in this webinar, Dr. Loth has experience with and is currently engaged in research using Ecological Momentary Assessment to understand how an individual's environment influences their ability to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight, healthful dietary intake patterns, and a healthy relationship with food. As a practicing clinical dietitian and a behavioral epidemiologist, Dr. Loth is driven to pursue the use of novel methods, including Ecological Momentary Assessment, and innovative analytic approaches to untangle complex nutrition-related questions.

Carmen Pérez-Rodrigo, M.D., Ph.D., Preventive Medicine and Public Health, followed postgraduate training in nutrition focused on nutritional epidemiology, nutrition education and community health. She has coordinated population nutritional surveys at the local, regional and country level and has contributed to research in the field of food habits, community-based interventions and school-based interventions, with a particular focus on school age children. Carmen Perez-Rodrigo is currently a professor at the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) in Bilbao (Spain).

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.