

Speaker, Moderator, and Planning Committee Biographical Sketches

BMI and Beyond: Considering Context in Measuring Obesity and its Applications



Ihuoma Eneli, M.D., M.S., FAAP

Planning Committee Co-Chair and Roundtable Vice-Chair

Ihuoma Eneli is a board-certified general pediatrician and professor of pediatrics at The Ohio State University, and director, Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) Center for Healthy Weight and Nutrition, Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Eneli has developed an internationally recognized tertiary care pediatric obesity center with activities that include advocacy, prevention, medical weight management, bariatric surgery, and research. She is co-Director of the NCH Childhood Obesity and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship, the only pediatric fellowship which trains both bariatric surgeons and pediatricians. In 2021, she was awarded the prestigious National Academic Pediatric Association Healthcare Delivery Award in recognition of her work on childhood obesity. Dr. Eneli is a leader in pediatric obesity. She co-authored the 2023 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Clinical Practice Guideline on Childhood Obesity. Her research interest is on interventions for pediatric obesity, for which she has received funding from several sources including National Institutes of Health and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. She has served in leadership and advisory roles for several organizations including the AAP, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (the National Academies), and Children's Hospital Association. Dr. Eneli is an Associate Director for the AAP Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight and Vice Chair of the National Academies' Roundtable on Obesity Solutions. Dr. Eneli received her M.D. from University of Nigeria. She completed her pediatric residency and M.S. in Epidemiology at Michigan State University.



Nicolaas P. Pronk, Ph.D., M.A., FACSM, FAWHP

Planning Committee Co-Chair, Roundtable Chair, and Moderator

Nicolaas P. Pronk (Co-Chair) is president of the HealthPartners Institute and chief science officer at HealthPartners, Inc. and holds faculty appointments as affiliate professor of health policy and management at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and as visiting scientist in social and behavioral sciences at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts. HealthPartners Institute is one of the largest medical research and education centers in the Midwest. Founded in 1957 as a cooperative, the Institute is an integrated, non-profit, member-governed health system providing health care services and health plan financing and administration. Dr. Pronk's work is focused on connecting evidence of effectiveness with the practical application of programs and practices, policies, and systems that measurably improve population health and well-being. His work applies to the workplace, the care delivery setting, and the community and involves development of new models to improve health and well-being at the research, practice, and policy levels. His research interests include workplace health and safety, obesity, physical activity, and systems approaches to population health and well-being. Dr. Pronk served as co-chair of the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030 (aka Healthy People 2030). He is a former member of the Community Preventive Services Task Force and the Defense Health Board (formerly known as the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board). He was the founding and past president of the International Association for Worksite Health Promotion and currently serves on boards and committees at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (the National Academies), the American Heart Association, and the Health Enhancement Research Organization, among others. Dr. Pronk is a member of the Food and Nutrition Board and Chair of the National Academies' Roundtable on Obesity Solutions. Dr. Pronk received his doctorate degree in exercise physiology at Texas A&M University and completed his post-doctoral studies in behavioral medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Jamy D. Ard, M.D.

Speaker and Roundtable Member

Jamy D. Ard is a professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Prevention and the Department of Medicine at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. He is also co-director of the Wake Forest Baptist Health Weight Management Center, directing medical weight management programs. Following completion of his residency training, he was selected to serve as a chief resident in internal medicine at Duke. He also received formal training in clinical research as a fellow at the Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care at the Durham VA Medical Center. During this time, he participated in a focused research experience on lifestyle interventions for hypertension and obesity at the Duke Hypertension Center. Dr. Ard's research interests include clinical management of obesity and strategies to improve cardiometabolic risk using lifestyle modification. In particular, his work has focused on developing and testing medical strategies for the treatment of obesity in special populations, including African Americans, those with type 2 diabetes and older adults. Dr. Ard has participated in several major National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded multi-center trials including Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH), DASH-sodium, PREMIER, and Weight Loss Maintenance Trial. He has been conducting research on lifestyle modification since 1995 and has received research funding from a variety of federal and foundation sources, including the NIH and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. His work has been published in numerous scientific journals and he has been a featured presenter at several national and international conferences and workshops dealing with obesity. Dr. Ard has more than 20 years of experience in clinical nutrition and obesity. Prior to joining the faculty at Wake Forest in 2012, Dr. Ard spent nine years at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the Department of Nutrition Sciences. Dr. Ard has served on several expert panels and guideline development committees, including the National Academy of Science (previously Institute of Medicine) Committee on Consequences of Sodium Reduction in Populations, the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology/The Obesity Society Guideline Panel on the Identification, Evaluation, and Treatment of Overweight and Obesity in Adults, and the American Psychological Association Obesity Guideline Development Panel. He is also serving on the editorial board for the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* and the *International Journal of Obesity*. Dr. Ard is a National Academy of Medicine member. He received an M.D. and completed internal medicine residency training at Duke University Medical Center.



David Arterburn, M.D., M.P.H., FACP, FTOS, FASMBS

Speaker

David Arterburn is a general internist and a senior investigator at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute and an affiliate professor with the University of Washington's Department of Medicine. The main focus of his research is on identifying safe, effective, and affordable interventions to reduce the medical and psychosocial burden of obesity. Dr. Arterburn was the founding chair of the Health Services Research Section of The Obesity Society, the chair of the Adult Obesity Measurement Advisory Panel for National Committee for Quality Assurance that developed Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) performance measures for obesity, and co-chair of the 2013 National Institutes of Health Symposium on Long-term Outcomes of Bariatric Surgery. Dr. Arterburn received his M.P.H. in health services from the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine and his M.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine.



S. Bryn Austin, Sc.D., M.S.

Planning Committee Member, Moderator, and Speaker

S. Bryn Austin is professor in social and behavioral sciences at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, and research scientist with the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital. She is founding director of the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders: A Public Health Incubator, based at the Harvard Chan School and Boston Children's Hospital. She was director of fellowship research training for the U.S. Maternal and Children Health Bureau-funded Leadership Education in Adolescent Health training grant at Boston Children's Hospital from 1999 to 2000. She is a social epidemiologist and behavioral scientist with a research focus on environmental influences on disordered weight and shape control behaviors and weight stigma and on public health prevention approaches with an emphasis on policy translation research and advocacy. Her research also includes a focus on health inequities, especially those affecting socially and structurally marginalized adolescents based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and race/ethnicity. Dr. Austin has received a number of awards for her research, teaching, and mentorship, including from the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine and Academy Health. She has also received numerous research grants as principal investigator and co-investigator funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and foundations. She is a past President of the Academy for Eating Disorders and Eating Disorders Coalition. She received her bachelor of arts in women's studies and African-American studies from Cornell University, and her master of science and doctorate of science in health and social behavior from the Harvard School of Public Health.



W. Scott Butsch, M.D., M.Sc., FTOS

Planning Committee Member and Moderator

W. Scott Butsch has served as the director of obesity medicine in the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute at the Cleveland Clinic since 2018. He was on staff at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and an instructor in medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS) from 2008-2018. Dr. Butsch is a leader in obesity education and has been instrumental in shaping the current state of education and training in the U.S. and abroad. With his initial idea to create core obesity competencies in U.S. medical schools, Dr. Butsch has helped formalize and expand obesity education in undergraduate and graduate medical education. He has created/co-created numerous national and international obesity education programs for practitioners interested in treating obesity. He has authored numerous chapters and manuscripts and lectures nationally and internationally on the management of obesity. Dr. Butsch has previously served both in the Obesity Medicine Education Collaborative and in the Integrated Clinical and Social Systems for the Prevention and Management of Obesity Innovative Collaborative (a satellite activity of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on Obesity Solutions) specifically for development of core competencies in obesity medicine. He was one of the first two physicians in the U.S. to complete a subspecialty fellowship in obesity medicine in 2008 at HMS/MGH. Dr. Butsch received his medical degree from the University of Buffalo in 2001. He completed a clinical nutrition fellowship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2007 and a fellowship in medical education at Harvard. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Obesity Medicine and a Fellow of The Obesity Society.



Alberto Juan Caban-Martinez, D.O., Ph.D., M.P.H., CPH

Speaker

Alberto Caban-Martinez is a board-certified physician-scientist, associate professor (tenured) of public health sciences, deputy director of the MD-MPH Program, and associate provost for regulatory affairs, assessment and research integrity at the University of Miami. He has over 10 years of domestic and international research expertise in environmental and occupational epidemiology. He serves as the deputy director of the Firefighter Cancer Initiative at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and co-director and principal investigator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-funded Fire Fighter Cancer Cohort Study, a national epidemiologic firefighter cohort study that includes under-represented firefighter subgroups such as arson investigators, firefighter trainers/instructors, wildland-urban interface and volunteer firefighters. He is a former Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences' Gulf Research Program and served on the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Committee on Gulf War and Health for two years to provide scientific expertise on occupational exposures and work-related health conditions. His research work with first responders and construction workers led him to serve on the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) committee, setting the national research agenda on worker health and safety. He has scientific articles published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *JAMA Network Open*, *JAMA Dermatology*, CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR), *American Journal of Public Health*, *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* (OEM), *Preventive Medicine*, and *Neuropharmacology*. He has published over 178 peer reviewed publications and presented over 256 scientific presentations on a wide range of occupational health and safety topics. Dr. Caban-Martinez received his D.O. from Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine and his Ph.D. from the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine Department of Epidemiology.



Edward (Ted) Fischer, Ph.D.

Speaker

Edward (Ted) Fischer is the Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Anthropology, Management, and Health Policy at Vanderbilt University, where he also directs the Cultural Contexts of Health and Wellbeing Initiative. In 2009, Dr. Fischer founded Maní+, a successful social enterprise in Guatemala that develops and produces locally sourced foods to fight malnutrition. He advises the World Health Organization on behavioral and cultural insights, and his research focuses on values, wellbeing, and the political economy of food. He has authored or edited a number of books, including *The Good Life*, and, most recently, *Making Better Coffee: How Maya Farmers and Third Wave Tastemakers Create Value*. Dr. Fischer received his Ph.D. from Tulane University.



Katherine Flegal, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Speaker

Katherine Flegal is a consulting professor at Stanford University. She formerly was a senior scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics. She worked in the biostatistics department of the University of Michigan prior to joining the CDC. Dr. Flegal is one of the most cited scientists in the field of obesity epidemiology. She completed her Ph.D. and master's and at Cornell University and M.P.H. at the University of Pittsburgh.



Craig M. Hales, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.

Planning Committee Member and Speaker

Craig M. Hales is currently a clinical reviewer with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Division of Diabetes, Lipid Disorders, and Obesity. Dr. Hales worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) from 2015-2022, where his work focused on obesity surveillance and epidemiology. He has coauthored peer-reviewed articles on trends in body composition changes over time and by race and ethnicity using DXA scan data from NHANES. He also published a 2022 CDC report recommending the extended method for calculating BMI-for-Age percentiles and Z-scores above the 95th percentile, including new versions of the BMI-for-age growth charts for children and adolescents with severe obesity. Dr. Hales is a preventive medicine physician and a diplomate of the American Board of Obesity Medicine and practiced at the Johns Hopkins Healthful Eating, Activity, and Weight Program from 2020 to 2022. He also holds master's degrees in public health and biostatistics from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Georgia State University, respectively. He received his medical degree from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.



Faith Anne Heeren

Speaker

Faith Anne Heeren is a third-year doctoral student in the Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics at the University of Florida. Ms. Heeren is also the founder and president of OCEANS (Outreach, Community, Engagement, Advocacy, Non-discriminatory Support), a nonprofit advocacy group for adolescents with obesity. As a teenager, she underwent gastric bypass surgery. Through her pre-operative experience, she discovered a passion for patient advocacy and a strong desire to contribute to research. Since then, Ms. Heeren has participated in patient advocacy efforts by serving on the membership committee for the Obesity Action Coalition and sharing her story with several news organizations including the *New York Times* and the *Associated Press*. On a professional level, she has contributed to several research projects at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and the University of Florida during her time as an undergraduate and graduate student. Ms. Heeren's research interests include the implementation of evidence-based treatments for obesity and adolescent bariatric surgery patients and programs.



Michael D. Jensen, M.D.

Speaker

Michael D. Jensen holds the Tomas J. Watson, Jr. Professorship in Honor of Dr. Robert L. Frye at the Mayo College of Medicine and is a consultant in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism. His clinical interests are primarily focused on obesity and diabetes. Dr. Jensen's research involves the study of human body fat distribution, and fatty acid/energy metabolism, focusing specifically on the effects obesity and body-fat distribution on health. He has been funded by National Institutes of Health to support his studies in this area for 35 consecutive years. Dr. Jensen served as co-chair of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Expert Panel on the Identification, Evaluation, and Treatment of Overweight and Obesity in Adults, 2008-2013 and is the current editor-in-chief of *Obesity*. He has published more than 300 original research articles, together with over 80 invited papers and book chapters. Dr. Jensen received his M.D. from the University of Missouri – Kansas City and completed his internal residency medicine and subspecialty training in endocrinology and metabolism at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.



Nathaniel Kendall-Taylor, Ph.D.

Planning Committee Member

Nathaniel Kendall-Taylor is chief executive officer at the FrameWorks Institute, a research think tank in Washington, DC. He leads a multi-disciplinary team in conducting research on public understanding and framing of social issues and supporting nonprofit organizations to implement findings. A psychological anthropologist, Dr. Kendall-Taylor publishes widely on communications research in the popular and professional press and lectures frequently in the United States and abroad. He is a senior fellow at the Center on the Developing Child at

Harvard University, a visiting professor at the Child Study Center at Yale School of Medicine, and a fellow at the British-American Project. Dr. Kendall-Taylor received his master's in anthropology and Ph.D. from UCLA..



Michael G. Knight, M.D., M.S.H.P., FACP, Dipl. ABOM

Planning Committee Member, Moderator, and Speaker

Michael G. Knight is an internal medicine and obesity medicine physician, associate chief quality and population health officer, head of healthcare delivery transformation, and medical director of community primary care at The George Washington (GW) Medical Faculty Associates. He is also an assistant professor of medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Knight is board certified in internal medicine and obesity medicine. He currently practices clinically in the

GW General Internal Medicine Practice and Weight Management Clinic, where he works with a multidisciplinary team to provide medical weight management through nutrition, physical activity, and pharmacotherapy. He has received numerous awards for his professional and clinical practice, including the American Medical Association Foundation Leadership Award, Washingtonian Magazine's Top Doctors Award, and the Top 40 Under 40 Leaders in Health Award by the National Minority Quality Forum. He completed undergraduate studies at Oakwood University and attended the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Knight completed residency at New York Presbyterian–Weill Cornell Medical Center, and was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed a master's in health policy research.



Cynthia Ogden, Ph.D.

Speaker

Cynthia Ogden is an epidemiologist at the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) overseeing the analysis group within the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Her research interests relate to nutrition, and in particular, growth and obesity. She worked on the revision of the 2000 CDC growth charts for children that are used to define obesity in U.S. children. Dr. Ogden has published extensively and given numerous presentations on obesity and dietary intake in the U.S.

She joined CDC as a member of the Epidemic Intelligence Service. Before joining CDC, she worked in the Nutrition Division at the New York State Department of Health where she researched obesity among school children in New York counties. She has also worked on nutrition related projects for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and teaches a class in nutritional epidemiology at the George Washington School of Public Health. She earned her master's degree and Ph.D. from Cornell University where her research focused on malnutrition among young children in Kigali, Rwanda.



Donna H. Ryan, M.D.

Speaker

Donna Ryan is Professor Emerita at Pennington Biomedical in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she oversaw clinical research for 25 years. Dr. Ryan's research interests involve lifestyle modification and diet for weight loss and extends to studying the use of medications and devices to aid weight management. She was an investigator on National Institutes of Health studies such as POUNDS (Preventing Overweight Using Novel Dietary Strategies) Lost, Look AHEAD (Action for Health in Diabetes), Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), and Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH). Dr. Ryan also served as principal investigator for the U.S. Department of Defense for a series of awards which targeted military nutrition approaches to improve soldier readiness and performance. A particular research interest was improving primary care management of obesity and evaluating commercial approaches to weight management. Dr. Ryan was President of The Obesity Society and was designated Master of Obesity Medicine by the American Board of Obesity Medicine. She serves as Publications Committee Chair following her tenure as Past President of the World Obesity Federation. She is also Co-Chair of the Semaglutide Effects on Cardiovascular Outcomes in People With Overweight or Obesity (SELECT) Steering Committee and member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Setmelanotide. Dr. Ryan has over 300 publications and is an active consultant and advisor to companies developing drugs, devices, lifestyle programs, and medical approaches to obesity management. She received her medical degree from Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana. She went on to complete her Internship at Charity Hospital, LSU Division, and Fellowship in Medical Oncology, LSU School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Hematology/Medical Oncology Section.



Stacy Wright, M.P.H., CHES®

Speaker

Stacy Wright is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Health Outcomes and Implementation Science at the University of Florida. Her research areas of interest are obesity and weight stigma among Black women. She was born and raised in Jamaica. For over twenty-eight years she was significantly impacted by obesity; low self-esteem, teasing, and discrimination. She wanted nothing more than to lose weight, and she tried all the fad diets, but inevitably failed. After years of struggling with her weight and concern for her own health and the need for more health education in Jamaica, Ms. Wright obtained her master's in public health with a specialization in community health and became a Certified Health Education Specialist. She is also a lifestyle advocate which inspired her first book, *The Healthy Makeover*, which chronicles her 100-pound weight loss story and the impact of obesity on self-esteem, dieting, facts about hypertension and obesity, and strategies she used to lose weight. Her long-term goal is to create interventions to support individuals and minoritized populations to effectively manage, reduce and treat obesity. Ms. Wright has work experience in the US, Japan, and Jamaica. Her most recent position was communications officer/research writer in the Health Promotion and Education Unit within the Ministry of Health in Jamaica.