

**Standing Committee on Evidence Synthesis and  
Communications in Diet and Chronic Disease Relationships**

**WORKSHOP ON ADVANCING A FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH TO  
PRIORITIZE HEALTHY PEOPLE AND A HEALTHY PLANET**

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**SPEAKER BIOS**

**William (Bill) Dietz, MD, PhD** is the Chair of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness and the STOP Obesity Alliance at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University. From 1997-2012 he was the Director of the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity in the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the CDC. Prior to his appointment to the CDC, he was a Professor of Pediatrics at the Tuft's University School of Medicine, and Director of Clinical Nutrition at the Floating Hospital of New England Medical Center Hospitals. At the Floating Hospital he was the director of the pediatric weight control program and a clinic for children with failure to thrive. He received his BA from Wesleyan University in 1966 and his MD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1970. After the completion of his residency at Upstate Medical Center, he received a Ph.D. in Nutritional Biochemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been a councilor and past president of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, and past president of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. From 2001-2003 he served as a member of the Advisory Board to the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism, and Diabetes of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. In 1995 he received the John Stalker award from the American School Food Service Association for his efforts to improve the school lunch. Dr. Dietz served on the 1995 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. In 1997, Dr. Dietz received the Brock Medal of Excellence in Pediatrics from the New York Academy of Medicine. In 1998, Dr. Dietz was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. In 2000, he received the William G. Anderson Award from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and was recognized for excellence in his work and advocacy by the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors. In 2002, he was made an honorary member of the American Dietetic Association, and received the Holroyd-Sherry award for his outstanding contributions to the field of children, adolescents and the media. In 2005 he received the George Bray Founders Award from the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. In 2006, he received the Nutrition Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for outstanding research related to nutrition of infants and children. In 2008 he received the Oded Bar-Or award from the Obesity Society for excellence in pediatric obesity research. In 2012, Dr. Dietz received a Special Recognition Award from the

American Academy of Pediatrics Provisional Section on Obesity, and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He was the co-chair of the Lancet Commission on Obesity's 2019 report on the Global Syndemic of Obesity, Undernutrition, and Climate Change. He is the author of almost 300 publications in the scientific literature, and the editor of five books, including Clinical Obesity in Adults and Children (4th edition), and the American Academy of Pediatrics Nutrition: What Every Parent Needs to Know.

**Heather Eicher-Miller, MSc, PhD** is an Associate Professor of Nutrition Science at Purdue University. Her research focuses on food insecurity which affects 11% of U.S. households and creates uncertainty in the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods. Her work has documented immediate and chronic adverse dietary and health outcomes associated with food insecurity among diverse populations, evaluated food systems, and created evidence-based interventions to improved food security.

**Jessica Fanzo, PhD** is the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Global Food Policy and Ethics at Johns Hopkins University. She holds appointments in the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Berman Institute of Bioethics and the Bloomberg School of Public Health. She serves as the Director of Hopkins' Global Food Policy & Ethics Program, and as Director of Food & Nutrition Security at Hopkins' Alliance for a Healthier World. From 2021 to 2022, Jess was the Vice Dean of Faculty Affairs at SAIS. She leads on the development of the Food Systems Dashboard and the Food Systems Countdown Initiative, in collaboration with the Global Alliance from Improved Nutrition (GAIN). She currently serves on the Food Systems Economic and EAT-Lancet 2.0 Commissions. Before coming to Hopkins, Jess held positions at Columbia University's Earth Institute and College of Medicine, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN), the UN World Food Programme, Bioversity International, and the Millennium Development Goal Centre at the World Agroforestry Center in Kenya. From 2017 to 2022, she served on various collective endeavors including the first EAT-Lancet Commission, the European Commission's High Level Expert Group on an International Platform for Food Systems Science, the Cornell Atkinson Center's Socio-Technical Innovation Bundles for Agri-Food Systems Transformation report, and the Global Panel of Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition Foresight 2.0 report. During that time, she was also the Editor-in-Chief for the Global Food Security Journal, the Associate Editor for the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, the Co-Chair of the Global Nutrition Report and Team Leader for the UN High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Systems and Nutrition. In 2021, she published her first book, *Can Fixing Dinner Fix the Planet?*

**Holly Freishtat** is the Senior Director of Feeding Change with the Milken Institute. She is an experienced director, transformative leader and strategist with a 20-year track record developing and implementing food system policies and programs. Holly served as Baltimore City's first Food Policy Director and Chief of Food Policy & Planning where she founded and directed the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative. Holly spent over a decade building an equitable and resilient food environment by creating policies and programs that directly impact health & economic disparities. As a result, Baltimore City has become internationally renowned for innovative food governance and leadership. Holly has received national and international recognition for her public speaking skills and food systems expertise. She has presented at 125 international and national speaking engagements and has been interviewed by CNN, NBC, Huffington Post, Politico and the Associated Press. In addition, Holly has been awarded numerous accolades for her contributions to food systems, including the Mayors Medallion for Meritorious Service Award, Maryland Daily Record's Top 100 women, and the 2016 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Award. Freishtat has served as a food systems strategist, agricultural marketing director, nutrition educator, and grower. She holds an M.S. in Agriculture, Food, and Environment from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy at Tufts University, a B.S. in Nutrition from the University of Vermont, and an executive certificate from Carey Business School.

**Kayla de la Haye, PhD** is an Associate Professor of Population and Public Health Sciences at the University of Southern California, in Los Angeles. She works to promote health and health equity by applying social network analysis and systems science. Her research, funded by the NIH, the NSF, and the DoD, targets family and community social networks and social-ecological systems to promote healthy eating, healthy lifestyles, and nutrition security, and to prevent chronic disease. She also studies the role of social networks and systems in group problem solving in families, teams, and coalitions. She serves on the Board of Directors of the International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA), and in 2018, she received the INSNA Freeman Award for significant contributions to the study of social structure. Dr. de la Haye holds a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Adelaide, Australia.

**Ethan Porter PhD** is an associate professor in the School of Media and Public Affairs and the Department of Political Science at George Washington University. He is also the Cluster Lead of the Misinformation/Disinformation Lab at GW's Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics. His research has appeared or is forthcoming in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Journal of Politics, Social Forces, Political Analysis, Political Behavior, Political Communication and other journals. He has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post and other popular publications, and has received grant support from the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council and the Omidyar Network. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago.

False Alarm: The Truth About Political Mistruths in the Trump Era, a book co-authored with Thomas J. Wood, was published in 2019 by Cambridge University Press. His second book, The Consumer Citizen, is out now from Oxford University Press

**Marie Spiker, PhD, RDN** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington School of Public Health. As a core faculty member in Food Systems, Nutrition, and Health, she teaches interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate courses that prepare students to join an evolving food systems workforce. Dr. Spiker conducts research on public health nutrition, sustainable food systems, food loss and waste, systems modeling, and food systems governance. Dr. Spiker completed her PhD in human nutrition at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is a registered dietitian nutritionist.

**Joachim von Braun, PhD** is Distinguished Professor for Economic and Technological change at Bonn University, in the Center for Development Research (ZEF). His research is on economic development, science and technology policy, poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, agriculture, resource economics, climate, and trade. von Braun is President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences of the Vatican, and member of German National Academy of Science Leopoldina, the German Academy of Engineering, the Academy of Arts & Sciences of North-Rhine Westphalia, the World Academy (TWAS), the African Academy of Sciences, academies of science. In 2020 and 2021 he served as Chair of the Scientific Group for the Food Systems Summit 2021 of the UN Secretary General. He is Vice President of the NGO Welthungerhilfe and was director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) based in Washington DC. He was elected as President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), serves as adviser in various national and international organizations, and received several national and international honors and awards. He published more than 250 peer reviewed publications.