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Exploring Strategies for Sustainable Systems-Wide Changes to Reduce the Prevalence of Obesity: A Workshop

Speaker and Moderator Biographical Sketches



Stephen Bevan, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

Institute for Employment Studies

Invited Speaker

Stephen Bevan is Head of Human Resources Research Development at the Institute for Employment Studies (IES) with responsibility for developing innovative new projects and programs with IES partners and other collaborators. Mr. Bevan returned to IES in April 2016 after spending 15 years as Director of Research and Managing Director at The Work Foundation. Stephen has conducted research and consultancy on high-performance work practices, employee reward strategy, performance management, staff engagement and retention, and “good work”. He has a special interest in workforce health and wellbeing, having led a number of national and international projects focusing on workforce health and the impact of chronic illness on productivity and social inclusion. He is the Project Director of a major impact evaluation project for the Work and Health Joint Unit which is tracking the progress of health-led trials for people with mental health and musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). Mr. Bevan is an adviser to a number of UK government departments and has advised employers and policymakers in Europe, Asia-Pacific, Australasia, and North America. He has received a special award from GAMIAN-Europe for his contribution to the field of mental health and employment and is a reviewer for several academic journals, including *The Lancet*. Mr. Bevan has appeared in *HR Magazine*’s list of “Most Influential HR Thinkers” for the past ten years. He has been an honorary professor at Lancaster University Management School since 2010.



Carol Byrd-Bredbenner, Ph.D., R.D.

Rutgers University

Planning Committee Member and Speaker

Carol Byrd-Bredbenner is Distinguished Professor of Nutrition and the Nutritional Sciences Graduate Program Director at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on elucidating the role of cognitive and environmental factors on nutrition behaviors and health outcomes and developing recommendations for nutrition communications and health promotion interventions. Currently, she is leading the innovative childhood obesity prevention program HomeStyles that motivates parents to make quick, easy, evidence-based modifications to their home environment and lifestyle practices (HealthyHomeStyles.com). Dr. Byrd-Bredbenner has published nearly 200 research articles and theory-driven, behaviorally focused nutrition curricula and intervention materials. She received the Helen Denning Ullrich Award for Lifetime Excellence in Nutrition Education from the Society for Nutrition Education

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and Behavior and the Excellence in Nutrition Education Award from the American Society for Nutrition. Dr. Byrd-Bredbenner earned her doctoral degree at Pennsylvania State University.



Carlos J. Crespo, Dr.P.H., M.S.

Oregon Health and Science University

Portland State University School of Public Health

Planning Committee Member, Moderator, and Speaker

Carlos J. Crespo is Professor in the Oregon Health and Science University and Portland State University School of Public Health, and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Training in Biomedical Research at Portland State University. His previous work experience includes working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the National Center for Health Statistics, and as a Public Health Analyst for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). His main area of research involves the epidemiology of physical activity in the prevention of chronic diseases, and research on minority health issues. He lists more than 100 publications and has been a contributing author to five textbooks on minority health and sports medicine, and more than 20 government reports, including the Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health. He received the 1997 U.S. Secretary of Health Award for Distinguished Service as part of the Salud para su Corazon campaign, and in 2003 became a Minority Health Scholar from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH. He has served in the board of directors for American Council on Exercise, American College of Sports Medicine, Oregon Health Policy Board, Oregon Public Health Institute, and in the National Advisory Council of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Active Living Research. Dr. Crespo currently serves in the Advisory Committee for the Community Guide for Physical Activity and the Built Environment for CDC, the Physical Activity Alliance Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, the Executive Steering Committee of the Diversity Program Consortium of NIH, and the Oregon Latino Health Coalition. He is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine and a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Cities and Health*. He graduated from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, has a Master of Science in Sports Health from Texas Tech University, and a Doctor of Public Health in Preventive Care from the Loma Linda University.

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J. Alexander Navarro, Ph.D.

University of Michigan Medical School Center for the History of Medicine

Invited Speaker

J. Alexander Navarro is Assistant Director of the University of Michigan Medical Center for the History of Medicine. A diplomatic, political, and intellectual historian by training, Dr. Navarro has taught and conducted research on a wide range of topics, including U.S.-Latin American history and U.S.-Southeast Asian relations, Western labor history, 20th-century urban history, race and racism, and issues of national identity. Since joining the Center for the History of Medicine in 2005, Dr. Navarro has focused much of his research on the historical, social, economic, and political ramifications of the 1918 and 2009 influenza pandemics. He was a co-principal investigator and the lead researcher on both the Center's landmark study of the use of non-pharmaceutical interventions in the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic, and on the Center's qualitative examination of school closures implemented during the 2009 pA(H1N1) influenza pandemic. He is also the Co-Editor in Chief of the *The American Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919: A Digital Encyclopedia*, and was responsible for researching and writing the site's essays detailing the experiences of 50 American cities during the deadly pandemic. Dr. Navarro is currently researching the interplay between territorial aggrandizement and disease during the Mexican War, particularly among American troops, for a forthcoming project. In addition to supervising the Center's large research projects, Dr. Navarro assists in developing public programming at the Center and in managing the Center's daily operations. He received his Bachelor of Arts in history, with honors, from Rutgers University, and his Doctor of Philosophy in history from the University of Michigan.



Angela M. Odoms-Young, Ph.D.

University of Illinois at Chicago

Planning Committee Co-Chair and Moderator

Angela Odoms-Young is Associate Professor and Director of the Nutrition, Obesity, and Health Equity Research Laboratory in the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She also serves as the Associate Director for Research and Education in the Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships where her responsibilities include supporting staff in SNAP-ED. Dr. Odoms-Young has over 20 years' experience in diversity and equity research, teaching/training, and community engagement in the fields of public health, nutrition, and medicine. Her research explores the social and structural determinants of dietary behaviors and related health outcomes in low-income and Black/Latinx populations and centers on identifying culturally appropriate programs and policies that promote health equity, food justice, and community resilience. Dr. Odoms-Young has over 200+ academic publications, book chapters, and presentations and has served on numerous advisory committees and boards, including the National Academies' Food and Nutrition Board/Institute of Medicine committees to develop the nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program and to revise the food packages

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provided in the Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Council on Black Health. Locally, Dr. Odoms-Young has been a board member at the Greater Chicago Food Depository (previous), American Heart Association Chicago Metro Board (current), Grow, Greater, Englewood (current), and Blacks in Green (current). Additionally, she currently serves as the Chair for the American Heart Association-Chicago, citywide Health Equity Advisory Committee. Dr. Odoms-Young received her B.S. in Foods and Nutrition from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and M.S./Ph.D. in Community Nutrition from Cornell University. She completed a Family Research Consortium Postdoctoral Fellowship examining family processes in diverse populations at the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Community Health Scholars Fellowship in community-based participatory research at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.



Camara Phyllis Jones, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.

Morehouse School of Medicine

Invited Speaker

Camara Phyllis Jones is Senior Fellow at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute and Cardiovascular Research Institute and Adjunct Associate Professor at Morehouse School of Medicine. Her work focuses on naming, measuring, and addressing the impacts of racism on the health and well-being of the nation. She is a past president of the American Public Health Association, a senior fellow at the Morehouse School of Medicine, and an adjunct professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. While at Radcliffe College, Dr. Jones developed tools to inspire, equip, and engage all Americans in a national campaign against racism. For example, her allegories on “race” and racism illuminate topics that are otherwise difficult for many Americans to understand or discuss. Her toolbox will equip both children and adults to name racism, ask “How is racism operating here?” and organize and strategize to act. Dr. Jones earned her B.A. in molecular biology from Wellesley College, her M.D. from the Stanford School of Medicine, and both her M.P.H. and her Ph.D. in epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. She also completed residency training in general preventive medicine at Johns Hopkins and in family medicine at the Residency Program in Social Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center.



Nicolaas (Nico) P. Pronk, Ph.D., M.A., FACSM, FAWHP

HealthPartners Institute and HealthPartners, Inc.

Planning Committee Co-Chair, Moderator, and Chair of the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions

Nico Pronk is President of the HealthPartners Institute and Chief Science Officer at HealthPartners, Inc. and holds a faculty appointment as Adjunct Professor of 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, the Institute has about 450 studies underway each year, trains more than 500 medical residents and fellows and more than

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500 students, and provides continuing medical education for 25,000 clinicians as well as patient education and clinical quality improvement. HealthPartners, founded in 1957 as a cooperative, is an integrated, non-profit, member-governed health system providing health care services and health plan financing and administration. It is the largest consumer governed nonprofit health care organization in the United States. 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. Currently, Dr. Pronk serves 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) and is a member of the Community Preventive Services Task Force. He was the founding and past president of the International Association for Worksite Health Promotion and has served on boards and committees at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the American Heart Association, the Health Enhancement Research Organization, among others. He is widely published in both the scientific and practice literatures with more than 400 articles, books, and book chapters and is an international speaker on population health and health promotion. 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.



Stephanie A. Navarro Silvera, Ph.D., M.S., C.P.H.

Montclair State University

Planning Committee Member, Moderator, and Speaker

Stephanie A. Navarro Silvera is Professor of Public Health at Montclair State University (MSU). After completing her masters degrees, she worked as a Nutrition Educator at the Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC) at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson, NJ. She then went on to work as an epidemiologist at the Albert Einstein College of

Medicine in the department of Epidemiology and Population Health before joining the faculty at MSU. During her professorship her work has focused on racial/ethnic disparities in health outcomes and she was awarded the prestigious National Cancer Institute's K01 Career Development Award in 2009 to pursue this work. She has also served on the boards of the American Public Health Association Cancer Caucus, on the American Society for Preventive Oncology Junior Member and Membership Committees, and is a current member of the NJ Society for Public Health Education Academic Advisory Board. She has, more recently, been called upon by the NY/NJ media to serve as an expert to interpret and explain the epidemiology of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Silvera holds a Bachelor's degree in biology from Rutgers University, a Master's of Science in nutritional sciences from Rutgers University, and a doctorate in epidemiology from the Yale School of Medicine.

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Keith C. Norris, M.D., Ph.D.

UCLA Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research

Invited Speaker

Keith C. Norris is Professor of Medicine, UCLA Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research. Dr. Norris is an internationally recognized clinician scientist and health policy leader who has been instrumental in shaping national health policy and clinical practice guidelines in the area of kidney disease. He has been one of most highly funded National Institutes of Health (NIH) investigators in the nation, and one of the most highly cited scientists in the world in the area of chronic kidney disease and health disparities. He has been a powerful advocate for minority institutions and served for 7 years as the president of the Research Centers in Minority Institutions Program Association. After serving as Executive VP for Research and Health Affairs and Interim President at Charles Drew University he returned to UCLA as a Professor of Medicine and Co-Director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute Community Engagement Research Program. He has co-authored over 290 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 25 textbook chapters, and over 260 scientific abstracts. He currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the international journal, *Ethnicity & Disease*, a multidisciplinary journal focusing on minority ethnic population differences in health promotion and disease prevention, including research in the areas of epidemiology, genetics, health services, social biology, and medical anthropology. He also serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*. After leaving Cornell in 1976 at the age of 19, he attended Howard University College of Medicine. Upon graduation in 1980, he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. He then completed his residency training and chief residency in internal medicine. From 1983-86, he trained in nephrology at the combined West Los Angeles Veterans Administration-UCLA program. In addition to being board certified in internal medicine and nephrology, he is an American Society of Hypertension, Specialist in Clinical Hypertension. In 2014 he received his doctorate in religious, spiritual and metaphysical philosophy.



Melissa A. Simon, M.D., M.P.H.

Northwestern University

Planning Committee Member and Speaker

Melissa A. Simon is the George H. Gardner Professor of Clinical Gynecology, Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She is also the Founder and Director of the Center for Health Equity Transformation and the Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative. She is an expert in implementation science, women's health across the lifespan, minority health, community engagement and health equity. Dr. Simon has been recognized with numerous awards for her substantial contribution to excellence in health equity scholarship, women's health and mentorship, including the Presidential Award in Excellence in Science Mathematics and Engineering Mentorship. She is a former member and current consultant to the US Preventive Services Task Force. She is also a member of the National Academy of

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Medicine's (NAM) Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the NAM Leadership Consortium's Culture Inclusion and Equity Collaborative. She received her M.D. from Rush Medical College and her M.P.H. from University of Illinois at Chicago.



Roland J. Thorpe Jr., Ph.D., M.S.

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Invited Speaker

Roland J. Thorpe Jr. is Professor in the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society, Founding Director of the Program of Men's Health Research in the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions (HCHDS), Deputy Director of HCHDS, and Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research. He holds joint appointments in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and the Department of

Neurology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Dr. Thorpe is a social epidemiologist and gerontologist who has published over 240 peer reviewed articles that has significantly contributed to the understanding of how race, SES, and segregation influence health and well-being of African Americans. His most recent work focuses on improving the lives of Black men. Dr. Thorpe serves as principal investigator on several National Institute on Aging funded grants: Stress and Mortality among Black Men Study, Stress and Longevity among African American Families Study, and the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research. He participates in several training programs designed to develop under-represented minorities at many career stages. Dr. Thorpe is a Provost Fellow in the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs where he leads initiatives around professional and career development for postdoctoral fellows in the Provost's Postdoctoral Diversity Fellowship. He is a past recipient of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Advising, Mentoring, and Teaching Recognition Award, the inaugural annual 2018 NHLBI OHD PRIDE Roland J. Thorpe, Jr. mentoring award, recipient of the 2020 Minority Issues in Gerontology Outstanding Mentorship Award and the 2020 JHBSPH Dean's Award of Distinction in Faculty Mentoring. Dr. Thorpe is also the Editor in Chief of *Ethnicity & Disease*. Dr. Thorpe earned a bachelor's in theoretical mathematics from Florida A&M University, a master's in statistics, a Ph.D. in clinical epidemiology with a graduate minor in gerontology from Purdue University, and received postdoctoral training in health disparities and gerontology from the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.