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Speaker, Moderator, and Planning Committee Biographical Sketches

Shifting the Paradigm: Targeting Structures, Communications, and Beliefs to Advance Practical Strategies for Obesity Solutions



Christina Economos, Ph.D.

Planning Committee Co-Chair and Roundtable Vice Chair

Christina Economos is Professor, New Balance Chair in Childhood Nutrition, Dean for Research Strategy, and Chair of the Division of Nutrition Interventions, Communication, & Behavior Change at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and Medical School at Tufts University. She leads a research team studying behavioral interventions, strategic communications, and promotion of physical activity using a systems approach to reduce childhood obesity. She has authored more than 150 scientific publications and is also the co-Founder and Director of ChildObesity180, a unique organization that brings together leaders from diverse disciplines to generate urgency and find solutions to the childhood obesity epidemic. Dr. Economos is involved in national obesity and public health activities and has served on four National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committees including the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions and the Committee on an Evidence Framework for Obesity Prevention Decision-Making. She received a Bachelor of Science from Boston University, a Master of Science in applied physiology and nutrition from Columbia University and a doctorate in nutritional biochemistry from Tufts University.



Bruce Y. Lee, M.D., M.B.A.

Planning Committee Co-Chair and Moderator

Bruce Y. Lee is a Professor of Health Policy and Management at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy where he is the Executive Director of the Center for Advanced Technology and Communication in Health (CATCH). Dr. Lee is also the Executive Director of PHICOR (Public Health Informatics, Computational and Operations Research), which he founded in 2007, and the founder and CEO of Symsilico, which develops and uses computational methods, models, and tools to help decision-making. His previous positions include serving as Professor by Courtesy at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, Associate Professor of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Executive Director of the Global Obesity Prevention Center (GOPC), Director of Operations Research at the International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC), Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, Senior Manager at Quintiles Transnational, working in biotechnology equity research at Montgomery Securities, and co-founding Integrigen. Dr. Lee is a systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, writer, and health journalist. He has over two decades of experience in industry and academia developing mathematical and computational models to assist a wide range of decision makers in health and public health. He has been the Principal Investigator for projects supported by a variety of organizations and agencies and has served as a systems science and modeling expert for numerous advisory boards and committees for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), World Health Organization (WHO), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other organizations. Dr. Lee has written extensively for the general media. He is a Senior Contributor for *Forbes*, covering a wide range of health-related topics including medicine, wellness, digital health and the business of health and having written over 1,590 articles. His writing has also appeared in a number of other media outlets including *The New York Times*, *Time*, *The Guardian*, the *HuffPost*, and the *MIT Technology Review*. Dr. Lee received his B.A. from Harvard University, M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He completed his internal medicine residency training at the University of California, San Diego.

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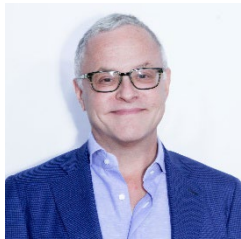


Daniel Aaron, M.D., J.D.

Invited Speaker

Daniel Aaron is a Heyman Fellow at Harvard Law School, an attorney at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and a member of the Justice Initiative, a collaboration between Harvard and Howard Law Schools aimed at furthering racial equity and justice. His research foci include food systems, obesity, systemic racism, the opioid crisis, tobacco products, and how these issues intersect with law and policy. His research has been covered by the *New York Times*, CNN, *Time*, and others. He holds a B.S. from

Brown University, an M.D. from Boston University School of Medicine, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.



Neal Baer, M.D., M.S.

Invited Speaker

Neal Baer is an award-winning showrunner, television writer/producer, physician, and author. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, he lectures around the world on public health advocacy. Dr. Baer served as Executive Producer and Showrunner of *Designated Survivor* and as the Executive Producer of *Baking Impossible*, both on Netflix. He is also an Executive Producer of the new HBO documentary, *Welcome to Chechnya*, which won a Special Jury Award at the 2020 Sundance Film

Festival, a Peabody Award, and was shortlisted for an Oscar for Best Documentary and Best Visual Effects. Prior to *Designated Survivor*, Dr. Baer was Executive Producer and Showrunner for the CBS television series *Under the Dome*. Previously, he was the Executive Producer and Showrunner of the hit NBC television series *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* from 2000-2011, where he oversaw all aspects of producing and writing the show. During his tenure on SVU, he received the Shine Award, a People's Choice Award, the Prism Award, an Edgar Award, Sentinel for Health Award, and the Media Access Award. Actors on the show were awarded six Emmys and a Golden Globe. Dr. Baer was also Executive Producer of the groundbreaking NBC hit series *ER*. A member of the show's original writing staff and a producer on the series for seven seasons, he was nominated for five Emmy Awards as a producer. He also received Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Writing in a Drama Series for the episodes *Hell and High Water* and *Whose Appy Now?*, for which he also received a Writers Guild of America nomination. Dr. Baer is a lecturer on Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a lecturer at the Yale School of Public Health. He serves on the Board of Fellows at Harvard Medical School. He is the editor of *Reshaping Human Nature: The Promise and Peril of CRISPR*, a collection of essays exploring the moral and ethical challenges posed by CRISPR technology, which will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2023. Dr. Baer graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in Political Science from Colorado College, holds masters' degrees from Harvard Graduate School of Education and from Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in Sociology, and received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School. He completed his internship in Pediatrics at Children's Hospital, Los Angeles.

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Sara J. Czaja, Ph.D., M.S.

Planning Committee Member

Sara J. Czaja is a Professor of Gerontology and the Director of the Center on Aging and Behavioral Research in the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. She is also an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine (UMMSM). Prior to joining the faculty at Weill Cornell, she was the Director of the Center on Aging at the UMMSM. Dr. Czaja is also the Director of the NIH multi-site Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement (CREATE) and Co-Director of the Center for Enhancing Neurocognitive Health, Abilities, Networks, & Community Engagement (ENHANCE), funded by NIDILRR. Her research interests include: aging and cognition, caregiving, aging and technology, aging and work, training, and functional assessment. She has received continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health and other funding agencies to support her research, and has published extensively on these topics. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA), the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, and the Gerontological Society of America. She served as the Past President of Division 20 (Adult Development and Aging) of APA, as a member of the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences Board on Human Systems Integration, as a member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on the Public Health Dimensions of Cognitive Aging and as a member of the IOM Committee on Family Caring for Older Adults. Dr. Czaja is the recipient of the 2020 M. Powell Lawton Award of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), 2015 M. Powell Lawton Distinguished Contribution Award for Applied Gerontology from the APA; the 2013 Social Impact Award for the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) and the Franklin V. Taylor Award from Division 21 of APA. She is also the recipient of the Jack A. Kraft Award for Innovation from HFES, the APA Interdisciplinary Team, and the 2019 Richard Kalish Innovative Book Publication Award (GSA) with CREATE. Dr. Czaja holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in industrial engineering from the State University of New York (SUNY) University at Buffalo.



Heather D'Angelo, Ph.D., M.H.S.

Planning Committee Member

Heather D'Angelo is a Program Director at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in the Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch within the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Prior to joining NCI, Heather was an Assistant Scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. D'Angelo's research expertise focuses on reducing cancer health disparities by understanding the role of the social, built, communication, and policy environments in influencing health behaviors related to cancer risk, especially diet, physical activity, and tobacco use. Her research interests also include using multilevel communication interventions, health behavior theory, and implementation science strategies to improve the delivery of cancer preventive interventions in healthcare settings. Dr. D'Angelo completed her post-doctoral training as an NCI Cancer Prevention Fellow. She earned her doctorate in Health Behavior from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health. She holds an M.H.S. in International Health with a concentration in Human Nutrition from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a B.S. in Biochemistry from Northeastern University.

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Jacqueline S. Dejean, D.L.P., M.A.

Invited Speaker

Jacqueline S. Dejean is an Associate Dean of Research, School of Arts and Sciences and Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University. Dr. Dejean is the creator and director of both the Visiting and Early Research Scholars' Experience Program (VERSE) providing summer research intensives for undergraduate students and the Graduate Leadership in Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Program (GLIDE), a week-long intensive with semester practicum targeting graduate students interested in learning how to create diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice change in the workplace. Dr. Dejean has more than 25 years of experience in research administration in teaching hospitals, research institutes, and in higher education settings. She is an organizational psychologist focused on institutional change and the manifestations of resistance to changes mandated by law. Dr. Dejean earned her doctor of law and policy from Northeastern University and her masters in organizational psychology from the William James College.



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

Planning Committee Member and Roundtable Vice-Chair

Ihuoma Eneli is a board certified general pediatrician and Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, Ohio. She is an Associate Director for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight. In her role as Director of Nationwide Children's Hospital Center for Healthy Weight and Nutrition (CHWN), Dr. Eneli oversees a comprehensive tertiary care pediatric obesity center with activities that include advocacy, prevention, medical weight management and adolescent bariatric surgery. Dr. Eneli also directs the Primary Care Obesity Network, which provides obesity-related training, resources and community integration for primary care practices in Central Ohio. She is actively engaged in research, has several publications and book chapters and has received funding from several sources including the National Institutes of Health. She has particular interest in intervention research for pediatric obesity. Dr. Eneli has served in different capacities on regional and national childhood obesity workgroups including the Children's Hospitals Association (CHA) Focus on a Fitter Future Group; Lead of the HRSA Region 5 National Initiative for Children Healthcare Quality Healthy Weight Collaborative team, steering committee member on the American Academy of Pediatrics Institute for Healthy Child Weight, site Lead for the PEDsNET Healthy Weight Collaborative and co-Lead for the Obesity Expert Exchange program between the AAP and CHA. Dr. Eneli received her medical degree from the University of Nigeria and completed her pediatric residency at Michigan State University where she served as Chief Resident. She also received a Master of Science degree in epidemiology and completed an NIH-K30 institutional clinical research fellowship from Michigan State University.



Michelle Ko, M.D., Ph.D.

Invited Speaker

Michelle Ko is an Associate Professor in the Division of Health Policy and Management, in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of California, Davis. Her areas of interest include the intersections of policy, healthcare, and our social structure, and particularly how structural and institutional racism shape health and healthcare systems. Her current projects have two main domains: (1) exposure to aspects of structural racism- including inequities in community violence and law enforcement over the life course, and aging and cognitive decline among African Americans; (2) systems and processes by which academic institutions, including academic medicine, produce institutional racism. Her past projects include: neighborhood socioeconomic inequities and aging, healthcare safety net systems, Medicaid long-term services and supports, and diversity, equity, and inclusion in the healthcare workforce. She holds an M.D. and a Ph.D. in health policy and management.

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Ginny Levine

Invited Speaker

Ginny Levine is the Managing Director of Marketing for the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and USTA National Campus in Orlando, FL. In this role, Ginny is responsible for helping to drive the USTA's Mission to promote and develop the growth of tennis in the U.S. Ginny oversees all B2B and B2C marketing efforts and activations to drive interest and engagement in tennis across a wide range of audiences. She particularly focused on marketing in the youth space, and developed and launched Net Generation, the new youth brand for tennis in 2017. She recently led new brand positioning for USTA to better position tennis as open for all, with the goal to democratize tennis, fuel belonging, and change industry behavior to lead with open-mindedness, inclusion and flexibility. Prior to joining the USTA, Ginny worked at several notable ad agencies where she focused on brand development, positioning and new product launches for companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Unilever, PWC, UPMC, Pfizer, GSK and Eli Lilly. She sits on the Aspen Institute's Project Play roundtable and has also worked with the Ad Council on a critical ad campaign in support of National Bullying Prevention Month, called "be more than a bystander". She lives in New York with her husband and two little boys.



Laura Lindenfeld, Ph.D.

Invited Speaker

Laura Lindenfeld is Executive Director of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science and Dean in the School of Communication & Journalism at Stony Brook University. As Dean, she oversees a faculty focused on educating journalists, public communicators, and news consumers to value and transmit information that adheres to the highest standards of clarity, accuracy, and reliability. As Alda Center Executive Director, she oversees a dynamic organization that has trained over 18,000 scientists worldwide and introduced over 40,000 to the Alda Method®. The Center provides international leadership in conducting and connecting research and practice to advance clear and vivid science and medical communication. As a communication researcher, Dr. Lindenfeld's work draws inspiration from the idea that we can make better, more informed decisions about how we shape our collective future. She is passionate about supporting scientists to communicate their work in more direct and engaging ways. Her work focuses on how we can advance meaningful, productive interactions with communities, stakeholders, and decision-makers by strengthening linkages between knowledge and action. Much of Dr. Lindenfeld's research focuses on environmental and sustainability communication. Her work seeks to understand how we can support effective stakeholder engagement and build strong interdisciplinary teams and communicate our science more effectively and persuasively. Dr. Lindenfeld's work has appeared in a range of journals such as *Science Communication*, *Ecology & Society*, *Environmental Communication*, *Sustainability Science*, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, and *Food & Foodways*. *Feasting Our Eyes. Food Films, and Cultural Identity in the United States* (2016), her co-authored book with Fabio Parasecoli, was published by Columbia University Press. She holds a Ph.D. in cultural studies from the University of California, Davis.

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Stephanie A. Navarro Silvera, Ph.D., M.S.

Planning Committee Member, Roundtable Member, and Moderator

Stephanie A. Navarro Silvera is a Professor of Public Health at Montclair State University. After earning her Bachelors in Biology from Rutgers University, Dr. Silvera went on to earn a Masters in Nutritional Sciences before working as a Nutrition Educator at the Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC) at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson, NJ. After working in that position for two years, Dr. Silvera went on to earn her doctorate in epidemiology from Yale School of Medicine, where she focused on nutritional epidemiology and cancer outcomes. 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.



Courtney P. Paolicelli, Dr.P.H., R.D.N., L.D., CDE, CHES

Planning Committee Member and Roundtable Member

Courtney P. Paolicelli is the team lead for WIC Evaluation Research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In this role, she oversees a multi-million dollar research portfolio of projects examining the impacts and operations of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. In addition to her role at USDA, Dr. Paolicelli is a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Reserve and serves on faculty at the U.S. Military-Baylor University Graduate Program in Nutrition. Dr. Paolicelli is Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Certified Health Education Specialist by training, and began her career as a WIC dietitian in San Diego, CA. She also worked in a variety of other public health and clinical settings before beginning her tenure with FNS in 2014. She received her doctorate of public health from the University of Texas-Health Science Center in 2012, and her master of public health in nutrition from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2004.



Rebecca L. Pearl, Ph.D.

Planning Committee Member and Moderator

Rebecca L. Pearl is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology and Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions. She was previously an Assistant Professor and Director of Research at the University of Pennsylvania Center for Weight and Eating Disorders, where she maintains an Adjunct appointment. Dr. Pearl is the Director of the Body Image and Stigma Laboratory, which investigates health- and appearance-related stigma and associated health outcomes. Her work explores biosocial mechanisms by which stigma affects health, as well as structural-level processes that may perpetuate or prevent stigma. Dr. Pearl's research primarily focuses on weight stigma, with a particular interest in developing interventions to reduce internalized stigma among patients with obesity. Her work has been recognized with awards from the American Psychological Association and The Obesity Society and is currently supported by a K23 Award from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Dr. Pearl received her A.B. from Duke University and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Yale University. She completed her pre-doctoral clinical internship at McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School and her post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania.

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Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D.

Invited Speaker

Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable is director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He oversees NIMHD's annual budget to advance the science of minority health and health disparities research. NIMHD conducts and supports research programs to advance knowledge and understanding of health disparities, identify mechanisms to improve minority health and reduce health disparities, and develop effective interventions to reduce health disparities in community and clinical settings. Prior to becoming NIMHD Director, Dr. Pérez-Stable was a Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He practiced primary care internal medicine for 37 years at UCSF following a panel of about 200 patients, and supervised and taught students and residents in the ambulatory care and hospital settings. His research interests have centered on improving the health of racial and ethnic minorities through effective prevention interventions, understanding underlying causes of health disparities, and advancing patient-centered care for underserved populations. Recognized as a leader in Latino health care and disparities research, Dr. Pérez-Stable spent 32 years leading research on smoking cessation and tobacco control in Latino populations in the United States and Latin America, addressing clinical and prevention issues in cancer control research, supporting early career scientists in research on minority aging in clinical and community settings, and addressing research questions on clinical conditions such as hypertension, asthma, diabetes, and dementia. Dr. Pérez-Stable earned a B.A. in chemistry and an M.D. from the University of Miami. He then completed his primary care internal medicine residency and a research fellowship in general internal medicine at UCSF before joining the faculty as an assistant professor.



Lesley Shiery, M.S., R.D.

Planning Committee Member

Lesley Shiery is a registered dietitian and Associate Manager with the General Mills Bell Institute of Health & Nutrition. Ms. Shiery has experience in clinical nutrition, public relations and immediately prior to joining General Mills, she worked in retail as a corporate dietitian for Target. In her role at General Mills, she currently provides nutrition & regulatory support to the General Mills North America Foodservice business. Prior to supporting the foodservice team, she served as the health and wellness platform lead for the cereal and yogurt operating units developing health and nutrition strategies to support nutrition renovation, innovation and message opportunities. She graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science in nutrition and dietetics and received a Master of Science degree in nutrition communication from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. Ms. Shiery completed her dietetic internship at Yale New Haven Hospital.



Stella S. Yi, Ph.D., M.P. H.

Planning Committee Member and Speaker

Stella S. Yi is Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health, Section for Health Equity at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Prior to joining the faculty at the NYU GSOM in 2014, she worked for six years at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Tobacco Control on research pertaining to and evaluation of city nutrition policies and community-based initiatives to reduce the burden of chronic disease. She is a cardiovascular epidemiologist with research focusing on community, clinical, and policy-based initiatives for the reduction of chronic disease morbidity and mortality and expertise on health disparities in Asian American and immigrant populations and community-based, collaborative research approaches. Dr. Yi has a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and an M.P.H. from the Yale School of Public Health.