

Speaker, Moderator, and Planning Committee Biographical Sketches

Going Beyond BMI: Communicating about Body Weight
A Second Workshop in the Series



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

Planning Committee Co-Chair, Roundtable Vice-Chair, and Moderator

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 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.



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

Planning Committee Member and Moderator

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 T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Boston Children's Hospital.

She was director of fellowship research training for the U.S. Maternal and Child 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 B.A. in women's studies and African-American studies from Cornell University, and her M.S. and doctorate of science in health and social behavior from the Harvard School of Public Health.



Geoff Ball, Ph.D.

Speaker

Geoff Ball is a professor and associate chair (research) in the Department of Pediatrics and the Alberta Health Services Chair in Obesity Research in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. From 2004 to 2022, he served as the founding director of the Pediatric Centre for Weight and Health, a multidisciplinary obesity management clinic at the Stollery Children's Hospital. His clinical and applied health research applies diverse methods (clinical trials, qualitative research, epidemiology, and

knowledge syntheses) to generate, evaluate, and apply new knowledge to optimize obesity management and prevention in children and families. Over the years, he has mentored numerous learners, published thousands of peer-reviewed papers, and received support from numerous funding agencies, including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, which has funded his research continuously since 2003. Dr. Ball has led multiple successful team grants and, in partnership with Obesity Canada, currently chairs a national committee of parents, clinicians, and researchers to update the Canadian clinical practice guideline for managing pediatric obesity. He received a B.Sc. in dietetics from the University of British Columbia, completed a dietetic internship with Capital Health, and obtained a Ph.D. in nutrition metabolism from the University of Alberta.



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.



Brian C. Castrucci, Ph.D., M.A.

Speaker

Brian C. Castrucci is president and chief executive officer of the de Beaumont Foundation. He has built the Foundation into a leading voice in health philanthropy and public health practice. An award-winning epidemiologist with 10 years of experience working in the health departments of Philadelphia, Texas, and Georgia, Dr. Castrucci brings a unique perspective to the philanthropic sector that allows him to shape and implement visionary and practical initiatives and partnerships and bring together research and practice to improve public health.

Dr. Castrucci holds a doctorate in public health leadership from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.A. degree in sociomedical sciences from Columbia University.



Jennie Day-Burget

Speaker

Jennie Day-Burget is senior communications officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) where she splits her time between RWJF's Healthy Communities, childhood obesity and structural racism and health message research initiatives. Previously, Jennie was vice president and managing director at Prichard, a boutique communications agency where she led the firm's work with RWJF and many of its grantees. She also led communications efforts for nonprofit and foundation clients including the Northwest Health Foundation, the Meyer Memorial Trust, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the Communications Network. She also led several media relations and public outreach initiatives in her previous role as a public information officer for the city of Portland, Oregon. Jennie earned a B.A. in

English and a B.S. in Journalism from the University of Kansas.

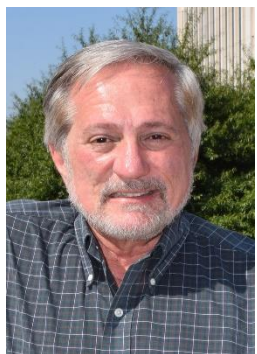


Kofi D. Essel, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP

Speaker

Kofi D. Essel is a board-certified community pediatrician at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. Dr. Essel serves as assistant professor of pediatrics, the director of the George Washington University (GWU) School of Medicine and Health Sciences Culinary Medicine Program, the Director of the GWU Community/Urban Health Scholarly Concentration, and the director of the GWU Clinical Public Health Summit on Obesity. Dr.

Essel is preparing to transition out of his current academic role to a full-time position as the food as medicine program director at Elevance Health. Dr. Essel sits on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on Obesity Solutions' Lived Experience Innovation Collaborative and was nationally recognized by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for helping to create an innovative curriculum to enhance pediatric resident trainee skills on nutrition related disease management. Dr. Essel sits on the board of directors for the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and serves as physician advisor for the Partnership for a Healthier America's "Veggies Early & Often" campaign. Dr. Essel is a member of the executive committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Obesity. He also co-authored a national toolkit for pediatric providers to address food insecurity in their clinical settings with the AAP and FRAC. Dr. Essel earned a B.S. from Emory University with a focus on human biology/anthropology, and earned his M.D. and M.P.H. in epidemiology from GWU.



W. Timothy Garvey, M.D.

Speaker

W. Timothy Garvey is professor of medicine in the Department of Nutrition Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has achieved international recognition for his research in the metabolic, molecular, and genetic pathogenesis of insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, and obesity. His studies have involved the cellular and molecular biology of cell and animal models, metabolic investigations of human subjects on metabolic research wards, and the genetic basis of diseases in Gullah-speaking African Americans, Pima Indians, and national cohorts of diabetes patients. He has brought basic technology directly to the study of human patients, and the combined approach of human physiology, genetics,

and basic cell and molecular biology has provided the laboratory with a flexible capability for hypothesis testing relevant to human disease. Dr. Garvey also has a track record of community-based research and outreach in the context of two initiatives, Project Sugar (a genetics study among Gullah-speaking African Americans) and MUSC/HBCU Partners in Wellness (a program in community health at 6 historically black colleges and universities in SC intended to challenge minority students towards careers in the health professions). He has provided service as a member of national research review committees for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, the VA Merit Review Program, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He was a standing member of the Metabolism Study Section at NIH from 1998-2002, and has chaired several ad hoc NIH study sections. Dr. Garvey currently serves on the editorial boards of *Diabetes*, and has previously served in this capacity for the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* and *Diabetes Reviews*. He is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, the Endocrine Society, and the American Diabetes Association, and the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. He obtained his M.D. degree, cum laude, from St. Louis University in 1978, and completed residency training in Internal Medicine at Barnes Hospital, Washington University, in 1981. He then was a clinical fellow in Endocrinology and Metabolism at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and University of California, San Diego School of Medicine.



J. Nadine Gracia, M.D., M.S.
Roundtable Member and Speaker

J. Nadine Gracia is president and CEO of Trust for America's Health (TFAH), a nonprofit, nonpartisan public health policy, research, and advocacy organization in Washington, DC committed to promoting optimal health for every person and community and making prevention and health equity foundational to policymaking at all levels. Dr. Gracia is a national health equity leader with extensive leadership experience in federal government, the nonprofit sector, academia, and professional associations. Before being appointed president and CEO, she served as TFAH's executive vice president and chief operating officer. Prior to joining TFAH, Dr. Gracia served in the Obama Administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health and director of the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In that capacity, she directed departmental policies and programs to end health disparities and advance health equity, and provided executive leadership on administration priorities including the Affordable Care Act and My Brother's Keeper. Previously, she served as chief medical officer in the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, where her portfolio included adolescent health, emergency preparedness, environmental health and climate change, global health, and the White House Council on Women and Girls. Prior to that role, she was appointed as a White House Fellow at HHS and worked in the Office of the First Lady on the development of the *Let's Move!* initiative to solve childhood obesity. A first-generation Haitian-American, Dr. Gracia is active in many civic, professional, and academic organizations. She serves as a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, the National Academy of Medicine Culture of Health Program Advisory Committee, the Dean's Council at the University of Maryland School of Public Health, the Board of Advisors of the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment (C-CHANGE) at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Women of Impact. Dr. Gracia received her M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, her M.S. in clinical epidemiology from University of Pennsylvania, and her B.A. in French from Stanford.



Craig M. Hales, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Planning Committee Member and Moderator

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.



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

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.



Thomas Lee, M. Sc., M.D.

Speaker

Thomas Lee is an internist who practices at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Chief Medical Officer to Press Ganey, Inc. Prior to joining Press Ganey in 2013, Dr. Lee was Network President for Partners Healthcare System, the integrated delivery system founded by Brigham and Women's and Massachusetts General Hospitals. Dr. Lee has performed research leading to more than 300 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and three books. He became a Professor at Harvard School of Public

Health in 2004. He is a member of the Editorial Board of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, the Board of Directors of Geisinger Health System, the Board of Directors of Health Leads; and the Panel of Health Advisors of the Congressional Budget Office. He received his B.A. from Harvard College (1975) and his M.D. from Cornell University Medical College (1979), and then trained in internal medicine and then cardiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He received a M.Sc. in Epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health in 1987.



Robyn Pashby, Ph.D.

Speaker

Robyn Pashby is a clinical health psychologist who specializes in the cognitive, behavioral, and emotional aspects of health behavior change. Dr. Pashby is experienced in the use of evidence-based interventions for eating and weight concerns including Interpersonal Psychotherapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Her clinical specialization is in the psychological treatment of obesity, binge eating disorder, internalized weight bias, pre- and post-bariatric surgery concerns, and anti-obesity medication use. Dr. Pashby is currently the

owner and director of DC Health Psychology, a group health psychology practice located in Washington, DC that offers telehealth therapy around the country. She also serves on the National Board of Directors of the Obesity Action Coalition. She has presented research and clinical trainings at both national and international conferences including: the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the Eating Disorders Research Society, the Obesity Action Coalition Your Weight Matters conference, the International Conference on Eating Disorders, the Health Disparities and Social Justice Conference, and the Annual Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance National Conference. She previously served as the assistant director and senior psychologist for the National Center for Weight and Wellness and as a consulting psychologist at the George Washington University Weight Management Program. She was previously on the board of the Washington, DC Psychological Association and as an advisory board member for the Making Our Vitality Evident (MOVE) program at the Mautner Project in Washington, DC designed to support sexual minority women in making health behavior change to reduce obesity. Dr. Pashby earned her Ph.D. in both medical and clinical psychology from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), F. Edward Hebert Medical School. She completed her post-doctoral training at the Washington, DC Veterans Hospital and her post-doctoral Fellowship in the Eating Behavior Lab at USUHS.



Tracy Richmond, M.D., M.P.H.

Speaker

Tracy Richmond is director of the Boston Children's Hospital Eating Disorders Program and the STEP program, a multi-disciplinary program focused on the wellness of youth with elevated BMIs, many of whom have disordered eating. Dr. Richmond is a clinician researcher trained in pediatrics and adolescent Medicine and social epidemiology (through the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program) with 20 years' experience conducting weight- and eating disorder-related research while also providing care to a diverse

population of adolescents. In addition to providing primary and subspecialty reproductive endocrinology care, she provides care to patients struggling with issues across the weight spectrum. In her own practice, she treats patients with the full spectrum of weight-related issues from youth with higher weights to those with restrictive eating disorders. She serves as the research director of the National Eating Disorder Quality Improvement Collaborative, a group of 20+ academic adolescent medicine programs focused on improving the care of patients with eating disorders and co-chaired the International Consortium on Health Outcome Measurement's Eating Disorder Outcomes set development. Dr. Richmond earned her M.P.H. from the University of Michigan and her M.D. from the Medical School at the University of Cincinnati and completed her residency in pediatrics at the University of Michigan.



Francesco Rubino, M.D.

Speaker

Francesco Rubino is a leading, internationally-renowned bariatric surgeon and a pioneer in the field of metabolic weight loss treatment and surgery, based in London. Dr. Rubino became chief of gastrointestinal metabolic surgery and director of the Diabetes Surgery Centre at Weill Cornell Medical College. At the same time, he was an attending surgeon at New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York. Originally, Dr. Rubino trained in Rome, Italy, at the Catholic University Hospital doing his residence in general surgery and receiving his

M.D. His surgery training was furthered during his Fellowship in laproscopic and minimally invasive surgery at The European Institute of Telesurgery in Strasbourg, France, Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, and Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Rubino has transformed bariatrics from weight-loss therapy to a surgical treatment for multiple metabolic conditions. He received his M.D. and completed his residency in general surgery at the Catholic University in Rome, Italy.



Natalie Slopen, Sc.D.

Speaker

Natalie Slopen is assistant professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and an affiliated faculty member at the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. With over a decade of experience as a social epidemiologist, Dr. Slopen is a recognized expert on topics related to the social and environmental determinants of children's health and health disparities. Dr. Slopen leads an interdisciplinary research program focused on the early life origins of racial/ethnic and

socioeconomic health disparities, with an emphasis on social and structural determinants of health that can be targeted by social policies to advance health equity. She has published her work in peer-reviewed journals on topics related to neighborhoods, housing, economic strain, and traumatic experiences, including empirical studies and systematic review articles. In 2019, Dr. Slopen served on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee that produced *Vibrant and Healthy Kids: Aligning Science, Practice, and Policy to Advance Health Equity*. She earned her B.Sc. in psychology from the University of Toronto, a M.A. of social sciences from the University of Chicago, and a Sc.D. in social epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Martin Wilkinson, M.A., D.Phil.

Speaker

Martin Wilkinson is professor of politics and international relations at the University of Auckland. There, Dr. Wilkinson teaches and writes on political theory and public health ethics. He was a senior lecturer and then associate professor in the university's School of Population Health from 2003 to 2009, chair of New Zealand's Bioethics Council and Deputy Chair of the National Ethics Advisory Committee (two ministerial advisory committees) from 2002 to 2016, and a member of Ministry of Health Expert Advisory Groups. He now serves

on the Auckland Hospital Clinical Ethics committee. Dr. Wilkinson received his undergraduate and doctoral degrees from Oxford University.