

# *The National Academies of* SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

Food and Nutrition Board

## **Integrating Systems and Sectors Toward Obesity Solutions: Part 2** Speaker and Moderator Biographical Sketches



**Steven Allender, Ph.D.**

*Deakin University*

***Invited Speaker***

Steven Allender is Professor of Public Health and founding Director of the Global Obesity Centre (GLOBE) at Deakin University, a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention since 2003. Dr. Allender has an ongoing program of research on solving complex problems with a focus on the burden of chronic disease and obesity prevention. Recent work has seen a particular interest in the burden of chronic disease, malnutrition and climate change in developed and developing countries and the possibilities for using complex systems approaches for community-based intervention. Dr. Allender leads two NHMRC Partnership grants on community-based childhood obesity strategies and is a lead investigator for the Centre of Research Excellence in Food Retail Environments for Health, the European Union Horizon 2020 Co-Create grant for healthier policy in Europe and a named researcher for the Australian Prevention Partnership Centre. Dr. Allender has received lead investigator funding from bodies including the US National Institutes of Health, National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Heart Foundation, VicHealth, the British Heart Foundation, the Western Alliance, European Heart Foundation and the European Union. The GLOBE team supports efforts to improve health in over 30 countries world-wide and work directly with the WHO to achieve these aims. Dr. Allender holds a Ph.D. from the University of Ballarat.



**Sara N. Bleich, Ph.D.**

*Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*

***Planning Committee Member, Moderator, and Roundtable on Obesity Solutions Member***

Sara N. Bleich is Professor of Public Health Policy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in the Department of Health Policy and Management. She is also the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and a member of the faculty at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Her research provides evidence to support policy alternatives for obesity prevention and control, particularly among populations at higher risk for obesity. A signature theme throughout her work is an interest in asking simple, meaningful questions about the complex problem of obesity, which can fill important gaps in the literature. Dr. Bleich is the past recipient of multiple awards including one for excellence in public interest communication from the Frank Conference. Sara was recently appointed as a White House Fellow (2015-2016) where she was a Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the First Lady's Let's Move initiative. She holds a B.A. in psychology from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in health policy from Harvard University.

# *The National Academies of* SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

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**Giselle Corbie-Smith, M.D., M.Sc.**

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

***Planning Committee Member and Moderator***

Giselle Corbie-Smith is Kenan Distinguished Professor, Departments of Social Medicine and Medicine and Director, Center for Health Equity Research at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Dr.

Corbie-Smith has served as the Principal Investigator of several community-based participatory research projects focused on disease risk reduction among rural racial and ethnic minorities. These projects have included funding through the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities, the National Institute of Nursing Research, Greenwall Foundation, and the National Human Genome Research Institute. Dr. Corbie-Smith is accomplished in drawing communities, faculty, and health care providers into working partnerships in clinical and translational research. This engagement ultimately transforms the way that academic investigators and community members interact while boosting public trust in research. She has also shown a deep commitment to working in North Carolina by bringing research to communities, involving community members as partners in research, and improving health of minority populations and underserved areas. In 2013, she established and became Director of the UNC Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) to bring together collaborative multidisciplinary teams of scholars, trainees, and community members to improve North Carolina communities' health through shared commitment to innovation, collaboration, and health equity. Dr. Corbie-Smith is currently the Co-PI for RWJF's Advancing Change Leadership Clinical Scholars Program, which provides intensive learning, collaboration, networking, and leadership development to seasoned clinicians to create a community of practitioners promoting health equity across the country. She recently served as the President of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM). In 2018, she was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Corbie-Smith earned her M.D. from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and M.Sc. in clinical research from Emory University.

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

*Weill Cornell Medicine*

***Planning Committee Member and Moderator***

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 C-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 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.



**Kayla de la Haye, Ph.D.**

*University of Southern California*

***Invited Speaker***

Kayla de la Haye is an Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine at the University of Southern California. She works to promote health and prevent disease 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 to promote healthy eating and prevent childhood obesity. She also studies the role of social networks and systems in group problem solving in families, teams, and coalitions. She is Treasurer 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.

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**Ana Diez Roux, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.**

*Drexel University*

***Invited Speaker***

Ana Diez Roux, is Dean and Distinguished University Professor of Epidemiology in the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University. Originally trained as a pediatrician in her native Buenos Aires, she completed public health training at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. Before joining Drexel University, she served on the faculties of Columbia University and the University of Michigan, where she was Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Director of the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Dr. Diez Roux is internationally known for her research on the social determinants of population health and the study of how neighborhoods affect health. Her work on neighborhood health effects has been highly influential in the policy debate on population health and its determinants. Her research areas include social epidemiology and health disparities, environmental health effects, urban health, psychosocial factors in health, cardiovascular disease epidemiology, and the use of multilevel methods. Recent areas of work include social environment-gene interactions and the use of complex systems approaches in population health. She has led large NIH and foundation funded research and training programs in the United States and in collaboration with various institutions in Latin America and has been Principal Investigator of grants totaling more than 30 million US dollars. She has been a member of the MacArthur Network on Socioeconomic Factors and Health and was Co-Director of the Network on Inequality, Complexity and Health. Dr. Diez Roux earned her M.D. from the University of Buenos Aires, and holds a Ph.D. and M.P.H. from The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

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**Christina (Chris) Economos, Ph.D., M.S.**

*Tufts University*

***Planning Committee Co-Chair and Vice Chair, Roundtable on Obesity Solutions***

Chris Economos is a Professor, the New Balance Chair in Childhood Nutrition, 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.



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

*Nationwide Children's Hospital*

***Moderator and Vice Chair, Roundtable on Obesity Solutions***

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 the 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 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.

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Food and Nutrition Board



**Chandra Ford, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

*University of California, Los Angeles*

***Invited Speaker***

Chandra Ford is Associate Professor of Community Health Sciences and Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Health. Prior to joining UCLA, she completed postdoctoral training in Social Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, where she was a W. K. Kellogg Foundation Kellogg Health Scholar. Overall, Dr. Ford's research: (1) examines relationships between racism-related factors and disparities in the HIV care continuum; and, (2) advances the conceptual and methodological tools for studying racism's relationship to health disparities. She serves the profession widely. In 2016, she was named to the National Academy of Medicine *Committee on Community-based Solutions to Promote Health Equity in the United States* of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, and appointed co-chair of the Committee on Science of the American Public Health Association's newly formed Anti-Racism Collaborative. Previously, she served as President of the *Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues*. Currently, she is a member of the Minority Affairs Committee of the American College of Epidemiology and Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA. Dr. Ford holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, and an M.P.H. from the University of Pittsburgh.



**Leah Frerichs, Ph.D., M.S.**

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

***Invited Speaker***

Leah Frerichs is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Frerichs is a public health researcher and practitioner with expertise in community-based participatory and systems science research. Her research involves community-based program planning, evaluation, and research with diverse communities including American Indian, Latino, and African American populations. She integrates engaged and participatory research approaches with systems science methods in order to address health issues in underserved communities. She uses visual diagramming and facilitated interactions with computer models to (1) improve our understanding of complex dynamics influencing health problems of interest and (2) improve the implementation and dissemination of optimal combinations of interventions and policies. Dr. Frerichs hold a Ph.D. in health promotion and disease prevention research from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and an M.S. in community and behavioral health from the University of Iowa.



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Food and Nutrition Board



**Eric Hekler, Ph.D., M.S.**

*University of California, San Diego*

***Invited Speaker***

Eric Hekler is the Director of the Center for Wireless & Population Health Systems (CWPHS) within the Qualcomm Institute at University of California, San Diego (UCSD), an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine & Public Health at UCSD, and faculty member of the Design Lab at UCSD. Dr. Hekler is a transdisciplinary researcher, educator, and practitioner as his work is at the intersection of clinical health psychology (original training), human-centered design, public health (my primary affiliation), and control systems engineering. There are three interdependent themes to his research. 1) advancing methods for optimizing adaptive behavioral interventions; 2) advancing methods and processes to help people help themselves; and 3) research pipelines to achieve efficient, rigorous, context-relevant solutions for complex problems. A central guiding them for his work is to contribute to a form of applied science that facilitates equitable participation, contribution, and benefit, with technology being used, when appropriate, to support this broader effort. He has over 120 publications that span the many disciplines he contributes to and has active federal and foundation funding, including as an R01-funded NIH PI researcher. He is recognized internationally as an expert in the area of digital health. Dr. Hekler earned an M.S. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Rutgers University.



**Erin Hennessy, Ph.D., M.S., M.P.H.**

*Tufts University*

***Invited Speaker***

Erin Hennessy is an Assistant Professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy within the Division of Nutrition Communications and Behavior Change. Through her research, Dr. Hennessy works with the ChildObesity180 initiative to advance their mission and impact of scaling evidence-based obesity preventions strategies nationwide. Dr. Hennessy is committed to working with diverse communities to promote health through better nutrition and physical activity, and training the next generation of leaders and engaged citizens. To this end, she leads an active research portfolio including an \$8.5 million award to test and evaluate the use of telehealth innovations in delivery of USDA's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and, co-leads a \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, in partnership with the New York Road Runners organization, to create and implement a multilevel intervention to support physical literacy at school and home. A methodologist at heart, Dr. Hennessy's research has a strong foundation in developing innovative dietary assessment techniques, utilizing qualitative, participatory methods such as PhotoVOICE and Group Model Building, and integrating novel approaches such as agent-based modeling and social network analysis to advance community obesity prevention interventions. Dr. Hennessy earned a Ph.D. in food policy and applied nutrition and M.S. in nutrition communication from the Friedman School; an M.P.H. from Tufts University School of Medicine; and, a B.S. in biology and certificate in community health from Tufts University.

# *The National Academies of* SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

Food and Nutrition Board



**John Jakicic, Ph.D., M.S., FACS**

*University of Pittsburgh*

***Invited Speaker and Roundtable on Obesity Solutions Member***

John Jakicic is the director of the Healthy Lifestyle Institute and chair of the Department of Health and Physical Activity at the University of Pittsburgh. Considered a leading authority on the benefits of physical activity for weight management, he has more than 230 peer-reviewed publications and has given more than 200 invited presentations. Dr. Jakicic has been an American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) member for more than 30 years, serving on the ACSM Board of Trustees, multiple committees and as associate editor for *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*®. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of ACSM. Dr. Jakicic holds a Ph.D. in exercise physiology from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.S. in exercise science from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.



**Matt Kasman, Ph.D., M.A.**

*Brookings Institution*

***Invited Speaker***

Matt Kasman is the Assistant Research Director at the Brookings Institution Center on Social Dynamics and Policy. He has extensive experience applying systems science approaches to study the impact of public health and educational policy and practice. He has recently engaged in research related to: whole-of-community childhood obesity prevention interventions, tobacco retail control, racial disparities in exposure to HIV, access to physical activity, maternal and childhood consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, food preference formation, college affirmative action, subsidized college tuition, school choice and student assignment algorithms, and financial literacy. Dr. Kasman is currently a Fellow with *The Lancet* Commission on Obesity and an instructor at the Washington University Systems Science for Social Impact Summer Training Institute. He received his undergraduate degree in computer science from Boston University and, after working for software startups that were sold to Microsoft, Google, and Blackbaud, obtained a masters in politics and education from Columbia University. He received his doctorate in educational policy at Stanford University in 2014.



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**Shiriki K. Kumanyika, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.S.W.**

*University of California, San Diego*

***Moderator and Chair, Food and Nutrition Board***

Shiriki K. Kumanyika is Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, and Research Professor in the Department of Community Health & Prevention at the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University. Dr. Kumanyika has a unique interdisciplinary background that integrates epidemiology, nutrition, social work and public health methods and perspectives. The main themes in her research concern prevention and control of obesity and other diet-related risk factors and chronic diseases, with a particular focus on reducing the prevalence and health burdens of obesity in black communities. Dr. Kumanyika founded and chairs the Council on Black Health (formerly the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network (AACORN)), a national network of academic scholars and community research partners who generate and translate research on nutrition, physical activity, and weight issues in African American children and adults, which now has its national office at the Dornsife School. Dr. Kumanyika is a Past President of the American Public Health Association and has served in numerous advisory roles related to public health research and policy in the U.S. and abroad. She is currently co-chair of the Policy & Prevention Section of the World Obesity Federation, a member of the Lancet Commission on Obesity, and a nutrition advisor to the World Health Organization. Dr. Kumanyika has served on the Food and Nutrition Board and a number of National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine study committees, such as the Committee for Prevention of Obesity in Children and Youth (member), the Committee on Progress in Preventing Childhood Obesity (as a volunteer consultant), the Committee on an Evidence Framework for Obesity Prevention Decision Making (chair), and the Committee on Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention (member). Dr. Kumanyika also chaired the Standing Committee on Childhood Obesity Prevention from 2009 until its retirement in 2013. She is currently the Chair of the Food and Nutrition Board. Dr. Kumanyika received her M.S in social work from Columbia University, Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, and Ph.D. in human nutrition from Cornell University. She is a member of the NAM.

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Food and Nutrition Board



**Tiffany Powell-Wiley, M.D., M.P.H**

*National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health*

***Invited Speaker***

Tiffany Powell-Wiley is an Earl Stadtman Tenure-Track Investigator at the National Institutes of Health with a joint appointment in the Cardiovascular Branch of the Division of Intramural Research at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the Intramural Research Program of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Dr. Powell-Wiley is chief of the Social Determinants of Obesity and Cardiovascular Risk Laboratory, which is currently focused on three main research goals as they work to improve cardiometabolic health in high-risk communities in Washington, D.C. Their first goal is to delineate mechanisms by which neighborhood environment influences the development of obesity, diabetes, and other markers of cardiometabolic risk. Their second goal is to identify methods for incorporating mobile health technology to address behaviors associated with poor cardiometabolic health in resource-limited environments. The research group's final goal is to identify and characterize physiologic pathways influenced by the chronic stress that comes from living in adverse neighborhood conditions, ultimately elucidating pathways linked to cardiometabolic risk phenotypes and most responsive to targeted health behavior interventions. This research program is designed to leverage community-based participatory research principles, epidemiologic methods, and translational approaches to harness emerging technologies in improving the cardiometabolic health of at-risk, underserved communities most impacted by health disparities. Dr. Powell-Wiley graduated from Duke University School of Medicine and completed her M.P.H. with a concentration in Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

# *The National Academies of* SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

Food and Nutrition Board



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

*HealthPartners Institute and HealthPartners, Inc.*

***Planning Committee Co-Chair and Chair, 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 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 Science, 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.

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Food and Nutrition Board



**Bonnie Spring, Ph.D.**

*Northwestern University*

***Invited Speaker***

Bonnie Spring is Professor of Preventive Medicine, Psychology, Psychiatry, and Public Health at Northwestern University and Director of its Center for Behavior and Health - Institute for Public Health and Medicine, Team Science Director for NUCATS, Northwestern's CTSI, and Program Co-Leader for Cancer Prevention at the Robert Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. She studies technology-supported interventions to promote healthy change in multiple chronic disease risk behaviors (particularly poor quality diet, overeating, physical inactivity, and smoking) in research that has been funded continuously for more than 30 years. Ongoing mHealth trials involve the use of wearable sensors to predict and pre-empt relapse to smoking, optimize treatment for obesity, and prevent loss of cardiovascular health among college students. A past president of the Society for Behavioral Medicine (SBM), Dr. Spring received SBM's Distinguished Research Mentor, Research to Practice Translation, Outstanding Optimization Research, and Distinguished Leadership awards, and is founding editor of its journal, *Translational Behavioral Medicine: Practice, Policy, Research*. A winner of The Obesity Society's e-Health Pioneer Award and past chair of the American Heart Association's Behavior Change Committee, she is immediate past chair of the NIH Psychosocial Risk and Disease Prevention standing study section. A past chair of the American Psychological Association's (APA's) Board of Scientific Affairs, she is recipient of an APA Presidential Citation for Innovative Research and Leadership in Health Psychology and Vision in Incorporating Technology into Practice and Training. Her NIH-funded science of team science ([www.teamscience.net](http://www.teamscience.net)) and evidence-based practice ([www.ebbp.org](http://www.ebbp.org)) open access learning modules have been used by more than 50,000 learners worldwide. Dr. Spring earned her Ph.D. from Harvard University.