

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

Food and Nutrition Board

## **Systems and Obesity: Advances and Innovations for Equitable Health and Well-Being**

### **A Third Workshop in the Series**

Speaker, Moderator, and Planning Committee Biographical Sketches



**Jamy D. Ard, M.D.**

*Wake Forest Baptist Health*

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

Jamy D. Ard is a Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Prevention and the Department of Medicine at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. He is also co-director of the Wake Forest Baptist Health Weight Management Center, directing medical weight management programs.

Following completion of his residency training, he was selected to serve as a chief resident in internal medicine at Duke. He also received formal training in clinical research as a fellow at the Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care at the Durham VA Medical Center. During this time, he participated in a focused research experience on lifestyle interventions for hypertension and obesity at the Duke Hypertension Center. Dr. Ard's research interests include clinical management of obesity and strategies to improve cardiometabolic risk using lifestyle modification. In particular, his work has focused on developing and testing medical strategies for the treatment of obesity in special populations, including African Americans, those with type 2 diabetes and older adults. Dr. Ard has participated in several major NIH funded multi-center trials including Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH), DASH-sodium, PREMIER, and Weight Loss Maintenance Trial. He has been conducting research on lifestyle modification since 1995 and has received research funding from a variety of federal and foundation sources, including the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. His work has been published in numerous scientific journals and he has been a featured presenter at several national and international conferences and workshops dealing with obesity. Dr. Ard has more than 20 years of experience in clinical nutrition and obesity. Prior to joining the faculty at Wake Forest in 2012, Dr. Ard spent nine years at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the Department of Nutrition Sciences. Dr. Ard has served on several expert panels and guideline development committees, including the Institute of Medicine Committee on Consequences of Sodium Reduction in Populations, the AHA/ACC/TOS Guideline Panel on the Identification, Evaluation, and Treatment of Overweight and Obesity in Adults, and the American Psychological Association Obesity Guideline Development Panel. He is also serving on the editorial board for the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* and the *International Journal of Obesity*. Dr. Ard is an NAM member. He received an M.D. and completed internal medicine residency training at the Duke University Medical Center.

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**Captain Heidi M. Blanck, Ph.D., M.S.**

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

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

Captain Heidi M. Blanck is a United States Public Health Service Officer and serves as Chief of the Obesity Branch in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Captain Blanck oversees CDC's monitoring of state/territory/tribal obesity prevalence and key nutrition policies, environments, and behaviors. Staff in the branch conduct surveillance, applied research, guidelines development and technical assistance for implementation of standards for early care and education and food service venues including worksites and Healthy Hospitals. Staff also work with partners to accelerate the use of electronic health records for obesity reporting and increased access of pediatric weight management programs for low-income families. She has over 18 years of CDC experience and has authored over 120 papers and reports in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, obesity and environmental exposures. Dr. Blanck steered the creation of Healthy People 2020 objectives for healthier nutrition options and led the creation of CDC's Childhood Obesity Research Demonstrations. She is the Senior Advisor to the agency's Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network of researchers and practitioners (NOPREN; [www.nopren.org](http://www.nopren.org)) and member of the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research ([www.NCCOR.org](http://www.NCCOR.org)) with partners the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institutes of Health, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Blanck received her Master of Science from the University of Michigan and her Ph.D. from Emory University where she serves as adjunct professor.



**Sara Bleich, Ph.D.**

*Office of the Secretary of USDA*

***Invited Speaker***

Sara Bleich is the Senior Advisor for COVID in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). She is a policy expert and researcher who specializes in diet-related diseases, food insecurity and racial inequality. She previously served as a professor of public health policy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Kennedy School of Government, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Dr. Bleich was also a White House fellow toward the end of the Obama administration, where she worked at USDA as a senior policy adviser for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services and with the First Lady Michelle Obama'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.

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**Jamie Bussel, M.P.H.**

*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

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

Jamie Bussel is a Senior Program Officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is deeply committed to discovering, learning, and exploring cutting edge ideas with the potential to help build a culture of health and ensure that all children and families have what they need to thrive. She currently serves as the lead on the Foundation's efforts to prevent childhood obesity. Through her programming, Ms. Bussel helps foster multidisciplinary partnerships and systems-level change strategies to transform the health of people and places. A strong believer in the impact of our physical, social, and educational environments on health, she hopes that her work will contribute to a healthier future for all our children. Ms. Bussel received a B.A. in English literature from the University of Michigan, and an M.P.H. in behavioral sciences/health education from Rutgers University School of Public Health.



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

*Rutgers University*

***Planning Committee Member***

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 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.

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

*Oregon Health and Science University*

*Portland State University School of Public Health*

***Planning Committee Member and Moderator***

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 on the board of directors for American Council on Exercise, American College of Sports Medicine, Oregon Health Policy Board, Oregon Public Health Institute, and on the National Advisory Council of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Active Living Research. Dr. Crespo currently serves on 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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**William (Bill) H. Dietz, M.D., Ph.D.**

*The George Washington University*

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

Bill Dietz is a consultant to the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions and Chair of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center on Prevention and Wellness at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University. He was director of the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity in the Center for Chronic Disease

Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 1997-2012. Prior to his appointment to the CDC, he was a professor of pediatrics at the Tuft's University School of Medicine, and director of clinical nutrition at the Floating Hospital of New England Medical Center Hospitals. Dr. Dietz has been a counselor and past president of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, and past president of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. From 2001-2003 he served as a member of the Advisory Board to the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism, and Diabetes of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. In 2000, Dr. Dietz received the William G. Anderson Award from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and was recognized for excellence in his work and advocacy by the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors. In 2002, he was made an honorary member of the American Dietetic Association, and received the Holroyd-Sherry award for his outstanding contributions to the field of children, adolescents and the media. In 2005, Dr. Dietz received the George Bray Founders Award from the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. In 2006, he received the Nutrition Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for outstanding research related to nutrition of infants and children. In 2008 Dr. Dietz received the Oded Bar-Or award from the Obesity Society for excellence in pediatric obesity research. In 2012, he received a Special Recognition Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics Provisional Section on Obesity, and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Dietz is the author of over 200 publications in the scientific literature, and the editor of five books, including *Clinical Obesity in Adults and Children*, and *Nutrition: What Every Parent Needs to Know*. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Dietz received his B.A. from Wesleyan University in 1966 and his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1970. After the completion of his residency at Upstate Medical Center, he received a Ph.D. in nutritional biochemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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**Rachel D. Godsil, J.D.**

*Perception Institute*

***Invited Speaker***

Rachel Godsil is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Perception Institute and a Distinguished Professor of Law and Chancellor's Scholar at Rutgers Law School. She collaborates with social scientists on empirical research to identify the efficacy of interventions to address implicit bias, racial anxiety, and stereotype threat. She regularly leads workshops and presentations addressing the role of bias and anxiety associated with race, ethnicity, religion, and gender, focusing on education, criminal justice, health care, and the workplace. Ms. Godsil is on the advisory boards for Research, Integration, Strategies, and Evaluation (RISE) for Boys and Men of Color at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education, The Systemic Justice Project at Harvard Law School, and the Poverty and Race Research Action Council. Her teaching and research interests include civil rights, constitutional law, property, land use, environmental justice, and education. Her recent property work focuses on gentrification, the mortgage crisis and eminent domain, as well as the intersection of race, poverty, and land use decisions. Rachel served as Chair of the New York City Rent Guidelines Board in 2014 and 2015. After serving as the convener for the Obama campaign's Urban and Metropolitan Policy Committee and an advisor to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) transition team, Ms. Godsil co-directed a report to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan entitled "Retooling HUD for a Catalytic Federal Government." During law school, Ms. Godsil served as the Executive Article Editor of the Michigan Law Review, was awarded the Henry M. Bates Memorial Award, and elected to the Order of the Coif. After graduation, she clerked for John M. Walker of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Godsil was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. She was an Associate Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, focusing on environmental justice, as well as an associate with Berle, Kass & Case and Arnold & Porter in New York City. Previously, Ms. Godsil was Eleanor Bontecou Professor of Law at Seton Hall University Law School. She joined the School of Law in 2000 and was recognized for her teaching by being nominated for Professor of the Year in 2011, 2002 and 2003. In 2003-2004, she was awarded the Researcher of the Year in Law by Seton Hall University. During fall of 2007, Ms. Godsil was a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and she taught property at New York University Law School in spring 2009. She received a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

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**Kimberly Gudzone, M.D., M.P.H., F.T.O.S.**

*Johns Hopkins School of Medicine*

***Invited Speaker***

Kimberly Gudzone is board certified in internal medicine and obesity medicine. She is the Medical Director of the American Board of Obesity Medicine. At Johns Hopkins, she directs the Healthful Eating, Activity & Weight Program, which offers comprehensive services to support weight loss and manage chronic disease. Dr. Gudzone was recognized as a "Top Weight Management Doctor" by Baltimore Magazine in 2019, 2020 and 2021. Dr. Gudzone is also an active researcher. Her work focuses on obesity, specifically how obesity influences the healthcare experience, the efficacy of commercial weight-loss programs, and how features of the built and social environment influence diet and exercise habits among low-income urban populations. Her research has been featured in The New York Times and on National Public Radio. Dr. Gudzone attended Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she received her doctor of medicine and master of public health degrees. She completed her training in internal medicine at the University of Maryland Medical System. After residency, Dr. Gudzone engaged in additional weight management training and completed a clinical research fellowship within the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.



**Peter S. Hovmand, Ph.D., M.S.W.**

*Case Western Reserve University*

***Invited Speaker***

Peter S. Hovmand is Pamela B. Davis M.D. Ph.D. Professor of Medicine at the Center for Community Health Integration, Professor of General Medical Sciences in the School of Medicine, Professor of Biomedical Engineering in the Case School of Engineering, and Professor, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Prior to joining the Center for Community Health Integration, Dr. Hovmand founded and led the Brown School's Social System Design Lab at Washington University in St. Louis. Their research focuses on advancing methods for understanding and preventing structural violence with a specific emphasis on advancing knowledge on multilevel feedback systems. Over the last 25 years, their work has focused on innovations in applying system dynamics group model building and formal modeling with computer simulations to understand the structures underlying gender inequality, structural racism, and more broadly, social determinants of health across a variety of outcomes, from pediatric obesity and interpersonal violence to household air pollution and cancer. Dr. Hovmand is the author of *Community Based System Dynamics*, led the creation of Scriptapedia as a knowledge commons of group model building scripts, co-founded/co-led the System Dynamics Society's Diversity Committee and Structural Racism Special Interest Group, and serves as an Associate Editor for *System Dynamics Review*. They have a degree in electrical engineering and mathematics with a M.S.W. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University in interdisciplinary social sciences in social work and community ecological psychology and cognate in women's studies/feminist philosophy.

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

*Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health*

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

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 health burdens in black communities. Dr. Kumanyika is the founding chair of the Council on Black Health (formerly the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network (AACORN)), a national network hosted by Drexel, that seeks to develop and promote solutions that achieve healthy Black communities. She 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. Dr. Kumanyika chaired the Standing Committee on obesity from 2009 until its retirement in 2013. She currently chairs the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's 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.



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

*City University of New York City*

***Invited Speaker***

Bruce Y. Lee is Professor of Health Policy and Management at the City University of New York School of Public Health where he is the Executive Director of PHICOR (Public Health Computational and Operations Research), which he founded in 2007, and a Professor by Courtesy at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. He is a systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, writer, and health journalist. He has over two decades experience in industry and academia developing mathematical and computational models to assist a wide range of decision makers in health and public health. His previous positions include serving as Associate Professor of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Executive Director of the Global Obesity Prevention Center, Director of Operations Research at the International Vaccine Access Center, Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, Senior Manager at Quintiles Transnational, working in biotechnology equity research at Montgomery Securities, and co-founding two companies. He has been the Principal Investigator for projects supported by a variety of organizations and agencies including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Global Fund and USAID. He also has served as a systems science and modeling expert for numerous advisory boards and committees such as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee to evaluate the Dietary Guidelines of America process. Dr. Lee has authored over 200 scientific publications (including over 100 first author and over 65 last author) nearly all of which have

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focused of systems science and using systems methods as well as three books. 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.



**Ryan K. Masters, Ph.D.**

*University of Colorado Boulder*

***Invited Speaker***

Ryan K. Masters is Assistant Professor of sociology and Faculty Associate of the Population Program and the Health and Society Program at the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado Boulder. His interests include the examination of long-term trends in U.S. morbidity; chronic diseases; and mortality rates, including the health consequences of the U.S. obesity epidemic, especially as it relates to premature mortality among the U.S. adult population. Dr. Masters has been involved in advancing and testing new methodological approaches to studying period-based factors, such as health-promoting policies and new medical technologies, and cohort-based factors, such as early-life disease exposure, related to adult health. He holds a Ph.D. in sociology and demography from the University of Texas at Austin.



**Joseph (Joe) Nadglowski**

*Obesity Action Coalition*

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

Joe Nadglowski is President and CEO of the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) – a non-profit organization formed in 2005 dedicated to elevating and empowering those affected by obesity through education, advocacy and support. A frequent speaker and author, Mr. Nadglowski is especially passionate about access to obesity treatments and tackling weight bias as well as sharing his own experiences with obesity. He has more than 20 years of experience working in patient advocacy, public policy, and education and is a graduate of the University of Florida.

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**Megan Nechanicky, M.S., R.D.**

*General Mills*

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

Megan Nechanicky is currently the Nutrition Manager for General Mills North America Retail where she provides strategic direction for business and research and development partners related to health and wellness. She also works externally with government, trade associations and academic institutions to positively position General Mills for future growth. In 2017, Ms. Nechanicky completed a 6-month international assignment in the General Mills Nyon, Switzerland office where she gained experience living and working within the Europe and Australian Region to build and advance nutrition science, research, and communications. When Ms. Nechanicky first joined General Mills in 2014, she led health influencer communications for some of General Mills largest brands including Cheerios, Fiber One, and Nature Valley. In this role, she delivered cutting-edge science, consumer trends, and new product development and marketing to health influencers such as dietitians, physicians, nurses, and fitness professionals. Prior to General Mills, Megan was the first dietitian to work at the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. In her role, Ms. Nechanicky led nutrition and physical activity-related initiatives and events. She was also responsible for the Department of Health and Human Services coordination of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative to end childhood obesity within a generation. Ms. Nechanicky served on the Federal steering committee to develop the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Physical Activity Guidelines Midcourse Report and coordinated the communications strategy and report launch in 2013. Megan is a Registered Dietitian and holds a bachelor's degree in food marketing from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a dual master's degree in exercise physiology and nutrition from San Diego State University.



**Angela M. Odoms-Young, Ph.D.**

*Cornell University*

***Planning Committee Co-Chair and Moderator***

Angela Odoms-Young is an Associate Professor and Director of the Food and Nutrition Education in Communities Program (FNEC) and New York State Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) at Cornell University. In 2021 she joined the Cornell faculty after spending 13 years at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition. 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 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

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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.



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

*HealthPartners Institute and HealthPartners, Inc.*

***Planning Committee Co-Chair 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 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 postdoctoral 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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**Amelie G. Ramirez, Dr.P.H., M.P.H.**

*Salud America!*

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

Amelie G. Ramirez is Director of Salud America! and a Professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where she also is founding director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research and associate director of cancer prevention and health disparities at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center. Over the past 30 years, Ramirez has conducted communications research and behavioral interventions that have made tremendous strides to reduce cancer and chronic disease, increase screening rates and clinical trial accrual, and improve healthy lifestyles among U.S. Latinos. She directs Salud America! The RWJF National Research Network to Prevent Obesity Among Latino Children, which is building an evidence base, creating bilingual multimedia content, developing the field of researchers, and empowering communities to reverse the obesity epidemic among Latino children. In 2014, Salud America! launched a new website to give people policy information, resources, and role-model stories to spur healthy change: <http://www.communitycommons.org/salud-america/>. She has been recognized for her work to improve Latino health and advance Latinos in health, including: 2014 Making a Difference Award from Latinas Contra Cancer; 2011 White House “Champion of Change”; and 2007 election to the National Academy of Medicine. She is a member of the board of directors or the scientific advisory board for Susan G. Komen, the Lance Armstrong Foundation, C-Change, and others. She is a member of the San Antonio Mayor’s Fitness Council, which has overseen implementation of healthy lifestyle programs that have lowered local obesity rates. She earned her doctorate and Master of Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science Center.



**Somava Saha, M.D., M.S.**

*Well Being in the Nation (WIN) Network*

***Invited Speaker***

Somava Saha (Soma Stout) is the Executive Lead of the Well Being in the Nation (WIN) Network. She has dedicated her career to improving health, well-being, and equity through the development of thriving people, organizations, and communities. She has worked as a primary care internist and pediatrician in the safety net and a global public health practitioner for over 20 years. She and her team led the process to develop the Well-Being In the Nation measures in partnership with the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics. Previously, Dr. Saha served as Vice President for Patient Centered Medical Home Development at Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA), where she led a whole system transformation of leadership, care delivery, workforce, and finances that garnered numerous national awards and achieved breakthrough results in health outcomes and cost for a safety net population. She served as Co-Director of Leadership Development at the Harvard Medical School (HMS) Center for Primary Care, developing a cadre of change leaders across the system. She continues as faculty at both CHA and HMS. In 2012, Dr. Saha was recognized as one of ten inaugural Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Young Leaders for her contributions to improving the health of the nation. She has consulted with leaders from across the world, including Guyana, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Australia, Tunisia, Denmark and Brazil. In 2016, she was selected as a Leading Causes of Life Global Fellow.

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Dr. Saha received an M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco and completed pediatrics residency training at the Harvard Medical School.



**David B. Sarwer, Ph.D., M.A.**

*Temple University College of Public Health*

***Invited Speaker***

David B. Sarwer is Associate Dean for Research and Director of the Center for Obesity Research and Education at Temple University College of Public Health. He also is Professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Sarwer's research is focused on the etiology and treatment of obesity. Much of his work has focused on the psychosocial and behavioral aspects of extreme obesity and bariatric surgery. He is currently leading a study, funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the State of Pennsylvania, investigating the relationship between psychosocial functioning and outcomes of bariatric surgery. He also has a wealth of experience in the treatment of obesity with lifestyle modification interventions and pharmacotherapy. His more recent work in this area has focused on the adaptation and delivery of weight loss treatments in specialized medical settings, including primary care, reproductive endocrinology, and oncology. Dr. Sarwer also maintains an active program of research on the psychological aspects of physical appearance. Along with Dean Laura Siminoff and Dr. Heather Gardiner in the College of Public Health, he is involved in three projects funded by the Department of Defense investigating the psychosocial experiences of American military veterans who have suffered devastating injuries that could leave them as candidates for vascularized composite allotransplantation procedures, otherwise known as face and hand transplants. Dr. Sarwer also is currently involved in a project looking at the relationship between traumatic brain injury, impulsivity, and substance misuse in young adult athletes. Dr. Sarwer is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal, *Obesity Science and Practice*. He also serves as an Associate Editor for both *Health Psychology* and *Obesity Surgery*; consulting editor for *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*; and serves on the editorial boards of several other journals. In 2020, he was Co-Editor of a special issue of the *American Psychologist* dedicated to obesity. He received his B.A. from Tulane University in 1990, his M.A., in clinical psychology from Loyola University Chicago in 1992, and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Loyola University Chicago in 1995.

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**Hunter J. Smith, M.D., M.P.H.**

*Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics*

***Invited Speaker***

Captain Smith is currently the Chief of Preventive Medicine (Epidemiology & Clinical Trials Operations) for the U.S. Army Medical Research Directorate—Africa, stationed in Kisumu, Kenya. He also serves as a subject matter expert for the Department of Defense Medical Ethics Center and an Adjunct Assistant Professor for the Uniformed Services University in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics. CPT Smith completed residency training in General Preventive Medicine at the Uniformed Services University. During this time, he also earned a Master of Bioethics from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is board certified in General Preventive Medicine and Public Health. CPT Smith graduated from Tulane University with a B.A. in philosophy and religious studies and stayed on at Tulane to earn his M.D. and M.P.H. in epidemiology. His research interests include obesity, social determinants of health, bioethics, and epidemiology.



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

*Montclair State University*

***Planning Committee Member and Moderator***

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, New Jersey. 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 New Jersey Society for Public Health Education Academic Advisory Board. She has, more recently, been called upon by the New York/New Jersey 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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Food and Nutrition Board



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

*Northwestern University*

***Planning Committee Member and Moderator***

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



**Susan Z. Yanovski, M.D.**

*National Institutes of Health*

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

Susan Z. Yanovski is Co-Director of the Office of Obesity Research and Senior Scientific Advisor for Clinical Obesity Research at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Yanovski has served on the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, *Archives of Family Medicine*, and *Eating Behaviors*. She has published more than 170 peer-reviewed papers, and was a member of the expert panel that developed the 2013 AHA/ACC/TOS *Guideline for the Management of Overweight and Obesity in Adults*. Dr. Yanovski's research interests include behavioral, medical, and surgical approaches for obesity treatment in adults and children and the study of binge eating disorder. She earned her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She completed her residency and fellowship in Family Medicine at the Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine in Philadelphia and a postdoctoral fellowship in eating disorders research at the National Institute of Mental Health.