Planning of Meta-Analysis Workshop

FDA Sponsor Biosketches

Sarah Gebauer, PhD

Sarah Gebauer, Ph.D., is a Nutritionist in the Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, at the Food and Drug Administration. She works in the Nutrition Science Review Branch where she reviews the scientific evidence related to nutrition labeling and label claims (e.g., health claims, nutrient content claims). Dr. Gebauer helped implement the FDA regulatory definition of dietary fiber and reviews the evidence to determine if isolated or synthetic non-digestible carbohydrates meet the regulatory definition of dietary fiber. She is a member of the U.S.-Canada Joint Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs) Working Group involved with the process to update the DRIs for energy, protein, carbohydrate, and fat. Prior to joining the FDA, Dr. Gebauer worked at the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she conducted highly-controlled dietary interventions to investigate the relationship between food/food components and risk of chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. She received a B.S. in Biology from Penn State University and a Ph.D. in Molecular Medicine, also from Penn State University.

Crystal Rivers

Crystal Rivers is a Nutritionist in the Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), Food and Drug Administration. She is a member of the Nutrition Science Review Branch that is responsible for the pre-market review of scientific evidence for health claims. She also works on issues related to the Nutrition Facts label. Prior to joining FDA in 2005, Crystal worked as a Research Associate at the Institute of Medicines' Food and Nutrition Board on the Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs). Crystal was also an Extension Agent with Virginia Cooperative Extension, where she taught educational programs in nutrition and food safety. Crystal holds a B.S. and M.S. in Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech).

Panelist Biosketches

Lee Hooper, PhD

Lee is a Reader in Research Synthesis, Nutrition & Hydration in the Norwich Medical School at the University of East Anglia and has a BSc in Biochemistry, PhD (University of Manchester) and current dietetic registration. She worked as a dietitian in the National Health Service for ten years, with extensive experience of community health promotion and cardiovascular health. Lee moved to research in 2000 and has since published over 100 peer-reviewed publications, mainly in the areas of dehydration and nutrition of older people and the effects of dietary change on health. Her publications have been cited over 30,000 times with an h-index of 82.

Lee has a long term interest in the nutrition and hydration of older people. She is an expert systematic reviewer and has developed and managed many systematic reviews. Lee was an editor for the Cochrane Heart Group for 14 years, was an editor of the Cochrane Oral Health Group for 5 years, and regularly referees systematic reviews for top medical and nutrition journals.

Lee is a member of the World Health Organization Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) on Diet and Health.

Celeste Naude, PhD, MNutr, RD (SA & UK)

Celeste Naude is an Associate Professor and Chief Researcher at the Centre for Evidence-based Health Care, Department of Global Health, Stellenbosch University, South Africa (SA); and Co-director of Cochrane Nutrition. Her academic interests and experience include health and nutrition evidence synthesis and evidence-informed decision-making in policy and practice for improving nutrition, health and other sustainable development outcomes. Celeste is involved in producing systematic reviews and other evidence syntheses for the World Health Organization's (WHO) guideline development processes. She also serves as a member of the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Policy Actions, and as a guideline methodologist for WHO nutrition guidelines. Celeste is involved in international, regional and national research and policy partnerships and networks. She leads the nutrition focus area of the Research, Evidence and Development Initiative (READ-It), funded by UK aid from the UK government, and the evidence synthesis work package for the Global Evidence, Local Adaptation (GELA) project in SA, funded by EDTCP, which focuses on newborn and child health guidelines in SA, Malawi and Nigeria. Celeste has served on the SA Ministerial Committee on Mortality and Morbidity in Children, as an Associate Editor of the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group, as Co-chair of the Cochrane Council and Fields Executive, and as a member of the WHO/Cochrane Working Group. She is a member of the South Africa GRADE Network and the Advisory Group for the Enabling sustainable public engagement in improving health and health equity (IHC CHOICE) project, led by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

Sydne Jennifer Newberry, PhD

Sydne Jennifer Newberry, PhD has served as a project lead, literature reviewer, and medical editor for the Southern California Evidence-based Practice Center (SCEPC), formerly based at the RAND Corporation, since 2000. She has conducted and participated in evidence reviews in the areas of nutrition and metabolism, endocrinology, military health, integrative medicine, and other areas of clinical medicine. Topics of recent reviews have included the health effects of dietary sodium and potassium, the effects of omega-3 fatty acids in maternal and child health, the effects of omega-3 fatty acids in treating major depressive disorder, the health effects of vitamin D, and the comparative effectiveness of treatments for low bone density and osteoporosis (all conducted for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality or the Department of Defense). Prior to joining RAND, she was a nutrition instructor and project manager for the Department of Community Health Sciences in the UCLA School of Public Health, managing the editing and revision of a nutrition encyclopedia for consumers and a reproductive nutrition guide for health care providers. Prior to joining UCLA, she was a Project Officer for the Institute of Medicine/Food and Nutrition Board/Committee on Military Nutrition Research of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Newberry has also held academic and research positions at the Ohio State University (OSU) and the Fels Research Institute/Wright State University School of Medicine (Dayton OH) and has worked as a clinical nutritionist in hospital-based weight management clinics. She received her PhD in nutritional biochemistry and metabolism (minor in neuroendocrinology) at MIT and completed postdoctoral work in molecular and cellular biology and plant virology at OSU.

Christopher Schmid, PhD

Christopher Schmid is Professor of Biostatistics and founding member of the Center for Evidence Synthesis in Health in the Brown School of Public Health at Brown University. Dr. Schmid also directs the Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) Core of Advance-RI Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) and the Evidence Synthesis Academy. His research focuses on methods and applications for meta-analysis, particularly Bayesian methods and software, on predictive models derived from combining data from different sources and on clinical trials, particularly N-of-1 trials, single person multiple crossover studies. Dr. Schmid received his Ph.D. in Statistics from Harvard University.