

Speaker, Moderator, and Planning Committee Biographical Sketches

Medications and Obesity: Exploring the Landscape and Advancing Comprehensive Care
A Workshop



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

Planning Committee Co-Chair and Roundtable Vice-Chair

Ihuoma Eneli is a board-certified general pediatrician and head of the Section of Nutrition at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Dr. Eneli's primary area of expertise is childhood obesity. She was previously the Director of the Center for Healthy Weight and Nutrition at Nationwide Children's Hospital /The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, a nationally recognized tertiary care pediatric obesity center with activities that include advocacy, prevention, medical weight management, bariatric surgery, and research. She is a co-author of the 2023 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Clinical Practice Guideline on Childhood Obesity. Her research emphasis is on interventions for pediatric obesity, for which she has received funding from several sources, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), industry, and foundations. Dr. Eneli is an associate director for the American Academy of Pediatrics Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight, vice chair of the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions, and has also served in leadership and advisory roles for a number of organizations including the Children's Hospital Association (CHA). In 2021, she was awarded the prestigious National Academic Pediatric Association (APA) Healthcare Delivery Award, which recognizes an innovative and effective program that embraces principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within a teaching environment. Dr. Eneli received a M.S. from Michigan State University in epidemiology and her M.D. from University of Nigeria. She completed her pediatric residency at University of Michigan where she also earned an NIH-K30 institutional clinical research fellowship.



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

Planning Committee Co-Chair and Roundtable Chair

Nicolaas P. Pronk is president of the HealthPartners Institute and chief science officer at HealthPartners, Inc. and holds an academic appointment as affiliate full professor of health policy and management at the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He continues to serve as a co-investigator on research studies in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Pronk's work is focused on connecting scientific evidence of effectiveness with practical applications of programs and practices, policies, and systems that measurably improve population health and well-being. His work applies to the workplace, the health system setting, and the community and involves development of new models to improve health and well-being at the research, practice, and policy levels. He was confirmed by the White House to serve as co-chair of the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for the year 2030 (aka "Healthy People 2030"). Dr. Pronk is a current member of the Food and Nutrition Board and Chair for the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. He serves on various health-related committees and boards including the board of directors for the Health Enhancement Research Organization (HERO), and is the founding and past president of the International Association for Worksite Health Promotion. He is widely published in both the scientific and practice literatures and is an international speaker on population health and well-being. 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.



Jamy Ard, M.D.
Speaker and Roundtable Member

Jamy D. Ard is a professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Prevention and the Department of Medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He is also co-director of the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist 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. 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 National Institutes of Health (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 NIH 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 9 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 National Academies (previously Institute of Medicine) Committee on Consequences of Sodium Reduction in Populations, the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology/The Obesity Society 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 a National Academy of Medicine member. He received an M.D. and completed internal medicine residency training at Duke University Medical Center.



David Arterburn, M.D., M.P.H., FACP, FTOS, FASMBS
Planning Committee Member and Moderator

David Arterburn is a general internist and a health services researcher at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute as well as an affiliate professor with the University of Washington's Department of Medicine in Seattle. He has over 20 years of experience leading and collaborating on obesity research involving large integrated health care systems, like the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Health Care Systems Research Network, and Kaiser Permanente. His research has focused on investigating the long-term health and economic outcomes of bariatric surgery and obesity pharmacotherapy, the impact of neighborhood environments on obesity, and implementation and evaluation of shared decision-making tools and processes. Dr. Arterburn was the founding chair of the Health Services Research Section of The Obesity Society, and he chaired the Adult Obesity Measurement Advisory Panel for the National Committee on Quality Assurance that developed the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set obesity performance measures for U.S. health plans. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky's College of Medicine, completed his residency and chief residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and holds an M.P.H. from the University of Washington.



Sarah Barlow, M.D., M.P.H.

Speaker

Sarah Barlow is a professor of pediatrics at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, and director of the Children's Health Integrated Programs in Childhood Obesity. A pediatric gastroenterologist by training, she has focused her academic and clinical work in the field of childhood obesity. She established a pediatric weight management program at St. Louis University and was the medical director of the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Childhood Obesity. She was a co-investigator on the CDC-sponsored Texas Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration project. She has been the co-author on the three widely cited papers guiding pediatric obesity care: the 1998 recommendations, the 2007 recommendations, and the 2023 AAP Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Obesity. She is currently on the executive council of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Obesity. Dr. Barlow received her medical degree from UT Southwestern. She completed her pediatric residency at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, and she underwent fellowship training in pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition at Tufts School of Medicine, Floating Hospital for Children in Boston, Massachusetts. She also earned a master's in public health at Harvard School of Public Health in 1996.



Daniel (Dan) Bessesen, M.D.

Speaker

Dan Bessesen is professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Diabetes at the University of Colorado and the Anschutz Foundation Endowed Chair in Health and Wellness. He has been on the faculty of the University of Colorado since 1991 and previously served as the head of the section of Endocrinology at Denver Health from 1999-2019. He is currently the director of the Obesity Medicine Fellowship training program at the University of Colorado. Dr. Bessesen is the associate director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded Nutrition Obesity Research Center and oversees the pilot and feasibility program. He is also currently the director of the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center on the campus of the University of Colorado, School of Medicine, and the past president of The Obesity Society (TOS). Dr. Bessesen has published more than 120 scientific articles and book chapters and is the co-author of four books, including *Primary Care Evaluation and Management of Obesity*, published in 2021. His research funded by the NIH focuses on the regulation of body weight and the pathophysiology of obesity. He also has been funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to research the treatment of obesity in primary care and examine patterns of prescribing anti-obesity medications within large healthcare organizations. He is also a co-investigator on the NIH-sponsored Molecular Transducers of Physical Activity study. Dr. Bessesen received his medical degree and completed his residency in internal medicine and fellowship in endocrinology at the University of Colorado in Denver.



Jeanne Blankenship, M.S., R.D.N.

Planning Committee Member, Moderator, and Roundtable Member

Jeanne Blankenship is a registered dietitian nutritionist and the vice president of Policy Initiatives and Advocacy for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Her advocacy work focuses on professional issues for dietitians and nutrition professionals and includes coverage and reimbursement for medical nutrition therapy, nutrition informatics, and work force demands. As a nationally recognized expert in obesity, Ms. Blankenship has emphasized the need for comprehensive obesity treatment in her advocacy efforts. She also oversees state government relations, including consumer protection and licensure initiatives, grass roots advocacy, and regulatory affairs. She manages the Academy's Political Action Committee, Legislative, and Public Policy Committee and the Consumer Protection and Licensure Subcommittee for the Academy. Prior to working in policy and advocacy, she held positions at the University of California, Davis Medical Center as a senior clinical dietitian and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Western Nutrition Research Center as the principal dietitian. Her experience also includes positions in long term care, the Women' Infants and Children Program (WIC) and private practice. Ms. Blankenship received a B.S. degree in clinical dietetics from Arizona State University and an M.S. degree in nutrition sciences at Oklahoma State University.



Christina R. Chow, Ph.D.

Planning Committee Member and Moderator

Christina R. Chow is currently the head of research at Emerald Lake Safety, LLC. She leads a team of researchers utilizing clinical studies and physiologically-based pharmacokinetic modeling to understand the mechanisms behind pharmaceutical adverse effects and has overseen several clinical studies investigating the effects of obesity on drug pharmacokinetics. The results of this work have been published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at conferences such as ObesityWeek and the American College of Clinical Pharmacology Annual Meeting, and as a webinar that is eligible for continuing education credits. She is a member of The Obesity Society, the American College of Clinical Pharmacology, and the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Dr. Chow completed her Ph.D. in pharmacology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She was also a visiting scholar at the University of Tokyo and did a postdoctoral fellowship at the Lurie Cancer Center at Northwestern University.



Colleen Dawkins, M.S.N., A.R.N.P., M.S., R.D.N., FNP-C, CSOWM

Speaker

Colleen Dawkins is a nurse practitioner in private practice at Big Sky Medical Wellness. She is board-certified in family medicine, a registered dietitian nutritionist, and a certified specialist in obesity and weight management. Currently, Colleen serves as the secretary for the Washington Obesity Society, an advisory board member for the Commission on Dietetic Registration's Obesity Certificate training program, the Obesity Medicine Association's algorithm committee, an Associate Editor for Obesity Pillars journal, a member of an international research collaboration, an item writer for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Board Certification examination, and is currently a doctoral student at the University of Southern Mississippi. She received a master of science in nursing at Emory University, and a master of science in human and environmental science from the University of Alabama.

Noelia Duchovny, Ph.D.

Speaker

Noelia Duchovny is a health economist at the Congressional Budget Office with more than 20 years of experience conducting research in health policy. One of her areas of expertise is on policies related to population health—including obesity, smoking, opioids, hepatitis c, and prevention—and their impact on the federal budget. In addition, she has worked on issues related to long-term care and supports, climate and its effect on health, and spillover effects resulting from expansions of Medicaid. Before joining the Congressional Budget Office, she completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale's University School of Public Health with a research focus on Medicaid and tobacco policies. Noelia received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Maryland at College Park.



Karen Glanz, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Speaker

Karen Glanz is George A. Weiss University Professor, and professor in the Perelman School of Medicine and the School of Nursing, at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn). She is program co-leader for the Cancer Control Program at the Abramson Cancer Center at UPenn. Her research in community and healthcare settings focuses on obesity, nutrition, and physical activity, skin cancer prevention, the built environment, reducing health disparities, and dissemination and implementation science. Her research and publications about understanding, measuring, and improving healthy food environments, beginning in the 1980's, has been widely recognized and replicated. She has published over 550 articles and chapters and is lead editor on six editions of the widely used text, *Health Behavior: Theory, Research and Practice* (Jossey-Bass: 1990 to 2024). She was named by Clarivate (formerly Institute for Scientific Information) as a Highly Cited Researcher (among the top 1 percent most cited in her subject field) since 2016; and was named among The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds in 2015. Dr. Glanz has been an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine since 2013. Dr. Glanz received her Ph.D. (1979), M.P.H. (1977), and B.A. (1974) from the University of Michigan.



David J. Greenblatt, M.D.

Speaker

David Greenblatt is a senior faculty member in the Graduate Program in Pharmacology & Drug Development, and has been on the faculty of Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) and the Staff of Tufts Medical Center since 1979. He has previously served as chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at Tufts University School of Medicine, program director and associate program director of the institution's Clinical/Translational Research Center, and chair of the Institutional Review Board. He is editor-in-chief of *Clinical Pharmacology in Drug Development*, and also served as co-editor-in-chief, with Dr. Richard I. Shader, of the *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology* from 1981 to 2020. His PubMed listing, going back to 1967, includes more than 1100 publications, of which 790 are original research reports. He has served as postdoctoral training supervisor or dissertation supervisor for more than 50 trainees, most of whom have gone on to positions as university-based investigators or scientists in industry. Dr. Greenblatt is board-certified by the American Board of Clinical Pharmacology (1991), where he is a charter member. A member of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT) since 1973, he received the Rawls-Palmer Progress in Medicine Award from that organization in 1980. As a member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology since the early 1970s, he served as President (1996-1998), and received their McKeen-Cattell Award in 1985, the Distinguished Service Award in 2001, and the Distinguished Investigator Award in 2002. He received the 2005 Research Achievement Award in Clinical Sciences from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Distinguished Faculty Award from TUSM in 2015, and the 2016 Award in Excellence in Clinical Pharmacology from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation, through ASCPT. Dr. Greenblatt was the recipient of the 2022 Oscar B. Hunter Career Award in Therapeutics from ASCPT, recognizing outstanding career contributions to clinical pharmacology and therapeutics. Dr. Greenblatt is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Amherst College (1966), where he was senior class president and co-captain of the varsity football team. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1970, then trained in internal medicine at the Montefiore Hospital, New York City (1970-1971), and at the Harvard Medical Service at Boston City Hospital (1971-1972). Following a fellowship in Clinical Pharmacology at Massachusetts General Hospital, under the mentorship of Dr. Jan Koch-Weser (1972-1974), he stayed on to head their Clinical Pharmacology Unit (1975-1979).



Laura Higginbotham, M.D., M.P.H.

Planning Committee Member and Moderator

Laura Higginbotham is lead physician and clinical team leader of the obesity team in U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Division of Diabetes, Lipid Disorders, and Obesity (within the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research's Office of New Drugs). Dr. Higginbotham joined FDA in 2018. She and her team oversee the clinical review and regulation of products intended for the treatment of obesity, including oversight of investigational drugs, clinical development programs, and approval of new drugs for obesity. Dr. Higginbotham has contributed significantly to several FDA guidances on such topics as developing products for weight management and conducting decentralized clinical trials and regularly participates in scientific and regulatory working groups, workshops, and conferences within and outside FDA. Dr. Higginbotham is board-certified in preventive medicine and is experienced in the behavioral, medical, and surgical management of obesity. She received her medical degree from the University of Virginia and M.P.H. in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina. She trained in general surgery (Emory University) and preventive medicine (University of North Carolina) and also completed an NIH T32 NRSA fellowship in drug development.



John Jakicic, Ph.D., M.S., FACSM

Speaker and Roundtable Member

John Jakicic is a professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center. 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 an M.S. in exercise science from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in exercise physiology from the University of Pittsburgh.



Ania Jastreboff, M.D., Ph.D.

Speaker

Ania M. Jastreboff, is an associate professor in medicine and pediatrics at Yale School of Medicine. She serves as the director of the Yale Obesity Research Center (Y-Weight) and the co-director of the Yale Center for Weight Management. She is trained in both adult endocrinology and pediatric endocrinology, is an obesity medicine physician-scientist, and is an international leader in research and clinical application of anti-obesity pharmacotherapeutics. Her work has included working to develop Obesity Clinical Practice Guidelines (American Association of Clinical Endocrinology/American College of Endocrinology, 2016), serving on the board of directors for the American Board of Obesity Medicine, educating the next generation of obesity medicine physicians by teaching at national and international obesity treatment courses, and conducting cutting-edge clinical-translational obesity research. Her research includes large, multi-center clinical outcomes trials using novel anti-obesity pharmacotherapeutics and studies examining the neurobiology underlying obesity and mechanisms of anti-obesity medications (supported by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases). Recently, she has served as lead author for trials investigating potential novel nutrient-stimulated hormone-based therapies for obesity including dual hormone receptor agonist tirzepatide (*New England Journal of Medicine*), a novel gastric inhibitory polypeptide/glucagon-like peptide-1 (GIP/GLP-1) receptor agonist (Jastreboff, *et al.*, *NEJM*, 2022), and triple hormone receptor agonist retatrutide (*NEJM*), a novel GIP/GLP-1/glucagon receptor agonist (Jastreboff, *et al.*, *NEJM*, 2023). Dr. Jastreboff received her medical degree from and completed her residency at University of Maryland School of Medicine. She holds a Ph.D. from Yale University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.



Holly F. Lofton, M.D.

Speaker

Holly Lofton is a clinical associate professor of medicine and surgery at NYU Langone Health, where she has served as director of the Medical Weight Management Program at NYU Langone Health Weight Management Program since 2012. Here, she designed the popular New You weight loss program to help her patients obtain results while fostering nutrition education and placing emphasis on a healthy lifestyle. She has served on the board of the Obesity Action Coalition and on the Bariatric Medicine committee for the American Society for Metabolic and

Bariatric Surgery. She is currently involved in clinical research pertaining to the pharmacotherapy to treat weight regain after bariatric surgery as well as landmark clinical drug trials, including SELECT¹ trial and SURMOUNT-1². In her faculty role, Dr. Lofton continues to educate trainees and other physicians about diagnosing and treating obesity as well as weight bias. She also educates the general public about the importance of maintaining a healthy weight through lectures, workshops, and media outlets such as *The Today Show* and CNN. Dr. Lofton received her medical degree from Medical College of Georgia, completed her residency in internal medicine at Lenox Hill Hospital/ Northwell Health, and completed her fellowship in nutrition from Geisinger Medical Center.



Joseph (Joe) Nadglowski, Jr.

Planning Committee Member, Moderator, and Roundtable 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 25 years of experience working in patient advocacy, public policy, and education and is a graduate of the University of Florida.

¹ Semaglutide Effects on Cardiovascular Outcomes in People with Overweight or Obesity

² Safety of Tirzepatide Once Weekly in Participants Without Type 2 Diabetes Who Have Obesity or Are Overweight With Weight-Related Comorbidities: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial



Anand K. Parekh, M.D., M.P.H.

Planning Committee Member, Moderator, and Roundtable Member

Anand K. Parekh is chief medical advisor at the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) where he provides clinical and public health expertise across the organization. Since 2015, he has led specific efforts tackling a variety of policy issues including the COVID-19 pandemic, future of public health, opioid crisis, obesity epidemic and nutrition, health and housing, domestic and global HIV/AIDS, business and public health collaboration, emergency preparedness, social isolation, rural health, and prescription drug costs. Prior to joining BPC, he completed a decade of service at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As an HHS deputy assistant secretary for Health in the Senior Executive Service from 2008 to 2015, he played instrumental roles in the implementation of the Recovery Act's Prevention and Wellness Fund, the Affordable Care Act's prevention initiatives, and HHS' Multiple Chronic Conditions Initiative. He received the Surgeon General's Outstanding Service Award for his efforts. Dr. Parekh is a board-certified internal medicine physician, a fellow of the American College of Physicians, an adjunct professor of health management and policy at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and an adjunct assistant professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University. He provided volunteer clinical services for many years at the Holy Cross Hospital Health Center, a clinic for the uninsured in Silver Spring, M.D. Dr. Parekh currently serves on the Board of Population Health and Public Health Practice at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Dean's Advisory Board of the University of Michigan School of Public Health, board of directors of the Presidential Scholars Foundation, board of directors of WaterAid America, and the Founders Council at the United States of Care. Dr. Parekh has spoken widely and written extensively on a variety of health topics such as chronic care management, population health, value in health care, and the need for health and human services integration. His book *Prevention First: Policymaking for a Healthier America* was released in December 2019 and argues that prevention must be our nation's top health policy priority. He is also a Forbes healthcare contributor focused on the coronavirus. A native of Michigan, Dr. Parekh received a B.A. in political science, an M.D., and an M.P.H. in health management and policy from the University of Michigan. He was selected as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in 1994.



Robyn Pashby, Ph.D.

Speaker

Robyn Pashby is a clinical health psychologist who specializes in the psychological aspects of obesity and health. She is the founder and director of Health Psychology Partners, a group health psychology practice located in Washington DC. She serves on the national board of directors of the Obesity Action Coalition and is a research assistant professor of psychology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS). She 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; and she has presented research and clinical trainings nationally and internationally on these topics. Dr. Pashby earned her PhD in both Medical and Clinical Psychology from the USUHS, F. Edward Hebert Medical School. She completed her post-doctoral training at the Washington D.C. Veterans Hospital and her post-doctoral Fellowship in the Eating Behavior Lab at USUHS.



Margaret Rehayem, M.A.

Speaker

Margaret Rehayem is vice president at the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions (the National Alliance), and an experienced healthcare leader who brings care and enthusiasm to her role with the National Alliance. As vice president, she provides leadership for national initiatives that support member collaboration, helping coalitions leverage regional efforts at the national level to drive health, innovation, equity, and value. Her focus has been in health and wellbeing, total person health, and various areas in delivery and payment reform, such as hospital pricing, drug management, and high-cost claims. Margaret has over 20 years of experience working with employers in various areas of healthcare strategic planning. She has developed and executed projects with continuous improvement frameworks, national employer roundtables, and multi-stakeholder learning collaboratives that support organizational improvement and business/community partnerships. She also oversees a number of grant activities that have included national organizations such as CDC Foundation, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and United Health Foundation. Margaret is a national speaker on a number of healthcare topics, including business performance and leadership, health benefits, medical and pharmacy drugs, biosimilars, employee engagement, and organizational culture, and the impact of health equity, social needs, and wellbeing in organizations. Before joining the National Alliance, she was on the leadership team at the Midwest Business Group on Health, a leading business coalition in Chicago. She has been involved with various advisory boards including with the National Health Council, the Innovative Value Initiative, and the Act4Biosimilars. She has been an adjunct faculty professor since 2008 and most recently taught corporate health and entrepreneurship at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Margaret received her M.A. from Bastyr University in organizational systems, consulting, and coaching (2006) and her B.A. from North Central College in exercise science (1996).



Donna Ryan, M.D.

Speaker

Donna Ryan is professor emerita at Pennington Biomedical in Baton Rouge, LA, where she had a 25-year career in clinical research in obesity. She was an investigator on POUNDS (Preventing Overweight Using Novel Dietary Strategies) Lost study, the Look AHEAD (Action for Health in Diabetes) trial, the Diabetes Prevention Program, DASH and many other studies of the health benefits of weight loss by diet, lifestyle intervention and medications. She was principal investigator of a series of studies over 25 years funded by the U.S. Department of Defense targeting military nutrition. Her personal research studied improving primary care management of obesity. She has been an active member and former president of The Obesity Society (North America) and World Obesity Federation. Dr. Ryan served as co-chair of the SELECT Steering Committee and member of the Data Safety Monitoring Boards for setmelanotide and retatrutide. She has more than 300 publications, is a frequent speaker on obesity and diabetes treatments and remains an active consultant and advisor to companies developing drugs, devices, lifestyle programs and medical approaches to obesity management. She received her M.D. from Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, where she completed her internship at its Charity Hospital and fellowship in medical oncology at its Department of Medicine, Haematology/Medical Oncology Section. She was mentored by George Bray, M.D., when she changed careers to engage in clinical research in obesity.



Alison Sexton Ward, Ph.D.

Speaker

Alison Sexton Ward is a research scientist at the University of Southern California Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics. She is an economist with extensive experience on healthcare policy and pharmaceuticals. Her research has focused on economic valuations of various therapies and drug classes, and the economic implications of drug pricing policies.

Alison has spent most of her career working with pharmaceutical manufacturers, government agencies, and non-profit health organizations on topics ranging from drug pricing policies, social value of new treatments, and long-term survival prediction. Prior to joining USC, she worked as a senior associate with the Brattle Group where she designed and led economic analysis in support of litigation on health-related issues. Dr. Sexton Ward holds a Ph.D. in applied economics from the University of Minnesota, an M.S. in agricultural and resource economics from the University of California, Davis, and a B.S. in managerial economics from the University of California, Davis.



Kristen R. Sullivan, M.S., M.P.H.

Planning Committee Member and Roundtable Member

Kristen R. Sullivan is director of prevention and survivorship with the American Cancer Society (ACS). During her career with ACS, Ms. Sullivan has held positions within both the Patient Support and Corporate Communications departments. In her current role as director of prevention and survivorship, her work focuses on reducing cancer risk and improving outcomes

for cancer survivors through nutrition and physical activity. This includes working with health systems and other partners to create healthier environments. Prior to joining ACS, she served as a health communications fellow in the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ms. Sullivan earned a bachelor's degree in molecular biology from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and masters' degrees in nutrition and public health from Tufts University in Boston.



Michele Tedder, M.S.N., R.N.

Speaker

Michele Tedder is a senior program manager at the Black Women's Health Imperative (BWHI), the only national non-profit focused on the health and wellness of Black women and girls. She is the lead on BWHI's current evaluation of their virtual diabetes prevention program using their culturally tailored curriculum approved by the CDC in 2020, app and high touch coaching model of program delivery; and she has led the creation of BWHI's family-centered Diabetes Self-

Management Support Program curriculum recently pilot tested by three sites. Having struggled with her weight since childhood, Michele knows what it is like to experience the negative impacts of living with a chronic disease like obesity. Through her lived experience she uses her influence to advocate for comprehensive and equitable obesity care. She is a sought-after speaker, panelist, and subject matter expert discussing issues and policies that impact access to obesity care. Michele has served as a subject matter expert on obesity for the American Diabetes Association, the American Medical Women's Association, the National Foundation of Women Legislators, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the American College of Gynecologists and DiaTribe Musings. Michele was recently a recipient of the 2023 HealtheVoices Impact Award sponsored by Johnson and Johnson, given to health advocates to support the advancement of their work. Michele recently joined the national board of directors of the Obesity Action Coalition, a national non-profit dedicated to raising awareness and improving access to the prevention and treatment of obesity. She is also the founder of Village Empowerment Solutions, a consulting business focused on supporting organizations in the development of strategies that improve health outcomes for people living with chronic diseases. Michele holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's in nursing education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Jayabharathi (Jaya) Vaidyanathan, Ph.D.

Speaker

Jaya Vaidyanathan is the associate director for therapeutic review in the Division of Cardiometabolic and Endocrine Pharmacology in the Office of Clinical Pharmacology (CDER) at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. She previously served as a team leader supporting review for diabetes, lipid disorders, obesity, and general endocrinology products. She has experience supporting drug review across a wide range of therapeutic areas and has represented CDER on several policy and guidance working groups, including bioavailability and bioequivalence studies submitted in new drug applications (NDAs) and investigational new drug applications (INDs), General considerations, Waiver of *in vivo* bioavailability and bioequivalence studies for immediate-release solid oral dosage forms based on Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS), and indication specific guidances such as developing products for weight management, diabetes, Cushing's syndrome, acromegaly, and thyroid products. She is a member of the CDER-BCS committee and the CDER-Regulatory Science & Review enhancement program committee. Dr. Vaidyanathan received her Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences in 2003 from the Medical University of South Carolina.



Denise Wilfley, Ph.D., M.A.

Speaker

Denise Wilfley is the Scott Rudolph University Professor of Psychiatry, Medicine, Pediatrics, and Psychological & Brain Sciences and the director of the Center for Healthy Weight and Wellness at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Since 1993, she has been awarded more than \$30 million from the NIH in a programmatic line of research examining the etiology, prevention, and treatment of obesity and eating disorders in children and adults. Her research program has made substantial contributions to this field, including the classification, characterization, assessment, and risk factors of eating and weight-related disorders; the development of effective treatments for individuals suffering from such disorders; and the development of innovative and cost-effective methods for early intervention and prevention of eating- and weight-related disorders. Through her numerous NIH-funded clinical trials, she has demonstrated an extensive and successful track record in directing clinical research programs and in mentoring and training the future generation of clinical researchers. Dr. Wilfley has received numerous research awards, including an NIH FIRST Independent Research Award and a K24 Mid-Career Investigator award. She is a fellow of The Obesity Society (TOS), and serves as TOS Clinical Care Councilor, is a past chair of the Pediatric Obesity Section of TOS, and is an active member of the TOS Advocacy Committee. In addition, Dr. Wilfley is a fellow of the Academy for Eating Disorders (AED) and a past president of the Eating Disorders Research Society (EDRS), the leading international organization of eating disorders researchers. She was appointed to the American Psychological Association's Guideline Development Panel for obesity, which convenes experts to develop a clinical treatment guideline for obesity across the lifespan. She also currently serves as the co-chair of the State of Missouri Children's Services Commission Subcommittee on Childhood Obesity. She recently presented five key recommendations for addressing the public health crisis of childhood obesity in Missouri to the commission, which will be disseminated to key legislators, state agency directors, and industry leaders to enact policy change. In addition, Dr. Wilfley serves on the advisory boards for the American Academy of Pediatrics Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight, as well as the Minnesota and Alabama Obesity Nutrition Obesity Research Centers (NORCs). She is devoted to understanding the mechanisms by which treatments work and translating basic behavioral science findings into novel treatment approaches to improve outcomes. Wilfley is evaluating novel treatment delivery models, including the effectiveness of online and mobile interventions and support tools, to increase scalability of access to evidence-based care. Dr. Wilfley holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Missouri and completed her postdoctoral training at Stanford University.