



Dietary Patterns to Prevent and Manage Diet-Related Disease Across the Lifespan Speaker, Moderator, and Planning Committee Biographical Sketches



Beatrice Abiero, Ph.D.

Instacart

Invited Speaker

Beatrice Abiero is a policy research leader at Instacart, a leading grocery technology company in North America. She is passionate about researching health and food access and prides herself on being a creative and results-oriented thought leader. She manages external research partnerships, directs large-scale research studies, and engages in coalition building for Instacart's Policy and Government Affairs team. Dr. Abiero leverages her extensive experience in social science research to provide actionable insights that inform Instacart's policy and business development, ballot initiatives, and strategic priorities. Prior to joining Instacart, Dr. Abiero led large-scale analyses and reports as key analytics manager for a \$31.8 million-dollar patient experience and satisfaction survey program to inform Military Health System stakeholders on how to improve care for 4.5 million beneficiaries. Her research resulted in peer-reviewed publications and numerous high-profile reports that provided military surgeon generals and C-suite health executives with strategies to enhance quality care and patient experience. Dr. Abiero earned a dual-title Ph.D. in health policy and administration and demography from Pennsylvania State University.



Alison Brown, Ph.D., M.S., R.D.N.

National Institutes of Health

Planning Committee and Moderator

Alison Brown serves as a program director at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, where her work centers on the social determinants of health and nutrition health disparities. She is a public health nutrition researcher committed to addressing diet-related health disparities through research, community engagement and empowerment, and systems change. Dr. Brown's past research explored immigrant health and diet and cardiovascular disease outcomes. She also served as the past chair of the National Organization of Blacks in Dietetics and Nutrition and as adjunct faculty at Prince George's Community College. She is a former AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Diversity Leader, American Society of Nutrition Science Policy Fellow, and board chair of a community-owned grocery store in Boston. In 2018, she was honored as a 40 under 40 Leader in Minority Health by the National Minority Quality Forum. Dr. Brown received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Spelman College, and thereafter completed her Master of Science degree from Columbia University in nutrition and applied physiology. She then earned her Ph.D. from Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.



Celia Cole, M.A.

Feeding Texas

Invited Speaker

Celia Cole is the chief executive officer of Feeding Texas, the state association of food banks. The Feeding Texas network works collaboratively with over 3,000 local partners to increase access to nutritious food for people facing hunger, improve community nutrition, mitigate the root causes of hunger, and strengthen crisis response. Prior to Feeding Texas, Ms. Cole served as a senior food policy analyst at Every Texas, a public policy research and advocacy organization. Over the course of her 25-year career, she has led advocacy campaigns to strengthen federal nutrition programs, establish a statewide produce collaborative to increase access to fresh produce, and forged cross-sector partnerships with diverse stakeholders to increase food security, improve health outcomes, and build a robust response to hunger. Over the last two years, she has coordinated the network's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, marshaling new resources to food banks that have enabled them to double their food distribution to meet the surge in demand from communities devastated by the economic and health crisis. Celia holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Columbia University and a master's degree from the Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas-Austin.



Cindy Davis, Ph.D.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Planning Committee and Food Forum Member

Cindy Davis serves as national program leader for the program in human nutrition conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service. In this role, she helps direct the scientific program for six Human Nutrition Research Centers. Prior to joining USDA, she was the director of Grants and Extramural Activities in the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) where she actively engaged and encouraged partnerships with other National Institutes of Health (NIH) Institutes and Centers to develop a portfolio that advances both nutritional and botanical dietary supplement research for optimizing public health. Dr. Davis is also actively involved in a number of government working groups focused on the microbiome including being a co-founder and co-chair of the Joint Agency Microbiome (NIH, Food and Drug Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and USDA) working group. Before moving to ODS, she was a program director in the Nutritional Sciences Research Group at the National Cancer Institute. She completed her postdoctoral training at the Laboratory of Experimental Carcinogenesis at the National Cancer Institute. She then joined the Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center, USDA, as a research nutritionist. In 2000, she received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and was named the USDA Early Career Scientist. Dr. Davis is a supplement editor for the *Journal of Nutrition*, assistant editor for *Nutrition Reviews*, and a member of the editorial board for *Advances in Nutrition*. Dr. Davis received her Ph.D. degree in nutrition with a minor in human cancer biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



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

Elevance Health

Invited Speaker

Kofi Essel is the inaugural Food as Medicine program director at Elevance Health. As a core member of the Health Outcomes Organization team, he works to coordinate with the broader social impact strategy, health equity, and medical policy initiatives throughout the enterprise. He leads efforts in designing innovative approaches to address diet-related chronic diseases and social risk using novel food interventions. Dr. Essel is a board-certified community pediatrician at Children's National Hospital (CNH) in Washington, D.C. He has dedicated his career to advocacy/research around healthcare and public health workforce training, health disparities, and community engagement, with expertise and national recognition in the areas of addressing diet-related chronic disease and food insecurity with patients and families. Dr. Essel sits on the board of directors for the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and serves as a physician advisor for the Partnership for a Healthier America's "Veggies Early & Often" campaign and is a member of the executive committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Obesity. He also co-authored a national toolkit for pediatric providers to address food insecurity in their clinical settings with the AAP and FRAC. Dr. Essel earned his M.D. and M.P.H. in epidemiology from the George Washington University.



Mario Ferruzzi, Ph.D., M.S.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; USDA-ARS Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center

Planning Committee

Mario Ferruzzi is a professor and chief of the section of Developmental Nutrition in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He also serves as the director of the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center, a partnership between Arkansas Children's Research Institute and U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service. Dr. Ferruzzi joined the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center as the director in 2021 having previously served as a David H. Murdock Distinguished Professor at North Carolina State University's Plants for Human Health Institute (2016-2021) and as a professor of food science and nutrition science at Purdue University (2004-2016). Dr. Ferruzzi's research interests are at the interface of agriculture, food, and nutrition sciences in the study of food matrix and processing factors that influence micronutrient and phytochemical bioavailability, metabolism, and impact to human health. He has a particular interest in strategies that can be leveraged to improve the nutritional and functional quality of food products for at-risk populations. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in food science and nutrition from The Ohio State University.



Rebecca Seguin-Fowler, Ph.D., M.S., R.D.N., L.D., CSCS

Texas A&M University

Planning Committee

Rebecca Seguin-Fowler is associate director for the Texas A&M Institute for Advancing Health through Agriculture, where she leads the Healthy Living social and behavioral research program. She is also chief scientific officer for the Healthy Texas Institute, professor with tenure in the Department of Nutrition in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, and graduate faculty in the Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences at the School of Public Health at Texas A&M University. Dr. Seguin-Fowler is also the owner of StrongPeople, LLC, an organization that provides consulting services in the areas of nutrition, food, exercise, and wellness as well as resources, such as trainings and curricula, to advance community health. She is recognized internationally for her expertise in behavioral intervention development for rural residents, low-income families, and older adults; food systems and food access interventions; civic engagement to catalyze policy, systems, and environmental change; and dissemination and implementation science. She has received numerous awards including the Mead Johnson Award from the American Society for Nutrition, an Excellence Award from the Society of Behavioral Medicine, and most recently, the Friedman School Alumni Excellence in Nutrition Award from Tufts University. A registered and licensed dietitian, Dr. Seguin-Fowler received her bachelor's degree in clinical exercise physiology from Boston University, a master's degree in nutrition communication, and a doctorate in food policy and applied nutrition from Tufts University.



Joel Gittelsohn, Ph.D., M.S.

Johns Hopkins University

Invited Speaker

Joel Gittelsohn is professor in the Department of International Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is a public health nutritionist and medical anthropologist, who focuses on the primary prevention of chronic disease in disadvantaged communities. With more than 300 publications, Dr. Gittelsohn has led multiple intervention trials aimed at improving the food environment and providing education needed to support healthy food choices and reduce obesity and diabetes in Native communities, Baltimore City, and Pacific Islander communities. He has conducted a series of intervention trials with corner stores, carryouts, wholesalers, churches, and recreation centers in Baltimore City. Recently, he has begun to use systems science methods in his work, to simulate the impact and unexpected consequences of policies to improve the urban food environment and is developing an app to improve the distribution of healthy foods to food sources located in low-income neighborhoods of Baltimore. Dr. Gittelsohn currently leads grants to improve the food environment by working with independently owned restaurants, retail food stores, and food pantries. He earned his Ph.D. in medical anthropology from the University of Connecticut.



Edward L. Giovannucci, M.D., Sc.D.

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Invited Speaker

Edward Giovannucci is professor of nutrition and epidemiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Over the past three decades, Dr. Giovannucci's work has been based largely on prospective cohort studies, such as the Nurses' Health Study I & II and the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study. His research focuses on how nutritional, lifestyle and genetic factors affect the risk of development and progression of various malignancies, especially those of the large intestine, other gastrointestinal cancers, and prostate cancer. A specific interest has been understanding etiologic mechanisms underlying the relation between diet, physical activity, body weight and composition, and metabolic dysfunction and cancer risk. He currently serves as an American Cancer Society Clinical Researcher Professor. Fourteen former primary pre- or post-doctoral mentees are full Professors and eleven are assistant/associate professors. Dr. Giovannucci graduated from Harvard University in 1980, and he received his M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1984. He did his residency in anatomic pathology at the University of Connecticut, and then completed Sc.D. in epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in 1992.



Robert S. Harvey, D.Min., M.T.S.

FoodCorps

Invited Speaker

Robert S. Harvey (he/him) is president of FoodCorps, and an educator and community leader pursuing a vision of justice, equity, and love. FoodCorps is a national organization committed to ensuring that all our nation's children have access to nourishing food in schools, at the intersection of community-building, racial, and economic justice. He also holds a visiting professorship in the practice of public leadership. Prior to FoodCorps, he served as superintendent of East Harlem Scholars Academies, a community-based network of public charter schools, and chief academic officer of ETHP, in New York City. Before that, Dr. Harvey served as chief operating officer, head of school, dean of students, and classroom teacher. He is also the author of *Abolitionist Leadership in Schools: Undoing Systemic Injustice through Communally Consciousness Education* (Routledge, 2021), exploring school leadership and racial equity through the moral arc of an abolitionist lineage, and *Teaching as Protest: Emancipating Classrooms through Racial Consciousness* (Routledge, 2022), which frames philosophical and practical pedagogy that centers freeing teaching and learning spaces for students and teachers. He is a Pahara Institute Fellow, serves as chair of The Current Project Board of Directors, and is a member of the National Black Theatre Board of Directors. Dr. Harvey earned a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard University and a Doctor of Ministry from the Memphis Theological Seminary.



Josh Hix, M.B.A.

Season Health

Invited Speaker

Josh Hix is co-founder and CEO of Season Health, the only integrated Food-as-Medicine Platform that enables people to eat well and live well. By combining evidence-based clinical care with access to affordable medically tailored meals and groceries, Season empowers individuals and their families to make informed, sustainable choices, measurably improving both health outcomes and quality of life. Mr. Hix is also co-founder and former CEO of Plated, which shipped millions of meals to over 95% of the United States before being acquired by Albertsons grocery brands in 2017. He has a lifelong interest in health and nutrition. Josh received his B.S. in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech and M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.



Johanna Lampe, Ph.D., R.D.

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Invited Speaker

Johanna Lampe is professor and associate division director in the Public Health Sciences Division at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and a research professor in the Nutritional Sciences Program and Department of Epidemiology at the University of Washington in Seattle. Dr. Lampe's research focuses on the effect of diet on cancer susceptibility in humans and the effects of human genetic and gut microbiome variation on response to dietary constituents and dietary patterns. As part of several transdisciplinary collaborative studies, she also applies a variety of omics approaches to the development of biomarkers of dietary exposure. She has received several awards for her work, including the American Society for Nutrition Mary Swartz Rose Senior Investigator Award for research on the safety and efficacy of bioactive compounds for human health and the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Prevention Stars in Nutrition and Cancer award, which recognizes research contributions in the field of nutrition and cancer. Dr. Lampe earned her Ph.D. in nutrition from the University of Minnesota.



Melissa Laska, Ph.D., R.D.

University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Invited Speaker

Dr. Laska serves as a McKnight Distinguished Professor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Her expertise is in nutrition promotion, healthy food access, and nutrition inequities, and she has a broad background in community-informed prevention, intervention, and policy research. Over the past two decades, she has led a multifaceted research portfolio with the goal of realizing our potential to support healthy communities—particularly communities that have been historically under-resourced—as well as individuals' autonomy in making healthy choices, including healthy food choices. Her interdisciplinary work has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, and she has co-authored nearly 200 peer-reviewed publications to date. She is clinically trained as a Registered Dietitian. Dr. Laska completed her dietetic internship at Vanderbilt University and earned her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.



Tashara M. Leak, Ph.D., R.D.

Cornell University

Invited Speaker

Tashara M. Leak is associate professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences and associate dean in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University. She has a secondary appointment as associate professor of nutrition research in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. Leak also serves as co-director of the Cornell Action Research Collaborative (ARC), which provides infrastructure for researchers, policy makers, and community partners to collaborate on pressing societal issues (e.g., food insecurity) across New York State. Regarding her research, Dr. Leak examines disparities in nutrition and health outcomes among U.S. adolescents and designs culturally inclusive interventions in New York City to address these inequities. Her research is predominately funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). Dr. Leak holds a Ph.D. in nutrition from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and completed her postdoctoral training at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health.



Cindy Leung, Sc.D., M.P.H.

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Invited Speaker

Cindy Leung is assistant professor of public health nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She is a nutrition epidemiologist with additional training in health psychology and health disparities research. Her program of research focuses on understanding structural determinants of diet-related health disparities in the United States, with a particular focus on populations at risk of food insecurity. Her research has extensively examined the effects of food insecurity on dietary quality, health behaviors, and physical and mental health on populations across the life course using both quantitative and qualitative methods. She holds an M.P.H. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Sc.D. in nutrition and epidemiology from Harvard University.



Brent Ling, M.S.P.H.

Wholesome Wave

Invited Speaker

Brent Ling serves as director of external affairs at Wholesome Wave. Mr. Ling is an advocate for health in all policy and a strong supporter of open and accessible government structures—this belief is rooted in over a decade of experience as a social-benefit small business owner, manager, investor, and front-line worker. He has been published in leading academic journals on topics of health and policymaker engagement. A longtime resident of the District of Columbia, Mr. Ling is a graduate of the schools of public health at Johns Hopkins and Indiana University.



Sarah Ludmer, R.D.

Kellogg Company

Invited Speaker

Sarah Ludmer is senior director of wellbeing and regulatory for Kellogg Company. Ms. Ludmer has been appointed to the future leadership team of WK Kellogg Co. to serve as the chief wellbeing and sustainable business officer when the company spins off in January 2024. She joined Kellogg Company in February 2014. Prior to becoming the senior director in June 2019, she held several roles in nutrition and regulatory affairs, combining her passion for public health and love of consumers to unlock growth. In this capacity, she ensured strategic outcomes and helped brands positively impact both people and the planet while meeting the needs of their diverse range of consumers. Before joining Kellogg, Ms. Ludmer spent 5 years with Del Monte Foods in the research and quality team supporting both nutrition and regulatory affairs for pet and consumer goods. Prior to that, she spent 10 years in clinical practice building a strong foundation in nutrition and public health. She holds a B.S. degree in nutrition from Pennsylvania State University, completed her dietetic internship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and is a Registered Dietitian. She is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.



William Masters, Ph.D., M.A.

Tufts University

Invited Speaker

William Masters is professor of food economics and policy in the Friedman School of Nutrition at Tufts University, where he leads the Food Prices for Nutrition project that computes the cost and affordability of healthy diets, and the IMMANA Fellowships program among other initiatives. From 2011 to 2014, he served as chair of the Friedman School's Department of Food and Nutrition Policy, and before coming to Tufts was a faculty member in agricultural economics at Purdue University (1991-2010), and also at the University of Zimbabwe (1989-90), Harvard's Kennedy School of Government (2000) and Columbia University (2003-04). He is the co-author of an undergraduate textbook, *Economics of Agricultural Development: World Food Systems and Resource Use* (Routledge, 4th ed. 2021), and former editor-in-chief of the journal *Agricultural Economics* (2006-2011). He was named an International Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists (2010), and elected Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) in 2020, from which he received the Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis (2013), the Publication of Enduring Quality Award (2014), the Quality of Research Discovery Award (2019) and the Quality of Communications Award (2022). At Tufts, his courses on economics of agriculture, food, and nutrition were recognized with student-nominated, university-wide teaching awards in each of the past two years offered (2019 and 2022). Dr. Masters holds an M.A. and Ph.D. from the Food Research Institute at Stanford University.



Robin McKinnon, Ph.D., M.P.A.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Planning Committee Chair

Robin McKinnon is senior advisor for nutrition policy at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN). Dr. McKinnon works to advance nutrition-related activities across CFSAN, including the FDA elements in the White House National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health. Prior to joining FDA, she was a health policy specialist at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health. Dr. McKinnon previously served on the planning committee for the 2009 National Academies' workshop "The Public Health Effects of Food Deserts," and in 2021 served on the planning committee for the National Academies' workshop "Challenges and Opportunities for Precision and Personalized Nutrition." She earned a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University in 2002 and a Ph.D. in public policy and administration from the George Washington University in 2009.



Emily Oken, M.D., M.P.H.

*Harvard Medical School; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Planning Committee*

Emily Oken is Alice Hamilton Professor and vice chair in the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute, and professor in the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Oken directs the Division of Chronic Disease Research Across the Lifecourse within the Department of Population Medicine. Her research focuses on the influence of nutrition and other modifiable factors during pregnancy and early childhood on long-term maternal and child health, especially cardiometabolic health and cognitive development. She was a planning committee member for the National Academies' 2020 workshop "Nutrition During Pregnancy and Lactation: Exploring New Evidence." Dr. Oken served on the Technical Expert Collaborative 1 for the Dietary Guidance Development Project for Birth to 24 Months and Pregnancy and coauthored the work that came out of the committee. She obtained her master's degree in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1996 and completed her internship and residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the Harvard Combined Program, and she completed her fellowship in general internal medicine at Harvard Medical School.



Marco A. Palma, Ph.D., M.S.

Texas A&M University

Invited Speaker

Marco A. Palma is professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University. His areas of interest are consumer economics, experimental and behavioral economics and neuroeconomics. Dr. Palma is a Texas A&M Presidential Impact Fellow and the director of the Human Behavior Laboratory (HBL), a transdisciplinary facility that integrates state-of-the-art technology to measure neurophysiological responses of human decision-making. The HBL aims to facilitate the integration of neurophysiological responses to traditional methods of studying human behavior to better understand, predict, and change behavior that improves people's health and well-being. Dr. Palma earned his M.S. in food and resource economics and Ph.D. from the University of Florida.



Jennifer L. Pomeranz, J.D., M.P.H.

New York University

Invited Speaker

Jennifer L. Pomeranz is associate professor in the Department of Public Health Policy and Management in the School of Global Public Health at New York University. She was previously the director of legal initiatives at the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University (now the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy & Health). Her research focuses on legal opportunities and barriers to enacting public health policies at the federal, state, and local levels with a primary focus on food and nutrition policy. Ms. Pomeranz is the author of the book, *Food Law for Public Health*, and the first author of the book, *Public Health Law in Practice*, both published by Oxford University Press in 2016 and 2023, respectively, and dozens of peer-reviewed journal articles on policy and legal options to address products that cause harm, diet-related disease, and social injustices that lead to health disparities. Ms. Pomeranz earned her M.P.H. from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and J.D. from Cornell Law School.



Jill Reedy, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D.

National Institutes of Health

Invited Speaker and Food Forum Member

Jill Reedy is chief of the Risk Factor Assessment Branch (RFAB) of the Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program (EGRP) in NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS). As branch chief, Dr. Reedy oversees EGRP's research portfolio and initiatives that focus on dietary and physical activity assessment; methods, tools, technologies, and resources for risk factor assessment; and obesity policy research. Her scientific interests include different methodological approaches in dietary pattern analysis, dietary surveillance, obesity policy, new technologies for dietary assessment, and measures of the food environment. She leads the Dietary Patterns Methods Project, a collaboration with investigators from three large U.S. cohorts, which aims to systematically examine index-based scoring systems using standardized methods with mortality outcomes. Dr. Reedy partners with colleagues at NCI, USDA, and the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) to develop resources for researchers including the Measures Registry, User Guides, Catalogue of Surveillance Systems, and the Healthy Eating Index. She is a member of the Data Analysis Team for the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, and she has served in a similar capacity for past Dietary Guidelines. Dr. Reedy serves on the Senior Leadership Group for the NIH Nutrition Research Task Force and leads several trans-NIH working groups as well as the NIH Obesity Policy Research Grantees Network. She earned a B.A. in foods and nutrition at Goshen College, an M.P.H. at the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in nutrition at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Jessica Smith, Ph.D.

Mars Wrigley

Planning Committee and Food Forum Member

Jessica Smith is senior principal scientist at Mars Wrigley where she leads nutrition scientific and regulatory affairs for the North American region. Prior to joining Mars Wrigley in February 2022, she held various roles from 2015 to 2022 at General Mills' Bell Institute of Health and Nutrition. Before transitioning to the food industry, Dr. Smith began her career in academia by completing two postdoctoral fellowships at Laval University (Quebec, QC) and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Boston, MA) where her research focused on the associations between diet, obesity, and chronic disease risk. She has a B.S. in nutrition from the University of Western Ontario (London, ON), an M.S. in nutrition from McGill University (Montreal, QC), and a Ph.D. in physiology from Laval University (Quebec, QC) where her thesis focused on the physiology of adipose tissue in obesity.



Kevin Volpp, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Pennsylvania

Invited Speaker

Kevin Volpp is the Mark V. Pauly Presidential Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Medical Ethics and Policy, and of Health Care Management at the Perelman School of Medicine and the Wharton School. He is also the founding director of the Penn Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics (CHIBE). Dr. Volpp's research focuses on the impact of financial and organizational incentives on health behavior and health outcomes. He has been recognized by numerous awards including the Alice S. Hersch Award from AcademyHealth; the British Medical Journal Group Award for Translating Research into Practice; the outstanding paper of the year from multiple societies; a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), and numerous others. Dr. Volpp co-created the Penn Way to Health platform, used to facilitate running behavioral interventions, which has now been deployed in more than 200 studies by investigators from more than 20 universities with participants in all 50 states. Dr. Volpp earned his bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* in biology from Harvard University and was a Rotary Scholar at Freie Universität in Berlin, Germany, where he studied the organization of health care delivery in the former East Germany. He earned an M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine and a Ph.D. from Wharton.



Robert Waterland, Ph.D.

Baylor College of Medicine; USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center

Invited Speaker

Robert Waterland is professor at Baylor College of Medicine and is based in the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agriculture Research Service (USDA/ARS) Children's Nutrition Research Center in Houston, Texas. He holds faculty appointments in the Department of Pediatrics/Nutrition and the Department of Molecular & Human Genetics. Dr. Waterland's research focuses on understanding how nutrition during critical periods of prenatal and early postnatal development affects gene expression, metabolism, and chronic disease susceptibility in adulthood. His laboratory studies both mouse models and humans to elucidate the mechanisms by which early nutrition and other environmental influences affect the establishment and maintenance of epigenetic gene regulation, with a focus on DNA methylation. He serves on the council of the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, and various journal editorial boards. Dr. Waterland received his B.S. in physics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and worked for several years at the University of Pennsylvania, first with Britton Chance (biochemistry/biophysics), then with Albert Stunkard (clinical obesity research). After earning his Ph.D. in human nutrition from Cornell University (with Cutberto Garza), he conducted postdoctoral research in developmental genetics with Randy Jirtle at Duke University.



Fang Fang Zhang, Ph.D., M.D.

Tufts University

Planning Committee and Moderator

Fang Fang Zhang is the Neely Family Professor and associate professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University. She is a nutritional epidemiologist with expertise in assessing dietary intake patterns, trends, and disparities in the population, and conducting observational studies and clinical trials to investigate the role of nutrition in chronic disease prevention and control. Dr. Zhang's research interests also include quantifying preventable cancer burden associated with suboptimal diet and assessing the cost-effectiveness of population strategies to improve diet and reduce cancer burden and disparities in the US and evaluating strategies to integrate food and nutrition into healthcare. She is co-leading the LASTING project focused on assessing the impact of diet on four pillars (health, environment, cost, and society). Dr. Zhang is a recipient of the Eileen O'Neil Citation for Excellence in Teaching and an inaugural recipient of the Miriam E. Nelson Tisch Faculty Fellow from Tufts University. She received her M.D. from Fudan University Shanghai Medical College and Ph.D. from Columbia University.