

Nutrition During Pregnancy and Lactation: Exploring New Evidence - A Workshop

Committee

Anna M. Siega-Riz

Chair

Anna Maria Siega-Riz, Ph.D., is Dean and Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Siega-Riz's research focuses on the first 1,000 days of life by understanding the influence of maternal weight status and dietary patterns/behaviors in the etiology of adverse pregnancy outcomes, including but not limited to, gestational diabetes, pregnancy induced hypertension, pre-eclampsia, preterm birth, and inadequate or excessive gestational weight gain. She is also exploring food reward and sensitivity among pregnant women and early determinants of childhood obesity in the Pregnancy Eating Attributes (PEAS) study funded by NICHD with colleagues at the University of North Carolina and the association of maternal preconceptional health with childhood eating and weight status among Hispanics in the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos funded by National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Other research interests include examining the determinants and consequences of food insecurity and the implications of food policy on health outcomes. Dr. Siega-Riz holds a B.S. from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an M.S. from The University of North Carolina in Greensboro, and a Ph.D. from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Siega-Riz has served on five National Academies consensus studies, two workshop planning committees, and currently serves on the division committee for the Health and Medicine Division.

Patrick M. Catalano

Member

Patrick Catalano, M.D., is Professor and Vice Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tufts University School of Medicine and a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist at Tufts University Medical Center. His research is focused on maternal metabolism in women whose pregnancies are complicated by diabetes and obesity. Further, he is studying the short and long-term effects on mothers and their children. Dr. Catalano was previously at Case Western Reserve University, MetroHealth Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio where he was the Director of the Center for Reproductive Health and the Director of the Clinical Research Unit at the MetroHealth campus of the Case Western Reserve Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative. Dr. Catalano received his medical degree from the University of Vermont's College of Medicine, where he also completed both his residency in OB-GYN and a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine. He has had continuous funding from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) for the past 30 years. Throughout his career, Dr. Catalano has received numerous awards and accolades for his contribution to maternal and child health, including the March of Dimes Agnes Higgins Award in recognition of his lifelong commitment to improve maternal nutrition. He has co-authored over 200 publications and has lectured world-wide about his research aimed at improving our understanding of a broad range of morbidities affecting maternal and child health and potential treatment strategies targeted to mitigate their effects. Dr. Catalano previously served on two Institute of Medicine committees related to pregnancy weight gain guidelines.

Erica Gunderson

Member

Erica P. Gunderson, Ph.D., M.S., M.P.H., R.D., is an epidemiologist and senior research scientist at the Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente Northern California. Her research program identifies the determinants of obesity and chronic diseases in women across the life course, distinguishing the specific contributions of pre-pregnancy risk status, pregnancy course and outcomes, and lactation. Specifically, her prospective research studies assess metabolic changes across the pregnancy and lactation continuum in relation to progression to type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease in women during and beyond the childbearing years. These studies develop models for future prediction of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, with a focus on high-risk women with gestational diabetes mellitus and hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. Her research also evaluates the role of early postnatal life on health outcomes in offspring exposed to maternal obesity and diabetes in utero. Her NIH-funded research program has spanned 20 years and she has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed original research papers and reviews. Her clinical experience includes medical nutrition therapy and guidelines for preconception and prenatal care of women with diabetes. She received her Ph.D. in epidemiology and the Warren Winkelstein Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies in epidemiology from the University of California at Berkeley. She also earned dual M.P.H. and M.S. degrees in nutrition and public health from the University of California at Berkeley, and a B.S. degree in biological sciences from Stanford University.

Tamera J. Hatfield

Member

Tamera Hatfield, M.D., Ph.D., is a maternal fetal medicine specialist on faculty at the University of California Irvine. Dr. Hatfield is a double board certified obstetrician-gynecologist specializing in maternal fetal medicine. She is passionate about her work treating high-risk pregnancy patients, and has a particular interest in managing maternal conditions that complicate pregnancy, with a special interest in cancer and pregnancy. She recently served on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's committee to advise evidenced-based revisions of the WIC food packages. Dr. Hatfield is actively involved in educating community OB-GYNs and has worked diligently to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes in her neighboring communities. She also serves as medical director for a large diabetes in pregnancy program. She is involved with teaching residents and medical students, and previously served on the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is also a member of the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine and recent recipient of an Orange County Physician of Excellence Award. Dr. Hatfield received a B.S. in biological sciences and B.A. in psychology from University of California Irvine, a Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience from the University of North Carolina, and completed her M.D., residency in obstetrics and gynecology, and fellowship in maternal and fetal medicine at University of California Irvine.

Deborah O'Connor

Member

Deborah O'Connor, Ph.D., M.Sc., R.D., is Interim Chair and Professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Toronto and holds scientific appointments in the Translational Medicine program at The Hospital for Sick Children and Pediatrics at Mount Sinai Hospital. Dr. O'Connor's research program currently focuses on three areas of maternal and infant nutrition: (1) the folate status of Canadians with an emphasis on women, including the role that bacterial biosynthesis of folate in the colon plays on the folate status of humans; (2) the use of donor human milk for very low birth weight infants when mothers' own milk is in short supply and the long-term effects on neurocognitive outcomes of these vulnerable infants; and (3) the relationships between metabolic status (normoglycemia, gestational diabetes) of women during pregnancy on breast milk nutrient, hormone, and microbe composition. Prior to arriving in Toronto, Dr. O'Connor was Associate Professor in the Division of Applied Human Nutrition at the University of Guelph and then at Ohio State University and was the senior group leader of the Premature Infant Nutrition group at Abbott Laboratories in Columbus, Ohio. She served as the Director of Clinical Dietetics at The Hospital for Sick Children from 2000 to 2012 and then the Associate Chief of Academic Professional Practice until 2013. Dr. O'Connor completed her undergraduate training at the University of Guelph and her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in nutritional sciences at the University of Illinois. She completed her clinical dietetic training at Kingston General Hospital. She is a member of Dietitians of Canada, the International Society for Research on Human Milk and Lactation, the Canadian Society of Nutritional Sciences, and the American Society of Nutritional Sciences.

Angela M. Odoms-Young

Member

Angela Odoms-Young, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition in the College of Applied Health Sciences and Associate Director of Research, Education, and Training in the Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Dr. Odoms-Young's research is focused on understanding social, cultural, and environmental determinants of dietary behaviors and diet-related diseases in low-income populations and communities of color. Her previous projects include studies to evaluate the impact of the new WIC food package on dietary intake, weight status, and chronic disease risk in 2-3 year old low-income children and vendor participation; identify strategies to improve program participation and retention among WIC eligible children; evaluate the efficacy of a community-based participatory weight loss intervention in African American women; and examine community engagement approaches to promote food justice. She has contributed to several Institute of Medicine reports, including the Review of WIC Food Packages. Dr. Odoms-Young serves on the executive committee of the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-Healthy Eating Research Program National Advisory Committee. Prior to joining UIC, Dr. Odoms-Young served on the faculty of Northern Illinois University in Public Health and Health Education. 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.

Emily Oken

Member

Emily Oken, M.D., M.P.H., is Professor in the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute. 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 has also led a number of studies examining predictors and sequelae of maternal overweight, weight gain, and related conditions such as gestational diabetes mellitus in the peripartum period. Her work on the toxicant risks and nutrient benefits of prenatal fish consumption has influenced national guidelines for fish consumption during pregnancy, helping to shift the previous focus of risk-only or benefit-only studies to a broader emphasis on the overall health effects of fish consumption for mother and baby. She has also published widely on perinatal influences on child health including asthma and atopy. In support of this work, she has led longitudinal studies commencing in the peripartum period and following mothers and children throughout childhood. She is Principal Investigator of Project Viva, a unique U.S. pre-birth cohort study that has followed pregnant women and their children since 1999. She is also Principal Investigator and a co-leader of the team assessing cardio-metabolic, respiratory, and neurocognitive outcome measures on children enrolled 1996-1997 in the Promotion of Breastfeeding Intervention Trial (PROBIT), a cluster randomized trial of breastfeeding promotion in the Republic of Belarus. She has served on committees to develop maternal nutrition guidelines both nationally and internationally. Dr. Oken 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. She completed her fellowship in general internal medicine at Harvard Medical School and obtained her master's degree in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health.