Food and Nutrition Board

Committee

Sharon M. Donovan

Chair

Sharon M. Donovan, PhD, RD, is the Melissa M. Noel Endowed Chair in Nutrition and Health at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She received her Ph.D. in Nutrition at the University of California at Davis and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Pediatric Endocrinology at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Research in her laboratory centers on optimizing nutrition in the first 1000 days of life, specifically focusing on the coordinated development of the gut microbiome, immune system, and cognitive function in infants. Since July 2020, she has served as the inaugural director of the Personalized Nutrition Initiative at the University of Illinois. This initiative facilitates transdisciplinary collaborative efforts across campus to answer fundamental questions regarding how personalized nutrition influences health and disease across the lifespan and to translate that information to clinical care and the public. She served as President of the American Society for Nutrition from 2011-2012 and the International Society for Research on Human Milk and Lactation from 2018-2020. She was a member of the Food and Nutrition Board between 2012 and 2018 and was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2017. Dr. Donovan also served on the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Advisory Committee.

Jamy D. Ard

Member

Jamy D. Ard, M.D., is Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Prevention and the Department of Medicine at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. He is also co-director of the Wake Forest Baptist Health Weight Management Center, directing medical weight management programs. Dr. Ard's research interests include clinical management of obesity and strategies to improve cardio-metabolic risk using lifestyle modification. He has been conducting research on lifestyle modification since 1995 and has worked on several National Institutes of Health-funded multi-center trials, including Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH), DASH-sodium, and Weight Loss Maintenance Trial. His work has been published in numerous scientific journals and he has been a featured presenter at several conferences and workshops dealing with obesity.

Lia Haskin Fernald

Member

Lia C. Haskin Fernald, PhD, was a Fulbright Scholar in Jamaica and has been working in the field of public health nutrition for over twenty years focusing specifically on children in developing countries. Her work has focused primarily on how inequalities in socio-economic position contribute to growth and developmental outcomes in mothers, infants and children, and on how interventions can address socio-economic and health disparities. Much of her work for the past two decades has centered on looking at the effects of interventions (e.g., conditional cash transfer programs, parenting programs, microcredit interventions, and community-based nutrition interventions) on child development and maternal mental health, particularly focused on low and middle-income countries. Dr. Fernald holds a PhD from the University of London and an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley.

Bruce Y. Lee

Member

Bruce Y. Lee, M.D., M.B.A., is a systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, writer, and health journalist. He has over two decades of experience in industry and academia developing mathematical and computational models to assist a wide range of decision makers in health and public health. Currently, he is a Professor of Health Policy and Management at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy where he is Executive Director of the Center for Advanced Technology and Communication in Health (CATCH) and PHICOR (Public Health Computational and Operations Research). Dr. Lee has written extensively for the general media as a Senior Contributor for Forbes and for a number of other media outlets including The New York Times, Time, The Guardian, The HuffPost, STAT, and the MIT Technology Review. His publication on a systems approach to obesity was cited by the USDA’s 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. Dr. Lee received his B.A. from Harvard University, his M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and his M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He completed his internal medicine residency training at the University of California, San Diego.

Marian L. Neuhouser

Member

Marian L. Neuhouser, PhD, RD, is a Professor and Program Head in the Cancer Prevention Program, Division of Public Health Sciences at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center located in Seattle, WA USA. She is also Core Faculty in Food Systems, Nutrition & Health and Affiliate Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Washington. Dr. Neuhouser completed her undergraduate degree in Community Nutrition at the University of California, Davis. She obtained her PhD in Nutritional Sciences at the University of WA followed by postdoctoral training at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center where she subsequently became faculty and has spent nearly 30 years engaged in cancer-related nutrition research. Dr. Neuhouser has been Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator of numerous NIH and USDA-funded grants focused on: (1) dietary modification interventions for reduction of risk of cancer, obesity complications of aging and other diet-related chronic diseases; (2) short term intervention trials to delineate the role of foods, food components and dietary patterns on human metabolism and physiology, and for dietary biomarker discovery; and (3) methodologic research to improve dietary assessment used in cancer prevention research. Research designs range from large observational cohorts to controlled feeding trials. She has authored over 450 peer-reviewed manuscripts in the biomedical literature. Dr. Neuhouser is Chair of the Women’s Health Initiative Steering Committee and was previously Co-Chair of the SWOG Cancer Research Network Prevention, Screening and Surveillance Committee. Dr. Neuhouser was a member of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, was President of the American Society for Nutrition 2016-2017, was elected as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Society for Nutrition in 2023, and is Deputy Editor of The Journal of Nutrition.

Jeff D. Niederdeppe

Member

Jeff Niederdeppe, PhD, MA, is the Liberty Hyde Bailey professor of communication and senior associate dean of faculty development in the Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy at Cornell University. He is founding co-director of the Collaborative on Media and Messaging (COMM) for Health and Social Policy (commhsp.org) and co-director of the Cornell Center for HealthEquity (CCHEq). His research examines the mechanisms and effects of media campaigns, strategic messages, news coverage, and social media content in shaping health behavior and social policy. He is committed to producing, supporting, and disseminating innovative and rigorous research to support efforts to achieve health equity. He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles in communication, public health, health policy, and medicine journals, and his work has been funded in recent years by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He was elected as a Fellow of the International Communication Association in 2022, was awarded the Early Career Award in 2016 from the Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section of the American Public Health Association and was named the Lewis Donohew Outstanding Scholar in Health Communication Award in 2014 from the Kentucky Conference on Health Communication. He serves on the editorial boards for seven journals in communication and public health. He currently serves on a National Academies consensus committee on Understanding Breastfeeding Promotion, Initiation and Support Across the United States and previously served on the consensus committee for a 2018 National Academies report on Getting to Zero Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities: A Comprehensive Approach to a Persistent Problem.

Kathleen M. Rasmussen

Member

Kathleen M. Rasmussen, Sc.D., R.D., is the Nancy Schlegel Meinig Professor of Maternal and Child Nutrition Emeritus at Cornell University. Her research focuses on the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women. Dr. Rasmussen has an Sc.M. (1975) degree and Sc.D. (1978) degree in nutrition. Relative to the proposed activity, use of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans was central to the development of revised food packages for the WIC program, a committee of the National Academies that she chaired. Dr. Rasmussen has served as the chair of three other committees of the National Academies, namely the committee that revised the guidelines for weight gain during pregnancy, a follow-up committee that focused on the dissemination of these guidelines, and the recent committee that scanned the available evidence about the nutrient content of human milk. Dr. Rasmussen also worked on the Pregnancy Technical Expert Collaborative for the Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months (P/B-24) Project. She has served as the elected president of the International Society for Research on Human Milk and Lactation and the American Society for Nutritional Sciences and has received career-achievement awards for her research in pregnancy, her research in lactation, and her contributions in education, mentoring, and public service in nutrition. During 2022-25, Dr. Rasmussen is serving the Food Bank of the Southern Tier (N.Y.) as an elected member of its Board of Directors.

Charlene Russell-Tucker

Member

Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, M.S.M., R.D.N., was appointed by Governor Ned Lamont as Commissioner for the Connecticut State Department of Education in August 2021 after having served as Acting Commissioner. Prior to becoming Acting Commissioner, she served as the Department's Deputy Commissioner, managing educational supports and wellness priorities, and as Chief Operating Officer overseeing the Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness. She also served as Associate Commissioner of Education and Bureau Chief within the Department, previously overseeing a portfolio of programs and services that included student health, nutrition and safety, family engagement, magnet and charter schools, afterschool programs and services, school climate, adult education, and special education. She is a performance-driven and visionary education leader with over 20 years' experience in successfully leveraging the inter-connectedness of the social, emotional, physical, and mental health of students and their families as foundations for positive school and life outcomes. She passionately supports family and community engagement in education and has successfully led school attendance and school discipline initiatives with intensive focus on equity and diversity. Ms. Russell-Tucker has participated on numerous state and national executive and leadership boards and has twice testified at the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) hearings on Supporting Students and Schools: Promising Practices to Get Back on Track (June 2022); and Why Are So Many American Youth in a Mental Health Crisis? Exploring Causes and Solutions (June 2023). She has served as an expert panel member on committees of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. She has also served in the role of president of the Connecticut Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and was a member of the nominating committee of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Ms. Russell-Tucker has extensive teaching experience, formerly serving as an adjunct faculty member at Albertus Magnus College School of New Dimensions. In 2015, Ms. Russell-Tucker was named to the inaugural class of 100 Women of Color in Connecticut. In 2018, she was welcomed to the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's Council of Champions. She received MENTOR National's Public Service – State & Local Excellence in Mentoring Award in 2021 and was also named among the 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut by the CT NAACP. In 2022, Ms. Russell Tucker was awarded the Albertus Magnus College prestigious honor, the St. Dominic Medal, in recognition of her distinguished achievements and her service to society. Ms. Russell-Tucker received her M.S. degree in organizational leadership from Albertus Magnus College and she is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

Diane Schanzenbach

Member

Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, Ph.D., is the Margaret Walker Alexander Professor in the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University. She is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, and a research associate at the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Schanzenbach is an economist who studies policies aimed at improving the lives of children in poverty, including education, health, and income support policies. Her work traces the impact of major public policies such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, school finance reform, and early childhood education on children's long-term outcomes. Dr. Schanzenbach was formerly the Director of the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution and Director of the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Education and the National Academy of Social Insurance. Dr. Schanzenbach graduated magna cum laude from Wellesley College in 1995 with a B.A. in economics and religion, and received a Ph.D. in economics in 2002 from Princeton University.

Rebecca A. Seguin-Fowler

Member

Rebecca Seguin-Fowler, Ph.D., M.S., R.D.N., L.D., CSCS, 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 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 director and co-founder of https://strongpeopleprogram.org/, an organization that provides workshops and trainings in evidence-based programs to advance community health as well as consulting services in the areas of nutrition, food, exercise, and wellness. She is recognized internationally for her expertise in behavioral intervention development for midlife women, 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, the Friedman School Alumni Excellence in Nutrition Award from Tufts University, and the 2023 Award for Excellence from the American Public Health Association; she is also an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. 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.

Anna Maria Siega-Riz

Member

Anna Maria Siega-Riz, Ph.D., M.S., is Dean and Professor in the School of Public Health & Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Siega-Riz is a nutritional epidemiologist whose research focuses on the first 1000 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 co-PI of SOL FLOR, a longitudinal study examining the association of maternal pre-conceptional health with childhood eating and weight status in the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos. Other research interests include examining the determinants and consequences of food insecurity and the implications of food policy on health outcomes. Dr. Siega-Riz currently serves on the National Institute of Health's Council of Councils, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Health and Medicine Division Advisory Committee and is a Board of Trustees member for the International Food Information Council. Previously she served on the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Federal Advisory Committee; the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Advisory Council; the U.S. Department of Agriculture/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Pregnancy Technical Expert Committee, B–24-month Project; and five Institute of Medicine committees. Dr. Siega-Riz holds a B.S.P.H. from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, an M.S. in Food, Nutrition, and Food Service Management from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Ph.D. in Nutrition with a minor in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health. She held the credentials of a Registered Dietitian from 1983–2014.

Ann L. Yaktine

Staff Officer