

Use of Meta-Analyses in Nutrition Research and Policy: A Workshop Series

Committee

Takyera Robinson

Staff Officer

Katherine L. Tucker

Chair

Katherine L. Tucker, Ph.D, is University Distinguished Professor of Nutritional Epidemiology in the Department of Biomedical and Nutrition Sciences, and Director of the Center for Population Health, at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. She holds an adjunct appointment at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Before joining UMass Lowell, she was at the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University and McGill University. Dr. Tucker has contributed to more than 450 articles in scientific journals. Her research focuses on dietary intake and risk of chronic disease, including osteoporosis, cognitive decline, obesity, metabolic syndrome, and heart disease, with an emphasis on health disparities. She is the principal investigator of the Boston Puerto Rican Health Study, an ongoing cohort study, to examine the roles of diet, health behaviors, stress and genetic predisposition in relation to chronic conditions, including heart disease, cognitive decline and bone health; and is actively involved as a scientific advisor for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Jackson Heart Study. She served two terms on the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. She is a Fellow of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), the Gerontological Society of America, and the American Society for Bone Mineral Research. She is currently the Editor in Chief of *Advances in Nutrition*, the international review journal of the ASN; and senior editor of the forthcoming 12th edition of the textbook, *Modern Nutrition in Health and Disease*. She received her PhD from Cornell University and her undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut, both in nutritional sciences.

Mei Chung

Member

Mei Chung, Ph.D., MPH, is an associate professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy of the Tufts University. Before her transition to the university, Dr. Chung was an assistant director of an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) designated Evidence-based Practice Center at the Tufts Medical Center. She has more than a decade of experiences in conducting rigorous evidence synthesis across wide ranges of health questions. She also has expertise in developing new methods or adapting existing methods of evidence synthesis to enable or facilitate the translation of evidence to policy. Dr. Chung holds a PhD in Nutritional Epidemiology from the Tufts University, and an MPH from Boston University.

Russell Jude de Souza

Member

Russell de Souza, D.Sc., R.D., is a Registered Dietitian and associate professor in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact at McMaster University (Hamilton, ON, Canada). His nutritional epidemiology research program addresses the role of diet in chronic disease prevention throughout the lifespan, methodological issues related to study design, evidence synthesis and quality of evidence, and developing and applying state-of-the art and established approaches to assessing food/diet-health associations. His methodological expertise has been recognized by local, national, and international health organizations, including service as an external resource person to the World Health Organization's Nutrition Guidelines Advisory Committee, appointment to the Nutrition Science Advisory Committee (Health Canada), a co-opted member of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) Subgroup on the Framework for the Evaluation of Evidence (Public Health England), and chairing the methodology group of the Precision Medicine in Diabetes Initiative (American Diabetes Association). He has >180 lifetime publications, including several in high-impact general medical journals such as BMJ, JAMA, JAMA Internal Medicine, Circulation, and Annals of Internal Medicine; and high-impact nutrition journals such as Advances in Nutrition, the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Current Developments in Nutrition, and Proceedings of the Nutrition Society. He has a cumulative h-index of 59 through 2023. He is a member of the Canadian Nutrition Society, American Society for Nutrition, the College of Dietitians of Ontario, and Dietitians of Canada. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Queen's University (1996), Bachelor of Applied Science in Foods and Nutrition from Toronto Metropolitan University (1999), Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Toronto (2005), and a Doctor of Science from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health (2011). He completed his graduate dietetic internship at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Ontario (2000).

Amanda J. MacFarlane

Member

Amanda MacFarlane, Ph.D., is the founding Director of the Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition Evidence Center and Professor of Nutrition at Texas A&M University (2022-present). Her research examines the impact of B vitamin nutrition on health spanning the molecular mechanisms underpinning genome stability to the identification of socioeconomic, dietary, and genetic determinants of population nutritional status. She is a member of the NUQUEST Working Group that developed critical appraisal tools for nutrition studies. While a Research Scientist at Health Canada (2008-2022), she chaired the Canada-US Joint Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs) Working Group (2013-2022) during which time chronic disease endpoints were formally included in the DRIs framework, the sodium and potassium DRIs were reviewed, and a review of macronutrient requirements was initiated. She is actively involved in policy work related to food fortification, food labelling and vitamin supplements. She is an Associate Editor of The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition and Member-at-large for Food and Nutrition Policy of the Board of Directors of the American Society for Nutrition. She received the 2022 Assistant Deputy Minister's Award for Excellence in Science, the 2017 Deputy Minister's Award for Excellence in Science, and the 2015 Assistant Deputy Minister's Award for Transparency and Openness. Dr. MacFarlane received her BSc in Biology and Biotechnology from Carleton University in 2000 and her PhD in Biochemistry from University of Ottawa in 2004. Dr. MacFarlane is a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded Micronutrient International project "Development and Market Introduction of Iodine-Folic Acid Fortified Salt (DFS-IoFA) in Ethiopia" from 2023 to present, of which she receives minimal compensation. Dr. MacFarlane serves in uncompensated roles as: a guest member of the WHO Obesity Technical Working Group from 2022 to present; the Director-at-Large of Food and Nutrition Policy, American Society for Nutrition Board of Directors from 2021 to present; a member of the European Food Safety Authority Expert Panel for hazard identification of folate/folic acid in 2021; the chair of the Joint Canada-US Dietary Reference Intakes Working Group from 2013-2022; a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for the Nordic Nutrition Recommendations 2022 from 2019 to present; and member of the Canadian Nutrition Society Ethics Committee from 2018 to present. She serves as an Associate Editor for The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition from 2018 to present, of which she receives minimal compensation.

Chizuru Nishida

Member

Chizuru Nishida, Ph.D., after serving as the Coordinator (Head) of Nutrition Policy and Scientific Advice Unit of the WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development for 10 years, she served as the Head of the Cross-Cutting Unit of Safe, Healthy and Sustainable Diet at the newly merged WHO Department of Nutrition and Food Safety from 2020 to 2023 and continued to lead the development of WHO guidance and scientific advice on diet, nutrition and health before she retired at the end of February 2023 from WHO where she worked for almost 36 years at all 3 levels (global, regional and county level) of the Organization. Dr. Nishida also served as the head of WHO delegation at the Codex Committees on Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) and Food Labelling (CCFL) for the last 20 years, leading and ensuring policy coherence in the development of Codex standards and guidelines not only to protect food safety, but also to improve food quality to address increasing global public health problems of obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases. During 2019 - 2023, she served as the Chair of the Cochrane Nutrition Advisory Board which guided the work and strategic direction of Cochrane Nutrition. She received the Asia Pacific Clinical Nutrition Society Award for 2023. Dr. Nishida holds a PhD degree in Nutrition Science and master's degree in Medical Anthropology.

Janet Tooze

Member

Janet A. Tooze, Ph.D., MPH, is a Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Data Science, Division of Public Health Sciences, at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She is a biostatistician with expertise in statistical methods in nutrition, focused on dietary assessment and measurement error. She has developed methods for estimating the usual intake of foods and nutrients in a unified framework, termed the NCI Method, the foundation of which is a statistical model developed by Dr. Tooze for repeated measures data with excess zeroes. This method is used internationally to characterize population intakes of foods and nutrients and for risk assessment. Dr. Tooze received an MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health and a PhD from the University of Colorado. She was a member of the 2017-2019 Committee to Review the Dietary Intakes for Sodium and Potassium and the 2021-2022 Committee to Review the Dietary Intakes for Energy for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. She led the statistical validation of the Healthy Eating Index-2015, a widely used diet quality index, and the Total Nutrient Index. She has received three National Institutes of Health Merit Awards in recognition of her work in the advancement of dietary assessment.