Roundtable on Obesity Solutions 10th Anniversary Symposium

Committee

Christina Economos

Co-Chair

Christina Economos (Co-Chair) is Dean, professor, and the New Balance Chair in Childhood Nutrition at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and Medical School at Tufts University. She leads a research team studying behavioral interventions, strategic communications, and promotion of physical activity using a systems approach to reduce childhood obesity. She has authored more than 200 scientific publications and is also the co-founder of ChildObesity180, a unique organization that brings together leaders from diverse disciplines to generate urgency and find solutions to the childhood obesity epidemic. Dr. Economos is involved in national obesity and public health activities, including activities within the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. She serves pro bono on the PLEZi Nutrition kitchen cabinet advisory committee. She received a B.S. from Boston University, a M.S. in applied physiology and nutrition from Columbia University and a doctorate in nutritional biochemistry from Tufts University.

Nicolaas P. Pronk

Co-Chair

Nicolaas P. Pronk is president of the HealthPartners Institute and chief science officer at HealthPartners, Inc. and holds faculty appointments as affiliate professor of health policy and management at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and as visiting scientist in social and behavioral sciences at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts. HealthPartners Institute is one of the largest medical research and education centers in the Midwest, the Institute has about 450 studies underway each year, trains more than 700 medical residents and fellows and more than 1,200 medical and advance practice students. HealthPartners, founded in 1957 as a cooperative, is an integrated, non-profit, member-governed health system providing health care services and health plan financing and administration. It's the largest consumer governed nonprofit health care organization in the United States. Dr. Pronk’s work is focused on connecting evidence of effectiveness with the practical application of programs and practices, policies, and systems that measurably improve population health and well-being. His work applies to the workplace, the care delivery setting, and the community and involves development of new models to improve health and well-being at the research, practice, and policy levels. His research interests include workplace health and safety, obesity, physical activity, and systems approaches to population health and well-being. Dr. Pronk served as co-chair of the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services’ Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030 (aka Healthy People 2030). He is a former member of the Community Preventive Services Task Force and the Defense Health Board (formerly known as the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board). He was the founding and past president of the International Association for Worksite Health Promotion and currently serves on boards and committees at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the American Heart Association, and the Health Enhancement Research Organization, among others. 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.

William H. Dietz

Member

William H. Dietz is chair of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center on Prevention and Wellness at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University. He was director of the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity in the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 1997-2012. Prior to his appointment to the CDC, he was a professor of pediatrics at the Tuft's University School of Medicine, and director of clinical nutrition at the Floating Hospital of New England Medical Center Hospitals. Dr. Dietz has been a counselor and past president of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, and past president of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. From 2001-2003 he served as a member of the Advisory Board to the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism, and Diabetes of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. In 2000, Dr. Dietz received the William G. Anderson Award from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and was recognized for excellence in his work and advocacy by the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors. In 2002, he was made an honorary member of the American Dietetic Association and received the Holroyd-Sherry award for his outstanding contributions to the field of children, adolescents, and the media. In 2005, Dr. Dietz received the George Bray Founders Award from the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. In 2006, he received the Nutrition Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for outstanding research related to nutrition of infants and children. In 2008, Dr. Dietz received the Oded Bar-Or award from The Obesity Society for excellence in pediatric obesity research. In 2012, he received a Special Recognition Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics Provisional Section on Obesity, and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Dietz is the author of over 200 publications in the scientific literature, and the editor of five books, including Clinical Obesity in Adults and Children, and Nutrition: What Every Parent Needs to Know. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Dietz received his B.A. from Wesleyan University in 1966 and his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1970. After the completion of his residency at Upstate Medical Center, he received a Ph.D. in nutritional biochemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Independent from his role on this planning committee, Dr. Dietz also serves as a consultant to the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions.

Shiriki K. Kumanyika

Member

Shiriki K. Kumanyika is emeritus professor of epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, and research professor in the Department of Community Health & Prevention at the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University. Dr. Kumanyika has a unique interdisciplinary background that integrates epidemiology, nutrition, social work and public health methods and perspectives. The main themes in her research concern prevention and control of obesity and other diet-related risk factors and chronic diseases, with a particular focus on reducing health burdens in black communities. Dr. Kumanyika is the founding chair of the Council on Black Health (formerly the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network [AACORN]) that seeks to develop and promote solutions that achieve healthy Black communities. She is a past president of the American Public Health Association and has served in numerous advisory roles related to public health research and policy in the U.S. and abroad. Dr. Kumanyika chaired the Institute of Medicine's Standing Committee on Childhood Obesity from 2009 until its retirement in 2013. She currently chairs the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Food and Nutrition Board. Dr. Kumanyika received her M.S. in social work from Columbia University, master of public health from Johns Hopkins University, and Ph.D. in human nutrition from Cornell University. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Joseph Nadglowski, Jr.

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.

Stephanie A. Navarro Silvera

Member

Stephanie A. Navarro Silvera is professor of public health at Montclair State University (MSU). After completing her masters' degrees, she worked as a nutrition educator at the Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC) at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey. She then went on to work as an epidemiologist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the department of Epidemiology and Population Health before joining the faculty at MSU. During her professorship her work has focused on racial/ethnic disparities in health outcomes, and she was awarded the prestigious National Cancer Institute's K01 Career Development Award in 2009 to pursue this work. She has also served on the boards of the American Public Health Association Cancer Caucus, on the American Society for Preventive Oncology Junior Member and Membership Committees and is a current member of the New Jersey Society for Public Health Education Academic Advisory Board. She has, more recently, been called upon by the New York/New Jersey media to serve as an expert to interpret and explain the epidemiology of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Silvera holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Rutgers University, an M.S.in nutritional sciences from Rutgers University, and a doctorate in epidemiology from the Yale School of Medicine.

Megan Nechanicky

Member

Megan Nechanicky joined General Mills in 2014 and is currently the nutrition manager for North America Retail and Global Health & Wellness communications. In her role, her team provides strategic direction for business and R&D partners related to health and wellness. She also leads a team focused on communications with stakeholders on the company's nutrition commitments and advancements and works externally with government, trade associations, and academic institutions to positively position General Mills for future growth. In 2017, Ms. Nechanicky completed a 6-month international assignment in the General Mills Nyon, Switzerland office where she gained experience living and working within the Europe and Australian Region to build and advance nutrition science, research, and communications. When Ms. Nechanicky first joined General Mills in 2014, she led health influencer communications for some of General Mills largest brands including Cheerios, Fiber One, and Nature Valley. In this role, she delivered cutting-edge science, consumer trends, and new product development and marketing to health influencers such as dietitians, physicians, nurses, and fitness professionals. Prior to General Mills, Megan was the first dietitian to work at the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition. In her role, Ms. Nechanicky led nutrition and physical activity-related initiatives and events. She was also responsible for the Department of Health and Human Services coordination of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative to end childhood obesity within a generation. Ms. Nechanicky served on the Federal steering committee to develop the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Physical Activity Guidelines Midcourse Report and coordinated the communications strategy and report launch in 2013. Megan is a registered dietitian and holds a bachelor's degree in food marketing from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, P.A. and a dual master's degree in exercise physiology and nutrition from San Diego State University.

Tracy J. Sims

Member

Tracy Sims is executive director of Corporate Affairs at Eli Lilly and Company. In his role, he leads health system analysis and modernization efforts for chronic diseases including obesity and diabetes. Mr. Sims' role also includes responsibility as a real-world evidence research scientist focused on both obesity and diabetes care. Mr. Sims has extensive international and domestic health system analysis and function improvement experience with previous leadership efforts on five continents. Mr. Sims' research has focused in: type 2 diabetes patient activation measurement, benefits of continuous glucose monitoring, impact of internalized weight bias and type 2 diabetes stigma on diabetes care outcomes, patient, provider, and payer perspectives on obesity care, health equity in obesity and diabetes care, and development of a comprehensive health system analysis framework for use by social scientists, public health professionals, and other disciplines seeking to improve health outcomes for chronic diseases such as obesity. He is a member of the American Sociological Association. Mr. Sims holds a B.A. with double major in communications and history from Whitworth University and an M.A. in sociology from University of Alabama at Birmingham.