

Biographical Sketches



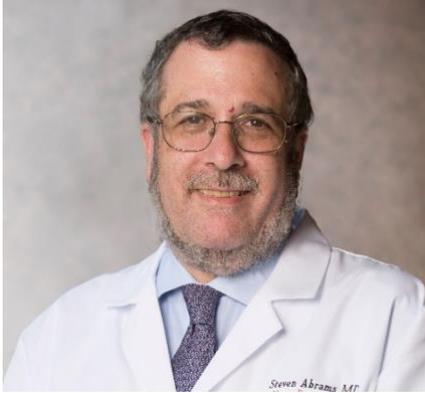
Sarah Booth, PhD
Tufts University
Chair

Dr. Sarah Booth is the Director of the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University (HNRCA) and Senior Scientist and Leader of the Vitamin K Team at the HNRCA. She has led the HNRCA, one of the largest research centers focused on nutrition and healthy aging, since 2016. She is also a Professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. Dr. Booth is an international leader in vitamin K nutrition research and her current research investigates the role of vitamins in risk for Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Dr. Booth is Vice President-elect of the American Society for Nutrition. She earned her PhD in Human Nutrition from McGill University in Montreal, Canada.



Angela Odoms-Young, PhD
Cornell University
Vice Chair

Dr. Angela Odoms-Young is an Associate Professor and Director of the Food and Nutrition Education in Communities Program and the New York State Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program in the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University. Dr. Odoms-Young's research explores the social and structural determinants of dietary behaviors and related health outcomes in low-income populations and Black, Indigenous and people of color. Her work also centers on developing culturally responsive programs and policies that promote health equity, food justice, and community resilience. She has served on numerous advisory committees and boards, including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Food and Nutrition Board and committees to develop the nutrition standards for school meals and to revise the food packages provided in the Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Dr. Odoms-Young received her PhD in Community Nutrition from Cornell University and completed a Family Research Consortium Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Steven Abrams, MD
University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Abrams is a board-certified pediatrician and practicing neonatologist. He is a Professor of Pediatrics at Dell Medical School (DMS) at the University of Texas. He was previously Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at DMS. His research and clinical expertise relate to the nutritional needs of infants and small children, especially as related to minerals. He also conducts ongoing research into food insecurity in small children, including those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. He has previously served on the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and as a member and later Chair of the Committee on Nutrition of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He is the current co-editor of the Nutrition Handbook, 9th Edition from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and serves as an editor for pediatric nutrition topics for UpToDate. He is the recipient of the Fomon Award for outstanding research in pediatric nutrition from the AAP and is a fellow of the American Society for Nutrition and a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. Dr. Abrams earned his MD at The Ohio State University.



Cheryl Anderson, PhD, MPH, MS
University of California San Diego

Dr. Cheryl Anderson is a Professor and Founding Dean of the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science at the University of California San Diego. Dr. Anderson serves as the Director of the UCSD Center of Excellence in Health Promotion and Equity and as a member of the National Academy of Medicine's Health and Medicine Division Board on Global Health. She is also on the Board of Directors for the American Heart Association (AHA), chair of the AHA's Council Operations Committee, and is a member of AHA's Epidemiology Leadership Committee. Her research focuses on nutrition and chronic disease prevention in underserved populations using observational epidemiologic study designs, randomized clinical trials, and implementation science. Dr. Anderson has served on numerous advisory and expert panels, including the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. She received her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Washington, her MS in Epidemiology from the University of Washington, and her MPH in Health Behavior from the University of North Carolina.



Aline Andres, PhD, RD
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Dr. Aline Andres is a Professor of Pediatrics at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Associate Director of the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center. Dr. Andres' research examines effects of prenatal and postnatal nutrition on offspring growth, body composition, metabolism, development, and health. Her investigations have enhanced understanding of the effects of maternal excessive weight on offspring metabolism and of the impact of early infant feeding on childhood growth and development by leveraging existing longitudinal cohorts, designing and implementing new longitudinal cohorts, and randomized controlled trials. Dr. Andres serves on the NIH Breastmilk Ecology project and was a chair of the Obesity Society Membership Committee. She completed her PhD in Nutritional Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a Registered Dietitian.



**Carol Byrd-Bredbenner, PhD, RD,
FAND
Rutgers, the State University of
New Jersey**

Dr. Carol Byrd-Bredbenner is a Distinguished Professor of Nutrition and the Nutritional Sciences Graduate Program Director at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Her research focuses on elucidating the role of cognitive and environmental factors on nutrition behaviors and health outcomes, and the development and application of health behavior change theory. She also develops recommendations and guidance for nutrition communications and implementation science aspects of health promotion interventions. Currently, she is leading the innovative at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded childhood obesity and cardiometabolic disease prevention program, HomeStyles, that aims to motivate families to make quick, easy, evidence-based modifications to their home environment and lifestyle practices. She received the Helen Denning Ullrich Award for Lifetime Excellence in Nutrition Education from the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior and the Excellence in Nutrition Education Award from the American Society for Nutrition. Dr. Byrd-Bredbenner earned her PhD at the Pennsylvania State University and is also a Registered Dietitian.



**Fatima Cody Stanford, MD, MPH,
MPA, MBA, FAAP, FACP, FAHA,
FAMWA, FTOS
Harvard University**

Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics who practices and teaches at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School as one of the first fellowship-trained obesity medicine physicians. Her work in obesity medicine bridges the intersection of medicine, public health, policy, and disparities. She has received the Gold Congressional Award and was chosen for The Obesity Society Clinician of the Year Award in 2020. In 2021, she was awarded the MMS Grant Rodkey Award for her dedication to medical students and the AMA *Dr. Edmond and Rima Cabbabe Dedication to the Profession Award*. She is the Recipient of the Emory Rollins School of Public Health Distinguished Alumni Award. The National Academy of Medicine selected her as a Scholar in Diagnostic Excellence. Dr. Stanford received a BS and MPH from Emory University as an MLK Scholar, a MD from the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine as a Stoney Scholar, a MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government as a Zuckerman Fellow in the Harvard Center for Public Leadership, and an executive MBA from the Quantic School of Business and Technology.



**Andrea Deierlein, PhD, MPH, MS
New York University**

Dr. Andrea Deierlein is an Associate Professor of Public Health Nutrition at New York University School of Global Public Health. Her research examines how dietary, behavioral, and environmental factors contribute to reproductive health outcomes and chronic-disease development throughout the lifespan. Her research has examined predictors and outcomes of maternal metabolic health-related conditions during pregnancy and postpartum, specifically excessive gestational weight gain, hyperglycemia, and obesity. Dr. Deierlein expanded her training to include the study of toxic environmental chemicals and metals. She conducted research examining associations of endocrine-disrupting toxicant exposures during childhood and changes in anthropometric measurements through adolescence among girls. She also conducted a series of analyses examining maternal prenatal exposures to phthalates with weight gain and biomarkers of cardiometabolic health in women during pregnancy and throughout the postpartum period. Recently, Dr. Deierlein expanded her research to include disability-related disparities in nutrition and reproductive health. She received her PhD in Nutrition Epidemiology at UNC Chapel Hill.



Heather Eicher-Miller, PhD
Purdue University

Dr. Heather A. Eicher-Miller is an Associate Professor in the Department of Nutrition Science at Purdue University. Dr. Eicher-Miller is a nutrition epidemiologist experienced in dietary patterning and assessment, focused on improving food security among low-resource populations. She works to improve nutrition education and food assistance programs by evaluating their impact on dietary intake and health. Dr. Eicher-Miller develops new methods of dietary assessment and discovers and evaluates dietary and lifestyle patterns. She leads a team to create new techniques for integrating time with dietary intake, physical activity, and other lifestyle patterns. She is a member of the American Society of Nutrition and the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior, where she has held various leadership roles. She is also a member of the Board of Editors for the “Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics” and the journal “Advances in Nutrition”. Dr. Eicher-Miller engages in outreach to food insecure groups through a website for food pantry workers. She received her PhD in Foods and Nutrition from Purdue University.



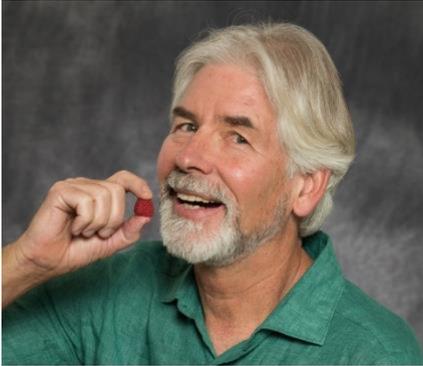
Jennifer Orlet Fisher, PhD
Temple University

Dr. Jennifer Orlet Fisher is a Professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Temple University and Associate Director of the Center for Obesity Research and Education. Dr. Fisher’s research seeks to understand influences on the development of eating behaviors and weight outcomes during early childhood. Her work focuses on the role of the family as a first and fundamental context in which eating habits develop. She has conducted basic and applied research to understand socioenvironmental influences on appetite self-regulation and obesity among young children, including studies of food motivated eating behaviors and food parenting influences. Her work has focused on racial and ethnic minority families with low incomes who experience disproportionate diet- and obesity-related burdens. Her current research investigates determinants and outcomes of sweet preferences and snacking behaviors during early childhood. Dr. Fisher was the 2019 Oded Bar-Or Award for Excellence in Pediatric Obesity Research from The Obesity Society. She recently served as Chair of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Healthy Eating Research expert panel and currently serves on several Editorial Boards. She earned her PhD in Nutrition from Pennsylvania State University.



Teresa Fung, ScD, RD
Simmons University

Teresa Fung, ScD, RD, is a Professor of Nutrition at Simmons University and an Adjunct Professor of Nutrition at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. Her expertise is in developing diet quality measures and examining disease risk. As a nutritional epidemiologist, she has examined the associations between the Alternate Mediterranean Diet Score, the DASH score and the Alternate Healthy Eating Index and health outcomes including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, weight change, geriatric fractures, and frailty. Recently, she led the U.S. module to develop the Global Diet Quality Score to measure diet quality and predict chronic disease risk in different worldwide settings. She is an Associate Editor for the Journal of Nutrition and a member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. In 2012, she was a member of the Technical Expert Collaborative convened by the USDA for a literature review on dietary patterns and health outcomes. She received the 2022 Elaine R. Monsen Award for Outstanding Research Literature from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Dr. Fung earned her dual ScD in Epidemiology and Nutrition at Harvard and is also a Registered Dietitian.



Christopher Gardner, PhD
Stanford University

Dr. Christopher Gardner is the Rehnberg Farquhar Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, where he has been conducting epidemiological and human intervention trials for 30 years. His research investigates the potential health benefits of various dietary components and food patterns. This includes intervention studies on the relationship between diet and weight management, blood lipids and lipoproteins, inflammatory markers, insulin, blood pressure, and body composition. He is the principal investigator and lead author of two landmark weight loss diet trials. He has participated in systematic reviews through his work with the American Heart Association and the American Diabetes Association, including his contributions as a panel member and co-author of the American Diabetes Association’s update on Nutritional Therapy for Diabetes. He is the current chair of the American Heart Association’s Nutrition Committee and the co-chair on the recent AHA Policy Statement on Promoting Equity through Nutrition Security. He earned his PhD in Nutrition Science from the University of California, Berkeley.



Edward Giovannucci, ScD, MD
Harvard University

Dr. Edward Giovannucci is a Professor in the Departments of Nutrition and Epidemiology at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health (HSPH). Over the past several decades, Dr. Giovannucci’s work has been based largely in the Nurses’ Health Study I & II and the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study. His research focuses on how nutritional, environmental, and lifestyle factors relate to various malignancies, especially those of the colorectum, other gastrointestinal cancers, and prostate cancer. A specific interest has been understanding etiologic mechanisms underlying the relation between nutritional factors and cancer. Dr. Giovannucci has extensive experience on evaluating research to formulate cancer prevention recommendations in nutrition, physical activity, and body weight from his work with the World Cancer Research Fund /American Institute of Cancer Research Expert Panel. He also has studied obesity, physical activity, diabetes, and metabolic health. He received his MD from the University of Pittsburgh and completed his residency in Anatomic Pathology at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Giovannucci then earned an ScD in Epidemiology from HSPH.



Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD,
CNS, FISBNPA
The University of Texas Health
Science Center at Houston School
of Public Health

Dr. Deanna Hoelscher is the John P. McGovern Professor in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, founding Director of the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, and Campus Dean of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston) School of Public Health in Austin. Her research interests include empowering children and their families to engage in healthier dietary and physical activity behaviors to prevent chronic disease, with an emphasis on addressing health disparities in diverse, historically underserved populations. She is the principal investigator of the Texas School Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey, funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services to monitor the prevalence of obesity in school-aged children, and the STREETS project, an NIH-funded natural experiment to determine the effects of Safe Routes to School policies on child physical activity. She has had several leadership positions in obesity and nutrition societies. She earned her PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of Texas at Austin and is also a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.



**Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan, DrPH,
MPH
Oklahoma State University**

Dr. Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for Indigenous Health Research and Policy at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. Dr. Jernigan has led or co-lead trials to improve food systems and health in Indigenous communities. She led the THRIVE study, the first randomized trial of healthy makeovers in tribally owned convenience stores, the FRESH study, a farm-to-school intervention to support healthy eating patterns among Native American children, and a newly launched tribal community supported agriculture study to promote sustainable changes to the food environment and health. Dr. Jernigan leads the Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity, which supports community-based initiatives to restore traditional food systems and practices in American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. Dr. Jernigan is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She received her DrPH from the University of California, Berkeley, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cardiovascular disease prevention at Stanford University, where she also completed a degree in documentary filmmaking.



**Cristina Palacios, PhD, MSc
Florida International University**

Dr. Cristina Palacios is a Professor and Chair in the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition at Florida International University. She has conducted several clinical trials in children, including Hispanics, to determine the effects of dietary supplements on bone and body composition. She has developed and validated food frequency questionnaires in infants and children to evaluate dietary patterns. She also designed and tested interventions using technology for preventing excessive weight gain in Hispanic infants and pregnant women. Several of her studies have been in collaboration with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, particularly among Hispanic families. She has extensive consultation for the World Health Organization and Pan-American Health Organization on developing dietary guidelines and establishing infant nutrient requirements. She is an editorial board member for several journals. She was a fellow of the Interdisciplinary Research Leadership of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Task force at FIU. She earned her PhD and MSc in Nutrition from Purdue University.



**Hollie Raynor, PhD, RD, LDN
University of Tennessee Knoxville**

Dr. Hollie Raynor is a Professor in the Department of Nutrition and the Associate Dean of Research in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at the University of Tennessee. She conducts research in lifestyle interventions for pediatric and adult weight management. Her research interests are on identifying best methods to implement behavioral dietary factors that improve outcomes in obesity treatment (i.e., limiting variety, reducing energy density, shifting distribution of energy intake earlier in the day), and translating lifestyle intervention into practice-based settings (i.e., integrated primary care). She served as a member of the National Committee for Clinical Guidelines for Obesity for the American Psychological Association and as a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Prediabetes and Adult Obesity Treatment Evidence Analysis Library Committee. Dr. Raynor earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology at State University of New York at Buffalo, an MS in Public Health Nutrition at the University of Tennessee Knoxville and is also a Registered Dietitian.



Sameera Talegawkar, PhD
The George Washington University

Dr. Sameera Talegawkar is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences and Epidemiology at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University. A nutrition scientist and epidemiologist by training, the overall goal of her research program is to better understand the role of dietary patterns and other lifestyle predictors on age-related changes in physical function including frailty, mobility limitations and disability among older individuals. Dr. Talegawkar also studies the role of diet on health disparities experienced by underserved and minority populations and has expertise in nutritional assessment in diverse populations. She is the co-chair of the Jackson Heart Study Diet and Physical Activity Working Group and serves on the study’s scientific council. Dr. Talegawkar earned her PhD in Nutrition from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University.



Christopher Taylor, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND
The Ohio State University

Dr. Christopher Taylor is a Professor of Medical Dietetics and Family Medicine in the College of Medicine at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. His research examines how lifestyle factors impact obesity and chronic diseases, with a specific focus on food patterning, the influence of personal factors on lifestyle behavior choice, and factors that influence behavior change. His current research uses technology to more efficiently assess diet and refer primary care patients to resources such as registered dietitians to improve community health outcomes. Dr. Taylor currently serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior and has previously served as the Chair of the Research Dietetic Practice Group, as well as being appointed Chair of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ 2020 Dietary Guidelines Collaborative. He received his PhD in Human Environmental Science from Oklahoma State University, as well as a Master of Science in Family Resources and Human Development at Arizona State University.



Deirdre Tobias, ScD
Harvard University

Dr. Deirdre Tobias is a nutrition and obesity epidemiologist at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA. She is also an Assistant Professor at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. Her research focuses on identifying lifestyle risk factors of obesity and related chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Her work is aimed at improving our understanding of overall dietary patterns and their relationship with long-term health outcomes. Dr. Tobias is passionate about improving validity and rigor of nutrition science research, particularly as related to optimizing systematic reviews and meta-analysis, and in conducting and interpreting large-scale longitudinal cohort studies. Dr. Tobias serves as the principal investigator for NIH-funded research, including a randomized dietary intervention weight loss trial and observational cohort analyses to investigate metabolites and dietary patterns of type 2 diabetes risk. Dr. Tobias also serves as Academic Editor for the top-ranked American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. She received a ScD from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Nutritional Epidemiology.