

## OPUS Workshop Day 1 Speaker Bios

June 4, 2024

### Keynote Speakers

**Katrina Goddard, PhD**, was appointed director of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) in October 2021. In this position, she oversees a division that covers a wide range of scientific



domains and disciplines, including epidemiology, behavioral science, surveillance and statistics, cancer survivorship, and health services and outcomes research. Prior to joining NCI, Dr. Goddard was a Distinguished Investigator and Director of Translational and Applied Genomics at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research (CHR) in Portland, OR. Previous to joining CHR in 2007, she was faculty in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (now Population and Quantitative Health Sciences) at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. She was also a mid-career fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in genetics and public health research and practice.



**Ross Hammond, PhD**, brings over 20 years of experience in complex systems science modeling methodologies and agent-based modeling to problems in social science and public health. He is a senior fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, where he is director of the Center on Social Dynamics and Policy. He also holds academic appointments at Harvard School of Public Health and the Santa Fe Institute. Hammond is an HHS-appointed member of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities advisory council. He also serves as a public health advisor for the National Cancer

Institute, an advisory special government employee for the FDA Center for Tobacco Products, a commissioner for the Lancet Commission on Obesity, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences Food and Nutrition Board. Dr. Hammond works with modeling complex dynamics in economic, social, and public health systems using mathematical and computational methods from complexity systems science.



**Wilma Waterlander, PhD**, is assistant professor and principal investigator at the Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Department of Public and Occupational Health. Dr. Waterlander's research focuses on public health and obesity prevention with a focus on system dynamics, food policy and food systems. She recently completed a five-year research program that combined methods from system dynamics with participatory action research to develop an innovative, accessible and sustainable approach to promote healthy habits in 10–14 years olds in multi-ethnic groups with a lower socio-economic position in Amsterdam. This research was conducted in close collaboration with the city of Amsterdam and provided important lessons on how to implement a system dynamics approach in practice. Dr Waterlander was a fellow for the Lancet Commission on Obesity, Undernutrition, and Climate Change. She is also a fellow of the International Council for Science Food Futures Early Career Network.

## **Advancing Success in Obesity Prevention: What Works Where and For Whom?**



**Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MS, MPH**, is professor emerita of epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania and a research professor in the Department of Community Health and Prevention at the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health. Dr. Kumanyika holds a BA in liberal arts from Syracuse University, an MS in social work from Columbia University, a PhD in human nutrition from Cornell University, and an MPH from Johns Hopkins University. For more than three decades, she has led and collaborated on randomized trials and observational studies focused on obesity and other diet-related chronic diseases. Dr. Kumanyika is the founder of the Council on Black Health, a research and action network dedicated to improving Black health nationwide. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, a past president of the American Public Health Association, and serves in key obesity or nutrition-related advisory roles within the United States and globally. She has been a member of the NCCOR External Advisory Panel for more than a decade.



**Steve Gortmaker, PhD**, is professor of the Practice of Health Sociology and directs the Harvard Chan School of Public Health Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity (HPRC) and the Childhood Obesity Intervention Cost-Effectiveness Study (CHOICES). Dr. Gortmaker's research has documented the "energy gap" responsible for recent increases in obesity among children and youth in the United States and the important role played by excess intake of sugar-sweetened beverages. He has authored or coauthored more than 270 published research articles, including the first report in the United States concerning the obesity epidemic among children and youth. Dr. Gortmaker and his colleagues have designed interventions that are low cost, easily disseminated, and sustainable, including the school curriculums Planet Health and Eat Well and Keep Moving, the afterschool curriculum Food and Fun, and the Out of School Nutrition and Physical Activity initiative (OSNAP). Dr. Gortmaker earned his PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.



**Russell R. Pate, PhD**, is a professor in the Department of Exercise Science in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Pate is an exercise physiologist with interests in physical activity and physical fitness in children and the health implications of physical activity. He has published more than 450 scholarly papers and has authored or edited ten books. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and several non-profit organizations, private foundations, and corporations. He served on the U.S. Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (2003–2004), the U.S. Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee (2007–2008 and 2017–2018), and several National Academy of Medicine panels. He also served in a leadership role with the U.S. National Physical Activity Plan from 2007 to 2022.



**Christina Economos, PhD**, is the dean at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, where she is a professor and the New Balance Chair in Childhood Nutrition. Dr. Economos currently serves as the principal investigator on multiple large-scale, community-based interventions that examine childhood nutrition and physical activity with the goal of improving the health of all of America's children. Her bio-behavioral research studies are interdisciplinary and include theory-based obesity prevention interventions, cutting edge systems science, and partnerships with

diverse populations in urban and rural communities in schools, out-of-school environments, childcare centers, and restaurants. She has authored more than 200 scientific publications. She serves as vice chair of the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions (ROOS) at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine in Washington, DC, a multisector group tackling obesity. Dr. Economos received a BS from Boston University, an MS in Applied Physiology and Nutrition from Columbia University, and a PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry from Tufts University.

## **Building the Next Generation of Multilevel Interventions to Prevent Obesity**



**Bill Dietz, MD, PhD**, chairs the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness and the STOP Obesity Alliance at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University. He is the director of Research and Policy of the Global Food Institute founded by Jose Andres at George Washington University. Previously, he served in leadership roles at the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at CDC, Tufts University School of Medicine, and Floating Hospital of New England Medical Center Hospitals. Dr. Dietz has also worked with organizations such as the

American Society for Clinical Nutrition the North American Association for the Study of Obesity, Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, and the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism, Lancet Commission on Obesity, and Diabetes of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. He received his BA from Wesleyan University, his MD from the University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the author of over 300 publications in the scientific literature and the editor of five books, including *Clinical Obesity in Adults and Children* (4th edition), and the *American Academy of Pediatrics Nutrition: What Every Parent Needs to Know*.



**Deanna M. Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA**, is regional dean of the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in Austin, principal investigator of the Teaching Kitchen Multisite Trial (TK-MT), and director of the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, overseeing the Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration project. Dr. Hoelscher's research interests include empowering children and their families to engage in healthier dietary and physical activity behaviors to prevent chronic disease and emphasizing addressing health disparities in diverse, historically underserved populations

through behaviorally-based and environmental interventions. Dr. Hoelscher has received multiple federal and foundation grants, with over 200 peer-reviewed publications and numerous research, teaching, and mentoring awards. Dr. Hoelscher was president of the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA) from 2012 to 2013 and was elected a Fellow of ISBNPA in 2015. She has held leadership positions in The Obesity Society, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior. She is currently a member of the U.S. Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee.



**Boyd Swinburn MBChB, MD, FRACP, FNZCPHM**, is professor of Population Nutrition and Global Health at the University of Auckland, New Zealand and Honorary Professor, Global Centre (GLOBE), Deakin University, Australia. Dr. Swinburn trained as an endocrinologist and has conducted research in metabolic, clinical, and public health aspects of obesity. His major research interests center on community and policy actions to prevent childhood and adolescent obesity and reduce what he has coined "obesogenic" environments. He leads the INFORMAS initiative ([www.informas.org](http://www.informas.org)) to monitor and benchmark food environments in over 60 countries. He established WHO's first

Collaborating Centre on Obesity Prevention at Deakin University in 2003, led two Lancet Series on Obesity in 2011 and 2015, and co-chaired the World Obesity Policy & Prevention section from 2009 to 2019 and the Lancet Commission on Obesity from 2015 to 2019. He has been an advisor on many government committees, WHO Consultations, and large scientific studies internationally.



**Bob Vollinger, DrPH, MSPH**, is the senior policy advisor in the Policy, Planning and Coordination Unit of the Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) at CDC. He is also a member of OSH's Health Equity Steering Committee, helping to promote health equity among all populations and ensuring a focus on social determinants of health based on his strong personal commitment to social justice for all. Dr. Vollinger previously served as a program director in the Tobacco Control Research Branch at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for over 25 years where he managed much of NCI's tobacco control policy research portfolio and led NCI's largest tobacco control research initiative and supported research on innovative tobacco prevention and control interventions at the community, state, or multi state-level. Dr. Vollinger earned a DrPH at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Health, Behavior and Society; an MS in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and a BA in public policy studies and religion from Duke University, with concentrations in health policy and ethics.