

OPUS II Workshop Day 2 Speaker Bios

October 10, 2024

Keynote Speaker



Terry Huang, PhD, MPH, MBA, is professor and chair in health policy and management and director of the Center for Systems and Community Design at the City University of New York Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy. He is a global leader on systems-oriented community health, cross-sectoral partnerships, design thinking, collective impact, and the translation of science to policy. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Innovation Award in 2010, the NIH Director's Award in 2011, and the National Cancer Institute Award of Merit in 2012. He was named University of Nebraska Medical Center

Distinguished Scientist in 2013. Dr. Huang holds a PhD in preventive medicine and an MPH from the University of Southern California, and a BA in psychology from McGill University. He is Board Certified in public health, and fellow, councilor, and past program chair of The Obesity Society. He is also VP North America of the World Obesity Federation.

Making an Impact that Lasts: Ensuring Local Relevance and Sustainability of PSE Interventions



Erin Hager, PhD, is an associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health. Dr. Hager has over a decade of research experience and is funded by the USDA, NIH, and other local and federal agencies to evaluate the impact of programs and policies to promote healthy eating and physical activity and prevent obesity in children, with a focus on schools. She is the founder and co-chair of the Nutrition Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network/Physical Activity Policy Research and Evaluation Network School Wellness working group, which includes over 200 members nationally. Dr. Hager was awarded the "Distinguished Advocate for Healthful Living Award"

by the Society for Health and Physical Educators in Maryland in 2020. Dr. Hager has also been an active member of the Baltimore City School Health Council and in May 2020, was appointed by Governor Hogan to serve on the Baltimore County Board of Education. Dr. Hager received her BS in biology from Loyola University Maryland and her PhD in human nutrition from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA, is the regional dean of the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in Austin. Dr. Hoelscher is also the principal investigator of the Teaching Kitchen Multisite Trial (TK-MT); the Texas School Physical Activity and Nutrition (Texas SPAN) survey funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services to monitor nutritional health and 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. As director of the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, she oversees the Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration project. Previously, Dr. Hoelscher 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. Her research interests include empowering children and their families to engage in healthier dietary and physical activity behaviors, and addressing health disparities in diverse, historically underserved populations.



Jennifer Falbe, ScD, MPH, is an associate professor of nutrition and human development in the Department of Human Ecology at UC Davis. Her research focuses on policy, systems, and environmental interventions for preventing diet-related chronic conditions and addressing health disparities. Dr. Falbe's current work includes developing and evaluating healthy retail policies, food labeling, interventions that co-benefit health and environmental sustainability, and excise taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages. Dr. Falbe's research employs quantitative and qualitative methods, community engagement, and implementation science. Dr. Falbe's work has been funded by the NIH, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, and others. She received her BA in public health and an MPH in public health nutrition from the University of California, Berkeley, and a ScD in epidemiology and nutrition from Harvard University.



Amy Meinen, MPH, RDN, is a registered dietitian with formal training in public health. She has spent the past 24 years working in the public health prevention field, which has included working with a Tribal Nation (Ho-Chunk) and at the state-level with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Meinen has experience in treating overweight and obesity in children and adolescents. Additionally, she has extensive experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating public health interventions to prevent obesity, especially in food systems and nutrition in the early childhood, school and community settings. Meinen has been a part of building a statewide network (healthTIDE) that encompasses multisectoral partnerships to support healthier communities. Most recently at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Human Ecology, Meinen has worked with research faculty, state agencies, and communities on multiple projects that support child health and well-being through systems change. She is also a member of the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition.

Integrating Social Drivers in PSE Interventions



Kristen Cooksey Stowers, MPP, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Allied Health Sciences and the Rudd Center for Food Policy & Health at the University of Connecticut. Her research focuses on upstream structural policy, systems, and environmental solutions to dismantle structural racism as a fundamental cause of diet-related health inequities. Dr. Cooksey Stowers' research in the federally-designated North Hartford Promise Zone (NHPZ) leverages Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) methods to develop and validate the Food Swamp Environment Audit Tool (FS-EAT), explore linkages between neighborhood food swamps and other social determinants of health, and the impact of food swamps on racial/ethnic inequities in diet quality, health, and well-being. She was recently awarded a 5-year NIH grant to conduct a CBPR mixed-methods project examining the relationships between neighborhood investments in the NHPZ, parents' food and beverage shopping habits, Black and Latinx parents' neighborhood satisfaction and perceived food access, and diet quality and food preferences among young children.



Ashlesha Datar, PhD, MA, is a senior economist and director of the Program on Children and Families at the Center for Economic and Social Research at the University of Southern California. Her expertise is in studying natural experiments to understand how neighborhoods influence the health and well-being of children and families, with a special focus on obesity and related health behaviors. She is leading several large natural experiment studies to examine how changes in built and social environments in neighborhoods influence diet, physical activity, and obesity among adolescents and adults. She has received over \$19 million in funding from federal agencies and private foundations and has published in leading health, education, and policy journals. She received an MA in economics from the Delhi School of Economics in India and a PhD in policy analysis from the Pardee-RAND Graduate School in Santa Monica, CA.



Jennifer D. Roberts, DrPH, MPH, is a tenured associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology, School of Public Health at the University of Maryland College Park (UMD). Dr. Roberts is also the founder and director of the Public Health Outcomes and Effects of the Built Environment Laboratory, as well as the co-founder and co-director of NatureRx@UMD. In recognition of her NatureRx@UMD accomplishments, Dr. Roberts was awarded an REI Cooperative Action Fund to create and establish the Wekesa Earth Center, a collaborative effort of scholarship and recognition across multiple disciplines to promote equity, reconciliation, and healing in nature. Much of her research has explored the dynamic relationship between

environmental, social, and cultural determinants of physical activity or active living and using empirical evidence of this relationship to infer complex health outcome patterns and disparities among adults and children. A native of Buffalo, New York, Dr. Roberts graduated from Buffalo Seminary High School and received her BA degree from Brown University. She holds an MPH from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health and earned her DrPH from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health



Hilary Seligman, MD, MAS, is professor of medicine and of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California San Francisco. Her research focuses on food insecurity and health outcomes across the life course. She has directed CDC's Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network for the last ten years. Dr. Seligman works extensively in the field of Food is Medicine interventions and produce prescription programs. Her team runs Vouchers for Veggies, a large produce prescription program known in San Francisco as EatSF. They also provide technical assistance and evaluation support to produce prescription implementers through the Nutrition Incentive Hub, which is a part of USDA's Gus Schumacher

Nutrition Incentive Program. She is a partner to numerous national efforts to support nutrition security, including the American Heart Association's Healthcare X Food Initiative and the Aspen Institute's Food is Medicine Initiative. Dr. Seligman is trained as a physician in general internal medicine and practiced for many years at San Francisco General Hospital, San Francisco's public hospital.

Where Do We Go Next?



Daniel Hatfield, PhD, is a senior public health researcher at FHI 360, where he leads community-engaged public health research projects and provides technical support to NCCOR workgroups. His research lies at the intersection of research and practice – in understanding what works in terms of helping people eat better and move more and using that knowledge to inform policy and practice in individual communities and at broad scale. Dr. Hatfield's research and applied projects have focused on developing and testing novel, reproducible interventions to support children's healthy eating and physical activity; partnering with community organizations to rigorously evaluate

existing health-promotion programs; and scaling up evidence-based community and behavioral interventions. Dr. Hatfield holds an AB in English from Princeton University and an MS in nutrition communication and PhD in food policy and applied nutrition from Tufts University, where he is currently an adjunct assistant professor.



Jamie F. Chriqui, PhD, MHS, is senior associate dean and professor of Health Policy and Administration in the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She also directs health policy research for the Institute for Health Research and Policy at UIC. Dr. Chriqui has over 33 years of experience conducting public health policy research, evaluation, and analysis. She is considered a national expert on policy surveillance and on evaluating laws and policies and their impact on communities, systems, and population health with an emphasis on chronic disease issues including obesity, nutrition, physical activity, substance abuse, and tobacco control. She currently

co-directs the CDC's Physical Activity Policy Research and Evaluation Network and is an advisor for numerous federal, foundation, and nonprofit organizations. Dr. Chriqui holds a BA in political science from Columbia University, an MHS in health policy from Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, and a PhD in policy sciences with a health policy concentration from the University of Maryland in Baltimore County.



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 and 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.



Tamara Dubowitz, ScD, MS, MSc, is chair and professor of epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health. Trained in social epidemiology with concentrations in maternal and child health and public health nutrition, Dr. Dubowitz's work has focused on the role of neighborhoods, or “place,” in shaping health and health behaviors, especially related to obesity. Dr. Dubowitz has led multiple NIH-funded natural experiments that evaluate the effect of large neighborhood-level transformations on residents’ food purchasing behaviors, dietary intake, active transportation, physical activity, sleep and cognitive health outcomes. Dr. Dubowitz’ work and interests center on looking at vulnerable populations and urban

America and her research agenda is focused on measuring and quantifying the impact of the environment on health. She earned her ScD and MS from the Harvard School of Public Health and her MSc from the University of Pennsylvania. She spent more than two years working on women's health programs and development with the Peace Corps in Burkina Faso, West Africa.