

## **NCCOR Member Meeting**

**February 25, 2026**

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## AGENDA

### NCCOR Member Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2025  
1–3:00 p.m. ET

<https://fhi360-org.zoom.us/j/96855510415>

Meeting ID: 968 5551 0415

**Purpose:** Understand how family-based treatment models can be integrated into real-world primary care to improve childhood obesity outcomes and increase scalability.

- 1:00–1:10**      **Welcome & NCCOR’s Recent Accomplishments** – Karen Hilyard, PhD, *NCCOR Coordinating Center*
- 1:10–1:55**      **Panel: TEAM UP: A Large Comparative Effectiveness Pragmatic Trial of Family-based Treatment for Youth with Obesity**  
**Moderator:** Karen Hilyard, PhD, *NCCOR Coordinating Center*
- Stephen R. Cook, MD, MPH, FAAP, FTOS, *Nationwide Children’s Hospital*
  - Amanda E. Staiano, PhD, MPP, FTOS, *Pennington Biomedical Research Center*
  - Denise E. Wilfley, PhD, FTOS, *Washington University School of Medicine*
  - Jeanne Lindros, MPH, *American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight*
- 1:55–2:15**      **Q&A**
- 2:15–2:35**      **Discussion:** How can NCCOR support, promote, disseminate, and further the evidence for family-based treatment for youth with obesity?
- 2:35–2:55**      **Workgroup Updates**
- Research Gaps in Treatment of Pediatric Obesity with Obesity Medications – Voula Osganian, MD, ScD, PhD, *National Institutes of Health*
  - What Works to Ensure High-Quality Sports Opportunities for All Young People – Stephanie George, PhD, MPH, MA, *National Institutes of Health*
  - Obesity-Related Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research in the U.S. (OPUS) Grantee Learning Network – Jill Reedy, PhD, MPH, RD, *National Institutes of Health*
- 2:55–3:00**      **Wrap-up and Closing** – Karen Hilyard, PhD, *NCCOR Coordinating Center*

## NCCOR Member Meeting Speaker Bios

### February 25, 2026



**Stephen Cook, MD, MPH, FAAP, FTOS**, serves as the director for the Center for Healthy Weight and Nutrition at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the Ohio State University. Dr. Cook’s been involved in advocacy work for children, families, and communities through his work with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Heart Association, and the Obesity Society, including advocacy work at the state and federal level. He has served on the executive committee of the inaugural Section on Obesity for the AAP and was an associate director for the Institute for Healthy Weight at the AAP. He has continued his strong interest in advocating for the health of his patients and the community.



**Jeanne Lindros, MPH**, is the director of the Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight at the American Academy of Pediatrics, where she oversees all strategic, operational, and programmatic work. She has over twenty years of experience focused on obesity prevention, assessment, and treatment. She was a contributing author to the AAP 2023 Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Obesity. The Institute projects are focused on translation of clinical recommendations into practice and multi-sector projects that engage community-based organizations, public health, research institutions, early care and education, as well as primary care, to support growing the evidence base and improving health care policy and systems for obesity prevention and treatment.



**Amanda Staiano, PhD, MPP, FTOS**, is a behavioral scientist and associate professor at Pennington Biomedical Research Center, focused on the implementation of family-based weight management treatment in primary care settings. Her trials develop and test technology that includes telehealth, apps, wearables, mixed reality, and AI chatbots to deliver health behavior change support to families within health care and community settings. She also has experience partnering with health insurance companies to ensure coverage and reimbursement for family-based weight management services.



**Denise Wilfley, PhD, FTOS**, is the Scott Rudolph University Professor of Psychiatry, Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychological & Brain Sciences, and Public Health, and director of the Center for Healthy Weight and Wellness at Washington University in St. Louis. She is an internationally recognized expert on the causes, prevention, and treatment of obesity and eating disorders, with an integrative research approach that has led to transformative advances in both fields. Her work has led to the development of effective, evidence-based interventions that improve eating and activity behaviors, psychosocial functioning, and weight outcomes in children and families. She has made pivotal contributions to the recognition and treatment of binge eating disorder, including the

development of interpersonal psychotherapy and innovative, cost-effective approaches for early intervention and prevention, including a comprehensive digital platform for individuals across the eating disorders risk and diagnostic spectrum.

## Highlights of NCCOR Accomplishments & Activities

The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) is advancing the field through complementary and joint initiatives by its partners: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The following are **select accomplishments** and activities from October 2025 through February 2026.

### **Published two manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals**

Following the successful OPUS workshop, the co-chairs authored a commentary in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, "[Advancing Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change Research to Reverse Upward Trends in Obesity Prevalence—A New Call to Action.](#)" The commentary issues a call to action for the next phase of obesity-related PSE research, including the importance of 1) leveraging broader and more innovative research methods and partnerships; 2) recognizing the amount of time needed to bring policy, systems, and environmental research to fruition; 3) measuring proximal, distal, and partner-relevant drivers and outcomes; and (4) accelerating efforts to build capacity for obesity-related PSE research.

NCCOR also published an article detailing the new PARO framework in the *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*. The article, "[Development of the Physical Activity Research Opportunities \(PARO\) Framework](#)," represents a major step forward in organizing and prioritizing physical activity research opportunities. Designed to strengthen physical activity research, funding, policy, and practice, the PARO framework offers a strategic roadmap for researchers, funders, practitioners, and policymakers to advance their work. The PARO framework highlights that most opportunities call for real-world research and interventions delivered in community settings where people live, work, learn, and play—particularly in studies of effectiveness, but also dissemination and implementation. While the framework found a focus on PSE interventions, it also identified critical gaps—such as limited research considering physical activity across diverse populations.

### **Held Clinical Research Gaps in Pediatric Obesity Pharmacotherapy workshop**

On November 3–4, NCCOR hosted the Clinical Research Gaps in Pediatric Obesity Pharmacotherapy workshop. The objective was to understand current practice and identify gaps and priority research questions that, when answered, could guide clinicians in the prescription, maintenance, and discontinuation of obesity medications for children and adolescents, as well as in supporting their caregivers. This workshop series brought together 27 experts from pediatric medicine, nutrition, physical activity, behavioral science, mental health, and public health sectors to discuss priority gap areas identified by participants. These gap areas included GLP-1 treatment initiation, selection, duration, and discontinuation; treatment effects and outcomes; mental and behavioral health; nutrition and physical activity assessment, monitoring, and counseling; and intensive health behavior and lifestyle treatment (IHBLT). During the in-person meeting, participants selected research priorities and identified both existing and needed tools and resources.

**Presented two papers at APHA and debuted new exhibit booth**

NCCOR presented two oral presentations at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The first, “Accelerating Progress in Child Obesity Prevention through Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research,” described federal efforts that led to the OPUS workshop series, while the second, “A Call to Action to Advancing Policy, Systems and Environmental Change Research to Reverse Upward Trends in Obesity Prevalence,” detailed lessons learned from the workshop series. NCCOR also debuted its new booth with the updated logo and tagline in the exhibit hall, where over 170 individuals signed up for our monthly e-newsletter.

**Held joint symposium with The Obesity Society at ObesityWeek**

NCCOR hosted a joint symposium at ObesityWeek in Atlanta, GA, titled “Obesity-Related Policy Systems and Environmental Research in the US,” which highlighted NCCOR’s work advancing multi-sectoral, community-engaged research to reduce childhood obesity. Speakers included Erin Hennesy, PhD; Tashara M. Leak, PhD, RD; Alyson Goodman, MD, MPH; and Kristen Cooksey Stowers, PhD.

**Presented two posters at the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health**

At the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health, held at National Harbor, MD, NCCOR highlighted two recent projects—the PARO framework and the Implementation Scorecard—which are part of the Collaborative’s efforts to translate research into practice to promote community-wide solutions to improve broader public health impact. The first poster, “Using qualitative document analysis combined with expert consultation to consolidate research opportunities: Developing the Physical Activity Research Opportunities (PARO) framework,” details the five steps that NCCOR took to identify, synthesize, and categorize opportunities for physical activity research into a conceptual framework. The PARO framework organizes opportunities by translational research phase (methods development, etiology, efficacy, effectiveness, dissemination and implementation, and surveillance) and by social ecological level, providing a guide of where efforts can be most impactful in physical activity promotion. The second poster, “The Development of the Implementation Scorecard: A Decision-Making Companion for Public Health Practitioners,” details NCCOR’s efforts to bridge the gap between implementation science research and practice through the development of the Implementation Scorecard and accompanying case study. With 21 targeted prompts and relevant resources, the Implementation Scorecard supports practitioners implementing childhood obesity, nutrition, and physical activity interventions to apply core implementation science concepts in real-world settings and sustain long-term success.

**Hosted two Connect & Explore webinars**

On October 14, 2025, NCCOR hosted a Connect & Explore webinar titled “Turning Evidence into Action: Using NCCOR’s Implementation Scorecard to Strengthen Childhood Obesity, Nutrition, and Physical Activity Interventions.” The webinar featured NCCOR’s new [Implementation Scorecard](#), which was informed by the experiences and challenges faced by practitioners implementing childhood nutrition, physical activity, and obesity prevention interventions. During the webinar, Taren Massey-Swindle, PhD, Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine, discussed the development of the scorecard. Teddy Swenson, MPH, Senior Manager of Active Design at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, then shared her perspective on how the tool can benefit practitioners as they implement new interventions or programs.

The second webinar, titled “Advancing Physical Activity Research and Practice with the PARO Framework,” was held on January 27, 2026. The PARO framework consolidates years of disparate research recommendations into one accessible tool designed to strengthen physical activity research, funding, policy, and practice. Although the gaps and opportunities in physical activity research have been well documented, these insights are spread across multiple reports, making it difficult to see the full landscape—or to act on it efficiently. The recently published manuscript, “[The Development of the Physical Activity Research Opportunities \(PARO\) Framework](#),” brings these insights together into a single resource, offering researchers, funders, practitioners, and policymakers a roadmap to more efficiently prioritize and coordinate their efforts, ultimately accelerating progress towards increasing physical activity at the population level. Speakers included Bramaramba Kowtha, MS, RDN, at the National Institutes of Health and Laura Balis, PhD, at the Center for Nutrition & Health Impact.

#### **Started new workgroup focused on youth sports**

NCCOR members initiated a new workgroup, What Works to Ensure High-Quality Sports Opportunities for All Young People, to identify best-practice approaches for ensuring broader access to high-quality youth sports programs. Specifically, the goals of this workgroup are to: (1) conduct a rapid environmental scan to identify and document high-quality school- and community-based sports programs that successfully ensure quality and access for all youth and (2) convene a national workshop featuring representatives from these exemplar programs to discuss the contextual factors necessary for program quality and accessibility and to share best practices, strategies for addressing barriers, and lessons learned for increasing access to quality youth sports for all young people. Outputs from this effort might include a brief summary of the environmental scan, a recording for future dissemination, and a meeting summary outlining best practices along with recommendations for other organizations seeking to implement them. These deliverables will likely be of primary interest to youth sports practitioners but may also be instructive for other audiences, including researchers and policymakers.

#### **Held kickoff call for the Obesity-Related Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research in the U.S. (OPUS) Grantee Learning Network**

Expert presentations during the OPUS workshop series led to a new funding opportunity from the National Cancer Institute. In FY25, NCI awarded 14 administrative supplements to support the development of whole-of-system approaches to address obesity for cancer prevention and control. NCCOR is facilitating a grantee learning network for these awardees to focus on lessons learned from building capacity and readiness for the development of these approaches. At the kickoff meeting, the grantees introduced their projects and discussed topics that will be explored at the grantee meetings.

# NCCOR 2026: Upcoming Events and Publications

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
<p><b>February 11</b> <b>PARO Framework Presentation</b> to NIH Physical Activity Special Interest Group</p>	<p><b>March 10</b> <b>Connect &amp; Explore Webinar</b> Supporting Recess in Schools: Evidence, Health Impact, and Action</p>	<p><b>April 15</b> NCCOR <b>Member Call</b></p>	<p><b>May 20</b> NCCOR <b>Member Call</b></p>	<p><b>June 10</b> NCCOR <b>Member Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>July 15</b> NCCOR <b>Member Call</b></p>
<p><b>February 25</b> NCCOR <b>Member Meeting</b> (virtual)</p>	<p><b>March 18</b> NCCOR <b>Member Call</b></p> <p><b>Annual Report Released</b></p>				
<p><b>PUBLICATIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCCOR monthly e-newsletter</li> <li>• NCCOR student newsletter</li> <li>• Clinical Research Gaps in Pediatric Obesity Pharmacotherapy Whitepaper</li> </ul>					

## Overview of Active NCCOR Workgroups and Projects

NCCOR members continually assess the needs of the field, develop joint projects to address gaps and make strategic advancements, and work together to generate new ideas to reduce childhood obesity. The workgroup projects below describe ongoing efforts to support NCCOR's mission of working across disciplines and organizations.

### Identification and Categorization of Evidence Gaps in Physical Activity Research

*Leads: Melissa Green Parker, NIH, [melissa.greenparker@nih.gov](mailto:melissa.greenparker@nih.gov); Bramaramba Kowtha, NIH, [bramaramba.kowtha@nih.gov](mailto:bramaramba.kowtha@nih.gov)*

This workgroup worked to identify physical activity (PA) research opportunities and develop a framework to determine future opportunities in PA with greater efficiency. The workgroup manuscript titled "Development of the Physical Activity Research Opportunities (PARO) framework" was published in the *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity* in November 2025. Since publication, the manuscript has been shared by key outlets including PAPREN, the Physical Activity Alliance, and others. The workgroup presented their findings at a poster presentation at the December Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health and at a January NCCOR Connect & Explore webinar. The workgroup collaborated with Laura Balis at the Center for Nutrition and Health Impact to develop the framework, manuscript, and presentations.

### Implementation Science

*Leads: Sheila Fleischhacker, USDA, [Sheila.Fleischhacker@usda.gov](mailto:Sheila.Fleischhacker@usda.gov); Kimberlea Gibbs, NIH, [kimberlea.gibbs@nih.gov](mailto:kimberlea.gibbs@nih.gov)*

This workgroup officially launched the Implementation Scorecard: A Decision-Making Companion for Practitioners and its accompanying case study at an NCCOR Connect & Explore webinar in October 2025. The scorecard walks practitioners through decision-making during the four phases of implementation and points them to relevant implementation science resources to further strengthen their learning and capacity for implementation. The workgroup also presented the scorecard at a poster presentation at the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health. The workgroup worked with Dr. Taren Swindle from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to develop the scorecard and case study.

### Obesity-Related Policy, Systems, and Environmental Research in the U.S. (OPUS) Grantee Learning Network

*Leads: Jill Reedy, NIH, [reedyj@mail.nih.gov](mailto:reedyj@mail.nih.gov)*

The commentary authored by the OPUS workshop co-chairs, "Advancing Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change Research to Reverse Upward Trends in Obesity Prevalence—A New Call to Action," was published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* (AJPM). The co-chairs and the NCCOR Coordinating Center presented key findings and next steps from the workshop at an oral session at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Expert presentations during the OPUS workshop series led to a new funded research opportunity through the National Cancer Institute—the OPUS Supplement Grantee Learning Network had its kick-off meeting in January and will continue meeting through FY26.

### Research Gaps in Treatment of Pediatric Obesity with Obesity Medications

*Leads: Aly Goodman, CDC, [iym3@cdc.gov](mailto:iym3@cdc.gov); Lily Balasuriya, CDC, [rre1@cdc.gov](mailto:rre1@cdc.gov); Voula Osganian, NIH, [voula.osganian@nih.gov](mailto:voula.osganian@nih.gov)*

This workgroup was launched to plan a workshop to understand current practice and identify research gaps and priority research questions that, when answered, can help health care practitioners care for children and adolescent patients and their families who are taking obesity medications. The four-part Clinical Research Gaps in Pediatric Obesity Pharmacotherapy workshop was hosted in September–November 2025, culminating in an in-person meeting during ObesityWeek 2025 in Atlanta, GA. The workgroup is currently working with the workshop co-chairs to process the reporting protocols, outcomes to measure, and over 100 research questions generated during the workshop. The workgroup is also drafting a white paper to disseminate key findings. The workgroup is collaborating with Jeanne Lindros of the American Academy of Pediatrics Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight.

### What Works to Ensure High-Quality Sports Opportunities for All Young People

*Leads: Stephanie George, NIH, [stephanie.george@NIH.gov](mailto:stephanie.george@NIH.gov), Jennifer Matjasko, CDC, [hto9@cdc.gov](mailto:hto9@cdc.gov), Malorie Polster, HHS, [malorie.polster@hhs.gov](mailto:malorie.polster@hhs.gov)*

This workgroup was recently launched to identify best-practice approaches for ensuring broader access to high-quality youth sports programs. Planned approaches include a rapid environmental scan to identify exemplar youth sports programs and a national workshop featuring representatives from those programs to discuss contextual factors necessary for program quality and accessibility and to share best practices, strategies for addressing barriers, and lessons learned for increasing access to quality youth sports for all young people.

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