

Sarah Barlow

Sarah E Barlow, MD, MPH is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. Board certified in pediatric gastroenterology, she has worked in the field of childhood obesity since 1995. She established the Pediatric Weight Management Program at Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO. Since 2007, she has been at Texas Children's Hospital and is the director for the Center for Childhood Obesity. Her research interest is in clinical obesity care and the role of primary and tertiary healthcare. She was awarded a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality "Treating Obesity in Pediatric Offices". She was the lead author of the Expert Committee Recommendations on Assessment and Treatment of Childhood Obesity (1997) and of the summary paper for the revision of the Expert Committee Recommendations on the Prevention, Assessment, and Treatment of Child and Adolescent Obesity (2007).



Nancy Butte

Dr Butte is an internationally recognized expert in childhood obesity. Her current research focuses on environmental and genetic factors contributing to obesity in Hispanic children, and the development of community-centered childhood weight management programs. In her past research, complex, longitudinal studies were conducted to define energy requirements of infants, children and adolescents, as well as pregnant and lactating women.

Throughout her studies, she has employed state-of-the-art methodology to measure energy expenditure, body composition and physical activity. She has co-authored 180 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. Dr Butte has served as a consultant for US government and international agencies (IOM, NIH, USDA, NCHS, FAO, WHO, USAID, IAEA). Presently, she is the principal investigator of the VIVA LA FAMILIA Study which was designed to identify genetic and environmental factors influencing childhood obesity in the Hispanic population. As part of this longitudinal study, the diet, physical activity patterns, energy gap, predictors of weight gain, metabolic syndrome and NAFLD have been described in a large cohort (n=1030) of disadvantaged Hispanic children. Using a genome scan, several chromosomal regions were identified and are now being fine-mapped.



Dr Butte and her colleagues recently conducted the VIVA LA SALUD Study for weight management in obese Hispanic children at Texas Children's Pediatric Associates clinics serving low-SES families. She and her colleagues are currently conducting an intervention at local YMCAs to evaluate the Mind Exercise Nutrition Do It! (MEND) program for weight management of low income children.

Eric Finkelstein

Eric A Finkelstein, PhD, MHA is Associate Professor and Assistant Director of the Health Services and Systems Research Program, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore. He received a BA degree in Mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1991, PhD in economics from the University of Washington (UW) in 1998 and a Master's in Health Administration from UW in 1999. He then spent ten years at Research Triangle Institute (RTI) in North Carolina, including three as the Director of the Public Health Economics Program (2006-2009) before leaving to come to Duke-NUS in 2009.

Dr Finkelstein's research focuses on the economic causes and consequences of health behaviours, with a primary emphasis on behaviours related to obesity. He has published over 70 peer-reviewed manuscripts and two books in these areas. His research has been widely cited by governments, media and academics. Dr Finkelstein's latest book, *The Fattening of America: How the Economy Makes Us Fat, If It Matters, and What To Do About It* and recent publications have motivated considerable debate about appropriate strategies for addressing the obesity epidemic.

Dr Finkelstein frequently consults with industry and government on issues related to the obesity epidemic.

Deanna Hoelscher

Dr Deanna Hoelscher is Director of the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living and a Professor of Health Promotion/Behavioral Sciences at the Austin Regional Campus of The University of Texas School of Public Health (UTSPH). Dr Hoelscher's research interests include child and adolescent nutrition, school-based health promotion programs, dietary and physical activity assessment methodology, evaluation of child obesity policies, and dissemination of school health programs. Dr Hoelscher has been principal investigator on many research projects with child and adolescent populations, most notably the Child and Adolescent Trial for Cardiovascular Health (CATCH), a study to decrease cardiovascular risk factors in children; the School Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) study, a child and adolescent overweight prevalence study in Texas; the Texas Child Obesity Prevention Policy Evaluation (T-COPPE)



project; and the Lunch is in the Bag, a NIH funded parent program that addresses lunch packing behaviors.

The CATCH Project and Dr Hoelscher's research team have received numerous awards and recognition, most notably the 2006 Secretary's Innovation in Prevention Award from the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the 2010 Translating Research into Policy Award from the RWJF Active Living Research. Dr Hoelscher received her BS in Food Science & Technology from Texas A & M University, her MA in Nutrition and PhD in Biological Sciences, both from the University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA. She is also a Registered and Licensed Dietitian.

Peter Hovmand

Dr Peter S Hovmand is the founding director of the Social System Design Lab at the Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St Louis. His research focuses on how organizations and communities can successfully implement, scale-up and sustain innovations to improve population level outcomes with application areas in mental health services, community responses to domestic violence, health services, childhood obesity, and natural resources. To advance this research, he develops and draws on methods from electrical engineering and computer science, specifically system dynamics modeling and simulation combined with participatory group model building methods.



Terry Huang

Dr Terry Huang is Professor and Chair, Department of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center where, in addition to overseeing a diverse department of approximately 20 faculty with MPH and PhD programs, contributing to the growth and shaping of the College of Public Health, facilitating research productivity among multidisciplinary faculty, identifying critical needs and developing strategic solutions for the department and leading in the development of a virtual hub of systems science and public health, he is a Senior Advisor to the CDC-funded Communities Putting Prevention to Work in Omaha; a member of both the Live Well Omaha Evaluation Committee and the Live Well Omaha Kids Executive Committee. Dr Huang is also Senior Advisor for Obesity Research at the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health (NIH).



Prior to returning to academia, Dr Huang was Director of the NICHD Obesity Research Strategic Core where he played a leading role in developing new research directions and funding priorities in the area of pediatric obesity at the NICHD and across the NIH. Dr Huang is currently leading a national and

global agenda on systems science and public health, with a particular focus on pediatric obesity, society-biology interactions in obesity and chronic disease, multilevel prevention strategies, and the translation of science to policy. Dr Huang serves on the steering committee of the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR), which coordinates childhood obesity efforts across the NIH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of Agriculture, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In addition, he is Fellow of The Obesity Society (TOS) and served as Councilor on the Pediatric Obesity Section of TOS.

Dr Huang is a graduate of the University of Southern California (PhD, Preventive Medicine; MPH, Epidemiology and Biostatistics) and McGill University (BA, Psychology). Prior to the NIH, he served on the faculty of the University of Kansas Medical Center and Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

Kristine Madsen

Dr Madsen is Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics at the University of California San Francisco. She is a paediatrician and research scientist with expertise in the design and evaluation of interventions related to health disparities in youth. She has directed clinic and community based studies aimed at increasing physical activity and reducing obesity among children of diverse backgrounds. Within the San Francisco Unified School District, Dr Madsen has measured the impact of various health interventions on over 1,000 students. Working with state-wide data from the California Healthy Kids Survey, Dr Madsen has demonstrated links between increased physical activity and emotional well-being among California's youth. Dr Madsen is also the Principal Investigator on grants from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the American Heart Association, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study interventions and policies to reduce health disparities and improve child health.



Carrie Matteson

Dr. Carrie L. Matteson is the Director of the Chronic Disease Systems Modelling Lab at Simon Fraser University (SFU). She received her B.Sc. in nutritional science at California Polytechnic State University and her Ph.D. in nutrition with a focus on obesity at the University of California, Davis. Research interests include the study of obesity as a complex system, binge eating disorder and improving chronic disease management approaches in overweight individuals. Her passion to connect with community groups stems from a drive to take action in applying knowledge while learning from local experiences to address health challenges. Her dedication to making a difference in real world settings serves the purpose



of pursuing excellence in a range of prevention and health service program design and delivery strategies.

Current research projects focus upon the complexity of human obesity, including evaluating the scale up and spread of population health initiatives in childhood obesity prevention, approaches for designing strategic solutions for complex problems like obesity, contrasting perceptions regarding obesity treatment from service users, health care professionals and policy makers, and development of communication tools for health care professionals and patients. Dr. Matteson has considerable experience in one-on-one and small group teaching with a range of students from postgraduate degree students to members of the general public, in addition to large group forums and community service work.

Deborah McNeil

Dr Deb McNeil is Director Public Health Innovation and Decision Support, Alberta Health Services in Alberta Canada and an Adjunct Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary. She has a long background in nursing working in a variety of roles in Neonatal Intensive Care including conducting research in early maternity discharge and newborn behavioral development. In the past 10 years she has been working as an epidemiologist conducting research focused on preterm infant feeding problems, maternal infant feeding interaction, childhood obesity, health equity, and Aboriginal health. She Co-led and Co-authored a 2006 Obesity Reviews supplement: Reducing Obesity and Related Chronic Disease Risk in Children and Youth: A Synthesis of Evidence with 'Best Practice' Recommendations. She leads a team of Scientists and Research Associates whose focus is to help decision makers use evidence to inform practice and policy. She and her team have developed unique approaches to identify promising practices to address health problems including a presentation and publication in 2006 on *Methods of Defining Best Practice for Population Health Approaches: Childhood Obesity as an Example* (Proceedings of the Nutrition Society) and *Promising Recent Practices to Improve Maternal, Reproductive, Newborn, and Child Health in Aboriginal Populations: A Synthesis Review* (<http://www.research4children.com>). More recently Deb's department at Alberta Health Services has been evaluating the Alberta Canada adaptation and implementation of MEND.



Kim Raine

Dr Kim Raine is currently Professor in the Centre for Health Promotion Studies, School of Public Health, University of Alberta in Edmonton. She received her PhD from Dalhousie University in Halifax. She is a registered dietitian.

Dr Raine's research focuses on social determinants of health, qualitative and participatory methodologies in community health research, and theoretical contributions in a social change based approach to health promotion. From 1999-2010 she was a Health Scholar / Senior Scholar of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. She is currently a CIHR/HSFC Applied Public Health Chair. In 2001 she was named the recipient of the University of Alberta's Martha Cook Piper Research Award (social sciences) for outstanding accomplishment and demonstrated promise as a researcher. Her research program, POWER (Promoting Optimal Weights through Ecological Research), is funded by CIHR and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. She is Principal Investigator of Healthy Alberta Communities, a community-based project to prevent obesity and chronic diseases, and the Alberta Policy Coalition for Cancer Prevention, funded by the Alberta Cancer Board (Population Health Innovative Intervention) (now Alberta Health Services). Dr Raine serves on the Scientific Council of the Danone Institute of Canada.

Dr Raine is the proud mother of two wonderful sons, Corey and Dustin. She has completed 16 marathons and two Ironman triathlons. She doesn't do anything that isn't fun!

Harry Rutter

Harry Rutter is a public health physician based in Oxford, England. He is the founder director of the National Obesity Observatory for England, and an honorary senior clinical lecturer at the University of Oxford where he teaches on both climate change and childhood obesity. He led the development of the National Child Measurement Programme childhood obesity surveillance system, is a member of the Department of Health Expert Panel on obesity and of the current NICE review group on preventing obesity; he also sat on the management group of the Foresight Obesity project.

Harry is a founder member of the steering committee of the European Health Enhancing Physical Activity network; sits on the WHO Cycling and Walking Health Economic Appraisal Toolkit steering group; and jointly led work packages on two recent EU-funded projects on obesity and physical activity. He has a broad interest in the relationships between all aspects of transport, sustainability, built environment and health, in particular the health impacts of walking and cycling. He is also increasingly interested in the evaluation of public health outcomes within complex systems, and the

development of tools to support evidence-based public health policy.

Atul Singhal

Atul Singhal is the Deputy Director and head of the Clinical Trials and Cardiovascular Nutrition Group at the MRC Childhood Nutrition Research Centre, Institute of Child Health, University College, London. He is also Professor in Paediatric Nutrition at University College London and holds Honorary Consultant Paediatrician posts at the Whittington and Great-Ormond Street Hospitals. He trained in paediatrics in London, and obtained his MD on 'Nutrition in Sickle Disease' from London University in 1997.

He has broad interests in paediatric nutrition but his research focuses on the early origins of cardiovascular disease, the effects of nutritional interventions to reduce long-term cardiovascular risk, and nutritional interventions for obesity.

Helen Skouteris

Helen Skouteris is an Associate Professor in Developmental Psychology in the School of Psychology, Deakin University. Helen came to Deakin University in February 2008, when she was successfully appointed to a research only position working on an National Health and Medical Research Council Capacity Building Grant in the area of obesity prevention. Since her appointment at Deakin University, Helen has used her expert knowledge in developmental psychology to inform three successful Australian Research Council (ARC) grant applications, all in the area of childhood obesity. The aim of one of her ARC Linkage grants is to conduct a randomised controlled trial (RCT) to measure the effectiveness of the Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do It! (MEND) 2-4 program. She also has been awarded a National Health and Medical Research Council grant to evaluate the effectiveness of a health coaching intervention designed to prevent excessive gestational weight gain and postpartum weight retention.



John Spence

Dr John C Spence spends most of his time relaxing in the Sedentary Living Laboratory in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta. He has expertise in the area of behavioural medicine and research methods. His research focuses on both the benefits and determinants of physical activity and how physical inactivity is related to obesity. Dr Spence has studied the broad social determinants (eg SES) and population physical activity patterns. More recently, he has focused on the physical environment and how it may influence physical activity choices

and risk for obesity among both children and adults (eg urban form, location of food establishments).

Dr Spence has a strong background in physical activity measurement, meta-analysis, and ecological models of behaviour and health. His work is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR). He has also served as a member of grant review panels for CIHR (Psychosocial, Sociocultural, and Behavioural Determinants of Health Committee), HSFC (Committee 7), and NIH.

Dr Spence is also a Senior Research Associate with the Alberta Centre for Active Living (ACAL), an Adjunct Researcher with the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute (CFLRI), and serves on advisory committees for Active Healthy Kids Canada and ParticipACTION.

Nicholas Townsend

Nick is a Senior Researcher and Programme Leader for Cardio Vascular Disease Epidemiology at the British Heart Foundation Health Promotion Research Group at the University of Oxford. He joined the group in 2009 developing a programme of research into obesity; this work includes analysis of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) that collects BMI measurements from over one million children every year throughout England.

Nick is a member of the National Obesity Observatory (NOO), a specialist theme public health observatory, within which he provides specialist guidance for the Department of Health (DH) on issues relating to the tracking and treatment of obesity. He also acts as an external guest lecturer to undergraduates at Oxford Brookes University, teaching on obesity epidemiology. Before joining the University of Oxford Nick was based at Cardiff University where he completed a Medical Research Council funded PhD studying the promotion of healthy eating in secondary schools and worked on a research project evaluating the national healthy schools programme in Wales.



Past members

Diane Finegood

Dr Diane T Finegood is a Professor in the Department of Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology, at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia. Dr Finegood leads the Chronic Disease Systems Modeling Lab (CDSM) which houses staff and students working to build maps, models, and complex systems frameworks to help address the problem of obesity. She also serves as Executive Director of the CAPTURE Project (CANadian Platform To increase Usage of Real-world Evidence) (www.thecaptureproject.ca). This strategic initiative, funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, is building a system to support the collection and use of practice and policy-relevant, “real world” evidence. In December 2008, Dr Finegood completed her eight year tenure as Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (INMD). During her appointment, she guided Canada’s health research agenda across INMD’s mandate and within its strategic priority on obesity and healthy body weight.



She currently serves on many boards and committees, including the Advisory Board for Community Interventions for Health, the NHLBI’s Global Health Initiative, and the Board of Directors for the Canadian Obesity Network. She has received a range of honours and awards for both her academic and leadership contributions, including the Inaugural Distinguished Lecturer of the Canadian Obesity Network (2009) and the George Bray Founder’s Award from NAASO, the Obesity Society (2005).

Boyd Swinburn

Boyd Swinburn is the Alfred Deakin Professor of Population Health and Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention at Deakin University in Melbourne. He trained as a specialist endocrinologist in Auckland and his research career began with metabolic and clinical studies at the National Institutes of Health in Phoenix, Arizona and at the University of Auckland. He was the Medical Director of the National Heart Foundation in New Zealand from 1993-2000. His major research interest at Deakin University is centred on obesity prevention, particularly in children and adolescents, and efforts to reduce, what he has coined, the ‘obesogenic’ environment. He has developed and supported a number of community-based demonstration projects in the Barwon-South West region of Victoria and these are linked to similar projects in Melbourne, Auckland, Fiji, and Tonga.

He was President of the Australasian Society for the Study of Obesity (ASSO) from 2005-7 and has been a Steering Group

member of the International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) since 1997 and co-chair since 2009. He has also contributed as an Expert Advisor to WHO on obesity at 15 WHO Consultations around the world since 1998. Through these efforts and his many publications and presentations, he is significantly contributing to national and global efforts to reduce the obesity epidemic.