

2016 SIG  
Leadership  
Team  
Directory



**Dr. Elizabeth Ablah**, Associate Professor, University of Kansas School of Medicine

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - Worksite wellness, healthy foods and beverages, physical activity
- Research Interests
  - Dr. Ablah's research focuses on comprehensive worksite wellness initiatives that emphasize policy, systems, and environmental changes.
- Current Work
  - Dr. Ablah is developing, implementing, and evaluating WorkWell Kansas, evidence-based curricula designed to create healthy worksites.



**Dr. Mei-Wei Chang**, Associate Professor, Ohio State University

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - Obesity, stress management, healthy eating, physical activity
- Research Interests
  - Dr. Mei-Wei Chang's research interest focuses on weight management among low-income overweight and obese mothers, both pregnant and postpartum.
- Current Work
  - Dr. Chang's research activities include design and testing of innovative community based lifestyle intervention that can be adopted, disseminated, implemented and sustained in community settings.



**Dr. Jeroen Lakerveld**, Senior Researcher, VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - Environmental determinants of physical activity, dietary behaviors and chronic disease
- Research Interests
  - Dr. Lakerveld's interests are in the individual and environmental determinants of lifestyle behaviors and chronic disease risk, in particular how they can be measured, how they interact and how they can be changed.
- Current Work
  - SPOTLIGHT (Sustainable Prevention of Obesity Through Integrated Strategies)
  - DEDIPAC KH (Determinants of Diet and Physical Activity Knowledge Hub)
  - Upstream determinants of lifestyle behaviors and donor blood quality



**Dr. Rebecca Lee**, Professor, Arizona State University

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - Policy, environment theory development, measurement
- Research Interests
  - Dr. Rebecca Lee's research is anchored in the *Ecologic Model of Physical Activity* that incorporates environmental and policy determinants of *physical activity, dietary habits and obesity* in *Hispanic and Mexican communities and underserved populations*. Her work combines theory and techniques drawn from behavioral medicine, community psychology, geography, nursing research, policy science, social ecology, social justice and social marketing to enhance sustainability of multilevel interventions to promote physical activity and healthy dietary habits in families and youth.
- Current Work
  - *Partnering for PA in Early Childhood: Sustainability via Active Garden Education*
  - *CORD Best Evaluation Tools and Techniques for Effective Recommendations for Policies*



**Joreintje Mackenbach**, Researcher, VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - Physical, social, economic and policy environmental drivers of behavior, weight status and health
- Research Interests
  - Joreintje Mackenbach is a member of the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, of the Upstream Team and of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Network of World Obesity. Her interests are in environmental determinants of behavior, weight status and health.
- Current Work
  - With a background in Health Sciences, Joreintje Mackenbach is currently involved in the European SPOTLIGHT project. The SPOTLIGHT project focuses on individual and environmental determinants of obesity in European adults, as well as successful approaches to prevent obesity.



**Dr. April Oh**, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - Social determinants of health, multilevel influences on health behavior, community health promotion, physical activity
- Research Interests
  - Dr. Oh is leading a research program in physical activity and diet communication, neighborhood and policy effects and community health promotion. Dr. Oh's research program includes examination of the context of eating and activity, multilevel communication interventions, neighborhood environments, and social determinants of behavioral health and health disparities.
- Current Work
  - Dr. Oh serves as research director for the National Cancer Institute's Family Life, Activity, Sun, Health and Eating Study (FLASHE)
  - Senior Policy Advisor to the US Surgeon General



**Dr. Elizabeth Racine**, Associate Professor, UNC Charlotte

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - The evaluation of federal food assistance and public health programs. The assessment of the food environment on nutrition and health outcomes
- Research Interests
  - Dr. Racine studies the factors related to healthy eating and physical activity among different populations. Most of her work is in partnership with the local school system, hospital system, childcare system, and health department. In addition to her community projects she also studies the impact of food assistance programs on food security, health, and well-being using primary and secondary data sources.
- Current Work
  - Evaluating the impact of a school recess intervention on physical activity, school attendance and academic outcomes
  - Evaluating the impact of physical activity and healthy eating interventions on minority health in Cabarrus County, NC
  - Leading an obesity prevention program for 2-5 year old children in Cabarrus County, NC
  - Partnering with a local food retailer to improve the healthy food offerings



**Dr. Daniel Taber**, Vice President of Research & Evaluation, Healthy Food America

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - School nutrition, SSB taxes
- Research Interests
  - Dr. Taber's research is focused on the effects of school nutrition standards, sweetened beverage taxes, and other food policies on diet and weight status among children, with particular focus on analyzing racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in policy effectiveness.
- Current Work
  - Dr. Taber directs the research activities of Healthy Food America, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting evidence-based food policy and reducing health inequities. He works with external partners to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies to reduce sugar consumption, collaborate on policy impact models, and disseminate monthly research updates, topical summaries, and scientific reviews to researchers, advocates, and policy makers.



**Dr. Stefanie Vandevijvere**, Senior Research Fellow, The University of Auckland, New Zealand

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - Diet, nutrition, food environments, food systems
- Research Interests
  - Dr. Vandevijvere's research areas of expertise lie within the areas of global health, food policy, public health, nutrition, obesity and chronic disease prevention. She is also a founding member of the International Network for Food and Obesity Research, Monitoring and Action Support (INFORMAS).
- Current Work
  - Dr. Vandevijvere is organizing the first nationwide study on food environments and policies in New Zealand and through a National Heart Foundation fellowship she is working on different approaches to engaging and empowering citizens for obesity prevention.



**Dr. Wilma Waterlander**, Postdoctoral researcher, The University of Auckland, New Zealand

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - Food environments, food systems, food trade, food production
- Research Interests
  - Dr. Wilma Waterlander is a postdoctoral researcher at the National Institute for Health Innovation at the University of Auckland. Her interest lies within public health nutrition research, mainly in the area of food pricing and food policy research. Dr. Waterlander's ambition is to conduct high quality scientific research, as well as finding ways to have a societal impact through science communication, policy and teaching.
- Current Work
  - Currently, the main focus of Dr. Waterlander's research is on taking a food system approach (from production to consumption) to promote public health nutrition using Global Value Chain Analysis.



**Professor Catherine Woods**, Chair of Physical Activity and Health, University of Limerick

- Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest
  - Development and monitoring of national physical activity policy and plans
- Research Interests
  - Dr. Woods is Professor in physical activity and health in the University of Limerick. Catherine is the physical activity expert on SAGO, a Special Action Group on Obesity; this group is chaired by the Deputy Chief Medical Officer and it advises the Minister of Health on the prevention and management of obesity in Ireland. Catherine is also part of several successful EU funded endeavours including Horizon 2020, a Joint Programme Initiative (DEDIPAC), EU FP7 Future Internet PPP, Marie Curie Action (People) 7th Framework Programme, and an EU Cooperation in the field of Science and Technical Research (COST Action).
- Current Work
  - Design, evaluation and implementation of evidence-based interventions to promote physical activity in clinical and community settings.
  - Physical activity policy evaluation and development.