



Fifth Conference on Public Health, Law, and Obesity

A TIME FOR ACTION:

An Obesity Agenda for the Next Administration

The Speakers



Marice Ashe, JD, MPH, directs Public Health Law & Policy (PHLP), a research and technical assistance center of the Public Health Institute that serves advocates working on diverse issues, including tobacco control, obesity prevention, and infectious disease control.



Kathy Baylis, PhD, is an assistant professor in Agriculture and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois. Kathy has worked in agricultural policy in both Canada and the United States. In 2001-02, she was the Staff Economist in charge of agriculture for the Council of Economic Advisors in the White House, and in the mid-1990s, she worked as Executive Secretary with the National Farmers Union in Canada.



Judith Bell, MPA, oversees policy development, strategic planning, program implementation and policy campaign strategy at [PolicyLink](#), where she serves as President. She leads projects focused on equitable regional development policy to enhance the income and assets of the poor. Her portfolio includes the fair distribution of affordable housing throughout regions, equity in public investment and land use, and community strategies to reduce health disparities.



Frank J. Chaloupka, Ph.D., is a Distinguished Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is Director of the UIC Health Policy Center. He holds appointments in the College of Liberal Arts and Science's Department of Economics and the School of Public Health's Division of Health Policy and Administration. He has published extensively on the effects of policies and other influences on health behaviors and their consequences, including cigarette smoking, drinking, drug use, healthy eating, and physical activity.



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Michel Chauliac, MD, is Coordinator of the National Nutrition and Health Program for the French Ministry of Health.

Angie Cradock, ScD, is a Research Scientist at the Harvard Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity (PRC) at the Harvard School of Public Health, where her research is primarily focused on the social and environmental factors associated with physical activity and nutrition behaviors among youth. Specific areas of interest include school and neighborhood environments, community-based intervention research, and policy research.



Richard A. Daynard, JD, PhD, is Professor of Law at Northeastern University and President of the Public Health Advocacy Institute. After spending years developing a legal movement against the tobacco industry, Daynard has focused on honing effective legal approaches to obesity.



Lori Dorfman, DrPH, directs Berkeley Media Studies Group, a project of the Public Health Institute, where she oversees BMSG's research, media advocacy training and strategic consultation, and professional education for journalists. BMSG works with advocates to build their capacity to use media advocacy in the hardscrabble policy environment so they can focus attention on transforming systems and structures to foster health. Dr. Dorfman's research examines a variety of public health issues, including alcohol, tobacco, nutrition, food marketing, children's health, health disparities, and violence, among others. Dr. Dorfman's publications are available from <http://www.bmsg.org>.



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Robert García, JD, is an attorney who engages, educates and empowers communities to achieve equal access to public resources. He has extensive experience in public policy and legal advocacy, mediation and litigation involving complex social justice, civil rights, human health, environmental, education, and criminal justice matters. He has influenced the investment of over \$20 billion in underserved communities, working at the intersection of social justice, sustainable regional planning and smart growth.



Amandine Garde, PhD, is a Law Lecturer at the University of Exeter School of Law in Devon, UK. Her research has examined the role that the European Union might play in restricting food advertising and preventing obesity.



Kenneth Hecht, JD, co-founded California Food Policy Advocates and serves as its executive director. CFPA is a statewide nutrition policy and advocacy organization that focuses on strengthening and expanding participation in the federal food programs as a strategic resource in preventing hunger, food insecurity and obesity among low-income Californians.



Kathryn Henderson, PhD, is Director of School and Community Initiatives at the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University. Her research focuses on environmental and policy changes to improve the nutrition and physical activity environment in school and childcare settings, and on development and dissemination of clear messages to aid families in making positive nutrition changes.

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David Ludwig, PhD, MD., a pediatric endocrinologist, is Founding Director of the Optimal Weight for Life (OWL) program at Children’s Hospital Boston. He holds the position of Associate Professor in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Ludwig’s research focuses on how diet affects body weight and risk for diabetes and heart disease, especially in children. Described as an “obesity warrior” by Time Magazine, Dr. Ludwig has fought for fundamental policy changes to restrict food advertising directed at young children, improve quality of school nutrition programs and increase insurance reimbursement for obesity prevention and treatment programs. He appears frequently in the national media and is author of the book *Ending The Food Fight: Guide your Child to a Healthy Weight in a Fast Food/Fake Food World* (Houghton Mifflin, 2007).

Jane McKenzie, JD, is a Sr. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the King County Prosecutor's Office, Civil Division, in Seattle, Washington. Her principal clients include the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health and the King County Board of Health. The King County Board of Health has adopted regulations restricting the use of artificial trans fats in foods served in restaurants, and requiring chain restaurants to provide nutrition information at the point of ordering. Jane received her law degree from the University of Chicago.



Marion Nestle, PhD, is the Paulette Goddard Professor of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health at New York University, in the department that she chaired from 1988 through 2003. Her degrees include a PhD in molecular biology and an MPH in public health nutrition, both from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on analysis of the scientific, social, cultural and economic factors that influence the development, implementation and acceptance of federal dietary guidance policies.

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Neville Rigby is responsible as Director of Policy and Public Affairs of the International Obesity Task Force in London for research and preparation of strategies, policy briefs, and statements for ministries, intergovernmental groupings and international policy fora. He also acts as liaison between NGOs, related medical research associations, other stakeholders and wider international audiences.



Susan Roberts, MS, JD, RD, is Director of the Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Institute’s Food & Society Policy Fellows Program, and Principal in Roberts Law Firm, PLC and Sue Roberts Health Concepts, providing individual patient consulting, group seminars and workshops, employee wellness programs and consultation to food producers, processors and marketers. Roberts is a member of the Coordinating Council of the Farm and Food Policy Project.



Kevin W. Ryan JD, MA, is an attorney and health services researcher whose academic interests center around public health law and the development of state and federal policies targeted to improve the current health care delivery/financing system. His current activities include serving as Executive Associate Director for Policy and Projects at Arkansas Center for Health Improvement and Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Public Health.



Lynn Silver, MD, MPH, FAAP has been Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene since 2004 and coordinates the Department’s response to the obesity epidemic. She has been responsible for the development and implementation of NYC’s innovative chronic disease policy and programming such as the NYC Trans Fat ban, Calorie labeling in restaurants, regulations on physical activity and nutrition in day care, large scale training in physical activity for pre-school settings, and public health detailing of healthcare providers.

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Paul Simon, MD, MPH, is the Director of the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health. Dr. Simon received his MD from the University of Michigan School of Medicine and his MPH in Epidemiology from the UCLA School of Public Health. He completed a two-year fellowship in field epidemiology with the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS Program) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1992 and then served as a Medical Epidemiologist in CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, assigned to the Los Angeles County HIV Epidemiology Program from 1992-1998. Prior to assuming his current position, he was the Director of the Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology in the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health from 1998-2006.



Jason Smith, MTS, JD, focuses on the relationship between public health and law. He is an expert on the law and school food environments. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center where he works in law, public health, and ethics.

James D. Weill has been President of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) since February 1998. FRAC is the leading anti-hunger public policy group in America, using research, lobbying, coalition-building and public education to combat hunger. FRAC leads national efforts to improve and expand the reach of programs like food stamps, school lunch and breakfast, afterschool and summer food, and the "WIC" (Women, Infants and Children) Program. Congress Daily has described FRAC as "the premier anti-hunger group in Washington."

Emily Bryson York writes about food marketing for Advertising Age.