

## 2016/2017 SIG Team Directory

### Policy and Environment



**Elizabeth Ablah, Ph.D., M.P.H. (Leadership Team)**

Associate Professor, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita, Kansas

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.



**Deepti Adlakha, Ph.D.**

Research Fellow, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built environments

Research Interests

- Dr. Adlakha's research focuses on the social determinants of physical activity, such as proximity to parks and other sites of recreation.



**Saeideh Aminian, Ph.D., M.Sc.**

Researcher, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, measurement and methods

Research Interests

- Dr. Aminian is an experienced researcher with particular expertise in managing individual and collaborative public health research projects. She also specializes in sedentary behavior and public health with particular focus on school environment.



**Richmond Aryeetey, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

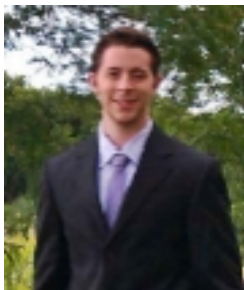
Senior Lecturer in the School of Public Health, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Epidemiology, physical activity assessments

Research Interests

- Environmental and policy barriers to physical activity; overweight and obesity epidemiology; ecological determinants of overweight; food environments.



**Colin Baillie, M.Sc.**

Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, built environments, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Colin currently is doing research with Queen's University School of Kinesiology and Health Studies, where he hopes to find a career focused on the health of indigenous communities.



**Caoimhe Bennett, PhD Candidate**

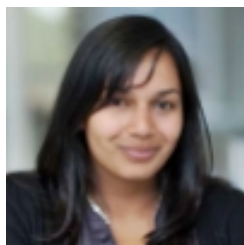
University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK Centre for Diet and Activity Research (CEDAR), University of Cambridge, UK

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Greenspace and health, physical activity, built environment, non-communicable disease

Research Interests

- Caoimhe's research focuses on investigating the underlying mechanisms of the relationship between greenspace and health.



**Prachi Bhatnagar, Pd.D., M.P.H.**

Researcher, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, diet, built environments, measurement and methods

Research Interests

- Dr. Bhatnagar's research explores how we can improve physical activity and diet at a population level, with a particular interest in health inequalities. She also aims to understand how improving physical and social environments can increase physical activity and diet quality in different populations.



**Oline Anita Bjørkelund, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Health Science and Technology, Aalborg University, Denmark

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Active commuting, sustainable transport, and health enhance physical activity

Research Interests

- Dr. Bjørkelund research focuses on sustainable active transport that emphasizes public health and environmental changes.



**Tara Boelsen-Robinson**

Associate Research Fellow, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, food environments, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Ms. Boelsen-Robinson is currently doing a PhD at Monash University and working as an Associate Research Fellow at Deakin University. Her PhD seeks to examine healthy food policy implemented in real-world, community retail settings. She is interested in the effects of all types of policy on nutrition, the role of food and beverage companies in addressing obesity, and translation of research into policy.



**Adam Briggs, Ph.D., M.A., M.Sc.**

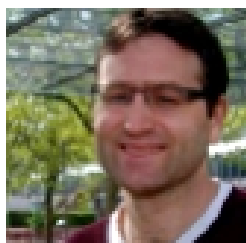
Research Fellow, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, food trade, climate sustainability

Research Interests

- Dr. Briggs is currently studying for a DPhil aiming to model the cost-effectiveness of different public health policies affecting diet and physical activity. His ongoing research interests include in the interactions between nutrition, health, and sustainability, and the role of fiscal interventions in changing eating habits. He is also an expert collaborator for the ongoing Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study.



**Jens Bucksch, Ph.D.**

School of Public Health, Bielefeld University, Germany

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built environments

Research Interests

- Dr. Bucksch's research is focused on nutrition and dietetics, as well as primary care.



**Adrian Cameron, Ph.D., MPH**

Senior Research Fellow, Global Obesity Centre, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Retail food environments, nutrition, obesity, food systems

Research Interests

- Dr. Cameron is a public health epidemiologist whose research focuses on testing interventions to improve the supermarket food environment. He also works on food environment monitoring projects, obesity-related behaviours in children and the economic evaluation of food environment interventions.



**Mei-Wei Chang, Ph.D. (Leadership Team)**

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.



**Dr Hayley Christian**

National Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellow, Research Assistant Professor, School of Population Health, The University of Western Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, Sedentary behavior, Overweight/obesity, Child development; Influence of the Built and Policy Environment across different behavior settings; Children, Adults

Research Interests

- Dr. Christian's research focuses on developing, evaluating and translating strategies for improving children's physical activity levels, health and development through targeting the environments in which children and families are exposed (home, neighborhood and childcare).



**Manuel Colmenero, M.Sc.**

Professor, University of Granada, Granada

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, built environments, measurement and methods

Research Interests

- Manuel's research focuses on sports medicine and sports science, as well as Fibromyalgia. He is also interested in pediatrics and urban and rural sociology.



**Laura Dwyer, Ph.D.**

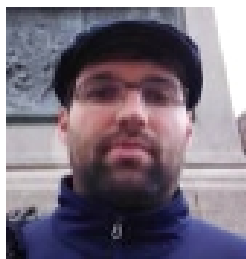
Postdoctoral Fellow, National Cancer Institute, Rockville, Maryland

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, physical activity, built environments

Research Interests

- Dr. Dwyer studies cancer prevention behaviors (primarily diet, physical activity, and sun safety), and is particularly interested in psychosocial and environmental behavioral correlates.



**Jan Dygryn, Ph.D., M.A.**

Researcher, Palacky University, Czech Republic

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, social environments

Research Interests

- Jan's research is currently focused on quantitative social research, urban and rural society, urban planning, and population studies.



**Alexandra Evans, Pd.D., M.P.H.**

Associate Professor, University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, TX

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments, randomized controlled trials

Research Interests

- Dr. Evans has over 15 years of experience in the development and evaluation of environmental and behaviorally-based nutrition and physical activity school-based and community interventions targeting children and families, with a focus on underserved families.



**Charlotte Evans, Ph.D.**

Lecturer, University of Leeds, United Kingdom

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, food environments, randomized controlled trials

Research Interests

- Dr. Evans's research is focused on improving nutritional behavior, evaluating nutrition policies, behavioral nutrition in children and young adults, studying the factors that affect dietary quality, and the relationship between dietary patterns and heart disease.



**Helen Eyles, Ph.D.**

Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments, natural experiments, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Helen's main research projects have included the SHOP trial, PLATE, The Fonterra Milk for Schools Evaluation, and SPEND. She was also a contributor to the National Guidelines for the management of obesity and overweight in New Zealand. Helen is the Principle Investigator of Nutritrack, a novel database comprising package, ingredient and nutrient information for all major processed foods available for sale in New Zealand supermarkets and fast food restaurants.





**Louise Foley, Ph.D.**

Career Development Fellow, University of Cambridge

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built and social environments, natural experiments

Research Interests

- Dr. Foley is a public health scientist with an interest in physical activity, sedentary behavior and the measurement of health-related behavior. She is currently working as a quantitative researcher on the M74 study, a longitudinal follow-up of the health effects of a new urban motorway.



**Sarah Foster, Ph.D.**

Research Fellow, The University of Western Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, built and social environments, natural experiments

Research Interests

- Dr. Foster is currently a Research Associate at the Centre for the Built Environment and Health where her research focuses on the impact of the urban environment on a range of social and health behaviors, including walking, social connections and perceptions of safety.



**Palma Chillón Garzón, Ph.D.**

Lecturer, University of Granada, Spain

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, built environments, social environments, measurement and methods

Research Interests

- Palma Chillón is with the Department of Physical Education and Sport, University of Granada, Spain, and the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA.



**Billie Giles-Corti, Ph.D.**

Professor, Director University of Melbourne, Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, built environments, natural experiments

Research Interests

- For two decades, she and a multi-disciplinary team of researchers and post-graduate research students have been studying the impact of the built environment on health, social and behavioral outcomes including walking, cycling, public transport use, overweight and obesity, social capital and dog walking. A leading public health researcher in Australia and recognized internationally for her research on the health impacts of the built form, Professor Giles-Corti serves on numerous international, national and state committees and boards.



**Ricardo Goncalves, M.S.C.**

Ph.D., UCHT/ISNAY, Portugal

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, social environments

Research Interests

- Ricardo's interests are in the management of human resources, the development of an innovation program in healthcare management in nutrition clinical area, and the development of marketing strategies to raise the number of clients.



**Alison Gustafson, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, food environments, food systems, social environments

Research Interests

- Dr. Gustafson's research focuses on the food environment as a distal determinant in obesity among rural populations. She has worked extensively with local and state health departments conducting community based behavioral interventions focused on chronic disease prevention.



**Jennifer Harris**

Associate Professor, Rudd Center, University of Connecticut

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food trade, social environments

Research Interests

- Jennifer's research focuses on marketing and public health, with an emphasis on unconscious effects of food marketing on behaviors, attitudes and motivation in children and youth. She has conducted extensive research to quantify the amount and types of food marketing seen by young people and its impact on their health and diets. She also has written on the psychological and behavioral effects of marketing to children and teens and the need to reduce unhealthy food marketing through public policy and advocacy.



**Jessica Herbert**

Research Fellow, Deakin University, Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, food environments, food systems, social environments

Research Interests

- Jessica's research is focused on public health, nutrition and dietetics, epidemiology and public health, obesity, child health, and nutritional education. She has spent the past year as a Research Fellow with Deakin Health Economics at Deakin University.



**Erica Hinckson, Ph.D., M.S.C.**

Associate Professor, Associate Dean Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built environments

**Research Interests**

- Her program of research focuses on the science of behavior, in particular the patterns, causes and behavior on health in youth and adults, within the context of the built environment. Her research aims to provide evidence for the empowerment of communities and to inform policy decisions. She has been involved in large national regional programs (e.g. Travelwise, School Travel Plan Program). She also specializes in the assessment of physical activity and sedentary behavior using the most up-to-date technologies.



**Matthew Hobbs, MSc, BA (Hons)**

PhD Candidate and Graduate Teaching Assistant, Leeds Beckett University, Carnegie, Leeds, UK

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- The built food and physical activity environment and obesity, physical activity, transferring research into meaningful results for policy

**Research Interests**

- Matthew's research focuses on the association between the food and physical activity environment and obesity. He is also interested in the methodological issues surrounding measuring the environment.



**Christopher Holmberg, MSc Public Administration, Registered Nurse**

PhD Candidate in Food and Nutrition, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Food and nutrition marketing online, eHealth literacy, Mental health

**Research Interests**

- Mr. Holmberg is interested in eHealth literacy, how adolescents use, evaluate, and select online resources and information for their health information needs. Another research area of interest is job satisfaction among mental health nurses.



**Amanda Jones, PhD Candidate, MSc**

University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Population interventions, healthy diets, sugary drinks, labelling, tax interventions

**Research Interests**

- Current work includes sugary drink tax interventions simulations, dietary behaviours and food labelling.





**Sandra SB Kasoma, PhD, MSc, BEd, DipEd.**

Lecturer: Sports Science Unit, Department of Biochemistry and Sports Science, School of Biosciences, College of Natural Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, President and Founder: The physical Activity Network Uganda (TPANU)

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Physical Activity and health

**Research Interests**

- Dr. Kasoma is developing a physical activity programme for staff at Makerere University. Planning together with TPANU members for World Move day, 2017.



**Colette Kelly, Ph.D., M.Sc.**

Lecturer, NUI Gateway Ireland

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Diet, nutrition, food environments

**Research Interests**

- Dr. Kelly's research involves weaning and infant nutrition, food environments, obesity, school food, and participative approaches to research. She is a lecturer in health promotion and is Director of the BA Social Care program.



**Liisa Lahteenmaki, Ph.D., M.Sc.**

Professor, Aarhus University, Denmark

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Diet, nutrition, food environments, food systems, measurement and methods, natural experiments, advocacy and support

**Research Interests**

- Liisa is currently working with consumer perception of health-related messages, factors influencing consumers' food and meal choices, understanding of responsible and sustainable behavior (e.g. determinants of food waste in households), and communication challenges in the innovation processes.



**Jeroen Lakerveld, Ph.D. (Leadership Team)**

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.



**Richard Larouche, Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Ottawa

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, obesity, built environments, social environments, measurement and methods, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Dr. Richard Larouche is currently affiliated to Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research Group, continuing research in the specialized scientific area of Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research. Dr. Richard Larouche is serving as an honorary reviewer for reputed journals and has authored several articles along with chapters in different books related to Human Kinetics.



**Amanda Lee, Ph.D.**

Adjunct Professor, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments, food systems, social environments, measurement and methods, monitoring systems, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Dr. Lee has more than 35 years' experience as a practitioner and academic in nutrition, obesity and chronic disease prevention, Indigenous health and public health policy. Amanda was Chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council's Dietary Guidelines Working Committee. She is currently Chair of Food Standards Australia New Zealand's Consumer and Public Health Dialogue and a member of the Australian Academy of Sciences Nutrition Committee.



**Rebecca Lee, Ph.D. (Leadership Team)**

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.



**Lucia A. Leone, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health and Health Behavior University at Buffalo School of Public Health and Health Professions, State University of New York, US

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Access to healthy food in lower-income and underserved communities, healthy food retail interventions, physical activity

Research Interests

- Partnering with communities and organizations to develop and test sustainable, scalable interventions to improve healthy food and physical activity access.



**Jenny Lloyd, PhD, MSc**

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Health Research, University of Exeter Medical School, UK

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, physical activity, sedentary behaviour, obesity, food environments and systems, randomised controlled trials

Research Interests

- Dr Lloyd's research interests include developing and evaluating complex behavioural interventions, with a particular focus on preventing childhood obesity; exploring the determinants of healthy eating and physical activity in different social and environmental contexts and participatory approaches to research to enhance engagement with and sustainability of public health interventions.



**Brian Lo, M.P.H., R.D.**

PhD Student, Cornell University

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, food environments, food systems, obesity, measurement and methods, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Brian's research interests include exploring determinants of healthy eating in different social and environmental contexts; using mixed methods to plan, manage, and evaluate relevant health-enhancing strategies, particularly among underserved populations; and employing community engagement and capacity-building approaches to conduct health research.



**Christina Loitz, Ph.D.**

Research Associate, Alberta Centre for Active Living, Alberta

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built environments, social environments, measurement and methods

Research Interests

- Dr. Loitz is currently working with Alberta Health Services in the area of Population, Public and Aboriginal Health, Chronic Disease Prevention.

**Joreintje Mackenbach (Leadership Team)**

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.

**Tsz Ning Mak, Ph.D.**

Scientific Officer, European Commission, London, UK

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Diet, obesity, nutrition, food environments, social environments, monitoring systems, advocacy and action support

**Research Interests**

- For the past 3 years, Dr. Mak has represented Italy in the European Commission's Joint Research Center as a Scientific Project Officer.

**Scherezade K. Mama, DrPH**

Assistant Professor, Pennsylvania State University

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Physical and social environmental determinants of physical activity and community health promotion

**Research Interests**

- Dr. Mama's research focus focuses on social determinants that contribute to obesity-related health behaviors and health disparities. Her specific research interests are in physical activity and health promotion among underserved and vulnerable populations, including low-income, racial/ethnic minorities, women and rural populations.



**Gavin McCormack, Ph.D.**

Researcher, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, obesity, built environments, natural experiments, systematic reviews

Research Interests

- Dr. McCormack's research program is in the area of population/public health and predominantly focuses on the relationships between the physical and social environments and health. Dr. McCormack is particularly interested in the mechanisms by which neighborhood context determines physical activity, sedentary behavior, diet, and weight status. The overarching goal of his research is to provide relevant and rigorous evidence to inform future land use policy and planning as well as health promotion interventions, so as to improve the health of entire populations.



**Jessie-Lee McIsaac, Ph.D., M.Sc.**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Dalhousie University, Canada

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, physical activity, food environments, obesity, measurement and methods

Research Interests

- Dr. McIsaac has a background in health promotion and public health and skills in case study research, population health interventions, qualitative and evaluation methodologies and knowledge translation and has partnered with various types of knowledge users to lead and support various research and evaluation activities.



**Cliona Ni Mhurchu, Ph.D.**

Professor, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments, food systems, measurement and methods, natural experiments, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Dr. Mhurchu's research program evaluates the effectiveness of population dietary interventions and policies, such as food taxes/subsidies, nutrition labels, healthier food reformulation and food marketing. Current studies use a range of innovative technologies to deliver or evaluate interventions including smartphone apps, a virtual supermarket, and automated wearable cameras.



**Karen Milton, Ph.D.**

Researcher, University of Oxford, UK

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Physical activity and public health policy

**Research Interests**

- Karen's primary research interest is in population approaches to physical activity promotion, through different sector and multi-sectoral approaches, and how to translate effective interventions into national policy and action.

**Josef Mitáš, Ph.D.**

Professor, Palacky University, Czech Republic

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built environments, measurement and methods, monitoring systems

**Research Interests**

- Dr. Mitáš is with the Institute of Active Lifestyle, Center for Kinanthropology Research, and is a member of the faculty of Physical Culture at Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic. His research is focused on physical activity, sedentary behavior, and body mass indexes in the Czech Republic.

**Anja Mizdrak**

PhD Student, British Heart Foundation Centre for Population Approaches to Non-Communicable Disease Prevention, University of Oxford, UK

**Research Interests**

- Food policy, socioeconomic inequalities, diet, and nutrition. Current research: Anja's current research is assessing the differential impact of health-related food taxes and subsidies on households with different incomes in the UK.

**James Nobles**

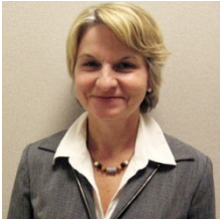
Research Fellow and PhD Student, Institute of Physical Activity and Leisure, Leeds Beckett University, England

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Whole system approaches to obesity, obesity prevention and treatment policy, advocacy and support

**Research Interests**

- James is a member of the Whole System Obesity team at Leeds Beckett University. Our work looks to help Local Authorities plan and develop a holistic, multi-level, multi-component and integrated approach to treating and preventing obesity. Other work includes intervention evaluation, with particular focus on participant engagement.



**Rachel Novotny, Ph.D.**

Professor, University of Hawaii, Manoa

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Diet, nutrition, physical activity, sedentary behavior, obesity, food environments and systems, advocacy and action support

**Research Interests**

- Dr. Novotny's research interests focus on diet, physical activity and body size factors, their influence on the process of growth and maturation, and implications for health and disease. Her work focuses on periods of rapid growth, including pregnancy, infancy, and adolescence. Research areas include the role of breast-feeding in maturation and growth, and the importance of variability of body size in different population groups for risk of disease. Current research focuses on adolescent growth, maturation and bone development and the need for adequate weight and fat for bone growth to percent osteoporosis in opposition to the concern of early maturation that increases risk of reproductive cancers.



**David Ogilvie, Ph.D.**

MRC Epidemiology Unit and Centre for Diet and Activity Research (CEDAR), University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Physical activity, built environments, social environments, natural experiments

**Research Interests**

- Dr. Ogilvie leads the Physical Activity and Public Health research program, which explores population-level approaches to the promotion of active living by evaluating the effects of environmental and policy interventions and understanding related patterns and mechanisms of behavior change. His methodological interests lie in the design of population-level intervention studies and in evidence synthesis.



**April Oh, Ph.D. (Leadership Team)**

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.



**Dana Olstad, Ph.D., R.D.**

Research Fellow, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments

Research Interests

- With Deakin University's School of Exercise and Nutrition Science, Dr. Olstad's research focuses on public health, obesity, nutrition, health promotion, prevention, diet, and nutrition policy.



**Sharleen O'Reilly, PhD, BSc (Hons) Nutr&Diet, GCert Higher Educ, GCert Health Admin**

Advanced Accredited Practising Dietitian (AdvAPD), NHMRC TRIP Fellow and Senior Lecturer, School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, Melbourne Campus, Burwood, VIC

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Prevention program implementation within health systems

Research Interests

- Dr O'Reilly's interest focus on improving cardiometabolic health in at-risk populations through guideline-led care and use of implementation science to improve translation of evidence into practice.



**Alexandr Parlesak, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, WHO Collaborating Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, food trade, food pricing, food baskets

Research Interests

- Dr. Parlesak's research focuses on the physiology and pathophysiology of alcohol use and abuse, nutrition, the influence of nutrition on lipoprotein composition and cardiovascular diseases, obesity development in childhood and adolescents, the costs of fully nutritious diets, and the design of nation-specific food baskets.



**Dr Ukegbu Patricia, Lecturer 1**

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Obesity, dietary and lifestyle habits, physical activity

Research Interests

- Dr Ukegbu Patricia is a Lecturer 1 in the Department of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria. Her research work focuses on determinants of obesity among various population groups in urban and rural areas of Nigeria.



**Emma Patterson, Ph.D.**

Dietitian, Nutritionist Karolinska Institute, Sweden

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Diet, nutrition, food environments, food systems, measurement and methods, monitoring systems, advocacy and action support

**Research Interests**

- Dr. Patterson's research is focused on the importance of diet for health and for public health. Currently, she is studying how an innovative system for evaluating school meals can help lead to improved school meal quality. In the long run, Dr. Patterson wants to understand more about how school meals affect children's dietary habits and their health/wellbeing.



**Anna Peeters, Ph.D.**

Professor of Epidemiology and Equity in Public Health, Global Obesity Centre, Deakin University

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Universal prevention policy, health promotion, obesity and chronic disease prevention, nutrition and physical activity, healthy food retail, inequalities in obesity and its drivers

**Research Interests**

- Professor Anna Peeters is a public health researcher, particularly interested in the provision of information to facilitate objective and equitable choices in public health by policy makers, practitioners and the public.



**Lilian G. Perez, MPH**

Doctoral Candidate, Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health, University of California, San Diego/San Diego State University

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Built and social environments, physical activity, health promotion, cancer prevention, acculturation, community-based interventions

**Research Interests**

- Dr. Perez's research focuses on the individual, psychosocial, and environmental correlates of physical activity. She also examines how intervention effects on physical activity behaviors differ by neighborhood characteristics.



**Margret Ploum, MA**

Teamleader at Netherlands Nutrition Centre

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Healthy Life Cycle, School Canteens, Healthy Ageing

Research Interests

- Margret Ploum is responsible for the implementation of the Healthy School Canteen Programme and the development of a strategy for the distribution of healthy ageing information for those over fifty.



**Maartje Poelman, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor/ Research-Fellow, Healthy Urban Living Research Program, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments, food policy, measurement and methods, monitoring systems, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Dr. Poelman combines Public Health- and Geo-sciences to get a better understanding of the individual interaction with the 'obesogenic' food-environment. In addition, her research interest lies with the development and evaluation of public health nutrition interventions. Besides these academic interests, her aspirations also go beyond science to make scientific knowledge available to the broader audience and to inform public policy.



**Lisa Powell, Ph.D.**

Professor and Director of Health Policy and Administration, University of Illinois at Chicago

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments, food trade, built environments, economics

Research Interests

- Professor Powell has published and presented numerous papers in the area of labor economics. More recently, her research has focused on the economics of health. She has examined the impact of alcohol use among youth and educational and violence-related outcomes and the importance of peer effects on youth smoking behavior. Much of Professor Powell's current work focuses on the impact of economic and environmental factors on physical activity and obesity. She is the principal investigator of the Illinois Prevention Research Center, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at IHRP.





**Richard Prins, Ph.D.**

Career Development Fellow, MRC Epidemiology Unit and UKCRC Centre for Diet and Activity Research (CEDAR), University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, built environments, social environments, political environments, measurement and methods, monitoring systems, natural experiments

Research Interests

- Currently, Dr. Prins works as a Career Development Fellow within the Physical Activity and Public Health group, led by David Ogilvie. His research will focus on evaluating and understanding the effects of environmental and policy interventions on physical activity.



**Jerome Rachele, Ph.D.**

Researcher, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, obesity, built environments, social environments, political environments, measurement and methods

Research Interests

- Jerome is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the School of Public Health and Social Work, Queensland University of Technology and the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Healthy, Livable and Equitable Communities. His research centers on investigating causal relationships between built environment and health and wellbeing outcomes using data from longitudinal studies and natural experiments.



**Elizabeth Racine, Ph.D. (Leadership Team)**

Associate Professor, University of North Carolina 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.



**Belinda Reininger, Ph.D.**

Professor, University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, TX

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, physical activity, obesity, built environments, social environments, political environments, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Dr. Reininger's research interests include evaluation research, community-based health promotion, and health disparities. She also does research on Hispanic health, with particular emphasis on obesity, diet, physical activity and chronic disease prevention and management.



**Jennifer D. Roberts, D.Ph., M.P.H.**

Assistant Professor, University of Maryland

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Kinesiology, population health research, public health outcomes and effects of the built environment

Research Interests

- Dr. Roberts' research has explored the dynamic relationship between environmental, social and cultural determinants of physical activity and using empirical evidence of this relationship to infer complex health outcome patterns.



**Vanessa Rodrigues Ferreira**

Registered Dietician, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Obesity, food environments, food systems, political environments, measurement and methods, monitoring systems, food labels and nutrient profiling models

Research Interests

- Vanessa's research focuses on obesity, food labels and nutrient profiling models, food systems and related environments.



**Lukas Rubin**

Palacky University of Olomouc, Olomouc

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, obesity, built environments, measurement and methods, monitoring systems

Research Interests

- Lukas Rubin's research focuses on physical fitness, sport training, physical education, body composition, physical activity, and GIS mapping.



**Shannon Sahlqvist, Ph.D.**

Lecturer, IPAN, Deakin University, Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, natural experiments

Research Interests

- Dr. Sahlqvist's research is primarily focused on understanding and influencing walking and cycling. For her doctoral studies Dr. Sahlqvist developed and evaluated a physical activity website designed to link adults with opportunities for walking in their neighborhood. After completing her PhD Dr. Sahlqvist took up a position at the Medical Research Council Epidemiology Unit in Cambridge (UK) where she worked primarily on the iConnect project, a program of 'natural experiment' research evaluating the impact of new walking and cycling infrastructure. Dr. Sahlqvist is particularly interested in using new information technologies to promote walking and cycling and in evaluating natural experiments to better understand environmental influences on walking and cycling.



**James F. Sallis, Ph.D.**

Professor, University of California, San Diego

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built environments, monitoring systems, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Dr. Sallis's research is focused mainly on built environments, programs, practices, and policies that affect living. Dr. Sallis also narrates a video series titled Active Living Clips.



**Alexia Sawyer**

PhD Student, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Environmental determinants of physical activity, social determinant of health, behaviour change, health psychology

Research Interests

- Environmental influences on physical activity in adults, in particular the intervening role of social capital in the relationship between the physical environment and activity.



**Martine Shareck, Ph.D., M.Sc.**

Research Fellow, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Health promotion, population health intervention research, health behaviors, chronic disease prevention, nutrition

Research Interests

- Dr. Shareck is currently working on the Olympic Regeneration in East London study, exploring the association between the home and school food environments of youth aged 11-15 and their food behaviors. She is also involved in the Interdisciplinary Study of Inequalities in Smoking (Montreal, Canada) focused on contextual effects on smoking in young adults.



**Louise Signal, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, University of Otago, New Zealand

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments, food systems and trade, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Dr. Signal's research interests include tackling inequalities in health, healthy public policy, health impact assessment, and healthy eating and healthy action. Dr. Signal is a Director of the Health Promotion and Policy Research unit (HePPRU) and Health, Wellbeing & Equity Impact Assessment Research Unit (HIA). Currently, Louise leads an HRC funded project that asks Is Junk Food Promoted Through Sport.



**Jamie Sims, Ph.D.**

Senior Lecturer, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, built environments, social environments, measurement and methods

Research Interests

- Dr. Sims's research focuses on physical activity interventions, and his thesis at Oxford looked into the outcomes of childhood physical activity interventions.



**Moira Smith, Ph.D.**

Research Fellow, University of Otago, New Zealand

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments, food systems, measurement and methods, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Dr. Smith's research interests lie in the area of environments, particularly in nutrition, children's health and oral health. Using Photovoice, Dr. Smith explores children's and parents perspectives of the availability and promotion of food and beverages associated with sport.



**Betsy Anderson Steeves, PhD, RD**

Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Department of Nutrition

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Betsy's specific area of expertise and interest is related to food safety net program policy and regulations; and the influence of national, state, local, and institutional/organizational policies on food access and acquisition

**Research Interests**

- The overarching theme of Betsy's research is focused on obesity and health equity. This includes assessing relationships between obesity and the physical/social environment, developing novel methods to assess the physical and social nutrition environment, conducting behavioral research to identify intervention strategies for intervening in the social/physical environment, and developing, implementing, and evaluating interventions to prevent obesity and reduce health disparities.



**Guibo Sun, Ph.D.**

Research Associate, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Built environments, natural experiments

**Research Interests**

- His research interests focus on the influence of built environment on walking behavior. In his PhD thesis, two empirical studies are designed. 1) A longitudinal empirical design in a controlled environment with socioeconomic homogenous respondents that experiencing the change of built environment. 2) An empirical study with respondents selected from neighborhoods close to transit-oriented stations (TOD) in Hong Kong and Shenzhen.



**Daniel Taber, Ph.D. (Leadership Team)**

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.



**Chan Thai, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

Post-Doctoral Fellow, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD

**Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest**

- Diet, nutrition, food environments, food systems, media environments

**Research Interests**

- Dr. Thai's research focuses on child nutrition, community nutrition, childhood obesity, media's effects on obesity, and qualitative and quantitative social research.





**Anna Timperio, Ph.D.**

Professor, Deakin University, Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built environments, social environment, food environment

Research Interests

- Dr Timperio's research focuses on contextual influences on physical activity, active transport and sedentary behaviour among children and youth, as well as the evaluation of programs and natural experiments to shift these behaviours.



**Georgina Trapp, Ph.D.**

Research Fellow, The University of Western Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments, built environments

Research Interests

- Dr. Trapp has over 13 years of research experience in the field of public health and has worked on a wide range of research projects spanning nutrition, physical activity, obesity and built environments. She has been the recipient of 22 research awards and prizes and in recognition of her commitment and outstanding contribution to research, was awarded the 2014 UWA, 'Vice Chancellor's Research Award for Early Career Excellence'.



**Mark Tully, Ph.D.**

Researcher, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built environments, social environments, measurement and methods, natural experiments

Research Interests

- Dr. Tully's research focuses on addressing population levels of physical inactivity, which is a major cause of death and disease, including cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes. He targets the development of public health interventions that addresses the underlying determinants of physical activity.



**Jelle Van Cauwenberg**

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built environments, social environments

Research Interests

- Jelle's research focuses on adult, childhood and adolescent physical activity and inactivity.



**Linde Van Hecke, M.Sc.**

PhD Candidate, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, Public open space, built environments, social environments

Research Interests

- Linde's research focuses on adolescents' physical activity at public open spaces.



**Dave Van Kann, M.Sc.**

Maastricht University, Netherlands

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, obesity, built environments, social environments, measurement and methods

Research Interests

- Dave's research interests lie in sports medicine, nutrition and dietetics, and geoinformatics.



**Lana Vanderlee, Ph.D.**

Banting Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Nutrition and food environment policy, food labeling

Research Interests

- Dr. Vanderlee's research interests lie in population-level nutrition interventions and policies for chronic disease and obesity prevention, with a strong interest in applied policy evaluation and international policy experiments.



**Stefanie Vandevijvere, Ph.D. (Leadership Team)**

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).



**Jenny Veitch, Ph.D.**

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition (IPAN), Deakin University, Australia

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Physical activity, sedentary behavior, built environments, public open spaces, natural experiments

Research Interests

- Dr. Veitch leads a program of research examining the role of the neighborhood built environment on physical activity and sedentary behavior across life stages and has a specific focus on the role of parks in providing opportunities for physical activity. Her recent work has involved conducting natural experiments to examine to impact of park renewal on visitation and park-based physical activity.



**Peter Von Philipsborn, M.D., M.Sc.**

Global Health Coordinator, Technical University Munich, Germany

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments

Research Interests

- Dr. Philipsborn's research and professional interests focus on strategies for the treatment and prevention of non-communicable diseases, with a particular focus on obesity and diabetes. Besides clinical medicine, he takes firm interest in public health, organization of care and health policy issues.



**Wilma Waterlander, Ph.D. (Leadership Team)**

Postdoctoral Researcher, 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.



**Garrath Williams, Ph.D.**

Senior Lecturer, Lancaster University, United Kingdom

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Social environments, political environments, advocacy and action support

Research Interests

- Dr. Williams's research interests fall across ethics, political theory and applied ethics. One of his main interests is in the many facets of the concept of responsibility. In applied ethics, he is involved in collaborative research on children, health and public policy, including a EU-funded project.



**Catherine Woods, Ph.D. (Leadership Team)**

Chair of Physical Activity and Health, University of Limerick

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Development and monitoring of national physical activity policy 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).



**Wendy Wrieden, Ph.D.**

Research Associate, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest

- Diet, nutrition, obesity, food environments, measurement and methods, monitoring systems, natural experiments

Research Interests

- During Dr. Wrieden's 27 year academic career she has led research projects concerned with dietary interventions, surveys and dietary assessment methodology including a project to monitor the Scottish Diet. This work informed the review of the Scottish Diet Action Plan and is used to monitor 2 of the 16 indicators for the Scottish Government's Prevention of Obesity Route Map.