Obesity: From Biology to Policy
Organized by the AAAS S&T Policy Fellows’ Health Policy, Global Health, NeuroPolicy, and Big Data Affinity Groups
Thursday, June 30, 2016

#ObesityAAAS_STPF @AAASFellowships
Wi-fi: AAAS_Public  Username: guest  Password: guest

AGENDA

8:00am  Registration and Check-In
1st Floor

9:00am  Welcome  Auditorium
Louise R. Howe, Ph.D., Chair, Health Policy Affinity Group, AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, National Science Foundation
Anjali J. Shastri, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Global Health Affinity Group, AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, U.S. Department of State (@AnjaliJShastri)

9:15am  Obesity Politics: Can Policymakers Help?  Auditorium
Rogan Kersh, Ph.D., Wake Forest University (@rtkersh)

10:00am  Break
2nd Floor Foyer

10:30am  Concurrent Lecture Sessions (Please select one)

A. Biological Determinants of Obesity  Auditorium
Energy Balance Regulation and the Struggle to Reboot Metabolism
Monica Skarulis, M.D., National Institutes of Health/NIDDK
Obesity, Motor Circuits, and Physical Inactivity
Lex Kravitz, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health/NIDDK (@LexKravitz)
The NIH Human Microbiome Project: Goals, Outcome and Relevance to Obesity Research
Lita M. Proctor, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health/NHGRI
Sleep as a Biological Determinant of Obesity: Reality or a Dream?
Nisha Aurora, M.D., Johns Hopkins Medicine

B. Socio-Environmental Determinants of Obesity  Abelson/Haskins
Neighborhood Environment as a Social Determinant of Obesity and Cardiovascular Health
Tiffany M. Powell-Wiley M.D., National Institutes of Health/NHLBI
Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals and Implications for Obesity
Complex Systems, Big Data, and Obesity
Bruce Y. Lee, M.D., M.B.A., Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (@bruce_y_lee)

12:30pm  Lunch (provided)
2nd Floor Foyer
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:15pm</td>
<td>The Global Health Response to the Obesity Epidemic: Too Little, But Not (Yet) Too Late</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td><em>Thomas J. Bollyky, J.D.</em>, Council on Foreign Relations [@TomBollyky]</td>
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<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxation as Part of a Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent Obesity in Mexico</td>
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<td><em>Juan A. Rivera, Ph.D.</em>, National Institute of Public Health, Mexico</td>
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<td>2:45pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Moving the Needle on Obesity Policy</td>
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<td>Childhood Obesity Interventions: A Holistic Approach</td>
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<td>Tackling Obesity Through Public-Private Partnerships: the Devil You Know?</td>
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<td><em>Richard Black, Ph.D.</em>, Quadrant D Consulting [@Foodlishness]</td>
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<td>Challenges in Obesity Prevention: Examples from Latin America</td>
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<td><em>Maria Eugenia Bonilla-Chacín, Ph.D.</em>, World Bank</td>
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<td>How Nutrition Policy Supports Americans’ Efforts to Eat Well</td>
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<td><em>Margo G. Wootan, D.Sc.</em>, Center for Science in the Public Interest [@MargoWootan]</td>
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<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Step Challenge Reveal</td>
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<td><em>Big Data Affinity Group</em></td>
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<td>5:15pm</td>
<td>Closing Words</td>
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<td><em>Louise R. Howe, Ph.D.</em>, Chair, Health Policy Affinity Group, AAAS S&amp;T Policy Fellow, NSF</td>
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<td><em>Brad Newsome, Ph.D.</em>, Co-Chair, Global Health Affinity Group, AAAS S&amp;T Policy Fellow, National Institutes of Health [@bradnewsome]</td>
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<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Reception</td>
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<td>6:30pm</td>
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SPEAKER BIOS

Rashmi Nisha Aurora, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Johns Hopkins Medicine

Rashmi Nisha Aurora is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at John Hopkins and the Associate Medical Director at the Johns Hopkins Hospital Sleep Disorders Center. Dr. Aurora earned her M.D. from Brown University. She completed her residency at North Shore-LIJ Health Center. She performed a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and a fellowship in sleep medicine at Sleep Disorders Institute/Clinilabs. Dr. Aurora was the Medical Director in the Comprehensive Center for Sleep Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine before joining the faculty at Hopkins. She has published extensively in the area of obstructive sleep apnea and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in both Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine.

Richard Black, Ph.D. (@Foodlishness)
Principal
Quadrant D Consulting

Richard has worked in the field of Nutrition for over 25 years, bridging science and marketing to develop compelling and captivating consumer products and messages. He has had roles of increasing responsibility and impact in the food industry, most recently as the VP of Global R&D Nutrition Sciences PepsiCo. Richard began his career as an Assistant Professor in Nutrition Sciences at the University of Toronto, and subsequently worked for The Kellogg Company, Nestlé, Novartis, the International Life Sciences Institute North America, Kraft Foods Global, and Mondelēz International. Richard has authored or co-authored over 40 scientific articles and book chapters. In 2014 the United States Department of Agriculture awarded Richard the John A Milner Lectureship, “In recognition of outstanding contributions to nutrition science,” and in 2012 the Institute of Food Technologists awarded him the Babcock-Hart Award, “To honor an IFT member who has attained distinction by contributions to food technology which result in improved public health through nutrition or more nutritious food.” Richard received his degrees in Chemistry and in Psychology from McMaster University, Canada, as well as his PhD in Physiological Psychology studying the effect of taste on appetite as a driver of weight gain. Richard currently serves as the inaugural chair of the Food Industry Engagement Council for The Obesity Society, and is a member of the External Advisory Council for Cornell University’s Division of Nutrition Sciences, and the recently formed Tuft’s Nutrition Council for the University’s School of Nutrition. Richard is currently a Principal of Quadrant D Consulting.

Thomas J. Bollyky, J.D. (@TomBollyky)
Senior Fellow for Global Health, Economics, and Development, Council on Foreign Relations
Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown University

Thomas J. Bollyky is senior fellow for global health, economics, and development at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). He is also an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University. In 2014, Mr. Bollyky directed the first CFR-sponsored Independent Task Force devoted to global health and development, entitled The Emerging Global Health Crisis: Noncommunicable Diseases in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. Prior to coming to CFR, Mr. Bollyky was a fellow at the Center for Global Development and director of intellectual property and pharmaceutical policy at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), where he led the negotiations on medical technology regulation in the U.S.-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement and represented USTR in the negotiations with China on the safety of food and drug imports. He was also a Fulbright scholar to South Africa, where he worked as a staff attorney at the AIDS Law Project on treatment access issues related to
HIV/AIDS, and an attorney at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, where he represented Mexico before the International Court of Justice in Avena and other Mexican Nationals (Mexico v. United States of America) and José Ernesto Medellín before the U.S. Supreme Court in Medellin v. Dretke. Mr. Bollyky is a former law clerk to Chief Judge Edward R. Korman, an international affairs fellow at CFR, and a health policy analyst through the Outstanding Scholar Program at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Bollyky has testified multiple times before the U.S. Senate and his work has appeared in the New York Times, Science, Foreign Affairs, the Journal of the American Medical Association, and the Lancet. Mr. Bollyky has been asked to serve in a variety of capacities at the National Academy of Medicine, including as co-chair of its workshop on international regulatory harmonization amid globalization and as a member of committees on strengthening food and drug regulation in developing countries and on the role of science, technology, and innovation in the future of the U.S. Agency for International Development. He has served as a consultant to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, as a member of the advisory committee for the Clinton Global Initiative, and as a temporary legal advisor to the World Health Organization. In 2013, the World Economic Forum named Mr. Bollyky as one of its global leaders under forty. Mr. Bollyky received his BA in biology and history at Columbia University and his JD at Stanford Law School, where he was the president of the Stanford Law & Policy Review. He is a member of the New York and U.S. Supreme Court bars and the American Society of International Law.

María Eugenia Bonilla-Chacín, Ph.D.
Senior Economist
World Bank

María Eugenia Bonilla-Chacín is a Senior Economist working on health issues in Latin America and the Caribbean region of the World Bank. She has a Ph.D. in Economics from Johns Hopkins University. She is currently working in Argentina and Mexico. She has worked in health and development issues in different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Africa. She has led several operational activities and research on health financing, health service delivery and more recently on the promotion of healthy living and prevention of obesity.

Rogan Kersh, Ph.D. (@rtkersh)
Provost and Professor of Political Science
Wake Forest University

Rogan Kersh received his B.A. from Wake Forest in 1986, and returned as provost and professor of political science in July 2012. In this role he oversees the University’s academic mission and programs, working closely with President Hatch, the deans, and faculty and administrative colleagues to support and enhance research, teaching, and graduate and undergraduate programs of the College of Arts and Sciences as well as Wake Forest’s Schools of Business, Divinity and Law. He also coordinates academic programming with the administration of the School of Medicine. Prior to arriving at WFU, Kersh was associate dean of NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service, where he was professor of public policy. Kersh has published three books, on American political history and on health policy; a new edition of his By the People: Debating American Government (with James Morone) will be published in 2016 by Oxford University Press. He has published over 50 academic articles, and does frequent media commentary on U.S. politics. He has been a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities, a Luce Scholar, a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow, and is an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. In 15 years’ teaching at Yale, Syracuse, and NYU he won four university-wide teaching awards. Kersh received his Ph.D. in political science from Yale in 1996, and has professional experience in the U.S. Congress, the British Parliament, and at think tanks in Tokyo and Washington, DC.
Alexxai (Lex) Kravitz received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, studying neural mechanisms underlying drug addiction with Dr. Laura Peoples. He completed a postdoc at the Gladstone Institutes in San Francisco, investigating motor circuits with Dr. Anatol Kreitzer. He then started his own lab at the NIH Intramural program in 2013, studying reward and motor circuits in the brain, and how these circuits are altered in obese animals. The research in Lex’s lab is aimed at unraveling such changes, and understanding why obesity is so difficult to reverse.

Bruce Y. Lee, MD, MBA (@bruce_y_lee)
Associate Professor; Director, Global Obesity Prevention Center; and Director, Operations Research, International Vaccine Access Center, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Bruce Y. Lee, MD, MBA is Associate Professor of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Director of the Global Obesity Prevention Center (GOPC) at Johns Hopkins (www.globalobesity.org), and Director of Operations Research at the International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC). Dr. Lee has over 15 years of experience in industry and academia in public health operations research and systems science, which involves developing and utilizing mathematical and computational methods, models, and tools to help stakeholders better understand decision making, processes, and systems. He has been the Principal Investigator for a number of projects supported by a variety of organizations and agencies including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UNICEF, Global Good, the Global Fund, and USAID. His previous positions include serving as Senior Manager at Quintiles Transnational where he led teams that developed economic and operational models for a variety of clients in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries, working in biotechnology equity research at Montgomery Securities, and co-founding Integrigen, a biotechnology/bioinformatics company, and serving as an Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, where he founded PIHCOR (Public Health Computational and Operations Research), which is now based at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Lee has authored over 160 scientific publications (including over 80 first author and over 35 last author) as well as three books: “Principles and Practice of Clinical Trial Medicine”, “What If…? : Survival Guide for Physician’s, and “Medical Notes : Clinical Medicine Pocket Guide”. He is an Associate Editor for the journal Vaccine and Area Series Editor for the Wiley Series on Modeling and Simulation. He is a regular contributor to Huffington Post and Forbes. He and his work have garnered attention in leading media outlets such as the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Businessweek, U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg News, Nature Medicine, and National Public Radio (NPR). Dr. Lee received his B.A. from Harvard University, M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He completed his internal medicine residency training at the University of California, San Diego.

Tiffany M. Powell-Wiley MD, MPH, FAHA
Assistant Clinical Investigator
National Institutes of Health

Tiffany M. Powell-Wiley MD, MPH, FAHA is an assistant clinical investigator at the National Institutes of Health with a joint appointment in the Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Branch of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the Intramural Research Program of the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities. Dr. Powell-Wiley’s research group uses epidemiologic methods, geographic information systems, and community-based participatory research principles to harness emerging technologies in improving the
cardiometabolic health of at-risk, underserved communities. Dr. Powell-Wiley graduated from Duke University School of Medicine in 2004 while simultaneously completing her Master’s degree in Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2003. During medical school, she spent a year at the NIH as a research fellow in the Clinical Research Training Program. Prior to joining NIH, Dr. Powell-Wiley completed internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts and cardiology fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) in Dallas, Texas. From 2009 to 2011, Dr. Powell-Wiley served as a clinical research fellow in the Reynolds Cardiovascular Research Center at UTSW. Dr. Powell-Wiley also served as the Cardiology division’s first chief fellow from 2010 to 2011.

Lita M. Proctor, Ph.D.
Program Director, Human Microbiome Project
National Human Genome Research Institute

As Program Director, Dr. Proctor is responsible for coordination of the Human Microbiome Project (HMP). The HMP is an eight-year, trans-NIH Common Fund Initiative to create a toolbox of resources for this emerging field. During the first phase of HMP (2008-2012), resources which were developed included bacterial, viral and fungal strains and their genome sequences, phylogenetic and metagenomic sequence data from the microbiomes of healthy adults and from a collection of cohort studies of patients with specific gut, skin or urogenital diseases. Computational tools for phylogenetic and metagenomic data analysis, and single cell genomics and novel cultivation approaches as well as ELSI studies in human microbiome research rounded out the resources for this phase. For the second phase of HMP (2014-2016), an integrated dataset of biological properties, to include transcripts, proteins and metabolites, from both the microbiome and host will be developed as a community resource. These datasets are being developed from three different systems - IBD, diabetes and pre-term birth - as exemplar models of microbiome-associated conditions or diseases. Computational tools to analyse these complex datasets will also be developed as a resource. Dr. Proctor joined the Division of Genomic Sciences in the Extramural Research Program in 2010. Prior to this she served as Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the Geosciences and the Biosciences Directorates, where she managed microbiological, bioinformatics and research resources programs. She is formally trained in microbial ecology, was a National Science Foundation (NSF) Postdoctoral Fellow in molecular microbial genetics at the University of California, Los Angeles, and has held appointments at Florida State University and at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Juan A. Rivera, Ph.D.
Director, Research Center in Nutrition and Health
National Institute of Public Health, Mexico

Dr. Juan A. Rivera is the Founding Director of the Center for Research in Nutrition and Health at the National Institute of Public Health and Professor of Nutrition in the School of Public Health of Mexico. He has published close to 400 scientific publications (including 220 peer reviewed articles) on the epidemiology of malnutrition (undernutrition and obesity) in Mexico and Latin America, results of efficacy trials and the design and evaluation of policies and programs aimed at improving the nutritional status of the Mexican population. He has coordinated the food and nutrition component of the Mexican National Nutrition Surveys in 1999, 2006 and 2012 and has directed the evaluations of several food distribution programs in Mexico including a Federal Milk Distribution Program (LICOMSA) and the food and nutrition components of a Federal cash-transfer program (PROSPERA, formerly OPORTUNIDADES AND PROGRESA) which covers about 6 million low income households and has a nutrition component. He was an Academic Member of the Mexican National Council for the Evaluation of Social Policy (CONEVAL). He also coordinated the National Academy of Medicine multidisciplinary group in charge of developing a position on obesity. Dr.
Rivera’s research team has provided advice to both the Executive and Legislative branches of Government on the design of policies aimed at the prevention and control of obesity and NCD’s and has been involved in the evaluation of the obesity prevention strategies. He is a member of the World Obesity Policy and Prevention Steering Committee, the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) of FAO, the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) of the World Cancer Research Fund International, the Mexican National Academy of Medicine, the Mexican Academy of Sciences, the Latin American Society of Nutrition and the American Society of Nutrition. He was President of the Global Council (formerly SINR) of the American Society for Nutrition and is President of the Latin America Society of Nutrition (SLAN) for the 2015-2018 period. He has been honored with several national and international awards including the 2010 Elsevier Scopus Award in Health Sciences (México), and the Kellogg International Nutrition Prize 2009 by the American Society for Nutrition.

Monica Skarulis, M.D.
Section Chief, Clinical Endocrinology Section, Diabetes, Endocrinology and Obesity Branch
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Dr. Monica Skarulis is Chief of the Clinical Endocrinology Section in the Diabetes, Endocrinology and Obesity Branch of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). Dr. Skarulis received her Bachelor’s degree in Biomedical education and earned her Medical Doctorate from the New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY. She completed her residency at Cornell University specializing in internal medicine as well as a fellowship in Endocrinology at the National Institute of Child and Human Development. Her research group utilizes a multi-pronged approach to investigate the complex biology of obesity by studying 1) the Biobehavioral aspect of Obesity, Weight loss and Recidivism, 2) the role of the melanocortin system in regulating body weight and, 3) the role of thyroid function and growth in health and diseases.

Howell Wechsler, Ed.D., MPH (@HealthierGen)
Chief Executive Officer
Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Howell Wechsler, EdD, MPH, a national expert on childhood obesity, is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation was founded by the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation in response to the rapid increase in childhood obesity rates over the last three decades. Dr. Wechsler leads a team of more than 110 professional staff in 40 states and the District of Columbia taking action to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity by making it easier for kids to be physically active and eat healthier foods. Prior to taking on the role of Alliance CEO in 2013, Dr. Wechsler spent 18 years at the CDC, joining as a health scientist in 1995 and most recently serving as the Director of DASH from 2004 to May 2013. He supervised the management of Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)’s three surveillance systems -- Youth Risk Behavior System, School Health Policies and Programs Study, and School Health Profiles. He also oversaw the division’s research and evaluation studies, development and dissemination of tools to help schools implement evidence-based policies and practices, and the funding of and technical assistance to state and local education agencies and national, non-governmental organizations. He was also the lead author of the CDC’s Guidelines for School Health Programs to Promote Lifelong Healthy Eating and played a leading role in the development of the School Health Index: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide. Before joining the CDC in 1995, Dr. Wechsler served for six years as Project Director of the Washington Heights-Inwood Healthy Heart Program in New York City. This community-based cardiovascular disease prevention program was affiliated with Teachers College, Columbia University, where Dr. Wechsler taught courses in health communications. Dr. Wechsler has received a number of professional honors including the William A. Howe Award in 2012, the highest honor from the American School Health Association; the Milton J.E. Senn Award in 2006 from the American Academy of Pediatrics for
achievement in the field of school health; the William G. Anderson Award in 2005 from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance in recognition of meritorious service to the profession of health education, physical education, recreation, and dance; and the Secretary’s Award for Innovations in Health from the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services in 1991. Dr. Wechsler earned a doctorate in health education from Teachers College, Columbia University, a master’s degree in public health from Columbia University, and a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Northwestern University. He entered the field of public health during his service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zaire.

Margo G. Wootan, D.Sc. (@MargoWootan)
Director, Nutrition Policy
Center for Science in the Public Interest

Margo Wootan was recently named one of the Most Innovative Women in Food and Drink by Fortune Magazine and recognized by Harvard School of Public Health for her leadership in public policy. She is the director of nutrition policy at the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), named as the top Ranked Nonprofit for National Childhood Nutrition/Health. Dr. Wootan received her B.S. in nutrition from Cornell University and her doctorate in nutrition from Harvard University’s School of Public Health. Wootan has coordinated and led efforts to require calorie labeling at fast-food and other chain restaurants, require trans fat labeling on packaged foods, improve school foods, reduce junk-food marketing aimed at children, and expand nutrition and physical activity programs at CDC. She co-founded and has led both the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity (NANA) and the Food Marketing Workgroup. Wootan is a powerful voice shaping the national nutrition debate. She is quoted regularly in the nation’s major media and appeared in the movies Super Size Me and Fed Up.

Ami R. Zota, Sc.D., M.S.
Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health
Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University

Ami Zota's work uses innovative, multi-disciplinary methods to characterize human exposure to environmental endocrine-disrupting chemicals, their consequent effects on development and reproduction, and their implications for health disparities across the life course. She also engages in innovative approaches for science translation so that her work can more effectively be used to inform decision-making at the individual and collective level. Her research has been featured in national and international media outlets including the Washington Post, TIME magazine, the Atlantic Monthly, USA Today, and other publications. Her research has also been used to inform policies regarding chemical use in consumer products and food. Dr. Zota currently has a Career Development Award from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. She recently received one of the inaugural Springboard grants from Milken Institute SPH to improve prevention and treatment of uterine fibroid tumors, a reproductive health issue that disproportionately affects Black women. Her ongoing study based at the George Washington University Hospital will evaluate whether exposures to endocrine-disrupting chemicals increases severity and growth of fibroids through epigenetic alterations. Before joining GW, Zota studied human exposure and health effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals at the Silent Spring Institute and then later at the University of California, San Francisco's Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment. She received her masters and doctorate in Environmental Health from the Harvard School of Public Health.
Louise R. Howe, Ph.D.
Chair, Health Policy Affinity Group & Member, Global Health Affinity Group
2014-16 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, National Science Foundation
Associate Research Professor, Cell & Developmental Biology, Weill Cornell Medical College

Louise R. Howe, Ph.D. is a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow in the NSF Directorate for Engineering whilst on sabbatical from Weill Cornell Medical College, where she is an Associate Research Professor of Cell & Developmental Biology. She holds B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Cambridge in Natural Science (Biochemistry). Her lab focuses on breast cancer research, using experimental models to evaluate preventive modalities. She’s been continuously federally funded as a PI since 2003, and has substantial service as a grant reviewer for biomedical funding organizations, particularly the NCI. In recent years, her focus has shifted to the link between obesity, inflammation and cancer. Her growing appreciation of the substantial disease burden associated with obesity prompted Howe to expand her horizons beyond the bench and embrace a broader perspective through engaging at the policy level under the aegis of the AAAS S&TP Fellowship program. As a AAAS Fellow in the Office of the Assistant Director at NSF/ENG, she works to identify innovative research areas, and to promote academic engagement with societally important, high impact research. In addition to her NSF responsibilities, Howe leads two AAAS Fellow special interest groups – one focusing on Health Policy and the other providing resources and advocacy for mid/senior career fellows.

Marishka K. Brown, Ph.D. (@04MKBrown)
Member, Health Policy & NeuroPolicy Affinity Groups
Program Director, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
(2014-16 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, National Institutes of Health)

Dr. Marishka K. Brown is a Program Director at the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. She was a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the Office of Strategic Coordination (OSC), in the Office of the Director at the National Institutes of Health from 2014-16. Dr. Brown earned her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Maryland-Baltimore for her studies using natural products and dietary supplements to alleviate age-related pathologies in the roundworm Caenorhabditis elegans. Her interest in aging research led her to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in the Center for Sleep and Circadian Neurobiology from 2009-2014, studying the role of the unfolded protein response in age-related sleep changes.

Shobhana Gupta, M.D., Ph.D. (@_shobhana_)
Co-chair, Health Policy Affinity Group
2015-16 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Shobhana Gupta, MD, PhD, is a physician scientist, currently serving as a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at NASA. She uses her biomedical training to manage NASA’s Health and Air Quality Applied Sciences Program research portfolio, and her passion for innovation and citizen engagement in science to lead creative projects, such as the Space Apps Challenge. Shobhana completed her medical and graduate training at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, using nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to investigate the structure and function of ArsR, a transcription factor that regulates gene expression in Helicobacter pylori. She trained as a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University School of Medicine in the Department of Neurology, using confocal and in vivo two-photon microscopy to understand mechanisms regulating local cerebral blood flow coupling to neuronal activity and their disruption in neurovascular pathologies.
Wendy Heiger-Bernays, Ph.D.
Member, Health Policy Affinity Group
2015-16 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, Environmental Protection Agency

Wendy Heiger-Bernays is a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow who is on leave from the Department of Environmental Health at the Boston University School of Public Health where she is an associate professor. As a AAAS Fellow, Dr. Heiger-Bernays is hosted at the USEPA in the Office of Science, Coordination and Policy in the Endocrine Disruption Screening Program where she is using high-throughput toxicological data to screen drinking water for the presence of endocrine-bioactive chemicals. As the Research Translation Core Leader of the NIEHS-funded Boston University Superfund Research Program, she facilitates sharing and translation of cross-disciplinary research outcomes with the objective of decreasing human exposures and improving health. Her research focuses on understanding the mechanisms of chemical contributions to obesity and understanding of risks posed by contaminants in municipal compost and soils in urban gardens, with the objective of translating this research into cost-effective best practices. Dr. Heiger-Bernays’ education includes a B.S. in biology, a Ph.D. in biochemistry and post-doctoral work at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and in the MIT Program in Toxicology. She has served as a reviewer on several NIH and USEPA study sections, USEPA FIFRA Science Advisory Panel Workgroups, NDWCC workgroup and Science Advisory Board. She currently serves as a member of the MassachusettsDEP Waste Site Advisory Committee and is chair of her local board of health.

Daphney Jean, Ph.D.
Member, Health Policy & NeuroPolicy Affinity Groups
2014-16 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, National Science Foundation

Dr. Daphney Jean is a AAAS Science and Technology Policy fellow in the Engineering Directorate of the National Science Foundation. Her projects there contribute to various initiatives related to both program evaluation and management of engineering education research programs. Prior to this fellowship, Daphney worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Drexel University where she developed a cellular model of Alzheimer’s disease and explored potential therapeutic targets that could prevent or treat this disorder. Daphney earned her B.S in Biology from Stony Brook University and her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Drexel University College of Medicine.

Beth S. Linas, Ph.D., MHS (@bethlinas)
Member, Health Policy & Big Data Affinity Groups
2015-16 AAAS S&T Policy Fellow, National Science Foundation

Beth S. Linas is a first year AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE) working with the Smart and Connected Health Program. She completed her Post Doctoral fellowship in Infectious Disease Epidemiology at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she also completed her Ph.D. and Masters of Health Science degrees. As an AAAS Fellow, Beth is an active member of the Health Policy Affinity Group and creator of the AAAS Sci on the Fly Podcast, a new communication platform to spark public dialogue around science and science policy. Her research and policy interests include the application of mobile technologies to improve public health (mHealth), specifically around real-time identification of social and behavioral patterns of individuals at risk for HIV.
Brad Newsome, Ph.D. (@bradnewsome)
Co-Chair, Global Health Affinity Group & Member, Health Policy Affinity Group
2015-16 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, National Institutes of Health

Brad Newsome, Ph.D., is a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow in the NIH Office of the Director, Scientific Workforce Diversity team. His work at NIH is geared toward developing programs to address the needs of underrepresented scientists, especially the needs of next-generation scientific trainees and leaders, advancing data-driven approaches to training program design and assessment, and partnering with nongovernmental and industry stakeholders for collaborative approaches to equity in the scientific workforce. Dr. Newsome received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Kentucky (UK), which involved a transdisciplinary approach to addressing the complex public health challenges posed by environmental toxins. As such, his environmental health science research was focused at the interface of materials science, WASH (global water, sanitation and hygiene), toxicology, nutrition, and stakeholder-driven communication. After receiving his Ph.D., he managed the UK Superfund Research Program (one of eighteen NIH-NIEHS Superfund Research Program P42 multiproject center grantees) Center’s training and research translation efforts to more effectively tie multidisciplinary research and training with effective communication and stakeholder engagement. At his core, Brad is a humanitarian driven to address the health concerns of disparaged populations through needs-based research/development, policy implementation, and health education/training.

Beth A. Russell, Ph.D.
Co-Chair, Big Data Affinity Group & Member, Health Policy Affinity Group
2014-16 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, National Science Foundation

Dr. Beth A. Russell is a second year AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the Big Data and Analytics track and a co-lead of the AAAS Fellows Big Data Affinity Group. She is interested in big data, personalized medicine, and citizen science. At the NSF she is involved in education research data policy and development of smart and connected communities for learning programs. She served the first year of her fellowship as the scientific communications lead for the new NIH Office of the Associate Director for Data Science. Dr. Russell has over a decade of experience as a human geneticist specializing in cancer genomics, hormone biology, and epigenetics. Her postdoctoral work at the University of Chicago focused on breast cancer prevention and she received her Ph.D. in genetics from Yale University for her genomic research examining the differences in estrogen activity in breast and uterine cancer. Dr. Russell completed her B.A. at Washington University in St. Louis with majors in Biology and in Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

Anjali J. Shastri, Ph.D. (@AnjaliJShastri)
Co-Chair, Global Health Affinity Group
2014-16 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, U.S. Department of State

Anjali Shastri, Ph.D., is a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow at the U.S. Department of State, where she serves as a Policy Advisor in the Office of Global Health Diplomacy within the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy (S/GAC). Here she utilizes her technical training to elevate public health in U.S. foreign policy. Working to bridge interagency technical experts and policy makers, she designs and develops resources and educational tools to prepare U.S. diplomats to engage in health diplomacy. Dr. Shastri serves as liaison between the Office of Global Health Diplomacy and the Department’s Bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs and to date has worked closely with U.S. Embassies in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh. She also leads the office’s efforts on maternal and child health and related programs to combat HIV/AIDS and improve global health security. Prior to joining...
the Department of State as a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, Dr. Shastri was a Policy Fellow at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences where she worked with the Committee on Science, Technology, and Law. Before beginning her career in science policy, she worked in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Stanford University, where she studied how the environmentally persistent, food and waterborne pathogen, Toxoplasma gondii, manipulates the immune system. Dr. Shastri received her Ph.D. in Immunology at Stanford University and her bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Berkeley in Molecular and Cell Biology.

![Laurie Stepanek, Ph.D.](image)

**Laurie Stepanek, Ph.D.**
**Member, Health Policy & NeuroPolicy Affinity Groups**
**Professorial Lecturer, American University**
* (2012-14 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, National Science Foundation)*

Dr. Laurie Stepanek is a Professorial Lecturer at American University in Washington, DC, where she is teaching and developing curriculum for a new undergraduate major in Neuroscience. She was a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow at the National Science Foundation from 2012-14 in the Division of Engineering Education and Centers. She obtained her Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Miami, where she studied proteins that regulate axon growth and guidance. She went on to do a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco where she studied the neural basis of vocal learning and plasticity in songbirds.