

Meet the Speakers

Children's Healthy Weight CoIN

Bethesda, MD

January 8-9, 2019

Kinkini Banerjee

Kinkini Banerjee is the Coalition Relations Director of the U.S. Breastfeeding Committee (USBC). To increase and enhance state and national level strategic collaborations in maternal and child health, she leads the design of USBC's capacity building support for its network of national member organizations, and state, local, tribal, and learning collaborative with four capacity building webinar series, learning communities, and the Annual National Breastfeeding Coalitions Conference. A core component of her work is advancing USBC's equity mission forward. She is actively involved in USBC's strategy development, leads USBC's program evaluation efforts, and provides analysis of Federal health reform and appropriations.

Kinkini serves on advisory committees of a number of national initiatives, including *Children's Healthy Weight Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network*, and the Expert Advisory committee of the *National Coalition of National Action Partnership to Promote Safe Sleep Improvement and Innovation Network (NAPPSS-IIN)* co-chairing one of the four National Action Teams. Kinkini is the USBC liaison working with a national coalition to advocate for evidence-based, culturally congruent dietary recommendations for the pregnancy and birth through 24 months groups in the 2020 edition of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

Rachel Brady

Rachel Brady, PT, DPT, MS is the Associate Director for Dissemination at the Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (GUCEDD) and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Georgetown University. She is a physical therapist at the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development (GUCCHD). Dr. Brady has over 27 years experience in early childhood intervention services and 17 years in early childhood personnel training and related research. She is the coordinator and instructor for the GU Certificate in Early Intervention Program of the School of Continuing Studies. Dr. Brady has publications and provided presentations in assistive technology, serving children with disabilities and complex needs, and training and education in early intervention. She provides inclusion services and training for families and teachers in an Early Head Start/ Head Start program in the District of Columbia that serve families who are homeless.

Marci Brewer, MPH

Marci Brewer is the breastfeeding program manager for the Louisiana Department of Health-Office of Public Health-Bureau of Family Health. As the breastfeeding program manager, she oversees the Bureau's breastfeeding initiatives and strategies including, The Gift, a hospital-based breastfeeding initiative and designation program. Marci also oversees the Louisiana Breastfeeding Coalition. In 2002, Marci received a Bachelor of Science in human nutrition, foods, and exercise from Virginia Tech. She was awarded a Master of Public Health, with a focus in maternal and child health, from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in 2008. Her passion for breastfeeding and maternal and child health developed when she worked in Western Samoa in their Ministry of Health, and with the WIC program in Fairfax County, Virginia. She was the 2009 recipient of the Elizabeth A. Bennett Award for Excellence in

Maternal and Child Health given by the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Anna Corona, MPH

Ms. Anna Corona is a Program Manager for AMCHP on the Child and Adolescent Health Team where she supports several projects such as the Children's Healthy Weight CoIIN, the Adolescent and Young Adult Health CoIIN, and the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems CoIIN. She received her undergraduate degree in Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise from Virginia Tech and her Masters in Public Health from the University of Florida. Prior to working with AMCHP, Anna spent several years working for state health departments. She began her career working for the Florida Department of Health as a Public Health Policy Specialist for the state's Tobacco Prevention Program and then moved to Virginia to work for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a Senior Nutritionist.

Pam Eidson, MEd, PAPHS

Pam Eidson began her career in health promotion in two state public health departments, West Virginia and Georgia, before entering nonprofit association work. From her former position at the Directors of Health Promotion and Education, she helped to found the National Physical Activity Society. NPAS members include professionals in state and local public health, universities, K-12 schools, nonprofits, urban planning, and more.

Now, as executive director of NPAS, Pam does needs assessments of members and promotes public health approaches to physical activity. One example: In response to member concerns that walkability was seen as only an urban issue, she assembled *Stories from Small Towns*, one pagers describing steps taken by towns of under 25,000 population that benefit walking and biking. She walks, reads, works, laughs, plays, and wonders in Decatur, Georgia.

Laura Kavanagh, MPP

Laura Kavanagh is the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration. MCHB's mission is to improve the health of America's mothers, children and families. Its Title V Maternal and Child Health Services program serves over 61 million pregnant women and children in the United States, comprising 84 percent of all pregnant women and 63 percent of all infants and children, including those with special health care needs.

Ms. Kavanagh has served as the Deputy Associate Administrator since April 2015, with a focus on improving the transparency, accountability, and evidence base of MCHB's programs and initiatives. Her 30-year career in government and academia demonstrates a clear commitment to improving maternal and child health, with emphases on teaching, mentoring the next generation of MCH professionals, and advancing a diverse array of programs for underserved communities.

Before recently re-assuming her current role as MCHB's Deputy Associate Administrator, Ms. Kavanagh served as the Acting Administrator of MCHB from October 2017 through October 2018, where she oversaw MCHB's \$1.33 billion budget, providing strategic vision and ensuring that programs were designed and implemented to achieve sustainable results. Previously, Ms. Kavanagh led the MCHB Division of MCH Workforce Development; the MCHB Division of Research, Training and Education; and the MCHB Autism Initiative, a cross-division program that included research and training.

Prior to her tenure at MCHB, Ms. Kavanagh conducted health policy research at Georgetown University's National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health for 14 years and taught in the graduate public policy program. Research areas include evaluation of the national MCH training program, development of MCH performance measures, effectiveness of outreach strategies for access to children's health services, and evaluation of the Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children program.

Recognitions include the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics Dale Richmond/Justin Coleman Lectureship Award, the National Public Health Leadership Institute fellowship, and the American Public Health Association's Maternal and Child Health Young Professional Award.

Ms. Kavanagh earned a Master of Public Policy degree with an emphasis on health policy analysis from Georgetown University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Virginia. She enjoys spending time with her husband and two adult children.

Beth Kitchin, PhD, RDN

Beth Kitchin earned her undergraduate degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and her master's degree in Human Nutrition and Foods from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. She earned her Ph.D. in Health Education and Promotion in UAB's School of Public Health. Beth is presently an assistant professor in the UAB Department of Nutrition Sciences where she teaches several undergraduate and graduate courses. She is also the director of the UAB Minor in Nutrition Sciences. She has been the patient educator in UAB's Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Clinic since 1997. You can see Dr. Kitchin every Tuesday on Birmingham's Fox 6 morning program Good Day Alabama. She is also a popular actress on the local Birmingham theatrical scene.

Michael Kogan, PhD

Dr. Michael D. Kogan is Director of the Office of Epidemiology and Research for the Maternal and Child Health Bureau at the Health Resources and Services Administration. In this position he is responsible for directing activities of the office with an emphasis on 1) building the data capacity of federal, state and local areas in maternal and child health; 2) strengthening the present and future workforce skill levels in maternal and child health epidemiology; 3) disseminating information and strengthening the evidence base in maternal and child health; and 4) overseeing a research network program, including multiple research networks related to autism. He has served as the Project Director for the National Surveys of Children's Health and the National Surveys of Children with Special Health Care Needs. He also served as the co-chair of the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant performance measurement revision workgroup.

He serves on the editorial board of the Maternal and Child Health Journal and has served in that capacity for the American Journal of Public Health. He has also been a special editor for other scientific journals, such as Pediatrics. He has held adjunct academic appointments at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and is a regular lecturer at Georgetown University and Boston University. He has published about 150 articles and book chapters on various topics in pediatric and perinatal epidemiology, including numerous articles on autism. He has taught courses on scientific writing, and evaluation at various venues. He received the 2003 Advancing Knowledge award from the Coalition for Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology. He also received the 2011 HRSA Administrator's Award for Excellence for his

leadership and research, and the 2017 Vince Hutchins Partnership Award in Maternal and Child Health. He received his doctorate in epidemiology from Yale University.

Lynda Krisowaty

Lynda Krisowaty is the Evidence-Based Practice Senior Program Manager at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) where she contributes to the development, implementation, and evaluation of program activities related to evidence-based practices. Lynda is the lead staff for the implementation of AMCHP's Best Practices Initiative and Innovation Station, a repository of cutting-edge, emerging, promising, and best practices in maternal and child health which allows states to learn about successful MCH programs across the United States and to benefit from lessons learned. In this role, she assists with the identification, dissemination, and evaluation of Innovation Station and AMCHP's Best Practices Replication work and provides technical assistance to state partners on evidence-based practice

Michele Lawler, MS, RD

As Director of the Division of State and Community Health (DSCH), Ms. Lawler provides national leadership, direction and administrative oversight for the State Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant Program. She also provides programmatic oversight for the State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI) Grant Program and three cooperative agreements to advance State and urban MCH leadership. A nutritionist by training, Ms. Lawler served as the Project Officer on Task Orders with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) that produced the 2009 Weight Gain During Pregnancy: Re-examining the Guidelines Report and Recommendations and the 2013 workshop summary report on Leveraging Action to Support Dissemination of the Pregnancy Weight Gain Guidelines. Prior to coming to Maternal and Child Health Bureau in 1998, she held a nutritionist position in the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. Her previous experience includes work in local public health programs, the private sector and teaching at the university level. She is married and has one son.

Sandy Perkins, MS, RD/LD

Sandy Perkins is a Public Health Nutrition Consultant and the Director of Program Development for the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN). In this position she serves as the project manager for the Children's Healthy Weight CoIIN. Sandy has over 25 years experience in the field of public health nutrition specializing in the maternal and child population. Sandy has experience coordinating nutrition services for various programs serving maternal and child populations at the state and local agency levels, including WIC, Maternal and Child Health, Children with Special Health Care Needs, and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. She holds a master's degree in food science and human nutrition from Colorado State University and BS from Kansas State University.

Deborah Perry

Deborah Perry is Director of Research and Evaluation and a professor at the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development. Dr. Perry's 30-year MCH career has focused on translating research into practice for perinatal populations and caregivers with

young children. She was co-Principal Investigator on two R40 MCHB research grants and has served as the senior evaluator for DC's MCHB-funded Maternal Infant and Early Childhood home visiting program for the last 4 years.

Lourdes Pogue

Lourdes Pogue is the Marketing and Creative Consultant at C5 Communications. Since 1987, Lourdes has provided full service marketing and advertising services to industry associations, non-profit organizations and a host of companies in specific vertical markets ranging from packaging, to home health care, to information technologies. She works closely with clients to help determine their strategic and marketing goals in order to create results-oriented communications plans and positioning strategies.

Lourdes brings creative passion to both the visual and verbal components of messaging. Her expertise in print and electronic media allows her to develop effective and targeted materials and websites that work seamlessly together to deliver high brand recognition. She has worked with ASPHN for over 12 years and was instrumental in the association's successful name change and rebranding effort in 2013-2014.

Karen L. Probert, MS, RDN

Karen Probert is the Executive Director of the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN). Founded in 1952, ASPHN is a non-profit membership organization that provides state and national leadership on food and nutrition policy, programs and services. She has worked in this position for nine years supporting the work of public health nutritionists located throughout the U.S. Before ASPHN, Karen worked for a health planning organization in rural Kansas to recruit and retain medical providers and facilitate collaboration among health organizations. She started her career in Washington, DC in food and agriculture policy and even worked as ASPHN Executive Director in the mid 1990s.

Karen lives in Tucson, AZ and loves the variety of outdoor activities and local foods available in the Southwest. She has served on nonprofit boards at the local and national level. Karen has a Master of Science in Nutrition from Tufts University and is a registered dietitian nutritionist.

John Richards

John Richards is a research professor at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute. He serves as co-director for the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health. He currently leads the MCH Navigator, Strengthen the Evidence for MCH Programs, and the HealthCheck Training and Resource Center. For the past 20 years, he has worked on a wide range of MCH initiatives, including the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, the Title V Information System, the National Partnership to Promote Safe Sleep, Bright Futures, and the Healthy Start National Resource Center.

Bonnie A. Spear, PhD, RDN

Dr. Spear is currently a Professor Emerita of Pediatrics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has had over 35 years of experience working in adolescent health, pediatric nutrition and public health nutrition. She is widely published in the field of adolescent and pediatric nutrition. Until retirement she served as Project Director for two MCHB-funded Leadership Education in MCH Nutrition and Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH). She has been involved with the MCHB Bright Futures initiative and the *Expert*

Committee Recommendations for the Treatment of Child and Adolescent Obesity. Dr. Spear co-chaired the Alabama State Obesity Task Force development, and served as chair board member.

Allison Hoit Tubbs, MS, CHES

Ms. Hoit joined Lakeshore Foundation in 2012 and is currently the Project Coordinator for the NCHPAD. Ms. Hoit is a Certified Exercise Physiologist (ACSM EP-C) with the American College of Sports Medicine. She received her Bachelors degree in Exercise Science from Auburn University as well as her Masters degree in Community Health Education with emphasis in Worksite Wellness from the University of West Florida. Ms. Hoit has applied exercise science and community health education experience in the areas of industrial rehabilitation, health promotion, wellness coaching, health communication, and physical activity programming for people with disability across the lifespan. Ms. Hoit provides organizational management for NCHPADs technical assistance, training, resources, research and project development on disability, chronic health conditions, physical activity, fitness, health promotion, and inclusion. She also manages and maintains communication and social media networks for the Center as well as develops and implements health communication campaigns that promote the social model of disability and empowerment of healthy lifestyles. Ms. Hoit conducts inclusive fitness trainings nationally on behalf of NCHPAD and represents the Center at national conferences and exhibitions. Additionally, she coordinates the Inclusive Fitness Coalition (IFC), a formal partnership with the American College of Sports Medicine, which consists of over 220 organizations and 900 individuals. Ms. Hoit has been published in MediaplanetUSA distributed through USA Today, the ACSMs Fit Society Page, and Sports N Spokes magazine. She is also a regular contributor on behalf of NCHPAD to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Be Active Your Way Blog. Ms. Hoit works locally to improve the health of Alabamians as the current Chair-elect for the Alabama Obesity Task Force, facilitators of the statewide physical activity campaign, Get Moving Alabama. She also serves as Adapted Chair for the Alabama State Association on Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and works with the Alabama Disability and Health Project.

Jennifer Young

Jennifer Young, MPH, RDN, EdD is a policy analyst with the Oregon Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs. Jennifer is a member of Oregon's Physical Activity CHW CoIIN Team. Jennifer also leads Oregon's CDC 1801 grant to improve student health and academic achievement through nutrition, physical activity, and management of chronic conditions in school. Jennifer's expertise lies in public health nutrition and physical activity with child and adolescent populations. She has worked on nutrition and physical activity programs, projects and policy at the state and local level. Jennifer is also an adjunct professor in the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health. She enjoys bringing her work experiences into the classroom as students explore the latest data, research, policy and legislation in action. Jennifer has served as a preceptor for nearly thirty interns, and now works alongside many of them as colleagues in the field.