



## **Strategies to Reduce Added Sugars Consumption in the United States Virtual Public Meeting Speakers' and Panelists' Biographies**

### **Amaka Anekwe, MS, RDN, Director of Strategic Nutrition Initiatives, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention, Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

Amaka Anekwe is the Director of Strategic Nutrition Initiatives in the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In this capacity, she oversees research, development and implementation of a broad food policy portfolio. This work includes policies impacting the restaurant environment, like sodium and added sugar warnings in chain restaurants and calorie labeling, and policies that address the availability of healthy foods served to New Yorkers who rely on NYC's food programs. Ms. Anekwe's work also includes research and advocacy around economic support and social justice and she oversees a team leading the National Salt and Sugar Reduction Initiative. Amaka is a registered dietitian and received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and her M.S. from Columbia University.

### **Heidi Michels Blanck, PhD, MS, (Retired, Captain USPHS), Branch Chief, Obesity Prevention and Control Branch, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

Dr. Heidi Michels Blanck serves as CDC's Chief of Community Nutrition and Obesity Prevention and Control. In this capacity she supports teams working on national and state nutrition and obesity surveillance, applied research, and technical assistance to state and local partners to improve health and nutrition security through early childcare and education (ECE) programs, nutrition standards, fruit and vegetable community programs, and family healthy weight programs to support healthy child growth. Dr. Blanck also supports research-practitioner partnerships including the Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (NOPREN). Dr. Blanck received her Ph.D. in Nutrition and Health Science from Emory University and M.S. in Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan.

### **Melanie Condon, MBA, Director of Sustainability, Keurig Dr. Pepper**

Melanie Condon is the Director of Sustainability for Keurig Dr Pepper where she works with KDP's commercial sector, helping the brands, sales and marketing functions embed sustainability in their daily business. She also leads their corporate health and wellbeing strategy and oversees their community relations work, all with an eye towards embedding these strategies in customer relationships. Prior to joining KDP, Melanie was with Unilever in their External Affairs and Sustainable Business Communications office. Melanie has her MBA from the University of Maryland, Robert H. Smith School of Business and her BA in Political Science and International Business from the University of New Hampshire.

### **Blakeley Fitzpatrick, MPH, RD, LDN, Director, Division of Nutrition Programs, Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), FDA**

Blakeley Fitzpatrick is the Director of the Division of Nutrition Programs (DNP) within the Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In this capacity, she oversees the scientific and regulatory review of data and other nutrition information, which supports the development of policies and regulations related to nutrition labeling. She leads DNP in their work on FDA nutrition initiatives and work supporting the White House National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health as well as in DNP's review and response to health claim, nutrient content claim, and citizen petitions. She holds a B.S. in dietetics from James Madison University and a Master of Public Health degree from the George Washington University. She is also a Captain (CAPT) in the U.S. Public Health Service.

### **Aaron Frazier, Vice President of Public Policy, National Restaurant Association**

Aaron Frazier is the Vice President of Public Policy at the National Restaurant Association in Washington, D.C. In this role, Aaron oversees industry policy priorities and leads on issues such as tax relief and healthcare. Aaron has 18 years of policy, political, and communications experience. Previously, he was the head of government affairs for

First Quality Enterprises, a \$3 billion healthcare products manufacturer – but his first job was at Ruby’s Diner in Laguna Beach, California.

**Sheldon E. Gordon, MS, RDN, Director, Nutrition Education, Training, and Technical Assistance Division, Child Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

Sheldon E. Gordon is currently the Director of the Nutrition, Education, Training, and Technical Assistance Division in USDA, Food and Nutrition Service’s (FNS) Child Nutrition Programs (Alexandria, VA). He is responsible for leading a team that provides nutrition education and technical assistance for programs that provide healthy meals to children including the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. In addition, he oversees the development of technology-based training and technical assistance resources for Child Nutrition program administrators, operators, and stakeholders and the Team Nutrition Training Grants to State agencies. Sheldon has over 20 years of service with USDA. He earned Master of Science in Food and Nutrition Science from Tuskegee University (Tuskegee, AL) and is Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist.

**Janelle Peralez Gunn, MPH, RD, Associate Director, Office of Policy, Partnerships and Communication, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, CDC**

Janelle Gunn is the Associate Director for Policy, Partnerships, and Communications in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity. In this capacity she leads the Policy and Partnerships and Strategic Communications teams for the Division. Their portfolios include legislative affairs, issues management, partnerships, web, and digital media. Prior to this position, Janelle was the Policy and Partnership Team Lead for CDC’s Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. Her team was responsible for policy and partnership activities for the Division and coordination of CDC’s sodium reduction activities. Janelle received both a bachelors of science degree in nutrition and masters of public health degree from the University of Minnesota. She is a Registered Dietitian.

**Jackie Haven, MS, RD, Deputy Administrator, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, USDA**

Jackie Haven oversees USDA’s programs to set national nutrition policy, and design and implement innovative and effective science-based national nutrition promotion and outreach programs to improve the health of all Americans. She oversees projects including the development and promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate, USDA’s Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review, the Healthy Eating Index, and the USDA Food Plans. Under the MyPlate public-private partnerships initiative, she helps lead a challenge to corporate America, youth, community and research organizations, educators, healthcare providers, and the media, to help magnify the reach of Dietary Guidelines and MyPlate nutrition messages by creatively working in ways that promote healthy eating practices and increase physical activity. Ms. Haven has been with USDA for over 30 years. She holds a master’s degree in clinical nutrition from New York University and bachelor’s in psychology and marketing from the State University of New York at Albany. She is a registered dietitian.

**Janet de Jesus, MS, RD, Nutrition Advisor, Division of Prevention Science, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

Janet de Jesus is a Nutrition Advisor in the HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. She is the HHS lead of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 and participates in other crosscutting nutrition activities across the federal government. Previously, she was a Public Health Advisor at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for 18 years. At NHLBI, she supported the development of clinical practice guidelines for the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular risk factors in adults and pediatrics. She participated in the development of community programs to improve heart health in high-risk communities and nutrition education materials for cardiovascular health. She completed her Master’s in nutrition at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

**James “Jim” Jones, MS, Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods, FDA**

James “Jim” Jones joined the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in September 2023 as the agency’s first Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods. In this new executive position, which reports directly to the FDA Commissioner, Jones leads the charge in setting and advancing priorities for a proposed, unified Human Foods Program (HFP),

which includes food safety, chemical safety and nutrition activities. He will exercise decision-making authority over all HFP entities, including resource allocation, risk-prioritization strategy, policy, major response activities involving human foods, and related Office of Regulatory Affairs activities. He currently oversees the leadership of the agency's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and Office of Food Policy and Response until the proposed HFP reorganization is implemented.

**Claudine Kavanaugh, PhD, MPH, RD, Director, Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling, CFSAN, FDA**

Dr. Claudine Kavanaugh is the Director of the Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. She has been with the FDA for 20 years and prior to leading ONFL, Dr. Kavanaugh led the commissioner's nutrition innovation strategy and work related to restaurant menu labeling and updating the nutrition facts label. Prior to joining the FDA, Dr. Kavanaugh was a cancer prevention fellow at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Kavanaugh received her Ph.D. in nutrition from Purdue University and a Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. She is also registered dietitian.

**Cindy Long, MPA, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Services, USDA**

Cindy Long was appointed Administrator for the Food and Nutrition Service on September 13, 2021. Administrator Long most recently served as Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Acting Administrator, and has had extensive experience with FNS, including serving as Deputy Administrator for Child Nutrition Programs. In this role, she led FNS' implementation of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act, the most significant restructuring of these programs in decades and a legislative centerpiece of the Obama-Biden Administration's nutrition initiatives.

**Fabiana Moura, PhD, Nutrition Scientist, Division of Nutrition Programs, Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling, CFSAN, FDA**

Dr. Fabiana Moura is a Nutrition Scientist in the Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, at the Food and Drug Administration. She is a member of the Nutrition Science Review Branch where she reviews the scientific evidence for health claims and other pre-market nutrition labeling matters related to the Nutrition and Supplement Facts label. Dr. Moura helped implement the FDA regulatory definition of dietary fiber and reviews the evidence to determine if isolated or synthetic non-digestible carbohydrates meet the regulatory definition of dietary fiber. Prior to joining FDA, Dr. Moura worked as a Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and a Scientist Staff at the Life Sciences Research Organization (LSRO). She received a Ph.D. in Human Nutrition from the University of Maryland; she also holds a B.S. in Food Engineering from Federal University of Viçosa and a M.S. in Food Science from State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), both universities from Brazil.

**Tina Namian, JD, MSW, Director, School Meals Policy Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA**

Tina Fritz Namian is Director of the School Meals Policy Division at the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. Ms. Namian joined USDA as a Presidential Management Fellow and has worked on policy issues related to the Federal Child Nutrition Programs for the past 15 years. Ms. Namian has nearly 30 years of experience working on Federal policy issues relating to children, including child nutrition, child welfare, and child labor. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from The Catholic University of America and a JD from the University of Kentucky.

**DeAnna Nara, PhD, MSc, CNS, LDN, NU, CAPM, Senior Policy Associate, Center for Science in the Public Interest**

Dr. DeAnna Nara is the policy lead for Center for Science in the Public Interest's state and local food labelling work, specifically focusing on initiatives to improve food environments by reducing sodium and added sugars consumption. She is the Chair of the DC Board of Nutrition & Dietetics and is also a Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionist and Certified Nutrition Specialist. Prior to working at CSPI, she served as policy advisor and public health Nutritionist for Terrific, Inc., a nonprofit housing and human services organization, where she advised DC policy for managing chronic disease for low socioeconomic status, at-risk, older adults. As an Edward Alexander Bouchet Doctoral Fellow, DeAnna earned her Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences from Howard University, a M.Sc. in Herbal Medicine from the Maryland University of Integrative Health, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.S. in psychology from Howard University.

**Shu Wen Ng, PhD, Professor and Distinguished Scholar of Public Health Nutrition, Department of Nutrition, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC)**

Dr. Shu Wen Ng is a health economist and public health nutrition expert whose work informs on policy and other structural changes to support individuals and households improve dietary and health behaviors. Dr. Ng uses tools/approaches from economics, epidemiology, public policy, sociology and behavioral sciences, and collaborates with a mix of disciplinary experts. She is Principal and co-Investigator on several foundation and US NIH-funded studies evaluating how the design of policies on taxation, incentives, front-of-pack labels, and marketing regulations influence supply- and demand-side responses and resultant outcomes as well as impacts on disparities. She leads ongoing projects in the United States, South Africa, Jamaica, Barbados, and supports efforts in Brazil, Colombia, Chile, China, Mexico, Peru, and Saudi Arabia. Dr. Ng has a B.Sc. in Economics, B.A. in International Studies from Duke University and a Ph.D. in Health Policy from UNC.

**Gail Ogawa, Program Specialist, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division, Hawai'i Department of Health**

Since receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from Oregon State University, Gail Ogawa has worked in health education in the State of Hawai'i. She has developed and implemented programs to improve community health in the private non-profit and public sectors for over 30 years. The majority of her work has been with the Hawai'i Department of Health Disease Outbreak Control Division focusing on promoting immunizations across the lifespan. She currently coordinates the communications activities of the Hawai'i Department of Health Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division and has worked on campaigns that support policy, system, and environmental change in the areas of asthma, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke, physical activity and nutrition, and tobacco cessation and control.

**Ruth Petersen, MD, MPH, Director, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, CDC**

Dr. Ruth Petersen serves as the Director of CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO). The Division provides national leadership on nutrition, physical activity and obesity prevention through policy and guideline development, surveillance, epidemiological and behavioral research, and technical assistance to states and communities. Dr. Petersen has a breadth of experience and leadership from multiple settings including health care, local and state health departments, national advisory groups, academic settings, the private sector, and global health platforms. Her broad, deep and diverse experience with populations, partners and stakeholders are strong assets for leading DNPAO in its focused efforts that prevent chronic diseases and strengthen equity and well-being.

**Ann Potempa, MPH, Health Program Manager, Public Health Communications, Alaska Department of Health**

Ann Potempa has focused her career on health communication and education. For the past decade, she has led the chronic disease communications team for the Alaska Department of Health. Ms. Potempa started and continues to manage the state's 11-year-old Play Every Day social marketing campaign that reaches Alaska parents of young children to promote increased physical activity and decreased consumption of added sugar. She previously was a newspaper journalist for 10 years, working most of that time as the health reporter for the Anchorage Daily News. Ms. Potempa has bachelor's degrees in journalism and sociology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Alaska – Anchorage.

**Krystal Register, MS, RDN, LDN, Senior Director, Health and Well-being, FMI – The Food Industry Association**

Krystal Register serves as the lead coordinator and subject matter expert for nutrition, health and well-being policy, programs, activities, operations, media response and communications across the food industry for FMI members and community collaborators. Krystal was a food retail dietitian with Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. for twelve years prior to joining FMI and made significant contributions to company-wide wellness programs, consumer health messaging, and local media in the National Capital Region. Krystal's background includes environmental and nutrition science studies with degrees from the College of William and Mary and James Madison University, with both clinical and personal coaching professional experience. Krystal currently serves as Chair of the Food & Culinary Professionals Dietetic Practice Group with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and she is an Academy Fellow.

**Janesia Robbs, MPH, MCHES, Health Communications Specialist, Communications and Public Engagement Staff, CFSAN, FDA**

Janesia Robbs is a Lieutenant Commander in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and currently stationed at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). LCDR Robbs is a member of the Communications and Public Engagement Staff in FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. In this role, LCDR Robbs advises, plans, and executes outreach efforts around food safety, nutrition, and cosmetic issues and serves as a liaison to external stakeholders. LCDR Robbs earned her Bachelor of Science in Health Education and Master of Public Health at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Fredrick Robinson, Co-founder and Director of Operations, Black Heart Association**

Frederick Robinson is Co-founder and Director of Operations for Black Heart Association where he focuses the bulk of his energy and efforts on providing the highest level of outreach and community engagement. With over a decade of public service experience, Mr. Robinson has always had a heart for the underserved communities and a passion for service. After witnessing his wife, Tara, suffer three heart attacks in 2014, Fredrick and Tara have made it their mission to eliminate heart health disparities in communities of color. Mr. Robinson, a native of Bastrop, La., is a graduate of Southern University and A&M College where he earned a Masters in Public Relations and a Bachelors in Communications.

**Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, DDS, PhD, Deputy Director, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Dr. Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque is the deputy director of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health. An accomplished clinician, researcher, and leader, Dr. Webster-Cyriaque had previously served as a faculty member at the University of North Carolina (UNC) schools of dentistry and medicine for more than two decades. In addition to her research, Dr. Webster-Cyriaque has held leadership roles as the chair/vice chair of the Oral HIV/AIDS Research Alliance, as research director at the National Dental Association Foundation, as director of postdoctoral CTSA training, along with multiple roles within the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research and the International Association for Dental Research. Since 2004, she has led the UNC Malawi project and provided assistance in founding Malawi's first dental school in 2019. Dr. Webster-Cyriaque earned her PhD in microbiology/immunology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1998, her DDS from SUNY Buffalo in 1992, and her BA in biology and interdisciplinary social science from SUNY Buffalo in 1988.

**Paul Wise, PhD, Associate Member, Monell Chemical Senses Center**

Dr. Paul Wise earned a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of California at San Diego, then completed post-doctoral training at the UC San Diego School of Medicine and the Monell Chemical Senses Center before joining the Monell faculty. Dr. Wise has conducted human sensory research on taste, smell, and chemical irritation at Monell for over 20 years, funded by both government and industry. Research interests include the effects of reduced sugar diets on sweetness perception and preference in adults, perception of low calorie sweeteners, perception of carbonation, dynamics of nasal irritation, interactions among odors in mixtures, and interactions between taste and aroma in flavor perception.