

GLOBAL NUTRITION SYMPOSIUM 2024

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE - BUT HOW?

Thursday, February 8, 2024 / Reitz Union, UF, Gainesville

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Session led by
8:30 – 8:55 am	Registration and informal networking	Jackie Raes
9:00 – 9:15 am	Welcome and opening remarks	Geoff Dahl, Director, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), University of Florida
		Robert Gilbert, Dean for Research and Director, Florida Agricultural Experiment stations, IFAS
9:15 – 10:05 am	Setting the scene: Looking at change from a food systems perspective	Mary Rodriguez, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership, Ohio State University
		Jera Elizondo Niewoehner-Green Assistant Professor of Community Leadership Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership, Ohio State University
10:05 – 10:30 am	Exploring the drivers of food choice	Christine Blake, Associate Professor in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior at the Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina
10:30 – 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 – 11:35 am	Making the healthy choice the easy choice	Anne Mathews, Associate Professor, Human Nutrition, University of Florida
11:35 am – 12:15 pm	Generating demand for healthy diets	Sarah Pedersen, Senior Nutrition M&E Advisor based in the Food Safety Division of the Center for Nutrition at the USAID Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security
		Laura Itzkowitz, Senior Nutrition and Social and Behavior Change Advisor, Bureau for Global Health Senior Nutrition and Social and Behavior Change Advisor, USAID Bureau for Global Health
12:15 – 12:30 pm	Developing policies that matter	Masresha Tessema, Director of Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate, and Researcher Ethiopian Public Health Institute
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch (and group photo)	

Time	Topic	Session led by
1:30 – 2:00 pm	Empowerment and Agency Matter	
	Panel chair Juan Andrade, Associate Professor of Global Nutrition	
	What a difference an egg makes	Panelists: Heather Stark, Clinical Associate Professor, College of Public Health and Health Professions Dean's Office, University of Florida Emily Ouma, Senior Researcher, International Livestock Research Institute, Uganda
	Nutrition as a family affair	Kathy Colverson, Cross-cutting theme lead on gender and Youth Livestock Systems Innovation Lab
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Nudging works... a little	Kelly Davidson, Assistant Professor of Applied Economics, Department of Applied Economics and Statistics, University of Delaware
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Using all of the tools available to encourage behavior change	Paul Monaghan, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, University of Florida
3:00 – 3:30:00 pm	Break	
3:30 – 4:10 pm	Engagement and Relationships Matter	
	Engaging for Change: A relational approach to international partnerships	Jon Dain, Senior Lecturer and Director, Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute, School Of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences, University of Florida
	Avoiding false conflict, false consensus, and mental biases	Sadie Hundemer, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, University of Florida
4:10 – 4:20 pm	Bringing together sustainability, human, animal and planetary health	Michael von Fricken, Director, One Health Center of Excellence
4:20 pm	Closing remarks	Geoffrey E. Dahl

SPEAKERS



Dr. Mary T. Rodriguez is an associate professor of community leadership and development. Her work centers around investigating how to improve food security for households and communities. Her two lines of inquiry use community-engaged methods to seek solutions to pervasive issues. First, Mary investigates individual-level behavior change as it relates to the adoption of agricultural practices and innovations for smallholders/subsistence farmers. In this work, she investigates the perceptions of the practices/innovations and the role of the social system in their adoption. In her second line of inquiry, Mary investigates the intersections of resilience and persistent threats to households like poverty, food insecurity, and climate change. She implements critical perspectives and incorporates a systems approach in her work.



Dr. Christine Blake is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior and Director of the USC Nutrition Consortium. She received her training in community nutrition with concentrations in program planning, implementation, and evaluation, epidemiology, and development sociology from Cornell University and has previously worked as a registered dietitian in clinical and community settings. Dr. Blake conducts research on food choice with an emphasis on the nexus where the individual meets the food environment. Dr. Blake's research centers on the contextual and cognitive factors that drive food choice behaviors. She has extensive experience conducting mixed-methods research in rural and urban food insecure populations and in multiple countries including the US, Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Senegal, and Mexico. Her research program aims to improve the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs to achieve healthy sustainable diets. Her collaborative research program is funded by multiple foundations and federal agencies. Dr. Blake was Principal Investigator of the Drivers of Food Choice Competitive Grants Program funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and UK FCDO that facilitated research on the drivers of food choice in Asia and Africa from 2015-2022.



Dr. Anne Mathews' research goal is to discover and disseminate interventions to promote nutritious eating and prevent chronic disease. Dr. Mathews conducts community and clinical studies to promote positive lifestyle behaviors to address obesity and weight management, food insecurity, and for those at high risk for chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes.



Laura Itzkowitz is a Senior Nutrition and Social and Behavior Change (SBC) Advisor based in USAID's Bureau for Global Health in the Office of Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN). In this role, Laura provides technical leadership on nutrition-related SBC interventions for USAID. She also supports USAID Missions to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate nutrition-related SBC initiatives. Laura's experience in SBC, community health, and nutrition spans three continents. Prior to joining USAID in 2017, she supported Alive & Thrive's SBC and policy advocacy work in Vietnam and the Southeast Asia region. Her previous positions include Pacific Regional Health Technical Advisor in Fiji with Australian Red Cross and Maternal and Child Health Technical Advisor in Lao PDR with Handicap International. Laura has worked in over 15 countries in Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Middle East. Although her work has encompassed a variety of nutrition and health topics, it has all focused on bringing about individual and community-level behavior change. Laura's SBC experience includes prioritizing behaviors based on evidence, conducting and using formative research, designing and implementing SBC and communications strategies, training community health workers to improve their interpersonal communications and counseling skills, mobilizing communities, and developing a wide range of SBC communications materials – posters, videos, job aids, leaflets, stickers, and training manuals. Laura has a Master's of Public Health with a Nutrition Concentration from Tufts University in Boston and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Prior to obtaining her MPH, she worked as an engineer developing cleaning products for 4.5 years. During this time, she was involved with countless market research studies as well as a few television advertising campaigns.



Dr. Sarah Pedersen is a Senior Nutrition M&E Advisor based in the Food Safety Division of the Center for Nutrition at the Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security at USAID. In this role, she supports the design, management and monitoring and evaluation of integrated nutrition programs with a focus on nutrition-sensitive agriculture linked with nutrition-specific interventions. Prior to joining USAID, Sarah worked as a Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Manager for Creative Associates where she worked on governance and stabilization in Syria. She previously consulted on USAID evaluations in the fields of maternal and child health and nutrition in Afghanistan, India, Kenya, and Liberia. She holds a PhD in International Nutrition, with minors in International Agriculture /Rural Development and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, from Cornell University, where her dissertation focused on breastfeeding, parasitology, and infant growth in Tanzania. She earned her MS in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition from the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and was also a postdoctoral scholar at the Tufts Friedman School where she focused on modeling the impacts of nutrition policies and interventions to improve maternal and child health in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.



Dr. Masresha Tessema is Public health nutritionist and researcher at Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Addis Ababa. He has over 12 years' experience in Public Health Nutrition, Public Health and food system. Currently, he is Director of Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate, at Ethiopian Public Health Institute. He is also the lead for SUN Academia of Ethiopia. He is a PI and Co-PIs of several researches and has secured competitive grants from various funding agencies. He has wealth of experience with working international organizations and as well as local organizations. His research activities mainly focus on implementation research science, policy and program support. His research activities include dietary intake and assessment, diet quality, and dietary diversity, micronutrient deficiency, aflatoxin exposure, stunting and acute malnutrition. He also involved in research on infectious disease and nutrition interaction. Further, he led various national surveys and studies in Ethiopia such as the National micronutrients survey, National nutrition survey, and National operational researches surveys survey in Ethiopia. He has over 50 research publications in a peer-reviewed journal. He received a Ph.D in public health nutrition from Wageningen University and Research, Wageningen, the Netherlands.



Heather Stark, MD, MPH. is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Florida. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Johns Hopkins University, a Medical Degree from the University of Maryland, and a Master of Public Health from the University of Florida. Her research interests include improving maternal and child health, nutrition, gender empowerment, and health disparities in the African countries of Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Rwanda, and Ethiopia. Dr. Stark teaches courses at the undergraduate and graduate level in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, including Principles of Epidemiology, Global Public Health, Global Health Disparities and Disabilities, and Public Health Nutrition.



Dr. Emily Ouma is a Senior Scientist in the Policies, Institutions and Livelihoods Program at the International Livestock Research Institute. She leads the Work Package on “Livestock - derived foods as part of diverse diets” of the OneCGIAR Research Initiative on Sustainable Animal Productivity Livelihoods, Nutrition and Gender Inclusion (SAPLING). She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kiel in Germany. She has 15 years postdoctoral experience working on dairy, piggery and poultry value chains research and innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa. Her main research areas and fields of interest include smallholder farm level competitiveness, agri-food value chain analysis, ex-ante and ex-post impact analyses of agricultural technologies and institutional arrangements, development economics, consumer economics, human nutrition innovations, and environmental and resource economics.



Dr. Kathy Colverson is an Associate Research Scientist in the Animal Science department at the University of Florida and the Senior Gender Scientist with the Livestock Systems Innovation Lab. She has over 25 years of experience with gender analysis, assessments, publications and evaluations in east Africa, Central America, Caribbean, Middle East, SE Asia and the United States. In addition, she has extensive capacity development experience in domestic and international settings having published curricula, textbooks and refereed journal articles, as well as teaching graduate level courses. Dr. Colverson has conducted original research on gender and participatory development in Central America and East Africa, and developed courses, workshops and seminars on topics related to training, community development, gender and participatory development. She is a recent Fulbright scholar in Ecuador working on issues related to gender and nutrition. She also was awarded the International Fellow award at the University of Florida and has been recognized by the USAID Farmer to Farmer program for her contributions to smallholder agriculture.



Dr. Juan Andrade is an Associate Professor of Global Nutrition in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition with a long-term goal to develop sustainable strategies and technologies that can be used to deliver adequate nutrition, especially micronutrients, to residents of low-income countries and thereby help to promote human health and economic development. His research interests are focused on agriculture and food and nutrition security programs, food fortification, low-cost, point-of-use diagnostic tools for assessment, quality of food aid products, and service, experiential learning education programs. Dr. Andrade's current research efforts are focused on the problem of protein and micronutrient malnutrition, development of better vehicles for food fortification, and improvement of RUTF functionality. These efforts have taken him to projects in India, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, Uganda, Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala and Ecuador.



Dr. Kelly Davidson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Economics and Statistics at the University of Delaware. Dr. Davidson's research focuses on using methods from behavioral and experimental economics to understand consumer decisions around novel food technologies and producer farm management decisions. In both contexts she explores the roles of information nudges and behavioral interventions in decision-making. She conducts large-scale field experiments with stakeholders in the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Davidson was the recipient of the "Best Young Professional Publication" award from the Experimental Economics Section of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association for her work on nutrition nudging in Bangladesh, published in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics. She has also published in Applied Economic Policy and Perspectives, Journal of Agricultural Economics, and Appetite. She actively seeks external grant funding and has been awarded support from agencies such as the Northeast Risk Management Education Center and The Nature Conservancy.



Dr. Paul F. Monaghan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, UF/IFAS. He is a State Extension Specialist in Community-Based Social Marketing, an approach to behavior change that utilizes ethnographic methods to segment target audiences and uncover their barriers and potential benefits to adopting new changes. His combined research and Extension efforts are based on developing collaborative partnerships with communities in the following areas: Food Access among underserved citizens, Energy Equity, Farmworker Health and Safety and Landscape Water Conservation and Protection. He has developed behavior change programs and recommendations to protect farmworkers from eye injuries, pesticide exposure and heat injury and worked to reduce nutrient pollution and improve the function of green stormwater infrastructure among homeowners.



Jon Dain is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Florida with appointments in both the Center for Latin American Studies and the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences. An applied anthropologist by training, he focuses on collaborative approaches to addressing complex natural resource management in the US and internationally. Jon specializes in capacity development related to conflict management, facilitation, and communication/leadership. He teaches graduate classes in his areas of interest for UF's Tropical Conservation and Development <https://uftcd.org/> and Master of Sustainable Development Practice <https://mdp.africa.ufl.edu/> programs. He also directs the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute, an off-campus, statewide program for natural resource professionals. Jon began his career as a Peace Corps Volunteer and Extension Agent working with beekeepers in Paraguay and still spends a portion of most summers working with environmental professionals and scholars in Latin America.



Dr. Sadie Hundemer is an assistant professor of agriculture and natural resources communication in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication (AEC) at the University of Florida. Hundemer's research draws from the fields of psychology, sociology, behavioral economics, political science, and communication science to understand and respond to the human dimensions of agricultural and natural resources challenges, including stakeholder conflict and political polarization. She teaches communication theory and partisanship in agricultural and natural resources. Hundemer's research agenda includes exploration of how scientific information is heard, learned, and used in a partisan environment; moral foundation and worldview framing effects; communication for environmental justice; and communication of wicked agricultural and natural resources problems.



Dr. Michael E. von Fricken is an Associate professor and the new Director of the One Health Center of Excellence at the University of Florida. Committed to advancing research, education, and service in the realm of public health, Dr. von Fricken has established himself as a leading figure in the field of One Health, with multiple ongoing projects in Kenya, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, and Mongolia. His research program focuses primarily on vector-borne diseases and aims to understand complex systems at the intersection of humans, animals, and the environments they share. Notably, he has been designated as a Visiting Scientist at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) since 2017 and holds a Research Associate position with the Smithsonian Institution. He brings over 15 years of international experience and has published on a variety of diseases, from malaria and dengue to emerging tick pathogens like spotted fever group rickettsia and tick-borne encephalitis virus. Dr. von Fricken brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion for public health and infectious diseases to the One Health Center of Excellence. His contributions in research, education, and service exemplify his dedication to improving global health outcomes and training the next generation of One Health thinkers. As the Director of the One Health Center of Excellence, Dr. von Fricken aims to foster an environment where students and scholars from across disciplines can come together to address pressing issues associated with climate change, antimicrobial resistance, food security and wildlife conservation in a rapidly changing world.

Disclaimer

This work was funded in whole or part by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Food Security under Agreement # AID-OAA-L-15-00003 as part of Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed here are those of the presenters alone.

