

**College of Health and Human Development
Faculty Research Themes**

Obesity

- Leann Birch*** **Distinguished Professor; Director, Center for Childhood Obesity Research
Human Development & Family Studies** Email Address: **LLB15@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests The links among parents' own eating and weight status, parenting practices, and child outcomes from infancy through adolescence, with a current focus on the emergence of dieting and problems of energy balance in girls during middle childhood and early adolescence.
- Peter Bordi*** **Associate Professor
Hospitality Management** Email Address: **PLBJR@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests USDA "Farm to School", cancer (prostate) study with Nutritional Sciences Department, product development - Franco Harris.
- Linda Caldwell*** **Professor
Recreation, Park and Tourism** Email Address: **LLC7@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Leisure education & developmental affordances of leisure, leisure time use in middle school youth, development of youth competencies, healthy lifestyle & democratic behavior through leisure.
- Mihai Covasa*** **Assistant Professor
Nutritional Sciences** Email Address: **MZC13@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Reduced sensitivity to satiation signals in control of obesity; neural substrates of peptides- and nutrients-induced satiety; the role of glutamate in control food intake.
- Danielle Symons Downs*** **Assistant Professor
Kinesiology** Email Address: **DSD11@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Psychosocial determinants of exercise (age, gender, race), application of theoretical models to exercise (theory of planned behavior, transtheoretical model), exercise dependence, body image.
- Lori Francis*** **Assistant Professor
Biobehavioral Health** Email Address: **LAF169@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Sociocultural factors influencing the development of obesity in low-income and minority children, including family environment, neighborhood characteristics and socioeconomic status; family-based interventions to reduce and prevent obesity and related morbidities in children; understanding biobehavioral, family environmental and cultural factors that influence self-regulation of energy intake and body weight in young children.
- George Graham*** **Professor
Kinesiology** Email Address: **GMG17@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Physical education pedagogy.
- Marianne Hillemeier*** **Assistant Professor
Health Policy & Administration** Email Address: **MMH18@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Disparities in child and adolescent health; effects of context on health and health-related behavior; disparities in children's health care access and utilization; provider-family interaction in health care encounters; chronic conditions among children and adolescents including asthma and
- Sibylle Kranz*** **Assistant Professor
Nutritional Sciences** Email Address: **SXK72@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Dietary intake patterns and diet quality in American children using large, nationally representative data sets; the effect of dietary intake factors on the development of childhood
- Sharon Nickols-Richardson*** **Associate Professor
Nutritional Sciences** Email Address: **snn13@psu.edu**
Research Interests Impact of weight loss, weight loss diets, and restrained eating on bone mineral density and bone metabolism Interaction of nutrient intake and resistance training on bone mineral density, bone quality, and bone metabolism across the life span.

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Claudia Probart

Associate Professor

Nutritional Sciences

Email Address: **CKP1@PSU.EDU**

Research Interests

Psychosocial aspects of food decision making behavior; nutrition and health marketing theory and practice; gender issues in consumer nutrition behavior; nutrition and health communication for special population groups, including the aged, athletes, children, adolescents; worksite nutrition intervention for cancer risk reduction.

Barbara Rolls

Professor; Helen A. Guthrie Chair

Nutritional Sciences

Email Address: **BJR4@PSU.EDU**

Research Interests

Psychological and physiological controls of food intake and selection in normal weight and obese humans across the life span; nutritional strategies for weight management.