

UTSPH ARC Faculty Fun Facts
Did you know that...

1. Shelton Brown, PhD

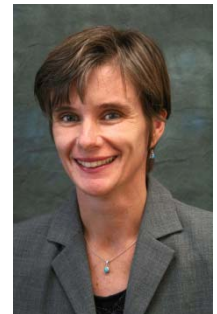
Associate Professor of Management Policy and Community Health



- a. The focus of Dr. Brown's research has been in three areas of health economics: health insurance, diabetes, and childhood obesity.
- b. In the area of the productivity costs of diabetes, he has included family history of diabetes, which is a proxy for genetic information, in econometric models of diabetes-related labor costs.
- c. In the area of childhood obesity, he has assessed the cost-effectiveness of CATCH, a Coordinated Approach To Child Health school-based intervention program which aims to reduce childhood obesity, among other health goals.
- d. Dr. Brown has worked in the area of health insurance. For instance, he emphasizes the role of divergent health care cost trends internationally in explaining the why health insurance rates have declined amongst immigrants in the U.S., in particular Mexican immigrants.
- e. Dr. Brown has also looked at the effects of managed care health insurance markets on hospital markets. He has also examined policies intended to increase long-term private health insurance coverage.

2. Alexandra (Sandra) Evans, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences



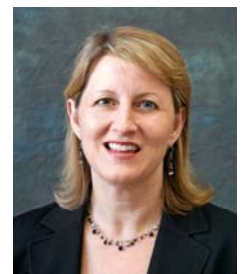
- a. Dr. Evans' research interests include the development and evaluation of behavioral, environmental, and policy obesity prevention programs targeting children and their parents.
- b. She is Co-Principal Investigator for a 5-year intervention study (*ENRICH - the Duke Endowment Wellness Initiative*) aimed at developing and evaluating tailored environmental interventions to promote healthy eating and physical activity among children living in Residential Children's Homes.
- c. Dr. Evans is also Co-Investigator for the *Statewide Evaluation of Childhood Obesity Prevention Policies in Texas: Texas Safe Routes to School & Increased Healthy Food Access for WIC Clients* study (funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation).
- d. She is also the PI of a qualitative study with the aim to collect qualitative data from Hispanic parents of preschool-aged children which will guide the development of a parent-focused intervention to promote a healthful home food environment.
- e. She is on the Editorial Board for the peer-reviewed journal *Family and Community Health*.

3. Ronald B. Harrist, PhD
Associate Professor in Biostatistics



- a. Dr. Ron Harrist is an Associate Professor of Biostatistics at The University of Texas School of Public Health, Austin Regional Campus.
- b. His research interests include biostatistics, cardiovascular disease, clinical trials and applications of hierarchical linear models. Dr. Harrist currently teaches Introduction to Biostatistics in Austin.
- c. He is currently co-investigator on three grants:
 - EPA - Leland Center NUATRC. Houston Exposure to Air Toxics Study (HEATS). Co-Investigator.
 - NIDDK. Genes, Hormones, Growth and Body Fat: Project Heartbeat! Co-Investigator.
 - NIH via subcontract with The University of Texas at Austin. Increasing Fruits, Vegetables, and Grains in Preschool Sack Lunches. Co-Investigator.

4. Deanna M. Hoelscher, PhD, RD, LD, CNS
Professor of Health Promotion Behavioral Sciences and Nutrition
Director, Michael & Susan Dell Center for Advancement of Healthy Living



- a. Research interests include child and adolescent nutrition, school-based health promotion programs, dietary and physical activity assessment methodology, epidemiology of child overweight, and dissemination of school health programs, as well as the role of diet in chronic diseases such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis.
- b. Principal Investigator for the *Statewide Evaluation of Childhood Obesity Prevention Policies in Texas: Texas Safe Routes to School & Increased Healthy Food Access for WIC Clients study* (funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation).
- c. Principal Investigator of the School Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) study to determine the prevalence of childhood overweight in Texas, which is being used as a model in other states in the U.S.
- d. Has been a leader on the CATCH investigative team since 1990. She has been Principal Investigator of the Texas site CATCH grants, and the Incorporation of More Physical Activity and Nutrition (IMPACT) grant, a NIH-supported study examining the effects of a behaviorally-based school health program on osteoporosis risk factors in children, as well as the School-Based Nutrition Monitoring Project, a CDC and USDA-funded study to develop surveillance tools for schools and schoolchildren.
- e. She has also been PI on grants to revise the nutrition component of the Coordinated Approach To Child Health (CATCH) and to develop school-based evaluation tools.
- f. Dr. Hoelscher is past Chair of the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke, as well as the former Chair of the Research Dietetic Practice Group of the American Dietetic Association.
- g. She is currently the Secretary of the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), and was chair of the Program Planning Advisory Committee for the 2007 annual meeting of the American Dietetic Association.

5. Steven H. Kelder, PhD, MPH

**Professor of Epidemiology and Health Promotion/Behavioral Sciences
Beth Toby Grossman Professor in Spirituality and Healing
Co-Director, Michael & Susan Dell Center for Advancement of Health Living**



- a. Dr. Kelder has over 15 years' experience in design and evaluation of child and adolescent research.
- b. He has particular emphasis on interventions designed for promotion of physical activity and healthy eating, obesity prevention, and substance use prevention.
- c. He is one of the lead investigators of the Coordinated Approach To Child Health (CATCH) project, a research-based program that guides elementary schools, families and children in being healthy, reaching over a million Texas children and numerous children across the United States and other international countries.
- d. Was a lead Research Fellow with the CDC working to develop the School Health Index, a self-assessment tool designed to assist schools to gauge their progress towards achieving school health guidelines.
- e. Dr. Kelder also was a member of the Behavior Change Expert Panel for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign (1998-2004).
- f. Dr. Kelder is currently working on projects to document the dissemination of the CATCH program across Texas, to evaluate the effects of nutrition and physical activity policies on child health, to determine the impact of Senate Bill 19 on elementary school children's physical activity levels and to study the inter-relationships of dietary and physical activity behaviors and psychosocial factors in children (Healthy Passages).
- g. Dr. Kelder is also Principal Investigator of the Community Outreach Core of the Clinical and Translational Science Awards – Center for Clinical and Translational Science – at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.
- h. He was the former Director of the Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research at The University of Texas School of Public Health.

6. Harold W. Kohl, III, Ph.D.

**Professor of Epidemiology and Kinesiology
Michael & Susan Dell Center for Advancement of Healthy Living**



- a. Prior to this appointment, he served as Lead Epidemiologist and Team Leader in the Physical Activity and Health Branch of the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.
- b. His research interests include current focuses on physical activity, exercise, fitness and health as well as sports medicine surveillance systems for musculoskeletal injuries. In his recent efforts, he has concentrated on national and international physical activity surveillance and epidemiology issues, as well as program development and evaluation studies for the promotion of school-based physical activity for children and adolescents.
- c. He has served as an elected Trustee and is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine and a Fellow in the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education.
- d. He is the founding president of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health.

- e. He has served in an editorial capacity for several scientific journals and is currently Co-Editor of the Journal of Physical Activity and Health.
- f. He has published more than 120 papers, chapters and monographs in the scientific literature.
- g. Currently working on the US Physical Activity Guidelines and is an Executive Committee Member and Leader of Scientific Review.

7. Alfred L. McAlister, PhD

Professor of Behavioral Sciences



- a. Studies the use of mass communication and community organization for health-promoting social change, with an emphasis on cross-cultural and international research.
- b. He has been awarded approximately \$20M in grants from the National Institutes of Health, Carnegie Corporation and W.T. grant foundation during his 25 years with The University of Texas School of Public Health, providing funds for experimental projects to reduce cancer and heart disease, HIV infection and violence in Texas.
- c. Has helped produce more than one hundred articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals.
- d. His most recent publications concern tobacco control policy in Texas, factors influencing U.S. public support for war after September 11, and the relationship between attitudes toward killing and homicide rates in the U.S.A., Latin America, Europe and former Soviet States.

8. Guy S. Parcel, PhD

Dean

M. David Low Chair in Public Health

John P. McGovern Professor in Health Promotion



- a. Has authored or co-authored over 200 scientific papers and book chapters over the past 35 years.
- b. In 2006 he co-authored the second edition of his textbook on health promotion programs, Planning Health Promotion Programs: An Intervention Mapping Approach.
- c. He has directed National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded research projects to develop and evaluate programs to address sexual risk behavior in adolescents, diet and physical activity in children, smoking prevention in adolescents, and self-management of childhood chronic diseases including asthma and cystic fibrosis.
- d. From 1991-1998 he was Principal Investigator of an evaluation of the Safer Choices program, a school-based intervention program to reduce behaviors that result in HIV/STD infection, funded by the CDC. This effective program is now available to high schools nationwide.
- e. He was Principal Investigator of the 1987-1994 nationwide multi-center Child and Adolescent Trial for Cardiovascular Health (CATCH) funded by the National Heart, Lung,

and Blood Institute. The CATCH program has been adopted by elementary schools nationwide.

- f. In 2005 he received the Distinguished Career Award from the Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section of the American Public Health Association.

9. Cheryl L. Perry, PhD

**Professor, Division of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences
The Rockwell Distinguished Chair in Society and Health
Regional Dean – Austin Regional Campus**



- a. Senior Scientific Editor in the 1994 Surgeon General’s Report, “Preventing Tobacco Use among Young People.”
- b. Senior Scientific Editor 2010 Surgeon General’s Report on Tobacco
- c. After the 1994 Surgeon General’s Report, Dr. Cheryl Perry was involved as one of six key witnesses against tobacco companies in the State of Minnesota.
- d. Dr. Cheryl Perry was responsible in revealing how the tobacco industry knowingly tried to get young people to begin smoking. In 1998, Minnesota reached a \$6.1 billion settlement with the tobacco industry which created Minnesota’s Tobacco Use Prevention and Local Public Health Endowment Fund.
- e. Tobacco Control, One of the 100 Most-Cited Researchers in Tobacco-Related Research, 2005.
- f. Institute for Scientific Information, Most Highly Cited Researcher (top 0.5%), 1983-2002, in Social Sciences, 2004.
- g. Published 242 peer-reviewed journal articles.
- h. Her research interests involve the design, development, implementation and evaluation of school and community programs for young people, particularly in the areas of tobacco and alcohol use, eating, and physical activity.
- i. She is currently Principal Investigator of Mobilizing Youth for Action Against Tobacco in India (MYTRI), Project ACTIVITY, and the 2010 Surgeon General’s Report.
- j. Co-Investigator for the Minnesota Adolescent Community Cohort examining the effects of Minnesota state and local programs on youth tobacco use.
- k. Co-Investigator on the Travis County CATCH Project.

10. Andrew Springer, DrPH

Assistant Professor of Health Promotion/Behavioral Sciences



- a. His research interests include childhood obesity prevention, adolescent health risk behavior, and socio-ecological influences of health behavior.
- b. He is a lead evaluation specialist on the CATCH Travis County Project, a dissemination study of coordinated school health efforts in public elementary schools in Travis County.
- c. Co-investigator/consultant on projects to assess the impact of a school-based program to reduce sedentary behavior in elementary school children (En Vivo), to evaluate the

effects of physical activity policy on child health, and to study the dissemination of CATCH in Harris County elementary schools.

- d. Dr. Springer was a Cancer Prevention and Control Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research at The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston from 2004 to 2006.
- e. In addition to serving as the Director of Latin America Programs at Amigos de las Americas in Houston, Texas from 2000 to 2004, he has worked with ministries of health and non-governmental organizations throughout Latin America in rural-based health and development projects.

11. Melissa H. Stigler, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Disease Control

- a. Dr. Stigler is a behavioral epidemiologist with more than a decade of experience in the design, implementation, and analysis of large-scale, randomized intervention trials designed to promote health among children and adolescents. To date, Dr. Stigler has been integrally involved in six large-scale intervention trials for youth.
- b. Senior Associate Editor for the 2010 Surgeon General’s Report, “Reducing Tobacco Use Among Youth.” Also serving as the Co-Editor of the Chapter specific to the epidemiology of tobacco use among youth, in this Report.
- c. Project Director of an NIH-Fogarty International Center funded study to prevent tobacco use among young people in India - Project MYTRI (Mobilizing Youth for Tobacco-Related Initiatives in India). Project MYTRI is the first large-scale randomized intervention trial for tobacco use prevention for youth in India and one of the few in developing countries worldwide. She is also the Project Director of another NIH-Fogarty International Center funded study to promote the cessation of tobacco use among young people in India – Project ACTIVITY (Advancing Cessation of Tobacco Use in Vulnerable Indian Tobacco-using Youth). This randomized intervention trial recently commenced and will target disadvantaged youth living in slum communities in Delhi, India.
- d. Co-Chair of the Youth Committee for the 14th World Conference on Tobacco or Health, to be held in March, 2009 in Mumbai, India. The pre-conference workshop shall draw more than 100 youth together from 30 countries worldwide and 10 states in India to further develop their leadership and health advocacy skills specific to tobacco control (see www.gyatnetwork.org).

