PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES
(In order of appearance on the program)

KATHRYN SANTORO, MA, is a Program Manager at NIHCM Foundation. Ms. Santoro manages two grants with the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), where she is responsible for research and policy analysis of issues related to maternal, child and adolescent health. Ms. Santoro joined NIHCM Foundation in September 2004 after receiving her master's degree in Public Policy from the George Washington University with a focus on women’s health policy. Ms. Santoro also previously worked for Women in Government/Digene Corporation as a Project Consultant compiling a state-by-state report card on access to cervical cancer screening. While pursuing her master’s degree, Ms. Santoro worked for a health policy consulting firm as a Communications Assistant and as a Graduate Intern for a Washington, D.C. based women’s and children’s policy research organization. Ms. Santoro attended Villanova University in Villanova, PA and graduated with a BA cum laude in Political Science in 2002.

WILLIAM H. DIETZ, MD, PHD is the Director of the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity in the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the CDC. Prior to his appointment to the CDC, he was a Professor of Pediatrics at the Tufts University School of Medicine, and Director of Clinical Nutrition at the Floating Hospital of New England Medical Center Hospitals. He received his BA from Wesleyan University in 1966 and his MD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1970. After the completion of his residency at Upstate Medical Center, he received a Ph.D. in Nutritional Biochemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been a councilor and past president of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, and past president of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. From 2001-2003 he served as a member of the Advisory Board to the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism, and Diabetes of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. In 1995 he received the John Stalker award from the American School Food Service Association for his efforts to improve the school lunch. Dr. Dietz served on the 1995 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. In 1997, Dr. Dietz received the Brock Medal of Excellence in Pediatrics from the New York Academy of Medicine. In 1998, Dr. Dietz was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Dietz has received numerous awards for his contributions to the field of health and nutrition. He is the author of over 200 publications in the scientific literature, and the editor of five books, including Clinical Obesity in Adults and Children, and A Guide to Your Child’s Nutrition.
SANDRA D. HASSINK, MD, FAAP has practiced at Nemours since 1988 when she started the Weight Management Clinic at A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children. She is currently the Director of the Nemours Obesity Initiative and is still actively caring for patients. She is on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Pediatrics and is current chair of the AAP Obesity Leadership Workgroup. She has collaborated in basic research efforts to identify pathophysiologic mechanisms of obesity, centering on the role of leptin and has lectured widely in the field of pediatric obesity. She has authored “A Parent’s Guide to Childhood Obesity,” “Pediatric Obesity: Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment Strategies for Primary Care,” and “Clinical Guide to Pediatric Weight Management.” In addition she chairs the Ethics committee at A I DuPont Hospital for Children and co chairs the Delaware State Ethics committee. She is a member of the IRB and has a master’s degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling.

VICTORIA W. ROGERS, MD is the Director of the Kids CO-OP at The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital at Maine Medical Center. There, she oversees the development, coordination, and promotion of community-oriented, pediatric healthcare initiatives. Over the past few years, Dr. Rogers has focused her efforts on combating the childhood obesity epidemic. Some of the state-wide initiatives targeting childhood obesity that she has been involved with include: the Countdown to a Healthy ME Program at The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital at Maine Medical Center, the Maine Youth Overweight Collaborative (MYOC), and 5-2-1-0 Goes to School. She is also the Medical Director to the Let’s Go! Initiative. Let’s Go! is a community initiative funded by local business and healthcare partners in the Greater Portland, Maine area. Let’s Go! is working in the following areas - healthcare, schools, after school, childcare, workplace and communities to increase healthy eating and physical activity for youth and families. At a national level, she is involved with the Childhood Obesity Action Network. Most recently Dr. Rogers has been asked to participate in the American Academy of Pediatrics Obesity Leadership Workgroup. This workgroup is a cadre of expert consultants upon which the AAP calls on for expert opinion, review, and as spokespersons.

HARVINDER SAREEN, PHD, MPH is the Director of Clinical Programs at WellPoint’s State Sponsored Business. She plays a key role in leading WellPoint’s efforts to address childhood obesity among its commercial and Medicaid members and facilitating innovative BMI training and other resources for primary care physicians. Dr. Sareen has spearheaded several collaborative projects with leaders in the arenas of healthcare, research, and public service including the National Committee Quality Assurance (NCQA), to pilot test the feasibility of a performance measure in childhood obesity; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and California Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP), to promote standard screening for obesity and BMI measurement; the California Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports to promote healthier lifestyles among young adolescents in low-income communities; and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), to evaluate the effectiveness of the fresh fruit and vegetable bar program for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Findings from the fruit and vegetable bar study have been shared at congressional briefings and support recent bills on school salad bars and child nutrition.