

Ashley Burnside



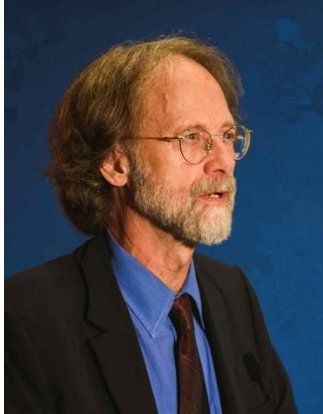
Policy Analyst

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Ms. Burnside is a Policy Analyst with the Income and Work Supports Team at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). At CLASP she focuses on refundable tax credits, including the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Other focuses include cash assistance programs, such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. She has worked on increasing access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for college students. Ashley also conducts research on disability benefit programs. Before joining CLASP, she was a Research Assistant on the Family Income Support Team at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities where she focused on TANF.

Ashley was also a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow with the Congressional Hunger Center. As a Hunger Fellow, she worked at a local food pantry in Denver Colorado and at RESULTS. Ashley also was a Pedro Zamora Public Policy Fellow at AIDS United and has worked in LGBTQ advocacy.

Steven L. Gortmaker, PhD



*Professor of the Practice of Health Sociology
Department of Society, Human Development and Health
Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health*

Steven Gortmaker is Professor of the Practice of Health Sociology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He directs the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health Prevention Research Center. Current work includes the CHOICES project that is evaluating the cost effectiveness, population reach and impact of more than 40 childhood obesity preventive strategies. This project involves 11 different city and state health departments and stakeholder groups.

Steve has been an author of more than 240 studies, including recent CHOICES papers in Health Affairs, Preventive Medicine and the New England Journal of Medicine.

Linda Bandini, PhD, RD



Professor of Pediatrics

Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, UMass Chan Medical School

Adjunct Clinical Professor, Department of Health Sciences, Boston University

Dr. Bandini is a Professor of Pediatrics at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center/University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. She serves as Adjunct Clinical Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Boston University. Her research focuses on health promotion for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Dr. Bandini has conducted studies on dietary intake, physical activity, and weight management in this population. She is the Principal Investigator of the Healthy Weight Research Network for Children with Autism and Developmental Disabilities, funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. She is also the Director of Nutrition for the UMass Chan-Shriver Center LEND program. Here she oversees the development of a nutrition education curriculum for adolescents and young adults with I/DD. She also supervises nutrition students in experiential learning with the I/DD population.

Dr. Bandini earned her Bachelor of Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and her PhD in nutritional biochemistry and metabolism from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Heather M. Padilla, PhD, RDN, LD



***Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion and Behavior
University of Georgia College of Public Health***

Heather has been a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist since 2003. She began working with the Workplace Health Group in 2006 and currently serves as Director.

Heather teaches and mentors public health students at all stages of their education. She has taught Program Evaluation, Health Promotion Program Development, Behavioral Medicine, and Chronic Disease Prevention. Heather mentors students in undergraduate and graduate research projects. In her own research, she has focused on understanding the dynamic relationship between work and health. Heather has experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating public health interventions for working adults in a variety of worksites.

Heather earned her Ph.D. in Health Promotion and Behavior in 2017 at the University of Georgia. She also holds an M.S. degree in Nutrition (2002) and a B.S.F.C.S. in Dietetics (2000).

Maribelle Balbes



***Branch Chief, State Administration Branch, Program Accountability and Administration Division, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)***

Mrs. Balbes began her professional career working with the Department of Social Services in Fresno County, California. While working for the County, she served in several positions, including Eligibility Worker, Welfare to Work Job Specialist, Staff Analyst, Senior Staff Analyst, and Program Manager. In 2007, she joined the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the Western Region. She started in SNAP as a Program Specialist, then advanced to Supervisory Program Specialist.

In June 2020, she accepted the Supervisory Program Analyst (Branch Chief) position in the SNAP Program Accountability and Administration Division, State Administration Branch in Alexandria, Virginia. She is responsible for the SNAP Recipient Integrity grant, state reporting, recipient claims, privacy and disclosure, and SNAP-Ed, among other things.

She grew up in Puerto Rico and graduated from the University of Puerto Rico with a Bachelor's in Public Communication. She then graduated from California State University, Fresno, with a Master's in Public Administration.

Loretta DiPietro, PhD, MPH



Professor, Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, Milken Institute School of Public Health

The George Washington University

For nearly three decades, Dr. DiPietro's research has focused on physical activity. She has worked very hard to combine the two disciplines of epidemiology and physiology to better understand the mechanistic underpinnings of the benefits of exercise.

Dr. DiPietro is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of physical activity and aging. An accomplished and widely published researcher, she has been awarded numerous grants from the National Institutes of Health and the American Cancer Society. She has been invited to lecture around the world. She is a current Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine and the former Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*.

In 2016, Dr. DiPietro was appointed to the United States Department of Health and Human Services 2018 Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee. She served there as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Aging. In June of 2017, she received the American College of Sports Medicine Citation Award for her career accomplishments. In 2019, she was named to the WHO Physical Activity Guidelines Development Group in which she chaired the Sub-committees on Aging and on Pregnancy.

Dr. DiPietro is a former Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service. She joined the Milken Institute School of Public Health in 2008. Previously, at Yale University School of Medicine, she was associate professor of epidemiology and public health and an associate fellow at the John B. Pierce Laboratory.

Dr. DiPietro received her training in epidemiology at Yale University.

Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, PhD



Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy

***Affiliate Faculty, Department of Disability and Human Development and
Department of Psychology***

University of Illinois Chicago

Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar is trained as a community psychologist. Her research expands across several interrelated areas of race, culture, disability, and health. She focuses on understanding and addressing health disparities among children and youth with intellectual disabilities and their families from underserved backgrounds. She has contributed to the development, implementation, and evaluation of culturally relevant community-based interventions to address health disparities among Latinx families of children with disabilities. She embraces a community-based participatory research and a Social Ecological approach to address concerns facing immigrant families and communities of color with people who have disabilities. She is currently a Co-PI (PI Sandy Magana) on a NIDILRR, DRPP. This project examines the social determinants of health. It aims at designing and testing interventions to prevent obesity among Latinx children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. She is also a Co-Investigator on a grant funded by NIH Office of Minority Health to the city of Rockford, IL. This grant examines the impact of a health literacy and cultural humility initiative on Latinx and African Americans understanding of COVID-19 vaccine risk and benefits.

She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the Society for Community Research and Action. She was recently recognized with the Distinguished Alumna Award from the Department of Applied Behavioral Science, University of Kansas.