

Dr. Emeran Mayer is a gastroenterologist and neuroscientist with decades of experience in the study of neurobiological and clinical aspects of the interaction between the digestive system and the nervous system in health and disease. He has a Buddhist world view and has been involved in documentary films to indigenous people on the Orinoco river and New Guinea. He has published more than 420 peer-reviewed scientific articles, published 4 books, including the recent, best-selling *The Mind Gut Connection* and recently produced the PBS documentary *The Brain Gut Connection*. He received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Mentor Award from the American Gastroenterological Association, the Ismar Boas medal from the German Society for Gastroenterology and Metabolic Disease and the Paul MacLean Award from the American Psychosomatic Society. Dr. Mayer is a Distinguished Research Professor in the Departments of Medicine, Physiology and Psychiatry at the University of California Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine. He is also the Executive Director of the G. Oppenheimer Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience, and the Founding Director of the Goodman-Luskin Microbiome Center at UCLA.

Dr. Hilary Seligman is Professor of Medicine and of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). She is a nationally recognized expert on food insecurity and health outcomes across the life course, with a particular interest in programs and policies that can simultaneously support food security and better health. She has directed NOPREN (the CDC's Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network) for the last ten years. Her team runs Vouchers for Veggies, a large produce prescription program known in San Francisco as EatSF.

Dr. Carmen Byker Shanks is a Principal Research Scientist at the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition. She specializes in public health nutrition research and partners with food and health system collaborators to implement and assess contextually specific strategies in four applied areas: consumer food environment, healthcare, school food environment, and food assistance programs. Currently, she serves as Co-Project for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information (NTAE) Center. In that role, she provides leadership for the national evaluation, as well as technical assistance support of almost 200 produce prescription and nutrition incentive projects. Dr. Byker Shanks was a tenure track faculty at Montana State University from 2011 until 2021, where she partnered on many research projects with rural and tribal places and people of Montana. She holds a PhD in Nutrition from Virginia Tech and is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. She lives with her family in Bozeman, Montana.

Dr. Liao is an Assistant Professor of the Public Health Program in the Department of Kinesiology at The University of Texas at Arlington. Dr. Liao's research interests include leveraging mobile technologies and wearable sensors to capture daily health behaviors such as physical activity, sedentary behavior, eating, and sleep, and to investigate the contextual and psychosocial determinants of those behaviors in our everyday life. Her current research focuses on the development of personalized interventions using data from wearable biosensors to promote physical activity in cancer survivors and racial minority women. Dr. Liao completed a competitive postdoctoral fellowship in colorectal cancer prevention at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center after receiving her PhD in Health Behavior Research from University of Southern California. She received her Master's in Public Health degree in Biostatistics from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and is certified in public health since 2010. Dr. Liao was the recipient of the Mentored Junior Faculty Fellowship in Cancer Prevention Research at MD Anderson and a fellow of the National Cancer Institute's Transdisciplinary Research on Energetics and Cancer. Dr. Liao now directs the Physical Activity and Wearable Sensors (PAWS) research lab and Kourage Health, a community-based medical exercise program for cancer patients at UT Arlington.

Tamara is a Nutritionist with the Community Nutrition Branch of the Western Regional Office of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA. She is a Registered Dietitian and has a master's degree in public health nutrition. Tamara has been part of the FNS WRO team for almost fifteen years, most of this time she supported the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). She currently serves as the nutritionist to seven Western Region states and one territory in the administration of three programs: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and the new Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) EBT program. Tamara is passionate about helping people get consistent access to high quality fresh foods, especially fruits and vegetables, as well exercising and trying all the delicious places to eat in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Sandy Perkins is a Public Health Nutrition Consultant and the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Project Manager for the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN). In this position she serves as the project manager for the Children's Healthy Weight State Capacity Building Program, and provides consultant support to the organization's MCH Nutrition Council. Sandy also serves as the ASPHN Liaison to the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and the MCH Nutrition Training Grantees.

Sandy has over 25 years experience in the field of public health nutrition specializing the maternal and child populations. Sandy has coordinated nutrition services for the various programs serving maternal and child populations at the state and local agency levels, including WIC, Title V MCH program, Children with Special Health Care Needs, and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Ms. Perkins is the past President for ASPHN. She holds a master's degree in food science and human nutrition from Colorado State University and a BS from Kansas State University.

Sandy lives in rural Kansas with her husband, chocolate lab and kitties. Her hobbies including cooking, photography and gardening.

Based in Northern California, Aya Caspi brings her unique blend of vision, practical clarity, and deep commitment to the transformative power of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) to settings as varied as schools, colleges, parenting, couples counseling, mediation, nonprofit organizations, social change communities, and media. Aya has served as an educational consultant on several preschool series, creating original curricula and advising on show development and scripting. Her client list includes Warner Bros., Discovery Media, 9 Story Media Group, Cartoon Saloon, Field Day Entertainment, the Cartoon Network, and HBO Max.

Aya has been sharing the work of NVC internationally via online classes and in-person retreats. She continually grapples with the joys and challenges of being raised in Israel and finds deep open hope in applying NVC to the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.