

A PATH TO PROGRESS: OBESITY RESEARCH AND TREATMENT

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RESEARCH
AMERICA
DISCOVERY. INNOVATION. HEALTH.

BIOGRAPHIES

Linda Goler Blount, MPH

President & CEO, Black Women's Health Imperative

Linda Goler Blount, MPH, is the President and CEO of the Black Women's Health Imperative, the only national organization focused on Black women's emotional, physical and financial health. Since joining the organization in 2014, Ms. Blount has overseen more than \$20 million invested in Black women and research to prevent chronic disease and HIV, ensure reproductive justice and healthy maternal outcomes, and advocate for health promoting policies. Ms. Blount, an epidemiologist, edited IndexUS, the first research on Black women's health based on healthy Black women. Her career includes successful tenures at CDC, the Coca-Cola Company and consulting with health ministries in countries in Europe, Africa and the Caribbean.

Barbara C. Hansen, PhD

Professor, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Director of the Obesity, Diabetes and Aging Research Center, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida

Dr. Barbara Hansen is the Director of the Obesity, Diabetes and Aging Research Center of the Morsani College of Medicine and Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of South Florida, Tampa. Her research has addressed the physiological, cellular, and molecular defects underlying the development of obesity, metabolic syndrome, and diabetes mellitus, and their prevention and treatment. Her research subjects, most commonly nonhuman primates (rhesus monkeys), develop type 2 diabetes that shares every characteristic of Type 2 diabetes observed in humans, including the spontaneous development of all of the complications of diabetes, as often seen in patients, including diabetic nephropathy, neuropathy, and retinopathy. She has over 200 publications. These include key advances in understanding how nutrient composition affects appetite regulation and body composition, and characterizing the prodrome to overt Type 2 Diabetes, including identifying risk factors and targets for its prevention. She also discovered and characterized the secretory patterns of the pancreas and has shown their disruption in the period preceding overt type 2 diabetes. Her popular book, written for the American Diabetes Association, remains today a leading publication for lay people: "The Commonsense Guide to Weight Loss for People with Diabetes", 1999, and it has received the National Health Information Award for content, creativity, and overall excellence and the Medical Book Award from the American Medical Writers Association. Released on April 8, 2020 is the PBS NOVA Documentary "The Truth About Fat", on which Dr. Hansen has served as the Scientific Director, produced/directed and written by highly awarded documentarian, Sarah Holt.

Dr. Hansen is a member of the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (NAM, 1981-present) and is past Chair of the NAM Section on Neurobiology, Physiology, and Pharmacology, and past chair and current Cochair of the Nutrition, Obesity and Diabetes Group of the NAM. She has served in multiple leadership roles within the National Academy of Medicine, chaired many committees and advisory groups and served as reviewer on multiple scientific reports of the NAM/National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Hansen has been a member of the Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Toxicology Board, NIEHS of NIH, the NIH Nutrition Study Section, and of many other NIH advisory groups, as well as the FDA Endocrinologic and Metabolic Disease Drug Advisory Panel (2012 to present) and the DOD Armed Forces Epidemiology Board (the Defense Health

Board of the DOD). Her laboratory has been continuously supported by NIH for more than 40 years, and additionally, has been supported by the pharmaceutical and food industries. Dr. Hansen was the first President of The Obesity Society (USA) and also served as the first President of the International Association for the Study of Obesity (World Obesity Federation). She has further served as President of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition/ASN. She has received many honors including the E.V. McCollum Award of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, the George Bray Founder's Award from the Obesity Society, and charter member of the National Academy of Inventors. In 2019, Dr. Hansen was awarded the Presidential Medal by The Obesity Society. She has been elected a Fellow of multiple professional/scientific societies and is currently active in all of the following, including The Obesity Society (FTOS), the American Society for Nutrition (FASN), the American Heart Association (FAHA), American Association for the Advancement of Science (FAAAS), and The National Academy of Inventors (FNAI, charter member/fellow) and was elected an Inaugural Fellow of the American Physiological Society (FAPS). Dr. Hansen has received Outstanding Faculty Awards from the University of South Florida twice in the past 5 years. She has a Ph.D. in Physiology and Psychology from the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

Gerald E. Harmon, MD

President, American Medical Association

Gerald E. Harmon, MD, a family medicine specialist having practiced for more than 30 years in coastal South Carolina, became 176th president of the American Medical Association in June 2021. He was first elected to the AMA Board of Trustees in June 2013 and elected board chair in 2018. In addition, Dr. Harmon also served as the secretary of the AMA in 2016.

In South Carolina Dr. Harmon has held several leadership positions in the South Carolina Medical Association, including chairman of the board and president. Dr. Harmon serves as a clinical professor at two of South Carolina's medical schools and is a member of the clinical faculty for the Tidelands Health Family Medicine residency program while regularly precepting physicians in training. In his hometown, Dr. Harmon is an adviser to the board of trustees for his community health system and is vice president in a multispecialty physician practice. He is a medical director for several organizations and volunteers as medical supervisor for his local school district's 23 schools. He has also been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award from his county's Chamber of Commerce. At the state level he has served as secretary for the State Aeronautics Commission.

Before his retirement from the military as a major general, Dr. Harmon served the nation in the Air Force Reserve, on Active Duty, and in the Air National Guard holding responsibilities as chief physician for the National Guard Bureau and assistant surgeon general for the U.S. Air Force. His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. Dr. Harmon received his undergraduate degree in physics and mathematics from the University of South Carolina and, more recently, an honorary Doctorate of Public Service. He received his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and completed his residency training program in family medicine with the U.S. Air Force at Eglin Air Force Base and is recognized as a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. During the rare times when not actively practicing medicine, Dr. Harmon and his wife, Linda, enjoy spending time outdoors in their coastal hometown of Georgetown with their three married children and eight grandchildren.

Sarah E. Messiah, PhD, MPH

Professor of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences, Director, Center for Pediatric Population Health, University of Texas

Dr. Sarah Messiah is a Professor of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences at the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health. She is also the Director of the Center for Pediatric Population Health, a partnership with Children's Health System of Texas. She is trained in advanced life course epidemiology and psychology and has broadly focused her career on the relationship between early life exposures and later life health events.

Guillermo (Willy) Prado, PhD

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Dean of the Graduate School, Professor, Nursing and Health Studies, Public Health Sciences, and Psychology, University of Miami

Dr. Guillermo (Willy) Prado is Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Dean of the Graduate School; and Professor of Nursing and Health Studies, Public Health Sciences, and Psychology at the University of Miami. His research broadly focuses on the development, evaluation, and dissemination of parenting interventions for Hispanic youth and their families. Prado's research has appeared in over 140 peer-reviewed articles and chapters. He has been PI, Co-I, mentor, or consultant of over \$100 million dollars of NIH grant funding. His research has been recognized by numerous organizations, including the National Hispanic Science Network, the Society for Prevention Research, and the Society for Adolescent and has been featured in several domestic and international news outlets, including the Miami Herald, NBC, and CNN en Español. Prado is currently the Director of the Investigator Development Core of the NIH funded Center for Latino Health Research Opportunities. He is also the President of the Society for Prevention Research; a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee on Prevention and Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the United States; and a Board Member of Research!America.

Diane Ty, MBA, MA

Director, Portion Balance Coalition at Business for Impact, Georgetown University, McDonough School of Business

Diane Ty is director of the Portion Balance Coalition (PBC), a multi-sector collaborative formed to address the obesity crisis by focusing on demand- and supply-side portions strategies in support of a healthy lifestyle. Housed at Business for Impact at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, the PBC offers a consumer campaign to guide appropriate portions for all food groups. Diane is also director of the Alliance to Improve Dementia Care at the Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging, a multi-sector coalition of leaders working together to advance timely detection, improve access to treatment and coordinated care, and address gaps in health equity for people at risk for and living with dementia and their caregivers.

Diane has led marketing, strategy, and business development programs for Service Year Alliance, Generations United, and Super. She held executive roles at AARP, AARP Services, Inc., and Save the Children. Her early career included 10+ years in various marketing roles at American Express Company, including vice president corporate card marketing. Diane has a BA from Duke University and MBA (The Wharton School) and MA from the University of Pennsylvania as a Lauder Institute Fellow. She is on the board of Capital Caring Health.