

PUNAM OHRI-VACHASPATI, Ph.D., R.D.

Professor of Nutrition

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Applied Nutrition and Food Policy — Tufts University School of Nutrition, Medford, MA, USA (1994)

M.S., Applied Nutrition and Food Policy — Tufts University School of Nutrition, Medford, MA, USA (1991)

R.D., Public Health Nutrition — Department of Nutrition, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, USA (1997)

M.Sc., Food and Nutrition — University of Delhi, New Delhi, India (1982)

B.Sc. (Hons), Food and Nutrition — University of Delhi, New Delhi, India (1980)

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Professor of Nutrition (2016–Present)

College of Health Solutions, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

Director of Faculty Mentoring and Retention (2022–Present)

College of Health Solutions, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

Visiting Scientist (Sabbatical) (2023)

Division of Nutrition and Food Safety, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

RWJF Health Policy Fellow (Sabbatical) (2016–2017)

National Academy of Medicine / Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senate

Senior Sustainability Scientist, Arizona State University, School of Sustainability, Tempe, AZ, 2010-present.

Associate Professor (2010–2016)

School of Nutrition and Health Promotion, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

Assistant Research Professor / Visiting Fellow (2007–2010)

Rutgers University Center for State Health Policy, New Brunswick, NJ

Assistant Professor / Extension Educator (1999–2007)

Ohio State University Extension, Cleveland, OH

Research Associate / Consultant / Teaching & Research Assistant (1986–1999)

Appointments at Case Western Reserve University, Tufts University, USAID-funded projects, and Government of India

RESEARCH FUNDING

Current Funded Projects

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health (NHLBI – UG3/UH3) Amount: \$6,227,597

Dates: August 2025 – July 2032

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati and M. Adams (MPIs)

Title: Amplifying the Impact of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Beyond Schools: A Multisectoral Approach

This project aims to test a novel intervention -- a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) and neighborhood grocery stores to amplify the benefits of the FFVP and expand its reach beyond the school setting.

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health (NIDDK – R01) Amount: \$3,017,329

Dates: July 2025 – April 2030

Role: Co-I J. Cohen (PI)

Title: Evaluation of the Updated Federal Nutrition Standards for School Meals

This project aims to assess the impact of updated USDA guidelines for school meals on student consumption.

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health

Role: Mentor Buman, Petrov, Stecher and Ghasemzadeh (MPI)

Title: T-32 ChatBCT: Interdisciplinary Personalized Digital Health Analytics Training.

This career development program will support predoctoral scholars in acquiring advanced skills in digital health analytics and personalized behavior change

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health (NIA – R01) Amount: \$3,924,880

Dates: September 2025 – August 2030

Role: Co-I R. Lee (PI)

Title: Improving Cardiometabolic Health and Meditative Movement in Mobility Impaired Women

This project evaluates the impact of an on demand Tai Chi and Qigong practice on cardiometabolic health and aging among women with mobility impairment.

Funding Agency: ITCA WIC / USDA

Amount: \$234,998

Dates: January 2025 – June 2027

Role: ASU PI ITCA WIC (PI)

Title: More WIC!

This project aims to assess the impact of outreach strategies for encouraging WIC participation among currently WIC eligible SNAP and Medicaid participants.

Funding Agency: Centers for American Indian & Alaska Native Health (Prime award: NIDDK)

Amount: \$54,928

Dates: December 2024 – May 2026

Role: Mentor

Title: Evaluating fruit and vegetable benefit redemption patterns among Inter Tribal Council of Arizona WIC households after recent policy changes

This project aims to assess whether WIC-participating household characteristics are associated with uptake of new policies that expand fruit and vegetable benefit redemption options.

Funding Agency: AHRQ – P30 **Amount:** \$5,000,000

Dates: January 2024 – December 2028

Role: co-PI (15% effort) W. Riley (PI)

Title: Southwest Safety Net Embedded Scientist Training and Research (SSNE-STaR) Center

This grant will support the scientific training and professional development of Scholars embedded across Arizona Safety Net Organizations (to conduct comparative effectiveness and patient-centered outcome research (CER/PCOR) and gain proficiency in rapid-cycle implementation.

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health (*NICHD-R01*) **Amount:** \$3,852,966

Dates: September 2020 – August 2026

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

(Dual PI with M. Yedidia September, 2020 to September, 2023)

Title: The Impact of Covid-19 Related School Closures on Children's Weight Status

This study examines the impact of the prolonged school closures mandated by COVID-19 on weight status of low-income children and the mitigating potential of emergency food programs.

Completed Projects

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Healthy Eating Research Grant.

Dates: June 2023 – February 2025

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Amount: \$214,164

Title: Impacts of Increased Cash-Value Benefit on Inter Tribal Council of Arizona WIC Participants' Program Engagement and Weight Outcomes

This study examines the impacts of increased CVBs on Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) WIC program outcomes.

Funding Agency: InterTribal Council of Arizona, Inc. / Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (ASU PI)

Amount: \$164,000

Dates: June 2023 – October 2024

Title: WIC Community Innovation and Outreach Project

This study aims to design and evaluate strategies to improve WIC enrollment, retention and engagement.

Funding Agency: Arizona Food Bank Network

Amount: \$9,750

Dates: May 2024 – October 2024

Role: PI

Title: Examining the impact of eliminating reduced price meal category on school meal participation in Arizona schools.

Funding Agency: Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona WIC

Dates: April 2022 – March 2023

Amount: \$55,000

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: Develop text messages and evaluate their impact on ITCA WIC participant engagement and benefits redemption.

An intervention study that evaluates the impact of text messages designed using positive and negative framing on ITCA WIC participants program retention and benefits redemption.

Funding Agency: Arizona Food Bank Network

Dates: March 2022 – January 2023

Amount: \$35,881

Role: Mentor / Co-I S. Martinelli (PI)

Title: Assessment of Healthy School Meals for All in Arizona.

This project estimates the cost of providing free school meals to all in Arizona and examines school community stakeholders perceptions about school meals.

Funding Agency: College of Health Solutions Jumpstart Grant, Arizona State University.

Dates: January 2022 – December 2022

Amount: \$18,000

Role: Co-I A. Ross (PI)

Title: Impact of recess duration and frequency on children's physical activity: A pilot study.

A pilot study to determine the impact of recess frequency and duration on children's physical activity.

Funding Agency: National Science Foundation

Amount: \$1,275,097

Dates: 01/01/2021 – 12/31/2024

Role: Senior Personnel E. Judson (PI)

Title: Promoting Aspirations in STEM/ICT through Social Capital, Art, Relationships, and Doing (PASSCARD)

This project provides a transformative way of marshaling resources to provide STEM/ICT learning experiences that bolster representation of refugee families

Funding Agency: National Science Foundation: Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers

Dates: 1/01/2021 – 12/31/2022

Amount: \$299,807

Role: Co-Principal Investigator E. Judson (PI)

Title: STEM and Social Capital: Advancing Families through Learning and Doing (SSCAFLD)

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health (*NHLBI-R01*)

Amount: \$2,950,306

Dates: September 2017 – July 2022

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati, ASU and M. Yedidia, Rutgers (Dual PI)

Title: Examining Obesity Declines among School Children: The Role of Changes in the Food and Physical Activity Environments.

This study aims to identify alterable factors in the food and PA environment associated with declines in obesity rates among school children in order to develop tailored

interventions for reducing the burden of childhood obesity in schools and communities across the country.

Funding Agency: College of Health Solutions Jumpstart Grant, Arizona State University.
Amount: \$17,837

Dates: June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021

Role: Co-I F. Acciai (PI)

Title: Food security and food access in Arizona: What has changed since the coronavirus outbreak?

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health, NICHD, R21

Dates: July 2017 – June 2020

Role: Co-I R. E. Lee (PI)

Title: Food Environment Measurement with People with Mobility Impairments

Role: Co-I

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health, NHLBI, R01 **Amount:** \$1.98 million

Dates: September 2017 – September 2021

Role: Co-I M. Bruening, M. Adams ASU (MPI)

Title: Salad Bars and Students' Fruit and Vegetable Consumption: A Group -Randomized Trial with Objective Assessments

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Amount: \$165,000

Dates: September 2016 – June 2019

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: Healthy Policy Fellowship.

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health (*NICHD-R01*) **Amount:** \$3,027,486

Dates: March 2012 – July 2019

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati, ASU and M. Yedidia, Rutgers (Dual PI)

Title: Impact of Environmental Changes on Children's BMI and Behaviors: A Panel Study.

This longitudinal study is tracking changes in food and PA behaviors and weight outcomes among 1200 low-income children in five New Jersey cities and capturing changes in their environment. The project aims to assess the impact of environmental changes on children's weight outcomes and associated behaviors.

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health, Common Fund, and NIH Director's Early Independence Award **Amount:** \$1.89 million

Dates: September 2013 – September 2018

Role: Co-I (Mentor) M. Bruening, ASU (PI)

Title: The Role of Friendship Networks in Weight-Related Behaviors and Outcomes among College Freshmen.

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Amount: \$559,798

Dates: July 2012 – December 2017

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: Tracking the Impact on Children of Changes in the Food and Physical Activity Environments.

This project will complement the NICHD-R01 grant (below) and track children's exposure to a comprehensive set of changes in their environment – intended or not – related to food and physical activity (PA) behaviors and weight status.

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health (*NICHD-R03*) **Amount:** \$154,500

Dates: July 2014 – June 2018

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati and M. Bruening (Dual PI)

Title: Improving Accuracy of Classifying Child Weight Status in Population-Based Studies.

This project will compare the accuracy of classifying the weight status of children using parent-measured heights and weights over to parent reported measurements.

Funding Agency: Maricopa County Department of Public Health **Amount:** \$40,000

Dates: July 2016-September 2016

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: Developing a Pathway to Building Public-Private Partnerships for Expanding the Impact of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

Funding Agency: University of Delaware (subcontract from Healthy Eating Research)

Amount: \$10,700

Dates: April 2016 – September 2016

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: Understanding Implementation Feasibility of Recommendations for Minimum Stocking Standards and Marketing Strategies for Small Retail Food Stores

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Amount: \$130,000

Dates: March 2016 – February 2017

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: Studying the impact of food and physical activity environments in and around schools on students' weight status.

This project will assess the impact of changes in food and physical activity environments in and around school on students' weight status over time.

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Amount: \$10,000

Dates: March 2016 – February 2017

Role: ASU PI on Subcontract. A. Karpyn, University of Delaware (PI)

Title: Understanding implementation feasibility of recommendations for minimum stocking standards and marketing strategies for small retail food stores.

This project will use qualitative methods to examine the facilitators and barriers for implementing minimum stocking requirements for small retail stores and also collect baseline data for future evaluations.

Funding Agency: United States Department of Agriculture

Amount: \$39,500

Dates: September 2014 – August 2015

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI) (Mentored Grant for R. DeWeese, PhD Student)

Title: Designing a short-form survey instrument to evaluate the healthfulness of corner stores.

Building on the New Jersey Child Health Study (PI: Ohri-Vachaspati & Yedidia) funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this project will develop and validate a short form instrument to assess availability of healthy items in small corner stores.

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation **Amount:** \$100,000
Subcontract from the Food Trust

Dates: January 2014 – December 2015

Role: Co-I (PI for ASU subcontract) A. Karpyn, The Food Trust (PI)

Title: Evaluating the Health and Economic Impact of the New Jersey Food Access Initiative.

In partnership with the Food Trust, University of Pennsylvania, and Econsult Solutions, Inc. this project will assess the health and economic impact of new food stores opening as a result of the initiative in New Jersey.

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation **Amount:** \$15,000
Subcontract from the Food Trust

Dates: June 2012 – December 2012

Role: Co-I (PI for ASU subcontract) A. Karpyn, The Food Trust (PI)

Title: In-store marketing strategies to promote healthy choices at the supermarket.

A subcontract from the Food Trust, this grant is assessing the impact of using coupons as financial incentives for changing purchasing behaviors among low-income predominantly Hispanic shoppers in Arizona.

Funding Agency: Arizona Department of Health Services **Amount:** \$21,000

Dates: August 2011-December 2011

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati, ASU (PI)

Title: Policy Considerations for Improving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Making a Case for Decreasing the Burden of Obesity.

The purpose of this contract is to support development of a white paper at the behest of the Director of Arizona Department of Health Services, Mr. William Humble, which will make recommendations to the federal and state governments for improving the largest federal food assistance program.

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (subcontract from Rutgers University) **Amount:** \$80,000

Dates: August 2010- November 2011

Role: Co-PI (PI for sub-contract) M Yedidia, Rutgers University (PI)

Title: New Jersey Childhood Obesity Study (NJCOB).

The aim of this subcontract from Rutgers University on a RWJF grant for which I was the Co-PI at Rutgers (2008-2010) is to analyze cross-sectional data to assess the associations between food and physical activity environments and weight and behavior outcomes.

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (subcontract from Rutgers University)

Amount: \$13,200

Dates: September 2010 – February 2011

Role: Co-I (PI for ASU sub-contract) M. Agrawal, Rutgers University (PI)

Title: New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids (NJPHK) Coalition.

This subcontract from Rutgers is to complete a report based on an evaluation of the NJPHK coalition that I had conducted at Rutgers University in 2009-10.

Funding Agency: Virginia G Piper Charitable Trust

Amount: \$49,842

Dates: March 2013 – August 2014

Role: Co-I M. Adams, ASU and M. Bruening, ASU (Co-PI)

Title: Evaluation of School Salad Bars and Fruit and Vegetable Consumption in Arizona.

The purpose of this study is to assess prevalence of salad bars in public schools across Arizona and to assess plate waste in middle schools that offer salad bars in the lunch serving line vs. those that offer salad bars outside the serving line.

Funding Agency: Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Amount: \$40,000

Dates: March 2013 – August 2014

Role: Co-I M. Buman, ASU (PI)

Title: Biobehavioral activity-sleep synergies for cardiometabolic health.

The purpose of this study is to develop three smartphone-based interventions that individually target sleep, sedentary, and more active behaviors and to study the impact on cardiometabolic health in US Veterans with metabolic syndrome.

Funding Agency: Arizona Department of Health Services

Amount: \$68,000

Dates: March 2012 – December 2012

Role: Co-PI C. Wharton, ASU (PI)

Title: Women Infant and Children (WIC) program's *Cash Value Voucher (CVV)* use and participant attitudes and perceptions. The aim of the grant is to explore the reasons for lower CVV redemption rates among segments of WIC population. The results of the study will inform the Arizona WIC program about possible programmatic and policy solutions for improving WIC redemptions.

Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health (T-32)

Amount: \$1.2 million

Dates: July 2011-June 2016

Role: Mentor C. Keller, ASU and E. Reifsnider, ASU (PI)

Title: Leveraging culture to improve health outcomes.

This training grant funds pre- and post-doctoral fellows at the College of Nursing and Health Innovation.

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Dates: January 2011 – June 2012

Amount: \$75,000

Role: Co-I S. Echeverria, UMDNJ (PI)

Title: Parental and built environment determinants of physical activity in Latino children.

This grant supports secondary analysis of data from the NJCOB study to investigate

parental and built environment related determinants of physical activity among Latino children living in five low-income communities.

Funding Agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dates: 2014 – 2019

Role: Consultant D. Freedman, Case Western Reserve University (PI)

Title: Core Project for the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods at Case Western Reserve University: Increasing the supply of and demand for farmers' markets, Produce Perks, and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) throughout the Cleveland area.

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Dates: 2008-2015

Role: Consultant F. Chaloupka, University of Illinois at Chicago (PI)

Title: Bridging the Gap: Research Informing Practice and Policy for Healthy Youth Behavior.

Funding Agency: United States Department of Agriculture

Dates: 2010-2012

Role: Consultant Westat (PI)

Title: Evaluating the use of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards in US farmer's markets.

Funded Projects prior to hire at ASU

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Amount: \$1.6 Million

Dates: May 2008 - November 2011

Role: Co-PI M. Yedidia, Rutgers (PI)

Title: New Jersey Childhood Obesity Study.

The aim of the study was to estimate prevalence of childhood obesity in five New Jersey communities and to identify groups most impacted and explore policy and environmental factors amenable to intervention in these communities.

Funding Agency: NJ Department of Health and Senior Services **Amount:** \$80,000

Dates: February 2010 – June 2010

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati, Rutgers University (PI)

Title: Evaluating CDC's Nutrition Physical Activity and Obesity Program – ShapingNJ.

The aim of this project is to pilot test CDC's common measures to assess the baseline status of ShapingNJ proposed strategies.

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Amount: \$40,000

Dates: January 2010 – February, 2011

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati, Rutgers University (PI)

Title: New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids Coalition.

This project aims to assess the strength of the New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids coalition and identify areas for development.

Funding Agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Amount: \$150,000

Dates: 2004 – 2007

Role: PI on Ohio State University Extension (OSUE) subcontract from Cleveland Department of Public Health
P. Ohri-Vachaspati, Ohio State University Extension (OSUE PI)

Title: STEPS to a Healthier Cleveland

As part of the CDC's Steps to a Healthier US initiative, working in partnership with the Cleveland Department of Health and other community partners, this project aims to improve the health of Clevelanders by reducing the burden of obesity, diabetes, and asthma.

Funding Agency: United States Department of Agriculture **Amount:** \$268,000

Dates: 2004 – 2007

Role: PI on OSUE subcontract from the New Agrarian Center P. Ohri-Vachaspati (OSUE PI)

Title: Community Foods Project – City Fresh

In partnership with the New Agrarian Center and the Cleveland Department of Health, this project aims to improve access to healthy local produce in low-income neighborhoods that have been identified as food deserts.

Funding Agency: Tops Friendly Markets Foundation

Amount: \$11,500

Dates: 2002-2003

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: Healthy Summer Camps

This project focused on providing experiential nutrition education to low-income children attending summer camps in the City of Cleveland.

Funding Agency: Cuyahoga County and Cleveland Foundation

Amount: \$57,600

Dates: 2000-2003

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: Nutrition Resource Guide for Welfare to Work Participants

The aim of the project was to develop a self-study resource for preparing quick and healthy meals tailored for low-income welfare to work participants.

Funding Agency: Cuyahoga County Jobs and Family Services, OH

Amount: \$87,000

Dates: 2000-2001

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: EFNEP for Welfare to Work and Youth Out of School Initiative

This project supported expansion of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) to welfare to work participants and for after school programs.

Funding Agency: Cuyahoga County Board of Health, OH

Amount: \$55,500

Dates: 1999-2000

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: Day Care Provider Training

The aim of the project was to work in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and provide nutrition education training to day care providers in the county.

Funding Agency: Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland, OH

Amount: \$27,500

Dates: 1999-2000

Role: PI P. Ohri-Vachaspati (PI)

Title: EFNEP – Social Marketing to increase program outreach.

This grant supported development of social marketing tools to expand the outreach of the EFNEP program in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

In the Nutrition field and related areas authors are listed in decreasing order of contribution, and the following considerations apply:

- The first author is usually the person who conducted most of the work AND wrote the main contents of the manuscript
 - The senior author, or principal investigator who secured funding for the work, is usually listed as last author, unless he/she wrote the main manuscript content. This person is usually the corresponding author.
 - Underlined names are Ohri-Vachaspati's primary mentored students or research mentees
1. Melnick EM, Acciai F, Vaudrin O'Reilly N, Ronan B, Jossefides M, Dykstra T, Raval S, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. WIC participant and local agency staff perspectives on increased cash-value benefits for fruits and vegetables within an Indian Tribal Organization. Minor revisions requested at *Matern Child Nutr*. In press.
 2. Wilson K, Kulinna PH, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Koskan A, Poulos A. The Potential of School Campuses to Promote Active Communities: A Scoping Review on Usage and Physical Activity in School Shared Use Spaces. *J Phys Act Health*. 2025 Nov 6:1-23. doi: 10.1123/jpah.2024-0889. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41197614.
 3. Melnick EM, Acciai F, Vaudrin O'Reilly N, Jossefides M, Ronan AB, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Effectiveness of Text Message Outreach to Promote Enrollment in a Government Food Assistance Program: Pilot Randomized Trial. *JMIR Form Res*. 2025 Oct 31;9:e78907. doi: 10.2196/78907. PMID: 41172350; PMCID: PMC12578432.
 4. Martinelli S, Acciai F, Melnick E, St. Thomas A, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. School Staff Perceptions and Opinions of Universal Free School Meals in Arizona. *Public Health Nutrition*. *Public Health Nutr*. 2025 Sep 25;28(1):e173. doi: 10.1017/S1368980025101171.
 5. Wang C, Acciai F, Martinelli S, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Drinking Water Availability in Public Schools: An Assessment of Four New Jersey School Districts. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2025; 22(9):1332. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22091332>

6. Cohen JFW, Zuercher MD, Orta-Aleman D, Chapman LE, Hecht CA, Hecht K, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Olarte DA, Patel AI, Polacsek M, Schwartz MB, Ritchie LD, Gosliner W. Impact of Deimplementing Universal Free School Meals: School Food Authority Perspectives. *J Nutr Educ Behav*. 2025 Aug 12:S1499-4046(25)00334-3. doi: 10.1016/j.jneb.2025.06.001
7. Raval S, Acciai F, Wilson K, Poulos A, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Longitudinal Analysis of Shared Use of School Physical Activity Facilities in 4 Low-Income Cities in New Jersey From 2010 to 2020. *J Phys Act Health*. 2025 Jun 23;22(8):1021-1027. doi: 10.1123/jpah.2024-0810. PMID: 40550499.
8. Ramponi F, Zhou, Gosliner W, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Orta-Aleman D, Ritchie L, Schwartz M, Turner L, Verguet S, Cohen JFW. Universal free school meal policies and participation in the US national school meal programs. *JAMA Pediatrics*, Forthcoming.
9. Olarte DA, Gosliner W, Chapman L, Hecht C, Hecht K, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Patel A, Read M, Ritchie LD, Schwartz MB, Zuercher MD, Orta-Aleman D, Polacsek M, Cohen JFW. Foodservice directors' perceived barriers to student participation in school meals when meals were served free of charge during the 2021-2022 school year. *Journal of School Health*, 2025; 0:1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josh.70019>.
10. Adams MA, Todd M, McEntee ML, Yu TY, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Richards TJ, Bruening M. A cluster randomized factorial trial of school-lunch salad bars and marketing on elementary students' objectively measured fruit and vegetable consumption. *Int J Behav Nutr Phys Act*. 2025 May 26;22(1):58. doi: 10.1186/s12966-025-01758-z. PMID: 40420203.
11. Melnick EM, Bui T, Acciai F, Martinelli S, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Emergency Free School Meal Distribution Across Phases of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Mixed Methods Study. *J Sch Health*. 2025 May 25. doi: 10.1111/josh.70016. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40415168.
12. Acciai F, Ganderats-Fuentes M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Changes in the food environment surrounding schools in four New Jersey school districts between school years 2012-13 and 2019-20. *Prev Med*. 2025 Apr 2:108278. doi: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2025.108278. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40185286.
13. Melnick EM, O'Reilly NV, Acciai F, Lorts C, Jossefides M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Health Communications Theory-Based Text Message Reminders Boost Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Appointment Attendance Among American Indian Populations. *Nutrients*. 2025; 17(7):1112. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu17071112>
14. Chapman LE, Gosliner W, Olarte DA, Zuercher MD, Ritchie LD, Orta-Aleman D, Schwartz MB, Polacsek M, Hecht CE, Hecht K, Patel AI, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**,

- Read M, Cohen JF. Impact of mealtime social experiences on student consumption of meals at school: a qualitative analysis of caregiver perspectives. *Public Health Nutr.* 2025 Feb 4:1-29. doi: 10.1017/S1368980024002349. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39901560.
15. Zuercher MD, Orta-Aleman D, French CD, Cohen JFW, Hecht CA, Hecht K, Chapman LE, Read M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Schwartz MB, Patel AI, Ritchie LD, Gosliner W. Factors and Outcomes Associated With Using Scratch-Cooked, Organic, and Locally Grown Foods in School Meals in California. *J Sch Health.* 2025 Jan 6. doi: 10.1111/josh.13533. Online ahead of print. PMID: 39763015
16. Cohen JFW, Chapman LE, Olarte DA, Hecht CA, Hecht K, Minc L, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Orta-Aleman D, Patel AI, Polacsek M, Ritchie LD, Zuercher MD, Gosliner W. Perceived Influence of a State-Level Universal Free School Meal Policy on Households With Varying Income Levels: An Analysis of Parental Perspectives. *J Acad Nutr Diet.* 2024 Oct 9:S2212-2672(24)00871-2. doi: 10.1016/j.jand.2024.10.001. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39383945.
17. Melnick EM, Acciai F, Yedidia MJ, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. The relationship between community food environment around schools and student meal participation: the role of school CEP participation status. *BMC Medicine.* BMC Med. 2024 Jul 9;22(1):287. doi: 10.1186/s12916-024-03498-6.
18. Acciai F, Uehara S, Ojinnaka C, Yedidia MJ, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. The association between unhealthy dietary behaviors and SNAP participation: A test of the self-selection hypothesis. *Appetite.* 2024 Mar 8:107302. doi: 10.1016/j.appet.2024.107302. (Acciai, Uehara joint first authors).
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Publications and Scholarly Work under Review

1. Dykstra T, Acciai F, McCoy M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Association between Community Eligibility Provision and student weight outcomes: A longitudinal analysis. Submitted to the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*.

2. Melnick EM, Acciai F, Vaudrin O'Reilly N, Tong D, Jossefides M, & **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Impacts of WIC Cash-Value Benefit Increase on Program Utilization Within an Indian Tribal Organization State Agency. Under review at the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*.
3. Martinelli S, Ronan B, Acciai B, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Competitive Food Availability in Schools Before and After the Onset of COVID-19: An Interrupted Time Series Analysis. Under review at *Frontiers in Public Health*.
4. Raval S, Martinelli S, Dykstra T, Acciai F, Cohen J, Ramponi F, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. State and federal policies and school meal participation: A descriptive analysis from Arizona. Under review at Plos ONE.
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6. Dykstra T, Ghasemzadeh H, Tasevska N, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Using Artificial Intelligence for Food Identification and Dietary Assessment within Restaurant and Institutional Settings: A Scoping Review. Under review at Appetite.
7. Zuercher MD, Orta-Aleman D, French CD, Hecht CA, Cohen JFW, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Gosliner W. Understanding the association between school meal production models with operational challenges and perceived barriers to student participation. Under review at the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
8. Orta-Aleman D, Pulido T, Cohen JFW, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Schwartz MB, Patel AI, Polacsek M, French CD, Ritchie LD, Gosliner W. Ending Universal School Meals: Student Perspectives on How Policy Reversal Shapes Hunger, Stigma, and Learning. Under review at Health Affairs Scholar.

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Peer Reviewed Conference Abstracts and Presentations

1. Dykstra T, Ghasemzadeh H, Tasevska N, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Using artificial intelligence for food identification and dietary assessment within restaurant and institutional settings: A scoping review. Oral presentation. APHA 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo, Nov 2-5, 2025, Washington DC.
2. Raval S, Acciai F, A Ross, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Association between a State-Mandated Policy on Recess Trends, and Recess Impact on Obesity Prevalence in Elementary Schools. Oral presentation. APHA 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo, Nov 2-5, 2025, Washington DC.
3. Martinelli S, Ronan B, Ohri-Vachaspati P. Competitive Food Availability in Schools Before and After the Onset of COVID-19: An Interrupted Time Series Analysis. Poster presentation. APHA 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo, Nov 2-5, 2025, Washington DC.
4. Raval S, Martinelli S, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Examining the Synergistic Impact of State and Federal Policies on School Meal Participation in Arizona. Poster presentation at *American Society of Nutrition (ASN)* Conference, May 31- June 3, 2025
5. Dykstra T, Raval S, Martinelli S, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. School Participation in the Community Eligibility Provision Before and After the USDA Eligibility Threshold Policy Change. Poster presentation at *American Society of Nutrition (ASN)* Conference, May 31- June 3, 2025
6. Acciai F, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Trends in the retail food environment surrounding public schools from 2012 to 2020: Evidence from four school districts in New Jersey. Poster presentation, APHA 2024 Annual Meeting – Minneapolis, MN, Oct 27-30, 2024.
7. Martinelli S, Acciai F, Melnick E, St Thomas A, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Arizona school staff weigh in: Universal free meals in schools. Poster presentation, APHA 2024 Annual Meeting – Minneapolis, MN, Oct 27-30, 2024.
8. Melnick E, Acciai F, Dykstra T, Raval S, Vaudrin O'Reilly N, Jossefides M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona WIC participants' and local agency staff's perspectives on increased cash-value benefit for fruits and vegetables – A mixed methods study. Oral presentation, APHA 2024 Annual Meeting – Minneapolis, MN, Oct 27-30, 2024.

9. Raval S, Acciai F, A Ross, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Longitudinal Analysis of Shared Use of School Facilities in Four Low-Income Cities in New Jersey from 2010-2020. Poster presentation, APHA 2024 Annual Meeting – Minneapolis, MN, Oct 27-30, 2024.
10. Dykstra T, Acciai F, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Long-term participation in Community Eligibility Provision and weight outcomes: Do the associations vary across students' demographics? Poster presentation, APHA 2024 Annual Meeting – Minneapolis, MN, Oct 27-30, 2024.
11. Ronan B, Acciai F, Melnick E, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Developing a methodology for capturing program retention in WIC among infants and children. Poster presentation, APHA 2024 Annual Meeting – Minneapolis, MN, Oct 27-30, 2024.
12. Waxman C, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Wadhera D, Melnick E. Dual participation in SNAP and WIC: Household characteristics and barriers and facilitators to participation. National WIC Association Annual Conference.
13. Wilson K, Schulke M, Nam K, Kulinna PH, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Bai Y, Poulos A. (March, 2024). Recess frequency and children's physical activity: A natural experiment in Arizona elementary schools. 2024 Active Living Conference, Chattanooga, TN.
14. Dykstra T, Acciai F, McCoy M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. CEP mitigates the negative impact of high-density food environments around schools on school breakfast participation. Oral presentation. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, Nov 12-15, 2023.
15. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Acciai F, Melnick EM, Lloyd K, Tulloch D, Martinelli S, DeWeese RS, DiSantis K, DeLia D, Yedidia MJ. Food environments within and outside of schools play a critical role in curtailing the rise in obesity among school-aged children over time. Poster presentation. APHA 2023 - Atlanta, GA. (Presented by Dr. Acciai)
16. Acciai F, Uehara S, Ojinnaka C, Yedidia MJ, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. The association between unhealthy dietary behaviors and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) participation: A test of the self-selection hypothesis. Poster presentation. APHA 2023 - Atlanta, GA.
17. DeWeese RS, Acciai F, Lloyd K, Yedidia M, Kennedy M, DiSantis K, Tulloch D, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. The relationship between changes in neighborhood physical environment and changes in physical activity among children: A prospective cohort study. Oral presentation. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, Nov 12-15, 2023.
18. Martinelli S, Acciai F, Melnick E, St Thomas A, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Healthy

- School Meals for All in Arizona: Community Perspectives. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Poster presentation. Atlanta, GA, Nov 12-15, 2023.
19. Martinelli S, Acciai F, Melnick E, St Thomas A, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Healthy School Meals for All in Arizona: Cost Assessment. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Oral presentation. Atlanta, GA, Nov 12-15, 2023.
 20. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Acciai F, Lloyd K, Tulloch D, Martinelli S, DiSantis K, DeWeese R, Melnick E, DeLia D, Yedidia M. Food environments within and outside of schools play a critical role in curtailing the rise in obesity among school age children. Oral presentation. International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, Upsala, Sweden, June 14-18, 2023.
 21. Adams M, Todd MJ, McEntee M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Bruening M. Salad bars and primary students' fruit and vegetable consumption: A group-randomized trial with objective assessments. Oral presentation. International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, Upsala, Sweden, June 14-18, 2023.
 22. Acciai F, Uehara S, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. The association between unhealthy dietary behaviors and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) participation: A test of the self-selection hypothesis. Oral presentation. International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, Upsala, Sweden June 14-18, 2023.
 23. Melnick E, Vaudrin O'Rielly N, Lorts C, Jossefides M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Developing and Testing a Catalog of Text Messages to Improve Program Engagement. Oral presentation at the National WIC Association, 2023.
 24. Lee RE, Suh B, O'Neal AL, O'Connor D, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Hughes RB. Association of mHealth Use with Health Status and COVID-19-Related Concerns among People with Mobility Impairments. Submitted to the Society of Behavioral Medicine Conference, Baltimore, MD, Phoenix, AZ, 2023.
 25. Acciai F, DeWeese RS, Yedidia MJ, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Changes in food environment and changes in adult BMI: New evidence from a prospective cohort study. Oral Presentation, International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity annual meeting, Phoenix, AZ, 2022.
 26. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Acciai F, Ganderats-Fuentes M, Yedidia MJ. Schools Participating in the Community Eligibility Provision Reach More Students Eligible for Pandemic-EBT Benefits. Oral Presentation, International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity annual meeting, Phoenix, AZ, 2022.
 27. Martinelli S, Bui T, Acciai F, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Improvements in school food offerings over time – do all children benefit? Virtual Presentation, International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity annual meeting, Phoenix, AZ, 2022.

28. DeWeese RS, Acciai F, Lloyd K, Yedidia MJ, Tulloch D, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Upgrades to existing physical activity environments improve children's activity levels. Oral presentation, International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity annual meeting, Phoenix, AZ, 2022
29. **Melnick, E.**, DeWeese, R., Acciai, F., Ohri-Vachaspati, P. Routes Matter: The Role of the Community Food Environment in the Relationship Between Walking to School and Child Body Mass Index. Oral presentation, International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity annual meeting, Phoenix, AZ, 2022.
30. Hewawitharana SC, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Acciai F, Gosliner W, Thompson H, Woodward-Lopez G. Evaluation of the relationship between school-based Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) intervention combinations and student fitness. Oral presentation at APHA, 2022.
31. DiSantis K, Acciai F, Yedidia M, Martinelli S, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Presence of School Kitchens and the Nutritional Quality of Foods Offered in Public K-12 Schools. Oral presentation at APHA, 2022.
32. DeWeese R, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Lloyd K, Acciai F, Tulloch D, Yedidia M, Upgrades to existing physical activity environments improve children's activity levels. Poster presentation at APHA, 2021.
33. Brown T, Martinelli S, and **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Grocery store promotion of fruits and vegetables: Are there disparities by neighborhood demographics? Oral presentation at APHA, 2021.
34. Acciai F, Yellow Horse A, Josephson A, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. COVID-19 and food insecurity in Arizona: A study overview. Oral Panel presentation at APHA, 2021.
35. Martinelli S, Acciai F, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Parent perceptions of school meals and what is actually offered: Is there a disconnect? Poster presentation at APHA, 2021.
36. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Acciai F, Martinelli S, DeWeese R. Stagnant SNAP participation accompanied escalating food insecurity: A post-COVID analysis of vulnerable households in Arizona and nationally. Oral Panel presentation at APHA, 2021.
37. Srinivasan M, Acciai F, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, The interplay of household SNAP and WIC participation: Is there a relationship with sugar-sweetened beverage consumption among children and adolescents? Oral presentation at APHA, 2021.
38. Reyes N, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. A Longitudinal Analysis of School Garden Prevalence Across Four New Jersey Cities. Virtual presentation at FNCE, 2021.
39. Bui T, Martinelli S, Acciai F, & **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. School Food and Physical Activity Environments: Patterns of Change, 2010–2018. Poster Presented at:

American Medical Association Research Challenge; October 21-23, 2021; Virtual.

40. Thompson A & Ohri-Vachaspati. Farm to School Program Prevalence: Do School Characteristics Matter? Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior Annual Conference, July 2021. Virtual presentation.
41. Acciai F, Srinivasan M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Sugar-sweetened beverage consumption among children and adolescents: The interplay of household SNAP and WIC participation. Submitted to Academy Health, 2021.
42. Stevens C, Acciai F, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Spilling the beans: Does proximity to WIC-authorized stores improve child consumption behaviors or obesity risk in the surrounding community? American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, 2020. Remote Meeting.
43. DeWeese R, Acciai F, Yedidia F, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Active commuting to school and overall physical activity in children over time. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, 2020. Remote Meeting.
44. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Acciai F, Lloyd K, Tulloch D, DeWeese R, DeLia D, Todd M, Yedidia M. Changes in food environments near children's homes can significantly impact children's BMI – evidence from a longitudinal study. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, 2020. Remote Meeting.
45. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Acciai F, Lloyd K, DeLia D, DeWeese R, Tulloch D, Yedidia M. Changes in food and physical activity environments over time lead to changes in children's BMI. Oral presentation at The Obesity Society Annual meeting, Las Vegas, NV, 2019.
46. DeWeese R, Ohri-Vachaspati P. Can healthy corner stores be sustained over time? Oral presentation at The Obesity Society Annual meeting, Las Vegas, NV, 2019.
47. Martinelli S, Acciai F, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Affect of HHFKA on the association between parent's perception and children's school meal participation. Poster presentation at The Obesity Society Annual meeting, Las Vegas, NV, 2019.
48. Acciai F, Ohri-Vachaspati P. Is parental nativity a social determinant of children's BMI trajectory? Evidence from New Jersey. Poster presentation at The Obesity Society Annual meeting, Las Vegas, NV, 2019.
49. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Acciai F, Lloyd K, DeLia D, DeWeese R, Tulloch D, Yedidia M. Children's weight status: Are parent-measurements more reliable than parent-estimates? Poster presentation at The Obesity Society Annual meeting, Las Vegas, NV, 2019.
50. Lorts C, Adams M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Design Matters: Aesthetics of Education Materials Influences Perceived Trustworthiness of Information. Oral Presentation.

National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media, Atlanta, GA. August 2019.

51. **Ohri-Vachaspati P** and Rosso R. Value of local data: A case for SNAP decisions. Oral Presentation. ISBNPA, Prague, Czech, June 2019.
52. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Steeves S, Dachenhause E, Acciai F, Gruner J, DeWeese R, Tasevska N. Can Spillover effects of nutrition assistance programs be amplified? Oral Presentation. ISBNPA, Prague, Czech, June 2019.
53. Adams M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Richards RJ, Todd M, Grabb A, Bruening M. Design and rationale for evaluating salad bars and students' fruit and vegetable consumption: A cluster randomized factorial trial with objective assessments. ISBNPA, Prague, Czech, June 2019.
54. Bruening M. Grabb A, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Adams M. School nutrition professionals' perception of fruit and vegetable marketing materials for school-aged youth. ISBNPA, Prague, Czech, June 2019.
55. Eliason J, DeWeese R, Vega-López S, Acciai F, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. How well do parents assess their children's diet? American Nutrition Society Annual meeting. Baltimore MD, June 2019.
56. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Rosso R. SNAP Matters in Every Community: Interactive Maps for States, Counties, and Congressional Districts. Oral Presentation. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. November 2018.
57. **Ohri-Vachaspati P.**, Kirk-Epstein M. Evidence-Based Policy: Making a Case for Stronger Linkages between Researchers and Advocates. A Panel Discussion. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. November 2018.
58. Acciai F, Martinelli S, DeWeese R, Yedidia M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Measuring changes in food and physical activity environment in schools over time: Developing reliable measures. Oral Presentation. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. November 2018.
59. Lloyd K, Dighe S, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Yedidia M, Acciai F, Martinelli S. Association between Children's Weight Status and Aspects of their School's Food Environment. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. November 2018.
60. Steeves S, Acciai F, Tasevska N, DeWeese R, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. WIC spillover effect: Do siblings reap the benefits? Oral Presentation. American Society for Nutrition Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, June 2018.

61. Lorts C, Adams M, Tasevska N, Hooker SP, Tulloch D, Yedidia MJ, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Does community food environment matter for following health care provide advice on eating behaviors? Poster Presentation. American Society for Nutrition Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, June 2018.
62. Kennedy M. Yedidia M, DeWeese R, Mazzilli K, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Capturing what's missing: A comprehensive protocol to monitor changes in the food and physical activity environment for studying their impact on childhood obesity. Poster Presentation. American Society for Nutrition Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, June 2018.
63. Bruening M, van Woerden I, Schaefer D, Hruschka D, Brewis A, Whisner C, Dunton G, Todd M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Laska M. Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2018.
64. Vaudrin N, Lloyd K, Yedidia M, Todd M. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Impact of Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act on school meal participation rates over time. Oral Presentation. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, Atlanta, GA; 2017.
65. Gruner J, DeWeese R, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Finding winnable strategies to expand the reach of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program beyond school settings. Poster Presentation. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, Atlanta, GA; 2017.
66. Gruner J, DeWeese R, Lorts C, **Ohri-Vachaspati**. Menu labeling: The policy that will be heard but not seen. Oral Presentation; American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, Denver, CO; 2016.
67. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Dachenhaus E, Gruner J, Mollner K, Heckler E, Todd M, Soto M, Pimental E. Can school food programs have a reach beyond schools? Oral Presentation; American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, Denver, CO; 2016.
68. Green J, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Food choices made at fast-food restaurants are associated with patron weight status. Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference. Poster Presentation. Washington DC, March 30 - April 2, 2016.
69. Green J, DeWeese R, Lorts C, **Ohri-Vachasati P**. Menu Labeling: Coming to a Neighborhood Near You...or is it? Experimental Biology Annual Conference, Poster Presentation. San Diego, CA, April 1-4, 2016.
70. DeWeese R, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Disparities in healthy food access: Are we improving? Experimental Biology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 22-26, 2017.

71. DeWeese R, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Adams M, Kurka J, Han SY, Yedidia MJ. Using latent class analysis to examine associations between food and physical activity environmental patterns and children's food and activity behaviors. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, October 29 – November 2, 2016.
72. DeWeese R, Todd M, Karpyn A, Yedidia M, Kennedy M, Bruening M, Wharton C, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. A more efficient method of assessing corner store healthfulness. Experimental Biology Annual Conference, Oral Presentation. San Diego, CA, April 1-4, 2016
73. DeWeese R, Todd M, Karpyn A, Yedidia M, Kennedy M, Bruening M, Wharton C, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Healthy store programs and WIC, but not SNAP, are associated with corner store healthfulness. Experimental Biology Annual Conference, Poster Presentation. San Diego, CA, April 1-4, 2016.
74. DeWeese R, **Ohri-Vachaspati P** The cost of healthy snacks in corner stores. Experimental Biology Annual Conference, Poster Presentation. San Diego, CA, April 1-4, 2016.
75. Vaudrin N, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Lorts C, Green J, Yedidia M. The impact of neighborhood food environment on school meal participation rates. Oral Presentation. Experimental Biology Annual Conference, Poster Presentation. San Diego, CA, April 1-4, 2016.
76. Thibodeau T, van Woerden I, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Huberty J, Bruening M. The Relationship between Weight Loss Advice from Friends on Self-Perception of Weight and Eating Habits"
77. Karpyn A, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Weiss S, Ruhs B, Levine D, McClain D. Impact of an in-store supermarket marketing and coupon campaign on skim and low-fat milk purchases. Oral presentation at the 143rd annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. Chicago, Illinois, 2015.
78. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Turner L, Adams M, Bruening M, Chaloupka F. Salad bars in schools: before and after the new school nutrition guidelines. Poster presentation at the 143rd annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. Chicago, Illinois, 2015.
79. Lorts C, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Disparities in who receives doctor's advice to lose weight: does income make a difference? Poster presentation at the 143rd annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. Chicago, Illinois, 2015.
80. Freedman D, Schneider C, Vaudrin N, Rouse C, Flocke S, Trapl E, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Bess K, Matlack K, Taggart M, Borawski E. Translating Evidence into Policies to Promote Farmers' Market Demand among Low-income Consumers. Paper presentation at the 143rd annual meeting of the American Public Health

Association. Chicago, Illinois, 2015.

81. Adams MA, Bruening M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Hurley JC. Placement of School Lunch Salad Bars and Students' Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Consumption. Paper presentation at the 143rd annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. Chicago, Illinois, 2015.
82. Adams M, Bruening M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Hurley J School Lunch Salad Bars, their Placement, and Students' Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Consumption. Oral presentation at the Annual conference if the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting. Edinburgh, 2015.
83. Green J, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Calorie menu label users may be saving calories by ordering healthier sides and beverages. Oral presentation at the Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2015. Oral presentation. Presentation selected as Meritorious Student Abstract by the Conference Planning Committee.
84. Lorts C, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Eating patterns among low-income obese adults: does the doctor's advice carry any weight? Poster presentation at the Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2015.
85. DeWeese RS, Kennedy M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Difference in price of healthy vs unhealthy snacks in corner stores by neighborhood characteristics. Poster presentation at Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2015.
86. Hurley JC, Bruening M, Adams MA, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Demographic predictors of fruit and vegetable consumption and waste among middle school students. Poster presentation. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. 2015; 49(suppl 1):S106.
87. Adams MA, Bruening M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Hurley JC. Salad Bar location and fruit and vegetable consumption in middle schools: a plate waste study. Oral Presentation. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. 2015; 49(suppl 1):S56.
88. Buman M, Epstein D, Herb C, Hollingshead K, Hekler E, Hekle A, Baldwin CM, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Vega-Lopez S, Babcock-Parziale J. BeWell24: Development and evaluation design of a smartphone application for US Veterans with metabolic syndrome. Oral presentation at Society of Behavior Medicine Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2015.
89. **DeWeese R**, Yedidia M, Ohri-Vachaspati P. Determinants and health benefits of active commuting to school. Moving Active Transportation to Higher Ground conference. Washington, DC, April 13, 14, 2015.
90. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Turner L, Chaloupka F. Status of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program – Four Years since Expansion. *FASEB J*. 2015; 29 (1 Supplement), LB398

91. Bruening M, Adams MA, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Hurley JC. Lunchroom environmental factors related to having school salad bars: Prevalence and findings from a state-wide survey in Arizona. *FASEB J.* 2015;29: 273.5.
92. Skelton K, Bruening M, Adams MA, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Hurley JC, Simpson, J. Cafeteria Managers' Perceptions and Promotion of School Salad Bars. *FASEB J.* 2015;29: 903.2.
93. DeWeese R, **Ohri-Vachaspati, P**. Child weight status moderates association between active commuting to school and parental perceptions of the environment. International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, May 21-24, 2014.
94. DeWeese R and **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Active commuting to school as a strategy to reduce overweight and obesity in youth. Oral presentation. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 2013.
95. Tasevska N, Yedidia MJ, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Who is consuming the most sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) among low-income children? The Obesity Week 2014, November 2-7, 2014, Boston, MA.
96. Bader W, Lloyd K, Crespo NC, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Factors associated with parent's failure to perceive that their child is overweight or obese. Oral presentation, American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 2013.
97. Green J and **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Association between demographic characteristics and fast food menu labeling use and awareness among adults living in the Southwest. Poster presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 2013.
98. Kennedy M, Yedidia M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Capturing what's missing: A comprehensive protocol to monitor changes in the food and physical activity environment for studying their impact on childhood obesity. Oral presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 2013.
99. Tang X, Abbott J, Aggarwal R, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. Lifting the weight off the future: Associations between food environment around schools and professionally measured weight status of k-12 students. Poster presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 2013.
100. Martinelli S, Kiser S, Bond LA, Hekler EB, Wharton C, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. The association between the Moral Foundations Theory, Ethical Concern and fast-food consumption. Poster presentation at Food and Nutrition Conference and Exposition, Houston, TX, 2013.

101. **Ohri-Vachaspati P, DeWeese R, Crespo N, Todd M, Yedidia M.** Social Ecological Model (SEM) and Childhood Obesity: What Do the Data Suggest? Poster presentation at Experimental Biology Annual meeting, Boston, MA, 2013.
102. **Ohri-Vachaspati P, Yedidia M, Lloyd K, DeLia D.** Effects of food and physical activity environments on children's weight status in low-income urban neighborhoods. Oral presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA., 2012.
103. **Ohri-Vachaspati P, Wharton C, DeWeese R, Wesley T.** Policy considerations for improving the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Oral presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA., 2012.
104. Kirkpatrick S, Reedy J, Harris JL, **Ohri-Vachaspati P, Krebs-Smith S.** Fast food restaurant menu offerings score poorly in relation to dietary guidance. Oral presentation at the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting, 2012.
105. Berry A, Ohri-Vachaspati P. Environmental, Parental, and Demographic Determinants of Home Food Environment. Accepted for poster presentation at the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior Annual conference, 2012.
106. DeWeese R, Ohri-Vachaspati P. Determinants of active transport to school. Poster presentation at the American College of Sports Medicine annual meeting, San Francisco, CA., May 2012.
107. **Ohri-Vachaspati P, Turner L, Chaloupka F.** Elementary School Participation in Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). Oral presentation at American Public Health Association annual meeting, 2011.
108. Lloyd K, **Ohri-Vachaspati P, Chou J.** Biologically implausible values and childhood obesity surveillance. Oral presentation at Experimental Biology # 215.1. April, 2011.
109. **Ohri-Vachaspati P, Chaloupka F, Turner L.** What's available to eat and drink in America's elementary schools? Oral presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Conference. San Diego, CA, October 2008. Abstract 5084.
110. **Ohri-Vachaspati P.** Improving fruits and vegetable intake through a community foods approach. Poster presentation at the Food and Nutrition Conference and Exposition, American Dietetic Association. Philadelphia, PA, 2007. A-85.
111. **Ohri-Vachaspati P, Taggart M, Konen JH, and Kerrigan WJ** 2007. Connecting urban consumers with fresh local produce. Poster presentation at the

Extension Urban Conference. Kansas City, MO, May 2007. No 45, pp 16.

112. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Hunt C, McCue T, Paris S. Building on Steps because More Matters! Poster presentation at Steps cooperative agreement program workshop and action institute. Seattle, Washington, 2007.
113. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Masi B, Gregor L, Konen J, Malinich T, Kerrigan J. City Fresh – A Community Foods Project. Oral presentation at American Public Health Association annual meeting. Boston, MA. November 2006.
114. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, Masi B, Gregor L, Konen J, Malinich T, Kerrigan J. 2006. City Fresh – A Community Foods Project. Poster presentation at Society for Nutrition Education Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, July 2006. P28.
115. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. A nutrition education resource for welfare to work population. Poster presentation at Society for Nutrition Education Annual Conference. Salt Lake City, Utah, 2004.
116. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, and Staum E. Healthy Summer Camps. Poster presentation at Society for Nutrition Education Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah. July, 2004.
117. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, and Staum E. Health Tops at Summer Camps – A Pilot. Poster presentation at 2nd National Steps to a HealthierUS Summit. Baltimore, Maryland, 2004.
118. Rabe M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, and Scheer S. _Impact of Youth-EFNEP in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Poster presentation at North Central Urban Conference. Chicago, Illinois, 2003
119. **Ohri-Vachaspati P**. A nutrition education resource for welfare to work population. North Central Urban Conference. Chicago, Illinois, 2003.
120. Rabe M., **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, and Scheer S. Impact of A Nutrition Education Program (Youth-EFNEP) in Ohio. Health Across the Life Span, Priester National Extension Health Conference, Orlando, Florida. p.38, 2002.
121. Kurtis TL, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, & Skoda D. Meals in Minutes: A Practical Meal Planning Guide for Limited Resource Families. Poster presentation at Society for Nutrition Education's 34th Annual Conference Proceedings. Full Circle: Agriculture, Nutrition and Health, 34(1), PO93, 74, 2001.
122. Rabe M, **Ohri-Vachaspati P**, and Scheer S. Impact of a Nutrition Education Program (Youth-EFNEP) in Ohio. Poster presentation at Society of Nutrition Education's 34th Annual Conference Proceedings. Full Circle: Agriculture, Nutrition and Health, 34(1), PO46, 63, 2001.

123. **Ohri-Vachaspati P.** and Shoup C. Marketing EFENP in Cuyahoga County. Oral presentation at North Central Urban Conference, Cleveland, Ohio, 2001.
124. **Ohri-Vachaspati P.** and Warrix M. Gardening for Better Health. Proceedings of the 66th Annual Meeting of the North East Association of Family and Consumer Science professionals, Baltimore, MD, Q. 36, 2000.
125. **Ohri-Vachaspati P** and Shoup C. A Marketing Recipe For EFENP. Oral presentation at Annual Meeting of the Society of Nutrition Education, Charleston, SC, 2000.
126. **Ohri-Vachaspati P** and Warrix M. Fruit and vegetable consumption among urban gardeners. Oral presentation at 32nd Annual Meeting of the Society of Nutrition Education, Baltimore, MD. 042, 33, 1999.
127. Warrix M. and **Ohri-Vachaspati P.** Strategies for data collection from low-income, low literacy minority groups. Oral presentation at 31st Annual Meeting of the Society for Nutrition Education. Albuquerque, NM, 050, 37, 1998.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Project Copper Community Round Table. Food Insecurity. January 2026
- International Fresh Produce Association, Nutrition Policy Working Group. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Amplifying its effects beyond schools. December 2025.
- Phoenix Children's Hospital Obesity Symposium. Public Health/Policy: How it Influences Pediatric Obesity. October 2025.
- Healthy Eating Research, Strategic Collaborative Meeting, State and Federal Policies Boost School Meal Participation in Arizona. September 2025.
- American Commodity Distribution Association. FFVP: Best Practices and Extending the Impact Beyond School. Why does it matter. April 2025.
- Healthy Eating Research, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Designing more effective nutrition policy research for impact. February 2025.
- ITCA WIC Managers Meeting. Improving Client Outreach and Program Implementation. May 2024
 - ITCA WIC Managers Meeting. ITCA – ASU Collaborative Projects. October 2024
 - Anti-Hunger Day at the Capitol. School Food Policy in Arizona. February 2024
 - University of Birmingham. Food environments in and around schools and their impact on students' health and behaviors. November 2023
 - Rutgers University, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Conference on Improving Children's Dental Health and Nutrition among South Asians. Can Food Policy Fix our Sweet tooth? June 2022.
 - National Institute of Nursing Research, NIH. Social Determinants of Health and Obesity Prevention. May 2022.
 - City University of New York, School of Public Health. Policies, Environments, and Obesity Prevention. March 2022.

- National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR). Interactions between COVID-19 and Childhood Obesity: Setting a research Agenda. Invited panelist. October 2020.
- Eat Your Veggies: Getting school children to eat more fruits and vegetables, SUNY Downstate, February 2020.
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Invited Discussant for a Panel: Promoting Positive Nutrition Outcomes: The Evidence for Taxes, Transfers, Subsidies, and “Nudges”. November 2019.
- TRANSCEND, ASU, CHS, Seminar Speaker. Spillover Effects of Food Assistance Programs. October 2019. Morrison School of Agribusiness, Invited Seminar Speaker. Eat your vegetables: Getting school children to eat carrots. March 2019.
- CHS Research Day 2019. Invited Panelist – Health Equity and Policy. February, 2019.
- ASU’s Global Futures Laboratory. Invited Panelist – Food, Water, Health: Creating New Worlds. September, 2019.
- Healthy Eating Research, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Annual Meeting, Invited Panel on Health Policy Fellowships in Washington DC, April 2018.
- Nutrition Policy Institute, University of California, Berkeley. Examining the Role of Policies and Environments in Shaping Behaviors and Health Outcomes. February, 2018.
- United Fresh Foundation, San Diego. Grocery Store - School Partnerships: Cross-Promoting Fruits and Vegetables is a Win-Win Strategy. January, 2018.
- Rutgers School of Public Health, Obesity Policy. March 2018.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Faculty Solutions, Team Award, College of Health Solutions, Arizona State University, 2022
- President’s Medal for Social Embeddedness: STEM and Social Capital: Advancing Families through Learning and Doing, an NSF funded project, 2022.
- Nominated for Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics 2022 Huddleson Award, March 2022.
- Distinguished Faculty Award, 2019. College of Health Solutions, Arizona State University.
- Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy Alumni Association 2018 Leadership and Expertise Award.
- Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow, September 2016 – August 2017.
- Leadership Academy (LA), sponsored by the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability and the Office of Knowledge and Enterprise Development, Arizona State University. Selected in 2015.
- Senior Sustainability Scientist, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability 2013- present.
- ASU President’s Medal for Social Embeddedness. Improved Nutrition through Arizona Farmers’ Markets. 2013

- Nominated for the Faculty Women's Association Outstanding Mentor Award, 2013
- Nominated to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. 2013
- College Marshall, Arizona State University, School of Nutrition and Health Promotion, 2012
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Childhood Obesity Fellow, 2007-2010
- Steps Champion Award for service to community (Cuyahoga County, Ohio), 2006
- National Extension Association of Family and Consume Sciences (NEAFCS) Central Regional Finalist for Program of Excellence through Research Florence Hall Award, 2001
- Ohio State University, Epsilon Sigma Phi Tools for Teaching Award, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2007
- Adjunct Faculty, Department of Nutrition, Case Western Reserve University, 2000-2002

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Courses Taught

- Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Health and Wellness (multiple offerings)
- Introduction to Obesity Prevention and Management (multiple offerings)
- Nutrition Policy (multiple offerings)
- Cultural Aspects of Food
- Evidence-based Practice
- Policies, Environments, and Obesity Prevention (multiple offerings)
- Research Methods (multiple offerings)
- Data analysis (Graduate, Spring 2012)
- Evaluation of Health Science Research (Undergraduate, Fall 2011)
- Health Promotion Policy (Undergraduate, Spring 2011)

Postdoctoral Scholars Mentored

Postdoctoral Scholars	Duration	Current Position
Altares A	2025 -	
Melnick E	2021-2023	Assistant Professor, University of Denver
Acciai F	2017-2020	Data Scientist, Meta
DeWeese R	2015-2017	Assistant Teaching Professor, CHS, ASU

Students Mentored

Program	Student	Degree	Role in Committee	Date of Defense	Current Position
PhD /MD Students					
Exercise and Nutrition Science	Robinson K	PhD	Co-Chair		
Exercise and Nutrition Science	Dykstra T*	PhD	Chair		
Exercise and Nutrition Science	Raval S*	PhD	Chair		
Exercise and Nutrition Science	Wilson K	PhD	Member	Spring 2024	Post-doctoral fellow, ASU
Medical Student (UofA)	Wang C	MD	Chair		
Nutrition	Royer M	PhD	Member	Spring 2023	Postdoc Sandford University
Nutrition	Colburn A	PhD	Member	Spring 2022	Postdoc Yale University
Medical Student (UofA)	Bui T*	MD	Chair	Spring 2024	Resident, Banner Health (Surgery)
Nutrition	Martinelli S*	PhD	Chair	Withdrawn	Clinical Associate Professor, ASU
Global Health	Rosales J	PhD	Member	Fall 2020	Assistant Professor, ASU

Nutrition	Vaudrin N	PhD	Chair	Withdrawn	Special Projects Coordinator, ITA WIC
Exercise Science	Hurley J	PhD	Member	Spring 2019	Deceased
Nutrition	Lorts C*	PhD	Chair	Fall 2017	Nutrition Scientist, Church & Dwight
Nutrition	Gruner J*	PhD	Chair	Summer 2017	Director, Community Innovations, Pinnacle Prevention
Nutrition	Goett T	PhD	Member	Spring 2016	
Nutrition	DeWeese R*	PhD	Chair	Spring 2015	Assistant Teaching Professor, CHS, ASU
Nutrition	Bertmann F	PhD	Member	Spring 2013	Sr Lecturer, University of Vermont
Exercise and Wellness	Smith L	PhD	Member	Spring 2014	Lecturer, SNHP, ASU
Public Programs	Hand L	PhD	Member	Spring 2014	Assistant Professor, University of North Dakota
Masters Students					
Nutrition	Housley L*	MS	Chair	Fall 2025	
Nutrition	Waxman C*	MS	Chair	Spring 2023	AZ Department of Health
Nutrition	Dykstra T*	MS	Chair	Fall 2023	PhD Student, CHS, ASU
Nutrition	Uehara S*	MS	Co-Chair	Fall 2022	Dietetic Intern

Health Care Delivery	Kyaruzi F	MS	Chair	Spring 2022	
Health Care Delivery	Aziz A	MS	Chair	Spring 2022	
Health Care Delivery	Reyes N*	MS	Chair	Spring 2021	Medical School, AT Stills, Arizona
Health Care Delivery	Thompson A*	MS	Chair	Spring 2021	Medical Student, University of Arizona
Nutrition	Clint S*	MS	Chair	Fall 2020	Lecturer at Scottsdale Community College
Nutrition	Gordon A	MS	Member	Spring 2020	PhD Student at NYU
Obesity Prevention & Manag.	Eliason J*	MS	Chair	Spring 2019	Program Specialist, Arizona Department of Education.
Nutrition	Gunnerson H	MS	Member	Fall 2018	
Nutrition	Steeves S*	MS	Chair	Fall 2018	
Obesity Prevention & Manag	Dwaik N	MS	Chair	Spring 2016	
Obesity Prevention & Manag	Acosta M	MS	Chair	Spring 2018	University of Arizona Extension
Nutrition	Thibodeau T	MS	Member	Spring 2016	
Nutrition	Mollner K*	MS	Chair	Fall 2015	Public Health Dietitian, Maricopa County Dept Health
Obesity Prevention & Manag	Giles M	MS	Member	Spring 2015	

Obesity Prevention & Manag	Dachenhaus E	MS	Chair	Spring 2015	PAC, University Hospitals, Cleveland, Ohio
Nutrition	Nelson S	MS	Member	Spring 2015	
Nutrition	Kubic K	MS	Member	Spring 2015	
Nutrition	Snyder D	MS	Member	Fall 2014	
Nutrition	Green J*	MS	Chair	Fall 2013	Director Community Engagement, Pinnacle Prevention
Nutrition	Brown A	MS	Chair	Fall 2013	School Food Service, Gilbert Schools, AZ
Nutrition	Bader W*	MS	Chair	Fall 2013	Independent consultant
Sustainability	Tang X*	MS	Co-Chair	Summer '13	PhD Student, Minnesota School of Public Health
Nutrition	Martinelli S*	MS	Chair	Spring '13	Associate Clinical Professor, ASU, AZ
Nutrition	Vaudrin N*	MS	Member	Spring '13	Dietitian, WIC
Nutrition	Kiser S*	MS	Member	Spring '13	
Nutrition	Springer L	MS	Member	Summer '13	
Nutrition	Berry A*	MS	Chair	Spring '12	WIC Dietitian, NM
Nutrition	Tiran B	MS	Member	Spring '12	
Undergraduate Students					
Medical Studies	Young M	Barrett Honors	Member	Spring 2023	MPH student at Johns Hopkins
Biological Sciences	Bakhda B	Barrett Honors	Member	Spring 2022	
Biological Sciences	Puri S	Barrett Honors	Member	Spring 2022	

Biological Sciences	Peterson T	Barrett Honors	Member	Spring 2022	
Medical Sciences	Brown T*	Barrett Honors	Chair	Spring 2021	Medical student, Morehouse Medical School
Nutrition	Nielsen A	Barrett Honors	Chair	Spring '14	MPH/RD student at University of Minnesota
Nutrition	Gonzalez A	Barrett Honors	Chair	Spring '12	
Nutrition	Beckmann J	Barrett Honors	Member	Spring '12	Medical Student, University of Arizona
Nutrition	Wendt R	Barrett Honors	Member	Spring '12	

***Student for who Ohri-Vachaspati was the primary mentor (chair) presented mentored work at national conferences as first authors.**

Other Mentoring Experience

Rutgers University: Mentored two Research Analysts, at the Center for State Health Policy, Rutgers University.

Ohio State University Extension: Mentored 18 Masters Dietetic Students from Case Western Reserve University, the Ohio State University, and the Cleveland Clinic between 1999 and 2007 during their community nutrition rotations.

SERVICE TO UNIT AND UNIVERSITY (Selected)

New Initiatives

Faculty Mentoring Program. Designed a multi-faceted mentoring program for career and tenure track faculty at the College of Health Solutions, Arizona State University.

University Promotion and Tenure Committee 2020-2022. Member of the university committee that reviews university P&T cases.

Instructor for the ASU Global Freshman Academy Massive Online Open Course (MOOC). Offered three-six times per year since Spring of 2016.

Developed a new interdisciplinary Master's Degree Program in Obesity Prevention and

Management. 2014-2019.

Founding Chair, SNHP and Healthy Lifestyle Research Center Seminar series, 2012 and 2013. Instituted the first regular series of seminars in the program's history. These weekly seminars, now in their fourth year, have become a regular feature at the school and are attended by faculty and students.

Organized **Behavior Research Group meeting** for researchers in nutrition, exercise and wellness, and nursing (2011-2013). The group met once a month to discuss research topics and grant opportunities and proposals and provides networking opportunities to faculty members across disciplines.

Member for the Steering Committee for the Food Systems Transforming Initiative at the Global Institute for Sustainability at ASU. This group of experts was invited to provide strategic input in group meetings, individually, and virtually, related to planning and implementation of activities for the new initiative at the Global Institute of Sustainability.

Academic Committees

CHS Grant Review Committee 2018 – present

CHS Affinity Network Planning Committee 2018 – 2019

CHS Health Policy Affinity Network, Member 2019 –

Ad-Hoc committee ENS program 2019

Population Health Graduate Program Committee (2017-19): The committee is charged with designing a graduate program in population health.

Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Wellness (PANW) PhD Program. Executive Committee Member (2010 – 2016): This committee, with two representatives from nutrition and two from exercise and wellness, oversees the PANW PhD program. The committee meets once a month to deliberate on issues related to the PhD program.

Coordinator for Nutrition Program, PANW (2012 – 2016): Represent as liaison between nutrition faculty and students and the PANW Executive committee.

Chair, PANW Comprehensive exams revision committee (2014-15). The committee comprising of SNHP faculty made recommendations to the PANW Executive committee for revisions to the comprehensives exam process. A new exam format will be used for PANW students starting 2015.

Chair, PANW Progressives exams revisions committee (2014). The committee comprising of SNHP faculty worked with faculty involved with teaching core courses to develop a more application based progressive exam plan.

Executive Committee, T32 (2013- 2015) “Transdisciplinary Training in Health Disparities Science grant. The committee meets to review the progress of T32 scholars and to select new candidates for the program.

Member Curriculum and Program Committee (2013-2014). This university level committee met monthly to review new programs proposed university wide.

Member Undergraduate Retention and Engagement (2015-2016). This college level committee is charged with ensuring student retention and success.

Personnel and Search Committees

University, College, and Unit Level Committees

Personnel Committee (2025). Reviewed tenure and promotion packages for CHS faculty.

University Tenure and Promotion Committee, Member (2019 --2022). This committee provides university level review for all tenure and promotion cases at ASU.

Chair, Ad Hoc CHS Personnel Committee (2019 -2020). Developed new processes and procedures for faculty annual reviews.

College Tenure and Promotion Committee (2017-2019). This committee provides the college level review to all tenure and promotion cases for the College of Health Solution.

Personnel Committee (TT) (2018). This committee provides annual peer evaluation for all TT SNHP faculty.

Chair, SNHP Personnel committee for SNHP (2014). This 10 members committee provided peer evaluations for all SNAP TT faculty and submitted letters to the Directors of SNHP and Associate Directors for EXW and NTR. I developed and implemented a new plan for evaluation that has been used for two years.

Chair / Member Personnel Committee for Nutrition (2011, 2012, 2013). These committees were responsible for providing annual peer evaluation for all nutrition faculty.

Faculty/Staff Search Committees

Lecturer, Global Public Health. 2021-22

BMI Health Economist/ Informatics and Data Science: Member of search committee for selection of Assistant / Associate professor. 2019

Lecturer, Science of Health Care Delivery. 2019

Vice Dean Search Committee 2018: Member of the search committee for selection of Vice Dean, College of Health Solutions.

Statistical Core Staff Search Committee 2018: Member of the search committee for selection of Senior Research Associate and Research Associate for the CHS Statistical Core.

Pre-Award Staff Selection Committee 2018: Member search committee for selecting a staff member for pre-award.

Chair 2012: Organized a cluster hire search that was responsible for bringing on board three new tenure track faculty members.

Member 2011, 2014.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Editorial Boards

- Board of Editors, *Nutrients* 2020 – present. *Nutrients* is a peer reviewed open access journal published by MDPI.
- Board of Editors, *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* – 2014 – 2018. *JAND* is the peer reviewed journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics – the professional organization for nutritionists and dietitians.
- Associate Editor, *Public Health Nutrition* - 2011 – 2018. *PHN* is an international peer reviewed journal published by Cambridge University Press.

Reviewer for Journals

- American Journal of Epidemiology
- Obesity
- JAMA Pediatrics
- Health Affairs
- American Journal of Preventive Medicine
- American Journal of Public health
- Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- BMC Public Health
- Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior
- Preventing Chronic Disease
- PLOS ONE
- Nutrition and Metabolism
- Obesity – Journal of the Obesity Society
- Evaluation and Program Planning
- Public Health Nutrition

Reviewer for Grants

- Study Section for National Institutes of Health, 2025
- RWJF: Addressing Childhood Obesity and Health Inequities: Supporting, Sustaining, and Evolving the Field -- 2024
- Study Section for National Institutes of Health, MCBS, 2021 - 2023
- Study Section for National Institutes of Health, Time-Sensitive Obesity Policy and Program Evaluation, 2015- 2022
- USDA's Food Science and Nutrition program, 2013
- RWJF: Healthy Eating Research, multiple years

Invited Membership to National, State and Local Technical Committees

- USDA WIC HOPE Study, Technical Working Group Member. 2024 – present
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Strategic Advancement Group co-chair for the Well-Being and Prevention focus area. 2022 – 2023
- Executive Committee, National Food Access and COVID Research Team – A national collaboration led by University of Vermont, Johns Hopkins University, University of Arizona, and Arizona State University. 2020 -- 2022
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Dietary Guidelines for Americans Response Committee. 2020-21
- Advisory Committee member for Healthy Eating Research (HER) working group for supporting junior investigators and early career professionals. 2020 -- 2021
- Invited member of the Border Obesity Prevention Technical Working Group (BOPTWG) by the Office of Border Health, Texas Department of Health Services. 2014-2015
- Invited Member, National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) National expert panel (15 invited experts) on childhood obesity declines. 2013-2015
- Member, NCCOR (National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research) – a collaboration between NIH, CDC, RWJF, and USDA. Member, 5-member-core-working-group for development of Measures Registry, an online resource for researchers and practitioners. 2008-2011
- Co-Chair, ShapingNJ, Surveillance and Evaluation workgroup for Center for Disease Control's Nutrition Physical Activity and Obesity (NPAO) Program in New Jersey, Department of Health, NJ. 2008-2010
- Chair, Greater Cleveland Fruits and Veggies More Matters campaign, 2007.

Developed a coalition of over 20 organizations to launch a new national fruits and vegetable promotion campaign

- Co-chair, Clevelanders in Motion, Think Tank, Nutrition Sub-Committee, 2003.
The group's mission was to coordinate an inter-disciplinary approach to promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors
- Member, National Youth-EFNEP evaluation work group, 1999 – 2001
The group's mission was to develop a pool of validated questions to be used for evaluating the youth-EFNEP program nationally

Membership and Service to Professional Organizations

- International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- American Public Health Association
- Society for Nutrition Education
- American Society of Nutrition
- Arizona Dietetic Association

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS (Selected)

- Intertribal Council of Arizona WIC
- School Nutrition Advocacy Group, AZ
- Arizona Food Bank Network, Phoenix, AZ
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- St Mary's Food Bank, Phoenix, AZ
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Arizona Department of Education
- Basha's and Food City stores, Phoenix, AZ
- School Districts in Arizona
- Pinnacle Prevention, AZ
- Southwest Food Service Excellence, Phoenix, AZ
- American Heart Association
- New Brunswick, Trenton, Camden, Newark, Vineland NJ School Districts
- New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids
- New Brunswick Tomorrow, NJ
- NJ Department of Health and Senior Services
- Rutgers School of Nursing
- The Food Trust
- Cleveland Municipal School District, Cleveland Ohio
- Cleveland Department of Public Health, Cleveland, Ohio
- Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Ohio
- New Agrarian Center, Ohio

- Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, Ohio
- Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland
- Children's Hunger Alliance, Ohio
- Starting Point and Help Me Grow, Cleveland, Ohio