

## Technical meeting on the diet and eating practices of adolescent girls and women of reproductive age



Washington, D.C., March 16-17, 2015

### Speaker Biographies

*(Listed alphabetically by last name)*

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#### **Ms. Mary Arimond**

**Project Manager and Research Analyst, University of California, Davis**

Ms. Mary Arimond is a Project Manager and Research Analyst in the Program in International and Community Nutrition at University of California, Davis. Ms. Arimond has worked in maternal and infant nutrition programs and research for over 25 years and is interested in bridging the two. During her previous tenure at the International Food Policy Research Institute she worked on the development of the WHO Infant and Young Child Feeding indicators and later led the first phase of the Women's Dietary Diversity Project. She has a continuing interest in diet quality metrics, particularly for resource-poor settings. Ms. Arimond's current activities include a collaborative project aiming to provide an updated global summary of food-based dietary guidelines.

#### **Dr. Francisco Becerra**

**Assistant Director, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)**

Dr. Francisco Becerra was born in Mexico City and began his career after graduating from the Faculty of Medicine of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Dr. Becerra completed his master's degree at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and earned a doctorate in public health from Mexico's National Institute of Public Health. He has served as Director General of Health Services of the State of Morelos, Mexico; Director for Academic Agreement and Dissemination of the National Coordination Office of Mexico's National Institutes of Health; Assistant Director of the Center for Health Systems Research of the Ministry of Health of Mexico; and Director General of Federal Hospitals in Mexico. Prior to his appointment as Assistant Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Dr. Becerra was Senior Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean and Coordinator of the European Union-funded MASCOT project at the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED).

**Dr. Laura Caulfield****Nutritional Epidemiologist and Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**

Dr. Laura Caulfield is a nutritional epidemiologist with research expertise in maternal and infant nutrition, and is a professor for the Program in Human Nutrition at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Caulfield conducts epidemiologic research in several areas, including: 1) maternal nutrition and pregnancy outcomes, child growth, and development; 2) design and evaluation of nutritional interventions; and 3) methodological issues in the use and interpretation of nutrition data. She has conducted research in diverse populations including multiple countries in Latin America, Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. She is Associate Editor for Community and International Nutrition for the Journal of Nutrition, and is a former Chair of the International Nutrition Council of the American Society of Nutrition. Dr. Caulfield has been a member of two scientific advisory committees of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), one focusing on improving birth outcomes and survival in the developing world.

**Dr. Omar Dary****Health Science Specialist, Bureau for Global Health, USAID**

Dr. Omar Dary is a Health Science Specialist in nutrition in the Bureau for Global Health of USAID. Dr. Dary has worked in public health nutrition, mainly in the areas of food fortification and micronutrients during the last 25 years, and in more than 36 countries in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Ukraine. He is currently a member of the Board of the Global Iodine Network, and the Steering Committee of the International Nutrition Zinc Consultative Group (IZiNCG). In the past, he had similar positions on the International Vitamin A Consultative Group (IVACG), and the Micronutrient Forum. Before joining USAID in 2013, he worked in USAID-sponsored projects and implemented by Abt Associates (2011-13), AED-FHI 360 (2005-2011), and ISTI (2002-2005). Dr. Dary was responsible for the nutritional biochemistry and food composition laboratories, as well as the micronutrient group, at the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (1990-2002).

**Dr. Megan Deitchler****Deputy Director, Global Leadership, Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA)**

Dr. Megan Deitchler has more than 15 years of professional experience in international health and nutrition. Dr. Deitchler has worked on the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project for more than 12 years, where she has provided technical assistance to international nutrition and food security programs; contributed to the development of monitoring and evaluation tools; and collaborated in a number of research activities. She is currently the Deputy Director for Global Leadership for the FANTA Project, with responsibility for overseeing FANTA's portfolio of research and monitoring and evaluation activities. Dr. Deitchler has a PhD and an MPH from the School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine at Tulane University.

**Dr. Ruben Grajeda Toledo**

**Nutrition Advisor, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)**

Dr. Ruben Grajeda Toledo is a medical doctor who graduated from Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala and holds a master's degree in nutritional science from the University of Connecticut. Dr. Grajeda is one of the Regional Technical Advisors in Nutrition of the Pan American Health Organization. Since being in this position he has provided technical support to PAHO's member states to review and update policies and programs to prevent and control micronutrient deficiencies. Before joining PAHO, Dr. Grajeda worked at the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP) as the director of different research projects related to maternal and child health and nutrition. He has co-authored several papers.

**Ms. Peggy Koniz-Booher**

**Senior Advisor, Nutrition Social and Behavior Change Communication, Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING)**

Ms. Peggy Koniz-Booher is an international public health nutritionist and social and behavior change communication specialist with more than 25 years of technical and management experience. Ms. Koniz-Booher currently serves as the Team Lead and Senior Technical Advisor for SPRING's nutrition and SBCC programming. She has lived and worked in over 25 countries where she has designed and supported multiple behavior change and communication programs focused on maternal, infant and young child nutrition; family planning and reproductive health; and nutrition and HIV/AIDS care and support. Prior to joining SPRING, she worked on a variety of USAID projects and consulted for WHO and UNICEF. Ms. Koniz-Booher spent three years in the Dominican Republic as a Resident Communication Advisor, supported the Calidad en Salud integrated health project in Guatemala, was Chief of Party for the NuLife nutrition and HIV project in Uganda, and co-designed the UNICEF Community Infant and Young Child Feeding counseling package currently in use in more than 20 countries.

**Dr. Sascha Lamstein**

**Nutrition Programs Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING)**

Dr. Sascha Lamstein has nearly 20 years' experience working in international public health and nutrition programs. Dr. Lamstein's focus during many of those years has been on monitoring and evaluating a wide range of maternal and child health programs in countries as diverse as Bangladesh, Bolivia, Georgia, Haiti, India, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Ukraine, and Russia. Her role within SPRING has involved assisting country teams with their monitoring and evaluation activities and leading SPRING's team on nutrition systems. She is the principal investigator (PI) on a study in Haiti on alternative approaches to training health facility staff to integrate nutrition services; a co-PI on an evaluation of the Nigeria Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling package; and primary author of SPRING's large scale review of the evidence of the effectiveness of SBCC approaches on priority nutrition practices. Dr. Lamstein has a PhD in international nutrition and is fluent in Spanish.

**Dr. Chessa Lutter****Senior Advisor on Food and Nutrition, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)**

Dr. Chessa Lutter is Senior Advisor on Food and Nutrition at the Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization. Dr. Lutter has worked for more than 25 years on policies and programs to improve maternal and child nutrition in low- and middle-income countries. At PAHO she has supported the design and implementation of effective, evidence-informed nutrition initiatives, integrating sound technical analysis into policies and programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. She has published dozens of scholarly papers in nutrition and health journals focusing on child growth, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and program evaluation. She has also developed several technical documents that are being used globally. Prior to joining PAHO in 1998, she worked as a Staff Scientist for the Food and Nutrition Board at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and as Research Advisor for Wellstart International, a nongovernmental organization dedicated to promoting breastfeeding. Dr. Lutter holds an M.S. and a Ph.D. in nutrition from Cornell University and a B.S. in natural resources from the University of California at Berkeley.

**Ms. Anuradha Narayan****Director of Global Initiatives, Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally, (SPRING)**

Ms. Anuradha Narayan has over 15 years of experience working with NGOs and academia on nutrition and food security in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Ms. Narayan's areas of expertise include management, strategic planning, program design, capacity building, and partnership development. One of her strengths is utilizing strategic partnerships and local capacity building to address gaps in regional nutrition environments. Prior to joining SPRING, she was Helen Keller International's Deputy Regional Director for Africa, where she oversaw a broad program portfolio in nutrition, neglected tropical diseases, and eye health strategies. Ms. Narayan has technical knowledge of infant and young child feeding, micronutrients, women's nutrition, and HIV, as well as experience working on gender-sensitive agricultural and food security programs.

**Dr. Rafael Pérez-Escamilla****Professor, Yale School of Public Health**

Dr. Rafael Pérez-Escamilla is a professor of nutrition, epidemiology and public health, the Director of the Office of Public Health Practice, and the Director of the Global Health Concentration at the Yale School of Public Health. Dr. Pérez-Escamilla has co-led major capacity building (training-research-community outreach) maternal-child nutrition and food security projects in Brazil, Mexico, Ghana, and the USA. He has strong expertise in maternal-child nutrition program evaluation, most recently leading the development of a breastfeeding scaling up framework, and the application to the program impact pathways process evaluation analysis of school-based nutrition programs in seven countries. Currently, he is co-leading an FAO-endorsed household food security measurement project in Latin America and the Caribbean. He has been the principal mentor to over 50 master and doctoral students, and 15 postdoctoral researchers and visiting

scholars from all over the world. Previously, Dr. Pérez-Escamilla worked as a maternal-child nutrition senior scientific advisor to the Governments of Mexico, Brazil and Colombia and to USAID and diverse UN agencies including WHO and UNICEF.

**Ms. Sandra Remancus**

**Project Director, Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA)**

Ms. Sandra Remancus has more than 25 years of experience related to maternal and child health and nutrition; food security; HIV prevention, care, and support; and reproductive health. Ms. Remancus has been with FANTA for 14 years, first as a Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Specialist and more recently as the Deputy Director, Operations and Management. She previously worked in West Africa with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration and with Population Services International at USAID's Family Health and AIDS Project. She also worked as a Food Program Specialist with the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service in Boston. Ms. Remancus has a master's degree from the Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and was a Peace Corps fisheries volunteer in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Dr. Ludovic Reveiz**

**Advisor, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)**

Dr. Ludovic Reveiz is an advisor in the management of health evidence, research and knowledge translation at the PAHO/WHO in Washington, D.C. Dr. Reveiz provides technical cooperation to strengthen health systems through the dissemination and translation of knowledge; the promotion of research governance and the systematic use of scientific evidence in technical cooperation; and the monitoring of standards for research practices. He has extensive expertise in research methods and standards and project management. Dr. Reveiz has also contributed to more than 80 publications in scientific journals and books.

**Ms. Katie Taylor**

**Deputy Agency Child and Maternal Survival Coordinator and Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

Ms. Katie Taylor is the Deputy Agency Child and Maternal Survival Coordinator and a Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Global Health at USAID, responsible for child survival and maternal health policy and programs. Ms. Taylor oversees goals and actions to increase impact and operational efficiency. She formerly served as the Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty (CIFA), a global health and development organization in Washington, D.C. She held a number of leadership positions during her 20 years with General Electric, including managing director of strategic market development within GE Healthcare International and CEO of the GE Healthcare Mexico operation. Ms. Taylor has a B.A. in political science from Yale University, a graduate Certificate of Political Studies from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and an M.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.