



## Public Health Career Spotlight: Nutrition Panelist Biographies

**[Patricia J. Becker](#)**, MS, RD, CNSC, ADA# 503146

Ms. Becker is the Lead Pediatric Dietitian at North Carolina Children's Hospital at University of North Carolina Healthcare. She has worked in many settings, from community hospital, county health department, acute rehab hospital, long term care in a Kosher facility, to a 1,000 bed University Hospital. She is currently the President of the North Carolina Dietetic Association and was a past Chair of Dietitians in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation DPG. She was also recognized as NCDCA Member of the Year 2008. Ms. Becker has been a board certified nutrition support clinician for 20 years. She has published articles in "Support Line" and the *Journal of Infant, Child and Adolescent Nutrition*. In addition, she has presented on numerous topics including the National Dysphagia Diet, using Human milk in special pediatric populations, and the NCP in the pediatric setting.

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**[Jonathan Blitstein](#)**, PhD

Dr. Jonathan Blitstein has been a research psychologist at RTI International since he graduated from the University of Memphis in 2004 with a degree emphasis on research design and statistics. In his current role at RTI, Dr. Blitstein leads teams of researchers on tasks that assess public health and social welfare programs in a wide array of fields including nutrition education and obesity prevention. These programs typically take place at the community, school, or worksite level. They involve group-randomization or quasi-experimental designs and employ hierarchical statistical models to assess the influence of environmental and macro-social factors on individual-level health behavior.

Dr. Blitstein managed the design team on the evaluation of the *5-4-3-2-1 Go! Obesity Prevention Social Marketing Campaign*. This evaluation employed a randomized field design in six Chicago neighborhoods to assess the impacts of a social marketing campaign aimed at low-income parents. He was a consultant to the Medical Research Council (MRC) of South Africa on the design of a school-based, randomized study to evaluate the impact of an obesity prevention program. He is currently working with the Food and Nutrition Service of the USDA on independent evaluations of SNAP education programs operating in Oklahoma, New York, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Michigan, and Kentucky. Dr. Blitstein is currently leading tasks on the CDC's ambitious Communities Putting Prevention to Work effort. For this project, he is providing evaluation support and technical assistance to communities funded to assess the impact of policy, systems, and environmental change on biometric markers of obesity. He has published in peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, and the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*.

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**[Abbey Piner](#)**, BSPH'02, MAEd

Ms. Piner came to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health and several years of experience as a community support liaison for marginalized populations. While in graduate school for Education Policy she studied Farm to School and school food programs and policies, and became involved in teaching cooking and nutrition on an urban farm in Washington, DC. Those experiences led her to the Nutrition Coordinator position at the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, where she leads and expands nutrition education programming including Cooking Matters, a six-week cooking-based nutrition education course for low-income community members, and one-time and quarterly nutrition education events. Nutrition programming at the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle is based on educating and empowering participants to make more nutritious choices in growing, preparing and shopping for food on a budget.



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[Kelly Warnock](#), MPH '05, RD, LDN

Ms. Warnock is the Program Manager for Nutrition Communications and Health Promotion at the Durham County Health Department. Kelly has had several years of experience in community program design and management, including the dental nutrition project “Healthy Smiles, Healthy Kids” and adolescent culinary nutrition program “Junior Iron Chef Durham.” Her work on these projects has allowed her to collaborate and develop relationships with about one hundred community organizations in Durham County. She also develops and coordinates media communications and maintains connections with the media. She is an alumna of the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has her BS in genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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