

# **DIABESITY - A WORLD-WIDE CHALLENGE**

Towards a global initiative on gene-environment interactions  
in diabetes/obesity in specific populations



## **MEET THE SPEAKERS**

**9-10 February 2012, Brussels**

Charlemagne Building

Rue de la Loi 170

1040 Brussels

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/events-12\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/events-12_en.html)

## **Laurent Bochereau**

**Head of Unit, Directorate for International Cooperation Policy, DG  
Research & Innovation, European Commission**



Laurent Bochereau is responsible for the "International Cooperation Policy" Unit within the European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation. He gained a Laureate from the Ecole Polytechnique and ENGREF in Paris, a Master's degree from the University of California and a PhD from the University of Paris VI. After spending several years working as a research project leader at CEMAGREF, he served two years in the French Ministry for Research. He joined the European Commission in 1995 where he worked several years as assistant to the Director for Life Sciences and then as Head of Unit with responsibilities for agriculture, forestry, agro-industry and food safety research. From 2007 to 2010, he was the Head of the "Science, Technology and Education" Section at the Delegation of the European Union in Washington DC.

## **John Chambers**

**Imperial College London, UK**



My research focuses on the investigation of genetic and environmental mechanisms underlying obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and related phenotypic disturbances in South Asians. In the last ten years I have worked closely with Professor JS Kooner (NHLI), Professor Paul Elliott (SPH), Professor James Scott (NHLI) and others, to establish the London Life Sciences Population (LOLIPOP) study, one of the largest cohort studies of South Asians world-wide. Our recent research efforts have capitalised on this unique population cohort, to provide new insight into the mechanisms underlying diabetes cardiovascular disease and related human phenotypes.

## **Professor Gernot Desoye**

**Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology,  
Medical University of Graz, Austria**



**Gernot Desoye**, Ph.D., is professor of medical biochemistry and research director at the Clinic of Obstetrics at the Medical University in Graz, Austria. He leads a research team focusing on effects of maternal nutrition, obesity and diabetes on placental development and function, and how this affects the foetus. His research interest has expanded to include molecular and cellular mechanisms of intrauterine programming of adult disease, and has concentrated on the placental endothelium to identify first evidence of long lasting effects of the diabetic environment.

G. Desoye currently coordinates the FP7-project DALI and leads the placenta workpackage in the FP7-project EarlyNutrition both funded by the European Commission (EC). He has long-standing experience in international collaborative studies beyond collective efforts of an earlier EC-funded project (PeriLip) with various groups in Europe, USA, Australia, Chile and Argentina. He has coordinated several national and international research projects and is coordinator of the key research topic: "Reproduction and Pregnancy" at Medical University of Graz. He is member in many international societies and of several executive boards including Diabetic Pregnancy Study Groups in Europe (DPSG) and USA-West; past chair and current treasurer of DPSG; recipient of the Jorgen Pedersen Award 2008 of DPSG and of the Giorgio Pardi Award 2011 of the Society of Gynecologic Investigation USA. He acted as editor-in-chief of *Placenta* (2002-2008), as editorial board member of *Trophoblast Research* (1997-2010) and is currently associate editor of *Annals of Nutrition and Metabolism*; has served as ad-hoc reviewer for > 30 international journals and granting bodies. He has been evaluator and auditor for the EC (FP5-FP7) and was recently invited as expert on diabetes in pregnancy to the European Parliament.

## Eric L. Ding

### Harvard Medical School, U.S.



Eric L. Ding, Sc.D., an epidemiologist and nutrition scientist, is a faculty member at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is also founder and Director of the Campaign for Cancer Prevention with 6.1 million members, and Director of Epidemiology with Microclinics International.

His research focuses on obesity and nutritional risk factors for diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, as well as translation of research for population-wide prevention. He has published in many leading journals, including *NEJM* and *JAMA*. His more than 4 dozen publications have received over 1500 external citations, garnering an H-INDEX impact factor of 17. He also served as a committee member on Nutritional Expert Group of the WHO *Global Burden of Disease Project*.

Eric L. Ding earned his bachelors in public health from Johns Hopkins University. He then received his dual doctorates in epidemiology and in nutrition at age 23 from Harvard School of Public Health. At Harvard, he taught more than a dozen graduate and undergraduate courses, for which he received the Derek *Bok Distinction in Teaching Award* from Harvard College.

He is an elected Fellow of the Paul and Daisy Soros Foundation for his key role in leading a two-year-long investigation into the controversial drug safety of *Vioxx®*. For his work founding the *Campaign for Cancer Prevention*, with 6.1 million members, he was featured in *Newsweek* and *the New York Times*, and profiled in several books,

including *CauseWired* (Wiley & Sons, Inc 2008), *Zilch* (Portfolio, Penguin Group 2010), and *Shift & Reset* (Wiley 2011).

### **Ruxandra Draghia-Akli**

**Director for Health, DG Research & Innovation,  
European Commission**



Previously, Ruxandra Draghia-Akli served as Vice President of Research at VGX Pharmaceuticals (now Inovio) and VGX Animal Health.

Dr. Draghia's research activities have focused on molecular biology, gene therapy and vaccination. She is recognised as a global leader in the field of nucleic acid delivery for therapeutic and vaccination applications. She is an inventor on more than a hundred patents and patent applications.

Throughout her career, Dr. Draghia has published numerous scientific papers and reviews in the areas of electroporation, plasmid components, growth and development, immune stimulation, vaccination, health, and well-being. She served as ad-hoc reviewer for granting agencies, annual meetings for gene therapy and endocrinology societies, and scientific journals in Europe and the USA.

Dr. Draghia received an M.D. from Carol Davilla Medical School and a Ph.D. in human genetics from the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences. Dr. Draghia also completed a doctoral fellowship at the University of Rene Descartes in Paris and a post-doctoral training at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), Houston, Texas, USA, and served as faculty at BCM.



## **Daan du Toit**

### **Minister Counsellor (Science and Technology), South African Mission to the European Union, Brussels**



Daan du Toit (BA LLB LLM – born 1971)

Daan du Toit has held various positions, first in the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and since 2002 in the Department of Science and Technology, related to the South Africa's international scientific and technological cooperation. This included responsibility for establishing and managing the European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP) He has represented South Africa in various multilateral forums dedicated to international S&T cooperation, such as the OECD Global Science Forum, the Group on Earth Observations in which establishment he had played a central role and bodies of the United Nations. He has managed strategic S&T bilateral partnerships, notably establishing an innovation systems cooperation programme between South Africa and Finland. In October 2006, he was appointed as the South African Department of Science and Technology's Senior Science and Technology Representative to the European Union. He currently represents South Africa on the Joint Expert Group of the Africa-EU Science, Information Society and Space Partnership.

## **Sir Peter Gluckman**

### **Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister, New Zealand**



**Professor Sir Peter Gluckman** KNZM MBChB MMedSc DSc FRACP FRCPCH FRSNZ FMedSci FRS

University Distinguished Professor, Professor of Paediatric and Perinatal Biology; Head, Centre for Human Evolution, Adaptation and Disease, Liggins Institute, University of Auckland; Director, Growth, Development and Metabolism, Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences; Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Professor Gluckman trained in medicine, pediatrics and endocrinology at the Universities of Otago and Auckland and the University of California, San Francisco. He returned to the University of Auckland in 1980 to establish a research group in perinatal physiology focused on perinatal endocrinology, growth and neurophysiology. In 1998 he was appointed to a chair in Pediatric and Perinatal Biology and as chair of the Department of Pediatrics. From 1992 to 2001 he was executive Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, also heading a research group in developmental physiology. Highlights of his deanship included the establishment of the first department in a major medical school of indigenous health (Maori and Pacific Health). In 2001, Professor Gluckman was appointed Foundation Director of the Liggins Institute for Medical Research of the University of Auckland.

This institute, still the largest medical research institute in New Zealand, focuses on the translational biology of growth and development.

He has played a leadership role in encouraging young people to understand biology and in using education to improve their health status, particularly of indigenous people – within his institute he founded the Liggins Educational Network for Science which uses institute-based classrooms and interactive television to do so. This innovative program is now being replicated internationally.

His research in the 1980s and 1990s contributed much to our understanding of the regulation of fetal growth and development and the pathophysiology of brain injury at birth. He led the development of head cooling as a neuroprotective strategy in birth asphyxia and directed the international clinical trial validating it – the first proven therapy for this condition. He is inventor on 25 patent families and was founder scientist of the first university spinout biotechnology company in New Zealand, based on his studies of growth factors in the brain.

More recently, Professor Gluckman has focused on developmental epigenetics, the developmental origins of metabolic disease, and the evolutionary-developmental biology-medical interface. He was the first to show that the metabolic effects of poor fetal growth are reversible, using a paradigm of neonatal leptin administration to infant rats. He has published over 450 refereed papers, 150 reviews and has edited and written several books. His books are aimed at both scientific and popular audiences. *The Fetal Matrix: Evolution, Development and Disease* (co-authored with Professor Mark Hanson and published by Cambridge University Press in 2005) brings much of his empirical and theoretical work together in detailing the nexus between development, evolution and human disease. *Mismatch; Why Our World No Longer Fits Our Bodies* (also with Hanson; published by Oxford University Press in 2006) described the interaction between evolution, development and the human condition. He is the senior author on the first textbook of evolution as applied to medicine (*Principles of Evolutionary Medicine*; published by Oxford University Press in 2009).

He was awarded a DSc (Auckland) in 1987, elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1986, appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 1997, elevated to Distinguished Companion in 2008 and redesignated as a Knight by Her Majesty the Queen in 2009. He was appointed a foundation University Distinguished Professor by the University of Auckland in 2001. He serves on numerous editorial boards, is former President of the International Society for the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, and chaired the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Optimizing Pregnancy Outcomes. He chairs the International Healthy Start to Life project, bringing together biomedical scientists, clinicians, epidemiologists and economists to evaluate the economic costs of a poor start to life in 8 countries (developed and least developed).

In 2001 he was awarded New Zealand's highest scientific honor, the Rutherford Medal, and has received many other national and international scientific accolades. He was the *New Zealand Herald's* New Zealander of the Year in 2005.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (London) in 2001, a foreign member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (USA) in 2004, and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK) in 2006.

## **Professor Keith Godfrey**

**Deputy Director, NIHR Nutrition Biomedical Research Centre,  
University of Southampton, UK**



Keith Godfrey BM, PhD, FRCP is Professor of Epidemiology & Human Development at the MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit at the University of Southampton, Director of the Centre for Developmental Origins of Health & Disease and an Honorary Consultant within Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust. His research is defining measures to improve the early growth and development of children, thereby improving their lifelong health.

Keith's other appointments include Trustee of the UK registered charity the International Society for the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, and Deputy Director of the new National Institute for Health Research Southampton Nutrition Biomedical Research Centre.

## Florin Grigorescu

INSERM, FR



Florin Grigorescu MD, PhD is senior investigator at the *French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM)* in Montpellier, France (UMR-204). He obtained the MD diploma in Bucharest (Romania) and specialty of endocrinology and PhD in Montpellier, France. As fellow at *Joslin Diabetes Center* (Boston, USA) he initiated pioneer studies on genetic syndromes of severe insulin resistance with *Acanthosis Nigricans* and the purification of insulin receptor kinase from human erythrocytes. G.B. Morgagni Young Investigator Award, Padova, Italy and J. Mirouze Award from *National Academy of Medicine*, Paris, France awarded these contributions. His group is known for description of new mutations in the insulin receptor gene (Type A syndrome, leprechaunism), the genetics of Alström and *Berardinelly-Seip* lipodysptophy syndromes as well as for description of the first mutation in insulin-like growth factor 1 receptor. At CRBM (Montpellier) he performed peptide mapping of insulin receptor using phosphorylated peptides and NMR to study the cognitive surface of the receptor and interaction with IRS proteins. He participated to numerous European exchange programs between Montpellier and Bucharest, where received in 2003 the position of Honorary Professor in Genetics. More recently, he oriented his research on the genetics of complex disorders (obesity, metabolic syndrome) by dense mapping with single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP). His approach is original in performing haplotype mapping and considering the population structure as well as anthropological data. He established numerous collaborations with Brazil, Chile, Eastern European and North African countries, focusing in particular on how human genetic diversity may help understanding of genetics of complex disorders. The MEDIGENE program focus specifically immigrant populations in Europe considering both genetic and environmental factors in the pathogenesis of the metabolic syndrome. F. Grigorescu is authors of 100 papers on insulin resistance (H-index 21, CI 1796), numerous communications, delivered master degree courses in *Molecular Endocrinology* and conducted numerous PhD theses. Web of science recorded 26 publications in the last 5 years, the most cited (322) and mean 135 citations for first top 10 publications. Member of many scientific learn societies, he belongs to the editorial board of *Acta Endocrinologica*.

## **Dr. Phillippe Halban**

### **Chairman of the Alliance for European Diabetes Research (EURADIA)**



Philippe Halban received both his undergraduate training and PhD in biochemistry at the University of Oxford and then moved to Geneva to train in diabetes research. From 1984-1987, Dr. Halban was Senior Investigator at the Joslin Diabetes Center, Harvard University, before returning to the University of Geneva where he is currently Professor of Genetic Medicine and Development.

Dr. Halban's research has been devoted to the study of the pancreatic beta cell and knowledge gained by his studies is now being applied to the understanding of beta cell failure and decreased mass in diabetic states. He has received several major international scientific awards including the EASD Minkowski Prize and is a past president of the EASD (European Association for the Study of Diabetes) and its research Foundation, EFSD. He is currently Chairman of EFSD and of EURADIA (Alliance for European Diabetes Research), and coordinated the FP7 European diabetes research roadmap project, DIAMAP.

## **Dorte Hansen Thrige**

**Deputy Director General,  
National Board of Health, Denmark / EU Presidency 1/2012**



### **Personal data**

Date of birth: 1966

Nationality: Danish

### **Current employment**

Deputy Director General, The National Board of Health, Denmark

### **Education**

Master of Economics, Copenhagen University, March 1993

### **Employment history**

#### August 2011 -

Deputy Director General, The National Board of Health

#### May 2008 - July 2011

Head of Department, Health Documentation, The National Board of Health

#### Aug. 2006 - April 2008

Finance Director, Region Zealand (one of five regions in DK)

March 1991 - July 2006

Various positions at The Association of Council Counties in Denmark

**Professor Graham A Hitman MB BS MD FRCP(Lond)**

**University of London, UK**



Graham Hitman is Professor of Molecular Medicine and Diabetes at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry and Consultant Diabetologist at Barts and The London NHS Trust. He is also the Deputy Director of the Blizard Institute, Clinical Lead of the North East London Diabetes Local Research Network.

His main research interests are directed to gene discovery arising from genome-wide association scans in type-2 diabetes and the use of epigenetics to study the gene environmental interaction. He is also one of the principal investigators of the CARDS (Collaborative Atorvastatin Diabetes Study) trial that has influenced the development of current lipid lowering guidelines in diabetes and is a principal investigator of two pilot diabetes prevention trials one of which is an RCT of vitamin D supplementation. He has over 220 peer reviewed publications and is currently Editor-in-Chief of Diabetic Medicine.

## **Professor Anoop Misra**

**Chairman, Fortis-C-DOC Centre of Excellence for Diabetes, Metabolic Diseases and Endocrinology, New Delhi, India**



Prof. Anoop Misra is the Chairman, Fortis-CDOC Center of Excellence for Diabetes, Metabolic Diseases, and Endocrinology, and Chairman, Center for Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospitals, New Delhi. He has been faculty at the Department of Endocrinology and Human Nutrition at the Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, USA.

Prof. Misra has been a member of World Health Organization Expert Group for Childhood Obesity and Indian Council of Medical Research Expert Groups for Childhood Obesity, Fatty Liver, Diabetes, and Gestational Diabetes.

Prof. Misra has published more than 300 scientific papers in international journals. He has been awarded the highest honor for medicine in India, the Dr BC Roy award (2006) and the prestigious National Honor, Padma Shree (2007). He has given 20 named orations in India and neighbouring countries. He is member of the editorial boards of 10 international journals, including Associate Editor of "Diabetic Medicine" and "Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome: Research and Reviews". He has written several editorials for the prestigious journal "The Lancet" and reviewer for more than 30 Journals. Prof. Misra has several important scientific findings to his credit including Asian definitions of obesity, abdominal obesity and metabolic syndrome. He has led a countrywide consensus of guidelines for obesity, metabolic syndrome, physical activity and diets for Asian Indians.

## **Dr Brendan Nelson**

### **Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, NATO and the European Union**



Brendan Nelson was appointed as Australia's ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Union and NATO in February 2010. In addition to these responsibilities, he also carries a special commission to the World Health Organisation and represents Australia to the Humanitarian Dimension of the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

A physician by training, Dr Nelson graduated in medicine from the Flinders University of South Australia in 1983. He undertook his post graduate training in both Adelaide and Hobart, Tasmania. Having successfully established two Tasmanian medical practices, he was elected president of the Tasmanian branch of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) before serving first as its national Vice President, and then President from 1993 until 1995. At the age of 33 and the youngest ever President of the AMA, Dr Nelson undertook a major transformation of the doctors' peak body to focus it in areas such as tobacco control and Aboriginal health.

Dr Nelson was elected to the federal parliament of Australia for the Liberal Party of Australia in 1996, representing the Sydney electorate of Bradfield. Over the ensuing thirteen years he served in numerous roles including Minister for Education, Science and Training (2001-2006) and Minister for Defence (2006-2007). In both roles he undertook major reforms. After the defeat of his party in the November 2007 elections, Dr Nelson was elected Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and the Opposition in which role he continued until September 2008. He retired from the Australian parliament in 2009.

Brendan Nelson was awarded the AMA's highest honour, the Gold Medal for 'Distinguished Service to Medicine and Humanity'. In recognition of his commitment to public health he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. The Flinders University of South Australia has conferred on Dr Nelson an honorary doctorate of the university.

He is a recipient of Australia's Centenary of Federation Medal, the Bruce Shepherd Medal and the Sydney University John Lowenthal Medal. He was also awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary International.

Dr Nelson is married to Gillian Adamson. They have three young adult children between them. Dr Nelson's interests include tennis, motorcycles, music, his Jack Russel Terriers and playing the guitar.

In 2007, while continuing his role in Auckland, he was appointed part-time Program Director for Growth, Development and Metabolism at the Singapore Institute of Clinical Sciences, which focuses on research in the role of developmental plasticity/epigenetics in human disease. He also holds chairs at the National University of Singapore and the University of Southampton (UK).

In 2009 he was appointed the first Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand on a part-time basis while continuing his research activities. This independent role includes both acute and strategic scientific advice and promoting the public understanding of science, especially to young people.

**Professor Kerin O’Dea, PhD, AO**

**Director, Sansom Institute of Health Research, University of South Australia in Adelaide, Australia**



Kerin O’Dea (Director, Sansom Institute for Health Research at the University of South Australia) is a nutrition scientist and public health researcher examining diet and lifestyle in the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases (obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases). She has a particular interest in the therapeutic potential of traditional diets – especially Aboriginal hunter-gatherer and Mediterranean diets – and is committed to a research approach that spans the spectrum from the basic biomedical to the population. She has held numerous senior academic and research leadership positions over the past 20 years, including Director of the Menzies Institute of Health Research in Darwin (2000-2005), and has been active on numerous national committees advising government on health and medical research, Indigenous health, nutrition, and diabetes. She is a member of Australia’s National Health and Medical Research Council, and Chairs it’s Prevention and Community Health Committee.

## **Dr Robin Olds**

### **CEO, Health Research Council, New Zealand**



Dr Robin Olds has been Chief Executive of the Health Research Council of New Zealand since May 2007. Robin graduated in medicine from the University of Otago in 1981 and undertook postgraduate training in Pathology, becoming a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Pathologists in 1988. After completing a PhD at Otago, he undertook research on the molecular genetics of haemostatic disorders at Oxford University, as a Nuffield Dominions Medical Fellow. In 1994 he returned to the University of Otago and later that year was appointed to the Chair in Pathology at the Dunedin School of Medicine where his research was focused on molecular aspects of the major mood disorders, particularly manic depression. Robin was Head of the Department of Pathology and had additional roles in management of the medical curriculum.

### **About the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC)**

The HRC is the Crown agency responsible for the management of the Government's investment in public good health research. Ownership of the HRC resides with the Minister of Health, with funding being primarily provided from Vote Research, Science and Technology. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two Ministers sets out this relationship.

Established under the Health Research Council Act 1990, the HRC's statutory functions include:

- advising the Minister and administering funds in relation to national health research policy;
- fostering the recruitment, education, training, and retention of those engaged in health research in New Zealand;
- initiating and supporting health research;
- undertaking consultation to establish priorities in health research;
- promoting and disseminating the results of health research to encourage their contribution to health science, policy and delivery, and ensuring the development and application of appropriate assessment standards by committees or subcommittees that assess health research proposals

## **Professor Jean-Michel OPPERT**

### **Chairman of the European Association of the Study of Obesity (EASO)**



Jean-Michel Oppert, MD, PhD, is Professor of Nutrition at University Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris6. He is the president of the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO, [www.easo.org](http://www.easo.org)).

His current research interests include the measurement of physical activity and sedentary behaviour in health and disease, the investigation of environmental determinants of physical activity and eating habits, and lifestyle and physiological (including body composition) changes induced by obesity surgery. At national level, he is coordinator of research projects such as ELIANE (Environmental Links to physical Activity, Nutrition and hEalth)(2008-2011) and ACTI-Cités (urban environment and active transport)(2011-2013). He has been or is involved in EU projects centred on obesity and/or physical activity such as Nugenob (FP5), HOPE (FP6), SPOTLIGHT (FP7), ALPHA (DG SANCO)...He was member of the advisory board of the joint WHO/European Commission project on monitoring progress on improving nutrition and physical activity and preventing obesity in the European Union. He is founding member and current member of the Steering Committee of the Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA)-Europe network supported by WHO Europe.

His current clinical position is Deputy head of the Department of Nutrition, Pitié-Salpêtrière university hospital (Paris) which is part of the newly founded Institute of Cardiometabolism and Nutrition (ICAN).

## **Dr. Griffin Rodgers**

**Director, The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S.**



Dr. Griffin Rodgers was named Director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)--one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)--on April 1, 2007. He had served as NIDDK's Acting Director since March 2006 and had been the Institute's Deputy Director since January 2001. As the Director of NIDDK, Dr. Rodgers provides scientific leadership and manages a staff of over 600 employees and a budget of \$2.0 billion.

Dr. Rodgers received his undergraduate, graduate and medical degrees from Brown University in Providence, R.I. He performed his residency and chief residency in internal medicine at Barnes Hospital and the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. His fellowship training in hematology/oncology was in a joint program of the NIH with George Washington University and the Washington Veterans Administration Medical Center. In addition to his medical and research training, he earned a master's degree in business administration, with a focus on the business of medicine/science, from Johns Hopkins University in 2005.

As a research investigator, Dr. Rodgers is widely recognized for his contributions to the development of the first effective — and now FDA approved — therapy for sickle cell anemia. He was a principal investigator in clinical trials to develop therapy for patients with sickle cell disease and also performed basic research that focused on understanding the molecular basis of how certain drugs induce gamma-globin gene expression.

He was honored for his research with numerous awards including the 1998 Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award, the 2000 Arthur S. Flemming Award, the Legacy of Leadership Award in 2002 and a Mastership from the American College of Physicians in 2005.

Dr. Rodgers has been an invited professor at medical schools and hospitals in France , Italy , China , Japan , and Korea . He has been honored with many named lectureships at American medical centers and has published over 200 original research articles, reviews, and book chapters, has edited four books and monographs, and hold 4 patents.

Dr. Rodgers served as Governor to the American College of Physicians for the Department of Health and Human Services from 1994 to 1997. He is a member of the American Society of Hematology, the American Society of Clinical Investigation of the National Academy of Science, the Association of American Physicians, and the Institute of Medicine, among others. He served as chair of the Hematology Subspecialty Board and a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine Board of Directors.

## **Dr. Héctor Sámano Rocha**

**Director, Bureau for Mexico-European Union Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation (CONACYT), Mexico**



Héctor Sámano holds a Master's degree in International Management from the *Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)*, and counts with specialized studies in economics, finance and project management. He has been working for CONACYT for the last 8 years, since 2009 is the Director of the Bureau for European Union – Mexican Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation; he coordinates the activities developed under the frame of the Cooperation Agreement for Scientific and Technological Development between the European Union and Mexico, in which the actions under the Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Innovation and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme represents the most representative ones, including the policy dialogue and the policy making. His experience in CONACYT includes as well the coordination of programmes and participation in several cooperation lines with Multilateral Organizations such as the World Bank, the Inter American Development Bank and the OECD, and the negotiation, preparation and execution of joint collaborative actions addressed to encourage the internationalization of the Mexican research and innovation groups. He has participated in several national and international conferences as lecturer focused mainly in international cooperation in the frame of the scientific, technological and innovation sector.

## **Christel Schaldemose**

**Member of the European Parliament, Co-chair of the European Parliament's EU Diabetes Working Group (EUDWG)**



Christel Schaldemose is a Danish Member of the European Parliament. She took up office in 2006 and since then she has been a part of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats (S&D).

She is a full member of The Committee of Internal Market and Consumer Protection and a substitute member of both The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

One of Christel Schaldemose's political interests is the health of the Europeans. She feels very strongly about the fight against diabetes. She is one of four co-chairs of the European Parliament's EU Diabetes Working Group.

In April 2011 Christel Schaldemose published a Danish book on public health and food quality.

## **Philip Sherman**

**Scientific Director, Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes  
Canadian Institutes of Health Research**



Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC, is Professor of Paediatrics, Microbiology, & Dentistry at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto where he has been on faculty since 1984. Prof. Sherman completed medical school at the University of Calgary in 1977 and training in pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco (1977-1980). Training in gastroenterology and research was completed at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC (1980-1984).

Prof. Sherman is a Past-President of the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition and a Past-President of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology. He is the recipient of a Canada Research Chair (tier 1) in Gastrointestinal Disease (2001-2015). His research program is funded by support currently provided by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). His research interests focus on epithelial cell signal transduction responses to pathogenic, commensal, and probiotic bacteria.

In October 2010, Philip M. Sherman was awarded the prestigious 2010 Shwachman Award from the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN). The award recognizes significant and lifelong scientific or educational contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, and awardees must also hold a record of advocacy for child digestive diseases and demonstrate exemplary service to the field.

Phil assumed the position of Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes in January, 2009.

## **Susan B. Shurin MD**

**Chair of the Global Alliance against Chronic Diseases (GACD),  
Acting Director of National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI),  
National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S.**



Susan B. Shurin, M.D., has been the Acting Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) since December 2009. She joined NHLBI in 2006 as Deputy Director. She is responsible for the scientific and administrative management of the intramural and extramural activities of the NHLBI, and oversight of the Institute's clinical research portfolio. Before joining the NHLBI, Dr. Shurin was professor of Pediatrics and Oncology at Case Western Reserve University; director of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital; director of Pediatric Oncology at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center; and vice president and secretary of the Corporation at CWRU.

**Thorkild I.A. Sørensen**

**Director, Danish Obesity Research Centre (DanORC), Copenhagen,**

## Denmark



Born 1945, MD 1971, Dr Med Sci 1983, clinical hospital training in Copenhagen, chairman of the department of emergency admission and chief physician at the department of liver diseases at Hvidovre University Hospital 1988. MRC Professor of clinical epidemiology, 1989-94. Director of the Institute of Preventive Medicine, 1993, Professor in clinical epidemiology University of Copenhagen, 1994+, Dean of the Faculty in 1995-96. Honorary Visiting Professor at Bristol University, UK, 2011+, and Courtesy Professor at Cornell University, U.S.A, 2011+. By October 1, 2011, half-time Professor of metabolic epidemiology at the Novo Nordisk Foundation Centre for Basic metabolic Research, associated with the Section on Metabolic Genetics. Published 689 papers, several in high-impact journals (see PubMed 'Sorensen TI'). Main topics of research have been aspects of obesity, alcohol drinking, liver and gastrointestinal disorders, addressed by methods in clinical, genetic and general epidemiology, with obesity as first priority the later years. Coordinator of several national, Nordic and European research projects and networks, scientific advisor or reviewer for many different national and international institutions, organisations and journals.

### **Professor Karien Stronks**

**Academic Medical Center,**

## University Amsterdam, NL



EDUCATION/TRAINING      Erasmus University Rotterdam, MSc, 1987, Health Sciences  
Erasmus University Rotterdam, MA, 1990, Political Sciences  
Erasmus University Rotterdam, PhD, 1997, Medical Sciences

### A. Positions and Honors

#### Positions and Employment

2006 -professor of Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine of the University of Amsterdam (UvA); head of the department of Public Health of the Academic Medical Center (AMC/UvA); research interests: social epidemiology, health promotion and health services research, with a particular focus on the health of immigrant communities.

1997-2005 assistant professor/ associate professor (from 2001 onwards), department of Social Medicine of the Academic Medical Center (AMC/UvA); from 1998-2001 coordinator of national research programme on (evaluation of) interventions and policies to reduce health inequalities

1995-1997 staff member Scientific Council for Government Policy, The Hague

1987-1996 scientific researcher at the department of Public Health Erasmus University Rotterdam; PhD research project into the causes of the poorer state of health of people from poorer socio-economic communities

#### Other Experiences and Professional Memberships

- Membership of several scientific committee, ZonMw (Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development) (since 2001)

- Coordinator commission on Socio-economic inequalities in health (1997-2001; advice to minister of public health in 2001).
- Membership of Dutch Health Council (GezondheidsRaad) (2006 – now )
- Contribution to training of professionals, Netherlands School of Public and Occupational Health
- Chair task group WHO commission 'European Review on Social Determinants' (2010 - now)

**Dr. Nina Valadez González**

**Universidad Autonoma de Yucatán, Mexico**



Clinical Diagnosis Support Area

Regional Research Center Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan

**Research:**

Search of genetic risk factors in the development of lack of response to oral hypoglycemic treatment based in the study of families with diabetes.

The aim of the study is to establish a phenotype-genotype association using a prospective design-based intervention in affected T2D families to assess the contribution of genetic factors, which confer susceptibility to develop the lack of response to oral hypoglycemic treatment.

An analysis of genotype and risk factors will be performed on each patient and his family. The determination of population mixture will help to determine the risk due to genetic factors.

Comparing the results of this particular population with those reported in other regions could contribute to the development of preventive and therapeutic measures in public health field.

## **Nathalie Vercruysse**

### **Health Directorate, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission**



Nathalie VERCRUYSSSE works for the Directorate General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission, where she manages the diabetes and obesity research portfolio. In particular, she follows consortia of academic and industrial partners implementing the EU- supported research projects in this area, and she contributes to the development of research policy.

Nathalie Vercruysse joined the European Commission in 1989, where she worked first on information technology research (at the Directorate General for Information Society and Media), and then on the relationship between sustainable development and enterprise policy (at the Directorate General for Enterprise).

Previously, she has worked for 8 years in France in the chemical industry (at Huntsmann in Calais and at IBM in Paris).

Nathalie holds a masters degree in international relations and a bachelors degree in chemical engineering.

## **Professor Nick Wareham**

**Institute of Metabolic Science, University of Cambridge, UK**



Director of the MRC Epidemiology Unit and co-Director of the Institute of Metabolic Science. He is an Honorary Consultant at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. His principal research interests are the aetiology and prevention of obesity and diabetes and physical activity epidemiology. He is also Director of the University of Cambridge UKCRC\_Centre of Public Health Research Excellence for Diet and Activity (CEDAR). He is the co-ordinator of the FP6-funded project InterAct, a study of the interplay between genetic and lifestyle factors on the aetiology of type 2 diabetes. He was chair of the genetics and epidemiology sub-committee of the Diamap project.

## **Professor Paul Zimmet**

**Director of International Research, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, WHO Collaborating Centre for the Epidemiology of Diabetes Mellitus, Australia**



Professor Paul Zimmet AO MD (Adelaide) PhD (Monash) FRACP FRCP FTSE Honoris Doctoris Causa (Complutense, Madrid) Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa (Monash)

Paul Zimmet was the Founding Director of the International Diabetes Institute and is now Director Emeritus, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute and Adjunct Professor, Monash University. He co-chairs the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) Task Force on Epidemiology and Prevention.

He has an outstanding international record in diabetes and obesity research, particularly in the field of epidemiology. He is widely recognised for his studies in Mauritius and in Pacific Ocean populations which have provided new insights into the genetic and environmental contribution to type 2 diabetes and obesity. His research has been a major trigger in demonstrating and predicting the evolving type 2 diabetes epidemic globally. He has published over 700 papers in peer reviewed journals. He established and co-directs “AusDiab”- the first national diabetes and obesity study. He is actively involved in Indigenous diabetes activities in Central Australia.

He has been awarded many honours including the Kelly West and Harold Rifkin Medals from the American Diabetes Association; the IDF Lilly Award, the Kellion Award of the Australian Diabetes Society; the Banting Award (Diabetes UK), the Charles Best Oration (Canada) and the Global Novartis Award for long standing contributions in the field of diabetes that have had a major impact.

In 2010, he received the prestigious Grand Hamdan International Prize for Medical Sciences. In 2011, he was made an Honorary President of the International Diabetes Federation. He was been awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished services to medicine, nutrition, and the biotechnology industry and was a member of the 2009-10 Australian Government Preventative Taskforce for Obesity, Tobacco and Alcohol.