

The Department of Nutritional Sciences Fall 2022 Seminar Series

"What Evidence Matters in the Formulation of Federal Policies to Combat Childhood Obesity in the U.S.?"

Itzhak Yanovitzky, Ph.D.

Professor of Communication and Chair of the SC&I Health and Wellness Faculty Cluster,
Rutgers University

Host: William K. Hallman, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Human Ecology, Rutgers



Wednesday, October 12, 2022 @ 2:15 PM

Zoom Link: https://go.rutgers.edu/Yanovitzky-Seminar

Scan for Zoom link:



Nutritional sciences have an important role in guiding sound food and health-related policies, but policymakers' use of such research evidence has been limited, inconsistent, and, at times, misinformed. While efforts to improve the supply and timely dissemination of relevant research evidence to policymakers can begin to close this gap, a more complete understanding of the common practices and norms, or routines, by which policy decision-makers acquire and use research evidence is necessary for improving the success of such efforts. This presentation reports findings from a funded research project designed to uncover the evidence use routines of legislators in the context of legislating U.S. federal policies to curb childhood obesity from 2000-2020. The project involved a theory-driven content analysis of a comprehensive set of policy documents (bills, hearings, floor debates, and policy reports) as well as interviews with legislative staff involved in the crafting of these policies. Key findings concerning the scope, type, nature, and timing of research and non-research evidence use by legislators will be presented and discussed.



Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Department of Nutritional Sciences is a Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Accredited provider with the Commission Dietetic Registration (CDR). CDR Credentialed Practitioners will receive 1 Continuing on Professional Education units (CPEUs) for completion of this activity. For more information, please contact the DPD Director, Dr. Virginia Quick via email at vquick@njaes.rutgers.edu. CPE Certificate: https://nutrition.rutgers.edu/CPECertificate.pdf