

## **Symposium on the Obesity Epidemic**

Understanding the History, Drivers, and Future of the Obesity Epidemic in Children and Adolescents

**Time:** May 20, 2025, 9.00-17.00  
**Venue:** Kosmopol – Conference Centre, Fiolstræde 44, 1171 Copenhagen, Denmark  
**Chairs:** Stine Schramm and Nina R.W. Geiker, Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark

### **Programme:**

- 09.00-09.15 **Welcome**  
Stine Schramm, Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark  
Janne Tolstrup, National Institute of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark
- 09.15-09.45 **Multi-decadal trends and dynamics of underweight, overweight, and obesity**  
Majid Ezzati, Imperial College London, UK
- 09.45-10.15 **Global, regional, and national prevalence of child and adolescent overweight and obesity from 1990-2021, with forecasts to 2050**  
Susan Sawyer, University of Melbourne, Australia
- 10.15-10.45 **Coffee break**
- 10.45-11.15 **Mathematical models of the obesity epidemic, predicting its future development**  
Diana Thomas, United States Military Academy at West Point, USA
- 11.15-11.45 **Methodological opportunities and challenges in identifying the drivers of the obesity epidemic**  
George Davey Smith, University of Bristol, UK
- 11.45-12.15 **Panel discussion: Describing and analysing the obesity epidemic**  
Majid Ezzati, Susan Sawyer, Diana Thomas, and George Davey Smith
- 12.15-13.15 **Lunch**
- 13.15-13.45 **Sociodemographic modelling of the drivers of the obesity epidemic**  
Néstor Aldea-Ramos, French Institute for Demographic Research, France
- 13.45-14.15 **Impacts of maternal diet on offspring obesity risk – its contribution to the obesity epidemic**  
John R Speakman, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shenzhen, China & University of Aberdeen, UK
- 14.15-14.45 **Postulated Contributors to Secular Changes in Obesity Prevalence: Exploring strength of causal inference and modifiability on the roads less travelled**  
David B Allison, Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington, USA
- 14.45-15.15 **Coffee break**
- 15.15-15.45 **Anthropological perspectives on population obesity**  
Stanley Ulijaszek, University of Oxford, UK
- 15.45-16.15 **Emergence of the obesity epidemic in Denmark and elsewhere – reflections about its drivers**  
Thorkild I.A. Sørensen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- 16.15-16.45 **Panel discussion: How do we get closer to modifiable drivers?**  
John R Speakman, David B Allison, Néstor Aldea Ramos, and Stanley Ulijaszek
- 16.45-17.00 **Concluding remarks and farewell**  
Thorkild I.A. Sørensen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark