

KCDONS

The purpose of the Kansas City Diabetes, Obesity, and Nutrition Seminar Series is to convene those interested in these areas while highlighting the latest science and breakthrough discoveries with a specific focus on translational research across the lifespan.

Fall 2025 All seminars occur at 12:00 PM CST. *Lunch is provided for in-person seminars. Zoom: [Click here for Zoom access](#)

Date:	Presenter:	Host:	Location:
8/8/2025	Ann Davis , PhD, MPH, ABPP, Professor, Pediatrics, KUMC; <i>Director</i> , CHLN Deb Sullivan , PhD, RD, Professor and Chair, Dietetics & Nutrition, KUMC John Thyfault , PhD, Professor, Cell Biology & Physiology and Internal Medicine; <i>Director</i> , KUDI <i>Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC)</i>	CHLN	Zoom Only
8/22/2025	Canceled due to KUMC SOM Faculty Retreat	N/A	N/A
8/29/2025	Anna Arthur , PhD, MPH, RDN, Associate Professor, Dietetics and Nutrition, KUMC <i>Food insecurity and cancer: pathways to intervention and improved outcomes</i>	D&N	Zoom Only
9/5/2025	Craig Smail , PhD, Asst. Professor, Pediatrics, UMKC; Research Asst. Professor, Pediatrics, KUMC <i>Patterns of genomic variation in population-scale biobanks provides insights into rare childhood obesity disorders</i>	CHLN	Zoom Only
9/12/2025	Kristy Brown , PhD, Associate Professor, Cell Biology & Physiology, KUMC Andrew Lutkewitte , PhD, Assistant Professor, IM-Endocrinology & Diabetes, KUMC <i>Adipose-Liver Crosstalk in Health and Disease</i>	KUDI	G205 HEB / Zoom
9/26/2025	Gaby Medina-Meza , PhD, Associate Professor, IM-Endocrinology & Diabetes, KUMC <i>Dietary lipids and Gut Health: a biomarker-based perspective</i>	KC-MORE	G205 HEB / Zoom
10/3/2025	Webb Smith , PhD, ACSM-CEP; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, College of Medicine Clinical Exercise Physiologist, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital; University of Tennessee <i>Treatment for Youth with Severe Obesity: The Role of Clinical Exercise Medicine in Anti-Obesity Medications and Bariatric Surgery</i>	CHLN	TBD / Zoom
10/10/2025	Elizabeth Wellberg , BS, PhD, Asst Professor, Pathology, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences <i>Diabetes risk in breast cancer survivors: Insights from preclinical studies on endocrine therapy and metabolism</i>	KUCC	G205 HEB / Zoom
10/24/2025	Robin Shook , PhD, Assoc. Professor, Pediatrics, UMKC; Rsch Asst Professor, Pediatrics, KUMC <i>Associations between energy balance, insulin resistance, and appetite in adolescents</i>	KC-MORE	G010 Cates Aud/Zoom
10/31/2025	Mark Hopkins , PhD, Associate Professor in Nutritional Physiology, School of Food Science & Nutrition, University of Leeds <i>The Role of Lean Tissue in the Control of Appetite During Weight Stability and Weight Loss</i>	CHLN	Zoom Only
11/7/2025	Tyler Titcomb , PhD, RD, Assistant Professor, Dietetics & Nutrition <i>Nutrition implications in Multiple Sclerosis</i>	D&N	Zoom Only
11/14/2025	Michelle Redmond , PhD, MS, Associate Professor, Health Population, KUMC-Wichita <i>eDECIDE: Using Novel Technology to Deliver Diabetes Problem-Solving Skills Training to Community Members Living with Type 2 Diabetes</i> Matt Morris , PhD, Assistant Professor, Cell Biology & Physiology, KUMC <i>Regulation of meal termination by hepatocyte membrane polarization state</i>	KUDI	G205 HEB / Zoom
12/5/2025	Anita Skarbek , PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, Nursing and Health Studies, UMKC Matthew Chrisman , PhD, Associate Professor, Nursing and Health Studies, UMKC Nicholas Marchello , PhD, RD, Assistant Professor, Nutrition, Kinesiology & Health, UCM <i>Enhancing Rural Education in Missouri : Using a Train-the-Trainer Model for Integrating Nutrition into Middle School Teacher Curricula</i>	CHLN	Zoom Only
12/12/2025	Lisa Zhang , PhD, Associate Professor, Pharmacology, Toxicology & Therapeutics, KUMC <i>LZ - Egr1-high macrophages promote MASLD progression</i> Chad Slawson , PhD, Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, KUMC <i>CS - O-GlcNAc Transferase Interprets Nutrient Excess to Regulate the Adipocyte-Immune Axis</i>	KUDI	G205 HEB / Zoom

KCDONS

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The KC-DONS is forming Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Each SIG will meet quarterly throughout the year. At each meeting SIG members will present on their current work (papers, grants, summary statements, study challenges) and discuss with like-minded SIG members doing similar work. SIGs are CHLN-focused but open to anyone interested in coming!

Special Populations Group

This interdisciplinary team of scientists and practitioners is focused generally on the promotion of healthy lifestyles in persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down syndrome, and other intellectual and Developmental Disabilities as well as their parents/caregivers. We have strengths in metabolism, promotion and assessment of physical activity, assessment of dietary intake, clinical trial design, and clinical weight management. (contact: Amy Bodde, abodde@kumc.edu)

Maternal/Child Early Nutrition Group

This interdisciplinary team of scientists and practitioners is focused generally on pregnancy and early child nutrition/healthy lifestyles. We have strengths in breastfeeding, measurement (DXA, Hyperpalatable Foods, Mealtime Synchrony, etc.), as well as mouse models of early life stress, human cognitive neuroscience, tube feeding in children, nutrition literacy, and in interventions with typically developing and medically complicated children as well as in novel settings like the NICU. (contact: Ann Davis, adavis6@kumc.edu)

Lifestyle Interventions Group

This group is broadly interested in exploring collaborative opportunities and sharing expertise related to lifestyle interventions for obesity, physical activity, and nutrition. Members have a broad range of expertise including behavioral interventions in children and adults, social determinants of health, clinical and community-based interventions, community-based participatory research, implementation science, technology-based interventions and measurement, family-based interventions, and prevention. (contacts: Helena Laroche, hllaroche@cmh.edu and Jordan Carlson, jacarlson@cmh.edu)

Caregiver Wellbeing Group

The Caregiver Wellbeing SIG is a multidisciplinary group of researchers, clinicians, and community members focused on addressing the mental and physical health needs of caregivers of children with medical complexity and/or disability. (contact: Dana Bakula, dmbakula@cmh.edu)

Therapeutic Diet Group

The Therapeutic Diet Special Interest Group is focused on the relationship between nutrition, diet, and meal timing with health across the lifespan, the prevention and treatment of chronic disease, and quality of life. We bring together nutrition researchers and dietitians together with investigators, clinicians, and health professionals interested in using nutrition and diet therapy to benefit patients and the community. (contact: Felicia Steger, fsteger@kumc.edu)

Fall 2025: ALL VIRTUAL

Aug 15 – Caregiver Wellbeing Group

Sept 19 – Therapeutic Diet Group, Maternal/Child Early Nutrition Group

Oct 17 – Special Populations Group, Lifestyle Interventions Group

Nov 21 – Caregiver Wellbeing Group

Dec 19 – Therapeutic Diet Group, Maternal/Child Early Nutrition Group