

Innovative Approaches to Elevate Professional Training: Continuing Education, Master's and Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition

Dr. Lauri Wright is an associate professor at the University of North Florida, co-director of the Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition, director of the Center for Nutrition and Food Insecurity, and Chair of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics. Through her research and with the Center, she develops programs for food insecure individuals in the community, works globally with malnutrition, and directs nutrition programming for people with AIDS. Wright has developed a food recovering and meal distribution model that serves the food insecure (Food Fighters) and seniors (Meals on Wings) in the community. She formerly worked as a clinical dietitian for the Veterans Administration. Wright is past-president of the Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, member of the Academy's Legislative and Public Policy Committee and is Speaker to the Academy's House of Delegates. Wright earned an undergraduate degree in nutrition from The Ohio State University, a master's degree/dietetic internship from Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland VA Hospital and a doctorate from University of South Florida.

Dr. Judith Rodriguez is professor emeritus in the Department of Nutrition & Dietetics in the Brooks College of Health at the University of North Florida (UNF). She has many peer reviewed and consumer publications, including 200 Surefire Ways Eat to Well and Feel Better, The Diet Selector, and the Latino Food Lover's Glossary. She served as Chair of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Department of Public Health at UNF. She is a Past President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and received the Academy's Medallion and the UNF 2013 Distinguished Professor recognitions. She has been involved in educational, service and research activities, done media interviews, served as a consultant on a variety of initiatives, including a national health study of U.S. Hispanics and projects with an international focus. She has collaborated with others to provide travel abroad and community-based experiences to UNF students. Dr. Rodriguez received a PhD in Anthropology from Rutgers University, an MA in Nutrition and Higher Education, a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics from New York University and is a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist.

Dr. Catherine Christie is Associate Dean and Professor in the Brooks College of Health at the University of North Florida. She earned her Ph.D. in nutrition from Florida State University and is a Licensed and Registered Dietitian, Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and Fellow of the Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association. Dr. Christie has co-authored four books including The Latino Food Lover's Glossary, Fat is Not Your Fate, Eat to Stay Young and I'd Kill for a Cookie and serves as Editor of the Manual of Medical Nutrition Therapy and Health Care Communities Manual: Nutrition Therapy, Food Service, and Regulatory Compliance published by the Florida Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics and updated each year. Dr. Christie currently serves on the Academy Board of Directors Consumer Protection and Licensure Committee. She was elected by the UNF faculty as the University's Distinguished Professor in 2018.

Dr. Andrea Arikawa is Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of North Florida. Dr. Arikawa, a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist, graduated from a Ph.D. in Nutrition with a minor in Biostatistics from the University of Minnesota. She received bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics and an M.P.H. with concentration in Nutrition from the University of São Paulo, Brazil. She worked as a postdoctoral fellow and research associate for eight years Research Assistant Professor and Instructor at the University of Minnesota and received the National Institutes of Health NIH/NCI TREC Trainee Award for Excellence. Her primary research interests include the role bioactive components in foods and the gut microflora dietary factors, prevention and treatment of chronic disease as well as dietary and lifestyle behavior modification to improve biomarkers associated with inflammation, oxidative stress, and chronic disease obesity, and cancer risk. She conducts basic science and laboratory work, clinical trials and translation of research findings to a community setting and public health.