

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

**Dr. Judith Rodriguez** is professor 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.

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**Dr. Lauri Wright** received her bachelor's degree in dietetics from The Ohio State University. She completed the coordinated master's degree/dietetic internship at Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland VA Hospital. Dr. Wright worked as a clinical dietitian at the Tampa VA Hospital for more than 15 years, specializing in infectious disease. She began and directed the dietetic internship at Bay Pines VA Hospital. After completing her doctorate degree, Dr. Wright directed the master's/dietetic internship program at the University of North Florida (UNF). While at UNF, her work with HIV moved into the community. Dr. Wright then joined the faculty at University of South Florida, College of Public Health where her research focused on food insecurity and its health impact, HIV nutrition and global nutrition. She has worked with malnutrition and the nutrition transition in India, Africa and Central America. Dr. Wright is the founding director of the UNF Center for Nutrition and Food Security where she directs two food recovery-meal programs; One for PLWHA (Food Fighters) and the other for homebound seniors (Meals on Wings). Dr. Wright is an Academy Media Spokesperson and Speaker-Elect of the Academy's House of Delegates.

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**Dr. Catherine Christie** is Associate Dean and Professor in the Brooks College of Health at the University of North Florida (UNF). She earned her Ph.D. in nutrition at Florida State University and is a Licensed and Registered Dietitian, Fellow of the Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association, and Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. 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* published by the Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and updated each year.

Dr. Christie is the recipient of several honors and awards including Florida's Distinguished Dietitian, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Outstanding Dietetic Educator Award, and the Excellence in Practice Award for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. She currently serves on the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Board of Directors as Treasurer Elect, Chairs the Ethics Committee, and represents the Academy Board of Directors on the Consumer Protection and Licensure Committee. She was elected by the UNF faculty as the university's Distinguished Professor in 2017-2018.

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**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 bachelors 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.