



**How to study the environmental determinants of obesity using Geographic Information System (GIS)-derived data
Pre-Conference Workshop
Saturday, October 20, 2007; 1:00-3:00 PM**

**Sponsored by Active Living Research, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
New Orleans Convention Center; New Orleans, LA
Speakers: Penny Gordon-Larsen, J. Michael Oakes, James F. Sallis**

Register online at www.obesity.org/annualmeeting07 during the regular registration process, or modify your existing registration at the same site. There is **no fee** for the workshop but space is limited so reserve your seat now!

Organizing Committee: Penny Gordon-Larsen, Kiyah J. Duffey, Janne E. Boone
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Nutrition, Schools of Public Health & Medicine
Contact Person: Janne E. Boone (boonej@unc.edu)

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

This workshop will bring together national leading scientists in the area of environmental determinants of physical activity, diet, and obesity with the goal of expanding the skills of attendees in GIS-based research and methods.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Obesity Society meeting attendees interested in environment and obesity research. GIS skills & experience are not required.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

- 1:00-1:20 Introduction and overview (Penny Gordon-Larsen)**
Broad overview regarding data issues and analytical methods related to characterizing the environment using GIS data
- 1:20-2:20 Multilevel analysis (J. Michael Oakes)**
Discussion of measurement and study design issues, analytical methods, individual-level versus multilevel approaches when using GIS, and implications for causal inference
- 2:20-2:40 Environmental determinants, policy-making, and funding (James F. Sallis)**
Types of GIS-based research that policy makers need in order to promote environmental changes and that are consistent with the goals of future funding opportunities.
- 2:40-3:00 Panel and audience discussion**

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Penny Gordon-Larsen, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Nutrition at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the schools of Public Health & Medicine and is a Fellow at the Carolina Population Center. She is a specialist in human nutrition epidemiology and her work has focused on the important role of the physical environment in shaping obesity and obesity-related behaviors.

J. Michael Oakes, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, University of Minnesota, and is affiliated with the Minnesota Population Center, the Metropolitan Design Center, and the Institute for Advanced Study. Dr. Oakes has authored papers exploring neighborhood effects, the measurement of socioeconomic status in health research, and the role of political-economic theory in social epidemiology.

James F. Sallis, PhD is Professor of Psychology at San Diego State University and the Program Director of Active Living Research. Dr. Sallis is a nationally and internationally recognized authority on physical activity interventions and behavioral research and has made major contributions in the areas of measurement, identifying correlates of physical activity, intervention, and advocacy.

