

The Ten Most Influential Women Scholars in Health Promotion

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Abstract

This article features 10 of the most influential women scholars in health promotion: Drs Shiriki Kumanyika, Andrea Gielen, Leslie B. Hammer, Peggy A. Hannon, Sara Johnson, Michelle C. Kegler, Laura A. Linnan, Keshia Pollack Porter, Anastasia M. Snelling, and Glorian Sorensen. Other of the most influential researchers specializing in health promotion authored brief biographies of these extraordinary women summarizing what they are best known for and explaining how their influence on this profession will continue to be felt in the years ahead. I reflect on the merits of celebrating women in leadership and how women are shaping the health promotion discipline.

Keywords

scholars, health promotion, research, women in leadership

Why single out women scholars in the health promotion profession rather than recognizing excellence in research and teaching regardless of gender? As a male career health educator who has had the chance to work in nearly every sub-specialty in health promotion, I've appreciated that I work in a female dominated profession. Both in the public and private sectors, or whether working in research, product development, program delivery or administration, I've long been mentored, supported and challenged by brilliant women. In spite of the predominance of women in this field, it is still the case that women have a steeper mountain to climb than men when it comes to making it to the top of our profession. This is particularly the case in the academic world. In their study of gender equity in university settings, Beidas and colleagues cite findings from a report on the economic status of the profession and conclude that “women are overrepresented in non-tenure track roles, are underrepresented among full professors and senior leadership, and receive lower pay across all ranks compared to men counterparts.”^{1,2} Beidas and colleagues argue that applying principles from implementation science to organizational practices such as leadership training, hiring and promotion policies is needed to counter gender and racial inequities.

While barriers to achieving acclaim in academe will be greater for women than men for years to come, I hope that recognizing the amazing achievements of the scholars featured here offers cause for optimism. I'd also venture that the health promotion profession is more equity conscious than other academic disciplines. For example, I reviewed the faculty and leadership directory pages of five Schools of Public Health in the United States that have a longstanding

reputation for excellence. I counted the number of female and male faculty in the departments most closely aligned with the health promotion profession, that is, programs in health behavior, community health, health policy and epidemiology. Nearly 60% of the faculty in these programs were women and four out of five of the deans of these departments were women. Another more quantitatively precise example of women gaining gender equity in academe comes from a recent study showing that “female researchers in mathematics, psychology and economics are 3–15 times more likely to be elected as members of the US National Academy of Sciences or the American Academy of Arts and Sciences than are male counterparts who have similar publication and citation records.”³

The women featured in this “top ten” article would undoubtedly be quick to credit the influence of women scholars who have preceded them in the health promotion discipline. In 2015 I published the “[Game Changers](#)” issue in the *American Journal of Health Promotion* which featured both contemporary and legacy leaders in the health promotion profession.⁴ We honored 15 men and seven women leaders in that issue. This 2023 “most influential women” article uses a format similar to that used in that issue where I invite other scholars in health promotion to author brief summaries about what these women leaders are best known for and forecast how they will continue to influence the health promotion profession. The women recognized in the previous AJHP issue as “Health Promotion Pioneers” were:

- Karen Glanz, PhD, MPH, George A. Weiss University Professor, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.

- Amelie Ramirez, DrPH, MPH, Professor, Director of Institute for Health Promotion Research, UT Health San Antonio.
- Kate Lorig, DrPH, Professor Emeritus, Public Health, Health Education, Medicine, Stanford.
- Barbara Israel, DrPH, Professor, Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, University of Michigan.
- Meredith Minkler, DrPH, Professor Emerita, Health and Social Behavior, Public Health, Berkeley.
- Barbara Rimer, DrPH, Dean Emerita and Alumni distinguished Professor, Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Dorothy Nyswander, PhD, American Health Educator, Namesake for the “Nyswander Award” of the Society of Public Health Education.

Selection Criteria

Following on the recognition of the above pioneers, this “top ten” list celebrates the scholarly leadership of women influencers who are currently active in the health promotion profession and are playing a unique role in individual and community health improvement. There are many women leaders working as strong generalists in public health and healthcare who make significant contributions to population health improvement. This “most influential” list is more targeted, however, with a keen focus on leaders who have made a profound and lasting impact as health promotion specialists. In a previous editorial, I compared and contrasted [definitions for health promotion](#), lifestyle medicine and population health and each definition captures vital elements that influencers use to advance the work of the health promotion profession.⁵

For the purposes of selecting the most influential women scholars in the health promotion field, we based selection on an adaptation of the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of health promotion. Accordingly, top women influencers are those whose research and scholarship has proven to “*support governments, communities and individuals to cope with and address health challenges.*” Influencers accomplish this by “*building healthy public policies, creating supportive environments, and strengthening community action and personal skills.*” Influential women in the health promotion profession may support environments or strengthen communities via research in schools, workplaces, health systems, universities, or governmental or non-profit organizations. They may specialize in education or research and may have expertise and skills in health education, community health, patient education, or counseling.

I selected some of the scholars featured here based on their research that we have featured in this journal. Others came by way of nominations I solicited from other top researchers in

our field. I asked them to base their recommendations on some or all of the following factors:

1. **Scholarly Productivity:** Has an established research portfolio, including extensive scientific publications specific to health promotion interventions, policies and practice.
2. **Excellence in Teaching:** Teaches health promotion theory and practice and has an established reputation as an exemplary teacher, advisor and academic colleague.
3. **Health Promotion Advocacy:** Is an activist for political, economic or public policies that prevent disease and improve health at the local, state or national level.
4. **Executive Leadership:** Holds a leadership position in an organization explicitly focused on personal, organizational and/or community health improvement.



Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MPH, Founding Chair, Council on Black Health, Research Professor, Community Health and Prevention, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health.

Kumanyika is known for: Dr Shiriki Kumanyika is internationally known for her expertise in public health nutrition and obesity prevention, specifically within African American communities. She is a prolific researcher, speaker, and advocate for policies and programs that promote healthy eating and physical activity. Her work focuses on developing and describing the underlying theories and frameworks to drive thinking to move research “out of the box” to advance scientific discovery about how best to address disparities in health that impact Black communities. Among her many accomplishments, Dr Kumanyika is past president of the American Public Health Association and a Fellow of the American Heart Association. She has received numerous awards for her work from national and international organizations.

Kumanyika’s Influence: Dr Shiriki Kumanyika’s research has been instrumental in shaping public health policies and guidelines, including the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which provide evidence-based recommendations for healthy eating. She has also been a leading voice in promoting health equity and addressing racial and ethnic health disparities. Dr Kumanyika’s influence on public health can be seen through her numerous publications, including over 300 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and reports, as well as her leadership roles in several national and international organizations, including the World Health Organization and the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention. She has also received numerous awards and honors for her contributions to public health. Dr Kumanyika has also influenced nutrition, obesity, and health equity research through mentoring and convening field experts to generate ideas for collective impact. In 2002, Dr Kumanyika founded the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network (AACORN; rebranded in 2018 as the Council on Black Health (the Council)). The Council is a national research and action network focused on developing a national agenda to achieve sustainable solutions for promoting health in Black communities through a focus social and political determinants of health and individual behaviors. Dr Kumanyika's mentorship has yielded dozens of scholars of color who have achieved success and leadership positions in academic, federal, non-profit, and community-based organizations, ensuring that her legacy and influence will continue to be far reaching and will continue to impact research and scholarship for years to come.

Authored by: Melicia C. Whitt-Glover, PhD, Executive Director, Council on Black Health.



Andrea Gielen, ScD, Professor Emeritus, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Founding Associate Director and later Director of the Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy.

Gielen is known for: Dr Gielen is a nationally renowned expert in principles of health behavior change and program evaluation who has conducted research into health policies and practices designed to prevent injuries, improve maternal and child health, reduce domestic violence and sexual violence. Gielen has received the CDC Foundation's "Elizabeth Fries Health Education Award", has been recognized with the 'Distinguished Career Award' from the American Public Health Association, won the Award for Excellence from the American Academy of Health Behavior and was named one of "20 for 20" Distinguished Leaders in Injury Prevention by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her research has included multiple federally-funded intervention trials in clinical and community settings that focused on preventing unintentional injuries to children, particularly among families living in low income, urban environments. Related to this, Gielen won the Home Safety Research Award from the Home Safety Council.

Gielen's influence: Through teaching, mentoring and advisory committees, Gielen has informed countless research collaborators and future leaders on the most effective approaches to conducting theory-informed needs assessment

research, on how to build interventions based on those findings and on the importance of conducting both intervention trials and translational research to disseminate interventions. Gielen's body of work incorporates the use of innovative communication technologies and behavior change theories to increase parents' child safety behaviors, including child passenger safety, poisoning prevention, fire safety and pedestrian safety. From 2006 to 2020, Gielen directed the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy and continues with the Center as a senior advisor. Gielen also consults on a study that will integrate safe sleep counseling into the electronic medical record and facilitate pediatric advice to new parents. As a part of her extensive publications portfolio, Gielen is a co-editor of *Health Program Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation: Creating Behavioral, Environmental, and Policy Change* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press) a seminal textbook that has been a staple for Schools of Public Health for decades.

Authored by: Lawrence Green, DrPH, MPH, Professor Emeritus, UCSF.



Leslie B. Hammer, PhD, Emerita Professor of Psychology, Portland State University Associate Director of Applied Research, Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, Oregon Health and Science University Co-Director, Oregon Healthy Workforce Center, Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU).

Hammer is known for: Dr Hammer is an internationally renowned educator and researcher in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and a pioneer in Occupational Health Psychology. She was Advisor to over 20 doctoral students while on faculty at Portland State University and now works full-time at the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences at OHSU.

Dr Hammer specializes in the health effects of supportive supervision at work, and the health consequences of occupational stress and work-family conflict. She has extensive experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating worksite interventions to improve both supervisor and worker stress, health, safety, and well-being. Since joining OHSU, Dr Hammer became Co-Director and co-PI of a NIOSH-funded Oregon Healthy Workforce Center. This center is one of ten NIOSH Total Worker Health (TWH[®]) Centers for Excellence across the country.

Hammer's Influence: Dr Hammer's prolific body of research has highlighted the critical importance of the workplace as a social determinant of health, including how work

interplays with non-work factors, such as family and sleep. She has created trainings for managers and supervisors designed to show the importance of specific types of supervisor support on the health and well-being of employees. The latest training on Workplace Mental Health Support, demonstrates the continuing relevance and responsiveness her work has on current health promotion.

Dr Hammer is a founding member and the first president of the Society of Occupational Health Psychology (OHP), a non-profit organization dedicated to the generation, dissemination, and application of scientific knowledge in order to improve worker health and well-being. She also co-founded the OHP program at Portland State University, which has graduated a total of 34 students to date and currently has another 13 currently in the program. Additionally, Dr Hammer's work has been recognized through several awards and honors, including the 2022 OHSU Faculty Award for Outstanding Research and the 2020 International Work and Family Researchers Network Ellen Galinsky Generative Researchers Award with Ellen Kossek.

In Dec 2021, Dr Hammer was invited by the US Surgeon General, Vivek Murthy, to participate in a private, virtual workplace research roundtable designed to understand the state of health research on workplace well-being (particularly mental and emotional health). This Surgeon General's roundtable has led to plan for subsequent national meetings with the ultimate goal of increasing health, well-being, and meaning in the workplace.

Authored by: Krista Brockwood, PhD Staff Scientist, Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, Oregon Health and Science University.



Peggy A. Hannon, PhD MPH, Professor of Health Systems and Population Health and Director of the Health Promotion Research Center, University of Washington (UW) School of Public Health; and Director of the Post-doctoral Fellowship Program in Bio-behavioral Cancer Prevention and Control, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Hannon is known for: Trained as a social psychologist and implementation scientist, Dr Hannon is a national leader in workplace health promotion and cancer prevention. In workplace health promotion, Dr Hannon has tested and disseminated a novel approach to assist small, low-wage workplaces to implement evidence-based practices (EBPs) shown to reduce tobacco use and increase cancer screening, healthy eating, and physical activity. With support from the

American Cancer Society (ACS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), she has tested the approach in 150 workplaces in the Seattle area and dozens more across WA and the U.S. In cancer prevention, Dr Hannon has focused on screening for colorectal cancer, the second most common cause of cancer death in the US. Working with CDC, she has led a decade-long effort to increase use of EBPs by state and local health departments working to increase colorectal cancer screening.

Hannon's Influence: Dr Hannon is an outstanding scholar, practice-based researcher, teacher/mentor, administrator, and advisor. In 2016, UW awarded her its 5-year James W. Mifflin Professorship. She has published 90+ peer-reviewed scientific articles cited 4500+ times and has led grants funded by the CDC, the NCI, and others for a total of \$35 million. Dr Hannon is also a dedicated teacher who brings practice into her classroom. For the past 15 years, she has taught the UW School of Public Health's cornerstone course on Health Promotion Theories and Strategies and is perennially recognized for her exceptional course evaluations by students. A generous and beloved mentor, she has supervised doctoral dissertations and Master's capstones and theses by 25+ students, and has served as a mentor to 45+ others. She has conducted her research at the Health Promotion Research Center, a CDC Prevention Research Center, since 2004 and served as its director since 2015. Dr Hannon's cancer prevention work also emphasizes practice-based service. Invited by the WA Department of Health, she has served for 15 years on committees and task forces for Washington CARES, the State's Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership. At the national level, she served on CDC's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection and Control Advisory Committee from 2017 to 2019. She also served on NCI's standing review committee for grants on Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health from 2017 to 2021.

Authored by: Jeffrey R. Harris, MD MPH MBA, Professor of Health Systems and Population Health, School of Public Health, University of Washington.



Sara Johnson, PhD, Co-President and CEO, ProChange Behavior Systems and Senior Research Fellow, The Health Enhancement Research Organization.

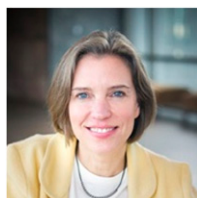
Johnson is known for: Dr Johnson (Sara to most of us), is one of the most high-profile professionals in the health promotion field because of the multiple publicly visible positions she holds. She is probably best known as an expert in the transtheoretical model. She is also well known through her service as Co-CEO of ProChange Behavior Systems, Inc,

chair of the Art and Science of Health Promotion Conference, co-editor of *American Journal of Health Promotion (AJHP)*, and Senior Research Fellow of Health Enhancement Research Organization (HERO), in addition to the dozens of scientific articles and popular columns she has written, speeches presented at multiple scientific and professional conferences and the numerous national awards she has received. In addition to serving in these visible public roles, Sara is a hard-core scientist who has served as Principal Investigator on NIH and CDC grants valued at nearly \$10 million.

Johnson's Influence: Sara is influential in the moment because of the exposure she receives and the wisdom she conveys through the venues above and the way she brings people together with her collaborative nature and kind spirit, but I suspect her lasting influence will be as a translator between the disparate communities of scientists, practitioners and the lay public. Sara's current work provides the opportunity to hone her written, oral, and digital communication skills in reaching all of these populations. This builds on her training as a clinical psychologist to listen, establish rapport and guide people in health enhancing directions, and is magnified by her basic and applied research, which focuses on choosing the precise words most effective in persuading people to move toward desired behaviors.

Sara is among the more skilled scholarly writers I have encountered, and certainly among the best in what I call *applied scholarly writing*. Her skills are revealed to me in the articles she writes in the Knowing Well, Being Well section of *AJHP*, in which she tackles topics as diverse as advocating for ensuring a good death as an important aspect of our work in health enhancement, strategies most effective in combating health related misinformation, and the importance of cultivating intellectual humility as a core value in our field. Sara applies the same scientific rigor to curating and synthesizing each...framing core issues with strong documentation, articulating enlightening questions, and suggesting a path for further exploration...all in a few hundred words.

Authored by: Michael O'Donnell, Founder *American Journal of Health Promotion* and Art and Science of Health Promotion Conference.



Michelle C. Kegler, DrPH, MPH, Professor, Department of Behavioral, Social and Health Education Sciences, Director, Emory Prevention Research Center, a CDC Prevention

Research Center, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

Kegler is known for: Dr Michelle Kegler is a professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and is a member of the Cancer Prevention and Control program of Winship, a NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. She earned her Doctor of Public Health degree at the University of North Carolina and her Masters of Public Health degree from the University of Michigan. She leads the Emory Prevention Research Center (a CDC Prevention Research Center), which won an award for best practice in Community-Based Participatory Research. Dr Kegler leads multiple research programs focused on creating healthier environments, especially for people living in rural communities. Her areas of interest include smoke-free home interventions, the food environment in homes and communities, and coalitions and partnerships that facilitate designing and scaling interventions that meet community needs. She has won awards for teaching, mentoring faculty, and for her research.

Kegler's Influence: Dr Kegler is a prolific researcher, practitioner, and mentor. She has published almost 200 peer-reviewed articles, co-edited a textbook on theory and health promotion practice and research, and co-developed a theory on community coalitions, Community Coalition Action Theory. She teaches a variety of graduate-level health promotion courses and has mentored more than 50 graduate students. Her current research is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. She is also sought after as a collaborator and evaluation partner for health promotion practice initiatives lead by health departments and voluntary health organizations. Constant threads throughout her work include community engagement and unique community partnerships and coalitions to scale up effective health promotion interventions. For example, she has a longstanding partnership with 2-1-1, which serves millions of people across the US who need support to meet basic needs. She has worked with 2-1-1 to implement effective interventions to encourage smoke-free housing and to improve home food environments for 2-1-1 clients. This partnership is one example of how Dr Kegler not only takes health promotion programs to broad scale but does so in a way to reach communities that are underserved and have limited access to care. She is now expanding the scope of her work beyond the United States and is conducting research in Georgia and Armenia in collaboration with federal public health agencies in both countries.

Authored by: Peggy Hannon, PhD, MPH, Professor, Department of Health Systems and Population Health, Director, Health Promotion Research Center, a CDC Prevention Research Center, School of Public Health, University of Washington.



Laura A. Linnan, ScD, Sr Associate Dean, Academic and Student Affairs; Professor, Health Behavior; UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health; Director, Carolina Center for Healthy Work Design and Worker Well-Being.

Linnan is known for: If a maxim of health education has been to go *where the people are*, Laura Linnan, MPH, ScD, has shown this to be a robust principle in her community-based participatory research, resulting in greater levels of participation, engagement, knowledge, and behavior change. Specifically, she pioneered development and application of health promotion interventions in venues such as barbershops, beauty salons and other community sites. They also are worksites. Today, as documented through 144 peer-reviewed publications, 20+ book chapters, and a highly regarded textbook, *Public Health Interventions and Applied Research* (with A. Steckler), Dr Linnan is best known for designing, delivering, and rigorously evaluating multi-level interventions within these and other worksites, *and* for her innovative approaches to improving worker safety, health, and well-being more broadly. Long before people talked about decolonization, Dr Linnan enacted her personal commitment to eliminating health inequities through collaboration, creating effective health promotion interventions built on worker-centered platforms. In these ways, Dr Linnan has helped build the health promotion field and improved the lives of people who work.

Linnan's Influence: Laura Linnan has been a key force in creating and defining the field of health promotion as focused on worker health. Her research has resulted in better understanding about the state of health promotion interventions at worksites, while her success in persuading the US federal government to fund worker health has created pathways for others to contribute. Dr Linnan's work on improving worker safety and health within small and medium-size worksites focuses on low-wage workers who suffer disproportionately from chronic diseases and other health disparities. During her 22-year partnership with owners, stylists/barbers and customers, her NIH-funded community-based participatory research has intervened to promote recommended cancer screenings, reduce falls risk, promote physical activity, and more. As PI of the Collaborating Center for the CDC-funded Workplace Health Research Network, she led design,

implementation, and analysis of two highly influential national employer surveys (2004 and 2017). Dr Linnan now directs one of ten NIOSH-funded Centers of Excellence in Total Worker Health.

Dr Linnan's contributions to educating public health leaders include a novel reinvention of the MPH curriculum for the Gillings School of Global Public Health's Department of Health Behavior (Linnan et al, AJP 2018). She then led creation of an integrated schoolwide MPH with 13 concentrations, which received an Innovation Curriculum Award from Delta Omega—the Public Health Honor Society (2020). Since 2016, Dr Linnan has overseen curricula (70+ degrees), faculty affairs (300+ faculty members), and student affairs (2800+ students) for the Gillings School. In addition to scores of MPH students, she has mentored more than 50 doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows, half of whom identify as BIPOC. Most recently, she created a certificate in Total Worker Health that is training the next generation of leaders and practitioners in the field.

Authored by: Elizabeth French, MA, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Barbara K. Rimer, DrPH, Dean Emerita and Alumni distinguished Professor, both from the Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Keshia Pollack Porter, PhD MPH, Bloomberg Centennial Professor and Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Pollack Porter is known for: Always working with a health equity lens, Dr Pollack Porter is known for her work on the health and safety of firefighters, transportation safety for both employees and passengers, and workplace health and safety. Trained in occupational-injury epidemiology and prevention, for the past 15 years, she has led both policy development and research to prevent injuries among firefighters and promote their health through physical activity. She has also conducted research to reduce occupational injuries among military personnel, law enforcement, and manufacturing workers. Dr Pollack Porter has long studied relationships among transportation infrastructure and active transportation that promotes health. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she produced guidelines to protect both employees and passengers on public transportation. In 2021, she chaired the American Heart Association's Writing Group that produced its groundbreaking guidelines on Driving Health Equity in the Workplace.

Pollack Porter's Influence: Dr Pollack Porter is an active policy researcher, trusted advisor, administrator and leader, and mentor. She has authored more than 160 peer-reviewed journal articles to advance policies that create safe and healthy environments where people live, work, play, and travel, with an emphasis on cross-sector collaborations and health equity. She is committed to training the next generation of scholars and since 2019 has directed the Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS)—a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. HPRS annually selects 40 doctoral students who are from historically marginalized backgrounds or underrepresented in their fields to learn how to be leaders who advance health policy and healthy equity from their disciplinary lens. To date, over 250 doctoral students have completed the 4-year training program. Dr Pollack Porter also advised or mentored more than 60 doctoral and master's students. Dr Pollack Porter spends a considerable amount of time directly engaging with policymakers to achieve her goal of informing the development and implementation of policies that can advance health equity at the local, state, and federal levels. She is co-author of a forthcoming book on effective policy engagement, which will be published by APHA Press in late 2023. Her research and practice are bolstered by the roles she has had as a Bloomberg Centennial Professor, director of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Institute for Health and Social Policy, and as part of the leadership team for the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions.

Authored by: Jeffrey R. Harris, MD MPH MBA, Professor of Health Systems and Population Health, School of Public Health, University of Washington.



Anastasia M. Snelling, PhD, R.D., Chair and Professor, Department of Health Studies, American University.

Snelling is known for: Dr Snelling is an influential and entrepreneurial leader in the field of Health Promotion. In 2015, she became the founding chair of the Department of Health Studies at American University. Each year, she oversees the education of over 400 students in five academic programs in the department and mentors 16 full-time and 50+ adjunct faculty. Her visionary leadership has been instrumental in the development of undergraduate programs in Health Promotion and Public Health, as well as online graduate programs in Health Promotion Management and Nutrition Education. In 2023, Dr Snelling will guide the launch of another exciting graduate program—a Master of Arts in Public Health Innovation and Practice. Through these impactful academic programs, Dr Snelling has positively

influenced thousands of health promotion, public health, and nutrition education professionals - and, by extension, the clients and populations they serve.

Snelling's influence: Stacey Snelling's impact goes far beyond academics. Her research funding exceeds five million dollars and has supported interventions and investigations including, but not limited to, school-based wellbeing initiatives, nutrition education, falls prevention, health equity, food waste, food access, and behavior change. Much of her research and intervention work has focused on the Washington, D.C. community and has resulted in significant health enhancement and improvement. In 2014, she authored an essential textbook in the field, *Introduction to Health Promotion*, and will release the second edition of the text in 2023. Dr Snelling has authored or co-authored eight book chapters, over 50 refereed articles and publications, 23 abstracts, 16 grant and government reports, and 8 invited articles. She has given over 85 refereed presentations and serves as a manuscript reviewer for nine professional journals and three conferences. In addition to her impactful scholarship, Dr Snelling also regularly teaches courses in Health Promotion and Nutrition Education and supervises student theses. It is quite obvious that, over the past four decades, Stacey Snelling has had a positive, transformative impact on the field of health promotion, her students and mentees, the Washington, D.C. community, and population health overall. She is an exemplary role model in all of these arenas and beyond.

Author: Jolynn Gardner, PhD, CHES, Associate Chair, Health Studies, American University.



Glorian Sorensen, PhD, MPH, Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Director of the Harvard Chan Center for Work, Health and Well-Being, Director of the Center for Community-Based Research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Sorensen is known For: Pioneer in the field of Total Worker Health® through her tireless efforts to build the evidence base for interventions designed to improve the safety, health, and well-being of workers. She was among the first using randomized controlled trials to test the effectiveness of theory-driven worksite-based health and well-being interventions. Her seminal 1998 cluster-randomized "WellWorks" study is an oft-cited reference to demonstrate the effectiveness of tobacco cessation among blue-collar workers. Her contributions to the emerging field of workplace integrated safety, health, and well-being were recently recognized when referred to as "*the mother of Total Worker Health*" by CDC staff leading the NIOSH Total Worker Health Program.

Sorensen's Influence: The reach of Dr Sorensen's influence in the field of health promotion and disease prevention is far and wide. Through her academic efforts, she is recognized as a leading scholar examining approaches to addressing the conditions of work through planned changes in workplace policies, programs, and practices. As the Director of one of the NIOSH-funded Center of Excellence in Total Worker Health, she focuses on the protection and promotion of worker safety, health, and well-being through improved conditions of work in areas of primary research but also through effective dissemination of what is known to be effective and support to build organizational capacity. These ideas extend into her work on tobacco control through a series of investigations in India. Her tobacco control work responds to the urgent need for large scale interventions especially applicable to low- and middle-income countries. Dr Sorensen's influence reaches students and practitioners through her teaching and training of the public health workforce of the future. She is recognized as an inclusive and compassionate colleague and mentor. Her teaching efforts extend into continuing education of professionals as part of the Center for Work, Health and Well-Being outreach core. As a result, her sphere of influence indeed reaches far and wide.

Authored by: Nico Pronk, PhD, MA, President, HealthPartners Institute and Chief Science Officer, HealthPartners, Affiliate Full Professor, Health Policy and Management, University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Visiting Scientist, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Thanks to These Extraordinary Women

As much as the biographies shared above speak to the wonderful contributions these women are making in promoting our nation's health, it may be that the most lasting impact of their influence will be on our future leaders. While women are prime beneficiaries of their role modeling, I can personally speak to the role women leaders' play in shaping men's sensibilities about work and gender equity. A woman many years my elder, Elaine Anderson, showed me that a relentless conference organizing work ethic can be had with good cheer. Most everything I know about grant writing and quality research I learned on the job from Dr Jinnet Fowles. When I obsess about adherence to design standards in health education product development; I owe that affliction to Trish Ashman. I study Michelle

Nunn's executive skills when I need ideas for how an organization can amplify its reach and impact. And my boss, Karen Moseley, is my exemplar to the power that flows from servant leadership.

In creating the criteria for recognizing these 10 women scholars, I didn't deem to factor in their proficiency at their work/life balancing act. But, again, from personal experience, I have long been witness to the outsized role women play in orchestrating their home and community lives on top of their professional duties. I am a middle child among my late mother Lorraine's 11 children. My mom worked outside of the home as well as grinding out a full time equivalent battery of domestic chores. My feminism is grounded in how vividly Lorraine demonstrated that amazing women who carry extraordinary loads are deserving of, at least, a fair shake. In celebrating these 10 exceptional scholars above, we can also cheer about what many of them are accomplishing as mothers, daughters or stewards in their communities. It makes us even more grateful and humbled to consider that their effectiveness as nation leading scholars comes alongside of their influence as exemplary women.

Paul E. Terry, PhD

*Editor in Chief, American Journal of Health Promotion,
Senior Fellow, The Health Enhancement Research
Organization (HERO).*

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