

School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences

Faculty Areas of Expertise/Research

Professors

Bhutani, Surabhi – Associate Professor

Integrates sensory (smell and taste-related), metabolic, and neural measures to understand eating behaviors, food choice patterns, diet quality, and weight gain in humans; Influence of contextual factors (sleep, chronotype, modern food environment, etc.) on smell perception, taste preference, and food choices; Develop novel sensory-based interventions to improve diet quality and weight loss.

Cannon, Daniel – Associate Professor

Cardiopulmonary physiology, skeletal muscle mitochondrial function, and exercise tolerance.

Crist, Katie – Assistant Professor

Physical activity promotion through community-based, behavioral, and built environment interventions, with a focus on active transportation; design, implementation, and evaluation of intervention and observational studies; quantitative and qualitative data collection including person-worn sensors (accelerometer and GPS); cross-sector collaboration with transportation and urban planners.

Green, Jeni – Assistant Professor

Assessing the impact of mind-body (e.g., yoga, mindfulness, meditation) and physical activity interventions on psycho-social outcomes; digital health; racial and ethnic minority health disparities; maternal health; behavior-change; community-based and mixed-methods approaches.

Hooshmand, Shirin - Professor

Improve age-related changes in musculoskeletal health (bone, joint, and muscle), cardiovascular dysfunction, and impairments in cognitive function that occur with physiological aging through nutrition interventions.

Hong, Mee Young - Professor

Effect of diets, functional foods, and phytochemicals on risk factors of cardiovascular disease and colon cancer prevention; Nutritional status across the lifespan, in populations ranging from teenagers to frail older adults.

Johnson, Ashleigh – Assistant Professor

Physical activity promotion with an emphasis on community-based interventions and youth populations; identification of physical activity determinants and disparities around physical activity opportunities; behavior-change interventions; use of sports to promote physical activity in youth.

Kern, Mark – Professor/B.S. Foods & Nutrition and M.S. Nutritional Sciences Program Director

The impact of diet and exercise on metabolism, appetite and weight regulation, risk factors for chronic diseases, and exercise performance.

Kressler, Jochen – Professor

Metabolic responses to exercise and nutrition interventions with a focus on glycemic responses after feeding in response to short bouts of exercise.

Liu, Changqi – Associate Professor

Food chemistry, protein chemistry, food safety, food allergy, sustainable foods, alternative proteins, and functional foods.

Mahar, Matthew – Professor/School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences Director

Promotion and measurement of physical activity and fitness in children and youth; identification of valid and reliable youth fitness testing methods; analysis of the effects of classroom-based physical activity programs on physical activity and on-task behavior.

Amanda McClain – Associate Professor

Social, structural, cultural, and life course influences on food choice, food provisioning, diet quality, and cardiometabolic health in low-income and historically marginalized populations, especially Latine communities; causes and consequences of food insecurity; the role of food assistance programs in promoting food security, diet, and health; community-engaged and capacity-oriented research approaches; mixed-method research; behavior-change interventions.

Nogueira, Leonardo – Assistant Professor

Mechanisms of muscle fatigue, contractile dysfunction, and exercise-induced muscle regeneration under chronic inflammatory diseases, environmental pollutants (tobacco smoke), and acute and chronic hypoxia.

O'Connor, Shawn – Associate Professor

Health sensing technologies and rehabilitation strategies for improved recovery after neuromuscular injury or decline. Development of muscle and metabolic health sensing devices. Dynamics and control of locomotion. Mechanisms of fall risk in older adults. Use of computational models and experimental devices (e.g., virtual reality) for perturbing and assessing gait function.

Reschechtko, Sasha – Assistant Professor

Neural control of movement, sensorimotor neuroscience, ecological hand use, movement-based assessment of sensory function.

Wade, Frankie - Assistant Professor

Walking adaptability; propulsive mechanics during walking; life-space mobility in gait biomechanics; how aging alters our walking ability; incorporating emotions like fear into the analysis of gait; how racial, socioeconomic, and health disparities impact how we walk.

Weber Rawlins, Michelle – Assistant Professor

Concussion care-seeking behavior in athletes and military personnel, concussion educational interventions, medical disqualification following concussion, social determinants of health on concussion care seeking in historically underrepresented groups, concussion and nutrition practices, return to learn following concussion.

Zhao, Jing – Associate Professor

Functionalities and flavor of food proteins; agricultural by-products utilization; novel protein development and characterizations; utilization of plant proteins and algae in alternative meat products; flavor characterization of foods.

Full-Time Lecturers

Comana, Fabio – B.S. Kinesiology Fitness Specialist and Exercise Science Coordinator

Sports conditioning and sports nutrition, exercise physiology, corrective exercise and movement, behavioral and lifestyle coaching, weight loss, fitness certifications, and fitness industry trends.

Diek, Melissa – Adaptive Fitness Assistant Clinic Assistant Director

SDSU Adaptive Fitness Clinic: Adaptive Fitness and Exercise for Special Populations.

Detwiler, Kim – M.S. Athletic Training Clinical Coordinator

Athletic Training, Work-life conflict and quality of life, management, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries.

Greicar, Margo – M.S. Athletic Training Program Director

Athletic Training & AT Clinical Education. Prevention; Management and rehabilitation of athletic injuries.

Lane, Kelly – B.S. Kinesiology Pre-Physical Therapy Program Coordinator

Analytical food science; Product development; Food business and management; Quantity food production.

Meredith, Suzanne

Exercise Science, Health Fitness Instruction-individual and group fitness, sports conditioning, corrective exercise, orthopedic exercise, fitness certifications, fitness industry trends.

Petrisko, Yumi – Didactic Program in Dietetics Director/Graduate Advisor

Medical Nutrition Therapy and Sports Nutrition.

Soto, Matt – Adaptive Fitness Clinic Director

SDSU Adaptive Fitness Clinic: Adaptive Fitness and Exercise for Special Populations.