

Heewon Gray, PhD, RDN

2019 KSCN-SNEB Professional Achievement Award Recipient



The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) has partnered with the Korean Society of Community Nutrition (KSCN) to present Heewon Gray, PhD, RDN with the KSCN-SNEB Professional Achievement Award at the SNEB Annual Conference in Orlando, FL July 27-30.

Dr. Gray's primary research focuses on nutrition education intervention aimed at preventing overweight and obesity in children and adolescents, as well as community-based participatory research to improve systems and policy around food and physical activity in underserved communities. Over the past 10 years, Dr. Gray has been involved in various nutrition intervention projects to reduce obesity prevalence in the U.S., which have been funded by the National Institutes of Health and the United States Department of Agriculture among other organizations. More specifically, Dr. Gray has been an evaluator, data analyst, or project manager for several school-based cluster randomized controlled trials in

low-income neighborhoods with predominantly African American or Hispanic populations. Dr. Gray possesses a special interest in systematically evaluating implementation processes and statistically linking process data to study outcomes of community nutrition programs.

Through her various publications in the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior (JNEB) and Health Education Research, Dr. Gray has demonstrated that process evaluation is a critical component for program evaluation. Moreover, her work is a reflection that this evaluation method can help not only understand what did or did not work well with intervention implementation, but also to determine how the implementation process influenced the study outcomes. Dr. Gray is also experienced in mediation analysis, more recently using structural equation modeling, contributing to advancing intervention studies by determining significant psychosocial factors that have mediated behavioral outcomes.

A skilled researcher and practitioner, Dr. Gray was previously involved in program evaluations for the NYC Food and Fitness Partnership, FoodCorps, NYC Edible Schoolyard, and Wellness in the Schools programs. Currently, she is evaluating Project Smile, a school-based nutrition

assistance program. Dr. Gray is also conducting a community-based supermarket intervention in low-income communities, working mostly with African American populations. Dr. Gray's current position is an Assistant Professor in Nutrition and Dietetics with a research specialization in Population Health Science at the College of Public Health, University of South Florida. Additionally, Dr. Gray is actively engaged in community food and nutrition related activities, serving as a member of the Hillsborough County School District's School Wellness Policy Committee, the Agency, Capacity, Programs, Nutrition & Research (ACPNR) Committee at Feeding Tampa Bay, and the Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger.

Over the past four years, Dr. Gray has developed a new research interest in nutrition and health in children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), conducting focus groups, surveys and interviews with parents of children with ASD to examine mealtime behavior problems and nutrient intakes. Dr. Gray's unique contribution to this area of research is that she has worked with diverse populations, including Chinese and Hispanic Americans. Recently, Dr. Gray received a research grant to test the feasibility and acceptability of an early childhood nutrition education intervention for children with ASD.

Dr. Gray is active within SNEB and contributes to the Society by regularly serving as an ad-hoc reviewer for JNEB. In addition to receiving this year's award, the Society has recognized Dr. Gray's critical work with the Excellence in Reviewing certificate she received consecutively in 2015 and 2016. Dr. Gray is also actively engaged with KSCN and frequently collaborates with leaders of the organization. She has served as the SNEB liaison to the Korean

Society for three years, working closely with leadership from both societies. Last year Dr. Gray, along with fellow KSCN members in Korea, translated Dr. Isobel Contento's Nutrition Education textbook into Korean. ■

ABOUT THE AWARD

The relationship between KSCN and SNEB began in 2011, which includes information sharing and invitations to attend the SNEB Annual Conference. In 2016, the organizations collaborated to present outstanding professionals who obtain membership in both organizations with an award.