novo nordisk foundation Science Cluster

PREVENTION OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY

BODY, BRAIN & SOCIETY

16-20 March 2026

Programme

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Monday 16 March 2026

17:00 - 17:15	Transportation to Favrholm Campus from hotels
17:15 - 17:30	Set up posters in poster rooms
17:30 - 18:45	**Informal dinner at Favrholm Campus**
18:45 - 19:00	**Official Opening by Mette Ide Davidsen**, Director of Global and Public Health, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Denmark and **Annegrette Juul**, Director of Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark
19:00 - 20:30	**SESSION 1: Realistic Systems Change to prevent childhood obesity**
	Welcome by the Chair of the Scientific Committee Nina Geiker, Head of Research, Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark
	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **Christina Economos**, Dean, Tufts University, United States *Catalyzing Communities to Prevent Childhood Obesity: A Systems Approach*
	INVITED SPEAKER: **Steve Allender**, Distinguished Professor, Deakin University, Australia *Preventing childhood obesity – lessons from ten years of "systems" approaches*
	CHAIR: **Nina Geiker**, Head of Research, Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark
20:30 - 22:30	Drinks & networking
20:30 - 22:30	Transportation between hotels and Favrholm Campus

Tuesday 17 March 2026

08:30	Transportation to Favrholm Campus from hotels
09:00 - 10:30	**SESSION 2: The relationship between weight and well-being**
	INVITED SPEAKER: **Jennifer Savage**, Director of the Child Health Research Center & Professor of Nutritional Sciences, Pennsylvania State University, United States *The Role of Responsive Parenting in Pediatric Obesity Prevention*
	INVITED SPEAKER: **Paulina Nowicka**, Professor, Uppsala Universitet, Sweden *Weight stigma, parental well-being, and the family experience of navigating childhood overweight and obesity*
	SHORT TALK: **Elena Jansen**, Senior Researcher, Region Hovedstadens Psychiatry, Denmark *Emotional and behavioural risk factors of overweight and binge-eating in Danish (pre-)adolescents*
	SHORT TALK: **Camilla Laursen**, Postdoctoral Researcher and **Cecilie Bang**, PhD Student, Aalborg University, Denmark *"It's not really body shaming if you only think it in your head" - The role of norms and morality in schoolchildren's body size images and wellbeing*
	CHAIR: **Berit Lilienthal Heitmann**, Professor, The Parker Institute, Copenhagen University Hospital, Denmark
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:30	**SESSION 3: National structural prevention**
	INVITED SPEAKER: **Jane Martin**, Executive Manager, Food for Health Alliance, Australia *Prioritising Government Action to Improve Marketing and Ingredients in Commercial Foods for Babies and Toddlers*
	INVITED SPEAKER: **Andrea Schmidtke**, Legal Policy and Advocacy Manager, Food for Health Alliance, Australia *Enabling Best Practice in Public Health Policy for Commercial Infant and Toddler Food*
	SHORT TALK: **Delaram Ghodsi**, Assistant Professor, National Nutrition and Food Technology Research Institute, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Islamic Republic of Iran *Challenges of Implementing the Law Prohibiting the Advertisement of unhealthy Foods to children in Iran*
	CHAIR: **Teresa Holmberg**, Head of Implementation and Partnerships, Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:15	**SESSION 4: Understanding the system and interplay of factors related to childhood obesity**
	INVITED SPEAKER: **Nick Cavill**, Honorary Professor, Institution, University of Bath, United Kingdom *Understanding the system and interplay of factors related to childhood obesity*
	INVITED SPEAKER: **Charlotte Klinker**, Group Leader, Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen, Denmark *Implementing Participatory Systems Approaches in Education to Support Student Well-Being and Healthy Weight: Insights from 13 Danish Sites*
	INVITED SPEAKER: **James Nobles**, Reader of Public Health, Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom *Compounded Complexity: The What, the Why, the How of Systems Approaches for Obesity Prevention*
	Brief summary discussion
	CHAIR: **Steve Allender**, Distinguished Professor, Deakin University, Australia

15:15 - 17:00	**POSTER SESSION 1**
17:00 - 18:30	**SESSION 5: Interventions addressing weight**
	INVITED SPEAKER: Melissa Wake, Scientific Director GenV, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, United States *When more of the same isn't enough: Designing a population-scale platform to test new childhood obesity levers*
	INVITED SPEAKER: Michael I Goran, Professor, Children's Hospital Los Angeles & Univ Southern California, United States *Translating Research on Early Nutrition and Social Determinants into Community and Policy Solutions for Obesity, Chronic Disease and Healthy Development*
	SHORT TALK: Christina Mogensen, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Copenhagen, Denmark *Maternal High-Protein, Low-Glycemic Index Diet During Pregnancy Impairs Offspring Lipid Profile at 9 Years: Long-Term Findings from a Randomized Controlled Trial*
	SHORT TALK: Mina Nicole Händel, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark *Long-term effect of attending sports school compared to conventional schools on attained body composition and cardiometabolic health in early adulthood*
	CHAIR: Jane Martin, Executive Manager, Food for Health Alliance, Australia
18:30 - 20:00	**Dinner**
20:00 - 22:00	**PI Pub / Editors' Corner**
21:00 - 22:30	Transportation between Favrholm Campus and hotels

Wednesday 18 March 2026

09:00	Transportation to Favrholm Campus from hotels
09:30 - 10:45	**SESSION 6: Body-brain interaction 1**
	INVITED SPEAKER: David Burgner, Professor, Group Leader, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Australia *Obesity, Infection and Inflammation – a two-way street*
	INVITED SPEAKER: Jinyue Yu, Research Fellow, University College London, United Kingdom *Longitudinal Analysis of the Maternal Gut, Breast Milk, and Infant Gut Microbiota from One to Eight Weeks Postpartum: A Secondary Analysis of a Randomised Controlled Trial*
	SHORT TALK: Guiomar Masip, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red Fisiopatología de la Obesidad y Nutrición (CIBERObn), Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain *Proteomic associations with eating behaviors in young adults: a twin study*
	CHAIR: Berit Lilienthal Heitmann, Professor, The Parker Institute, Copenhagen University Hospital, Denmark
10:45 - 11:15	Break
11:15 - 12:30	**SESSION 7: Body-brain interaction 2**
	INVITED SPEAKER: Matthew Paul Gillum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark *Using human knockouts to understand the mechanisms appetite control across the lifespan*
	INVITED SPEAKER: Paula Brunton, Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, Scotland *Sex-dependent impacts of prenatal stress exposure on glucocorticoid regulation, metabolism and health*
	SHORT TALK: Yang Luo, Postdoctoral Researcher, Copenhagen Prospective Studies on Asthma in Childhood (COPSAC), Denmark *A Plasma Proteomics–Based Brain-Age Model Reveals Early-Life Biological Links Between Neurodevelopment and Obesogenic Behaviors*
	CHAIR: Nina Geiker, Head of Research, Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark
12:30 - 12:45	Group photo
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch
13:45 - 15:30	**POSTER SESSION 2**
15:30 - 16:00	Free time
16:00 - 22:00	**Social outing**
22:00 - 22:30	Transportation to Favrholm Campus and hotels

Thursday 19 March 2026

09:00	Transportation to Favrholm Campus from hotels
09:30 - 10:45	**SESSION 8: Causes and mechanisms of inequality in weight 1**
	INVITED SPEAKER: Danielle Gallegos, Professor, Queensland University of Technology, Australia *Econutrition and equity: Rethinking child health with systems thinking*
	INVITED SPEAKER: Arne Astrup, Board Member, Centre For Childhood Health, Denmark *Are we missing the low-hanging fruits in prevention of childhood obesity*
	SHORT TALK: Kathrine Hansen Bukkehave, PhD Student, The Parker Institute, Frederiksberg Hospital, Denmark *The association between periodontitis, obesity and systemic low-grade inflammation in the second trimester of pregnancy*
	CHAIR: Berit Lilienthal Heitmann, Professor, The Parker Institute, Copenhagen University Hospital, Denmark
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 - 12:30	**SESSION 9: PANEL DISCUSSION | Inequality in childhood weight**
	Carolyn Summerbell, Professor, Durham University, United Kingdom
	Melissa Wake, Scientific Director GenV, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Australia
	Michael I Goran, Professor, Children's Hospital Los Angeles & University Southern California, United States
	Stine Schramm, Senior Project Manager & Senior Researcher, Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark
	CHAIR: Jens Meldgaard Bruun, Professor, Aarhus University, Denmark
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	**SESSION 10: Causes and mechanisms of inequality in weight 2**
	INVITED SPEAKER: Lauren Lissner, Senior Professor, University of Gothenburg, Sweden *Prevention of obesity in European children – lessons learned from the IDEFICS intervention after 20 years*
	INVITED SPEAKER: Melissa Bateson, Professor of Ethology, Newcastle University, United Kingdom *Is food insecurity a cause of childhood obesity?*
	SHORT TALK: Raquel Martins, PhD Student, Lisbon School of Medicine, Portugal *Socioeconomic differences in children's response to a school-based intervention promoting fruit intake*
	SHORT TALK: Rafaela Rosario, Associate Professor, University of Minho, Portugal *Health Promotion for Equity: Intervention Effectiveness on Childhood Weight Status*
	CHAIR: Teresa Holmberg, Head of Implementation and Partnerships, Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 - 17:00	**SESSION 11: LEGO® Serious Play® Workshop**
	FACILITATOR: Camilla Norgaard Jensen, Chief Innovation Officer, Pioneer Centre for AI & DTU Skylab, Denmark
	CHAIR: Nina Geiker, Head of Research, Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark
17:00 - 17:15	**Closing remarks by the Chair of the Scientific Committee Nina Geiker**, Head of Research, Centre for Childhood Health, Denmark
17:15 - 19:00	Transportation between Favrholm Campus and hotels
19:00 - 19:30	**Welcome drinks at Favrholm Campus**
19:30 - 02:00	**Dinner & party**
22:30 - 02:00	Transportation between Favrholm Campus and hotels

Friday 20 March 2026

09:00	Check-out from hotels
09:00	Bus departure from hotels → Favrholm Campus → City Centre → Copenhagen Airport