IN THE NEWS

IOM Roundtable on Population Health Publishes Environmental Scan on the Role of Corporate America in Community Health and Wellness
A new Environmental Scan from the IOM Roundtable on Population Health shows that recognition by the business community of the need to invest in creating healthy communities is growing. Business leaders recognize the need for addressing social determinants of health in order to enhance the health and well-being of communities and to further the progress, success, competitiveness, and productivity of businesses. The paper identifies and describes organizations recognized as major players in improving community health; key documents and resources; the current state of affairs; and the business case or logic model for corporate investments in community health improvement.

George Washington University School of Public Health Announces New Milken Institute, to be led by Roundtable Consultant Bill Dietz
Following a record-breaking $80 million donation to George Washington University’s public health school, the school has appointed a former Centers for Disease Control official to lead its newest global research initiative.

Perspectives on the reported 43% drop in obesity prevalence among 2-5 year olds
In a study published in the February 26th issue of JAMA, Ogden et al. report a 43% decrease in the prevalence of obesity among 2-5 year olds. Since the release of the study, several articles have been published discussing the complex nature of the findings:
- The New York Times reports on the study’s release
- Roundtable co-vice chair Russ Pate critiques the New York Times coverage of the study
- Reuters summarizes critical responses to the data

The Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) announces new partners and commitments; First Lady Advocates for Home Cooking at PHA Summit
During the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA)’s March 13th and 14th Building a Healthier Future Summit, Dannon, Del Monte, Kwik Trip, FirstBIKE, Knowledge Universe, Nutri Ventures, Sodexo and four hospital systems announced new commitments to the childhood obesity fight. The Summit featured a keynote address from the First Lady, who highlighted the important role of family meals prepared at home in obesity prevention (see attached document with highlights from her remarks).

Bill Purcell Offers His Perspective on the role of Community Leaders in Obesity Solutions
In news coverage of a recent presentation, Roundtable Chair Bill Purcell provides historical context on current obesity prevention efforts, and discusses changes over time in the public dialogue concerning obesity. Purcell urged community leaders to continue efforts to address obesity and
encouraged elected officials and other leaders to enact wide-ranging improvements, from greater nutrition literacy to offering healthy community activities.

**Childhood Obesity: It's Time to Think Outside the Box**

In a [March 20th blog post](#), Roundtable member Lisa Gable of the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation (HWCF) highlights how Roundtable member BOKS Kids and the HWCF’s Together Counts program effectively engage leaders in schools and communities to drive progress in obesity prevention.

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America Report Makes Recommendations for Improving Health**

Recent conversations among Roundtable members and the Innovation Collaboratives have highlighted the [recommendations of RWJF’s January 2014 report](#), which explores how investing in early childhood, integrating community development and health, and linking health and health care can improve health for all Americans. Its findings and recommendations may help to inform the work of the Roundtable and the Innovation Collaboratives.

**IOM Food Forum is convening a public workshop this summer on Relationships between the Brain, Digestive System, and Eating Behavior**

On July 9-10, 2014 the Institute of Medicine’s Food Forum is convening a public workshop with the goal to better understand and gain cross-disciplinary perspectives on the current research in neurobiology, with a focus on the interaction between the brain, digestive system, and eating behavior. The workshop agenda will feature expert presentations and discussion to: 1) review current knowledge on the relationship between the brain and eating behavior, including the interaction between the brain and the digestive system and what is known about the brain’s role in eating patterns and consumer choice; 2) evaluate the current methods used to determine the impact of food on brain activity and eating behavior; and 3) identify gaps in our knowledge and to identify a theoretical framework for future research. *This workshop is open to the public at no charge. For those unable to attend in person, the workshop will be webcast live in its entirety. Registration is required. [View the agenda and register today](#)!*

**Stay Up to Date on Latino Health News**

Find the latest advances in Latino health—from a new bilingual cookbook to a new website to empower healthier communities for Latino kids—in [IHPR Noticias E-newsletter](#) from the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, which is directed by Roundtable member Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH. The E-newsletter contains local and national health disparities-related news, resources and events in Texas and across the nation.

**Submit News to be shared in the April Newsletter**

Roundtable members are invited and encouraged to share news with one another via this monthly newsletter platform, especially news that directly concerns your organization’s or your own work. Please submit news you would like to share to Sarah Ziegenhorn at sziegenhorn@nas.edu at any time. When sending materials, please include a brief summary (no more than five sentences). Accompanying photos or videos are welcomed.
Upcoming Roundtable on Obesity Solutions meeting dates:

- April 3-4, 2014
- June 24-25, 2014
- September 30-October 1, 2014
- January 13-14, 2015