



Joe Thompson, MD, MPH, is Director of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, Surgeon General for the State of Arkansas, and an Associate Professor in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Colleges of Medicine and Public Health. He has led vanguard efforts in planning and implementing health care financing reform, tobacco- and obesity-related health promotion and disease prevention programs. He was the lead architect of the Tobacco Settlement Act of 2000, at the forefront of Arkansas's nation-leading efforts against childhood obesity, and instituted the Arkansas Health Insurance Roundtable.

Dr. Thompson earned his medical degree from UAMS and Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He served as the RWJF Clinical Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Luther Terry Fellow in Preventive Medicine advising the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Health in Washington, DC, and the Assistant Vice President and Director of Research at the National Committee for Quality Assurance in Washington, DC. In 1997, he served as the First Child and Adolescent Health Scholar of the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (then the U.S. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research) before returning to Arkansas.

Margo Wootan is the director of nutrition policy at the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), one of the country's leading health advocacy organizations specializing in food, nutrition, and public health issues.

Dr. Wootan received her B.S. in nutrition from Cornell University and her doctorate in nutrition from Harvard University's School of Public Health. She has published scholarly papers in the areas of food marketing to children, nutrition labeling, nutrition education, social marketing, and fatty acid transport.

Wootan co-founded and coordinates the activities of the National Alliance



for Nutrition and Activity (NANA), a coalition of more than 275 national, state and local organizations. She is a member of the National Fruit and Vegetable Alliance Steering Committee.

Dr. Wootan led the successful effort to require *trans* fat labeling on packaged foods. She also is a national leader for improving school foods, requiring calorie labeling in fast-food and other chain restaurants, expanding nutrition and physical activity promotion and funding, and reducing junk-food marketing aimed at children.

Dr. Wootan is quoted regularly in the nation's major media.

Russell R. Pate, a native of upstate New York, was educated at Springfield College (B.S., 1968) and the University of Oregon (M.S., 1973; Ph.D., 1974). In 1974 he joined the faculty of the University of South Carolina where he now serves as Associate Vice President for Health Sciences and Professor in the Department of Exercise Science in the Arnold School of Public Health. During leaves of absence from the University of South Carolina, he has held positions at the University of Virginia and the Medical College of Georgia.

Pate is an exercise physiologist with interests in physical activity and physical fitness in children and the health implications of physical activity. He has published more than 170 scholarly papers and has authored or edited five books. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Heart Association, and several private foundations and corporations. He heads a research team that currently is supported by three grants from the National Institutes of Health.

He coordinated the effort that led to the development of the recommendation on Physical Activity and Public Health of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College of Sports Medicine. He served on the U.S. Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (2003-04) an Institute of Medicine panel that developed guidelines on prevention of childhood obesity.

