

About Our Speakers

John D. Hernried, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Course Director

Dr. John Hernried is a Board Certified Internist and has a special interest in Bariatric Medicine. He created, implemented and directed a multidisciplinary weight management program at Sutter Davis Weight Management Center in Davis, California. Since 1999, he has been the Medical Director of Obesity Treatment Center in Sacramento, a multidisciplinary obesity treatment program which combines VLCD's, medical therapy and intensive behavioral therapy. Dr. Hernried regularly lectures to physicians on the subject of obesity, and is on the Speakers Bureau for Abbott Labs and Roche Corporation.

Susan Keane Baker, M.H.A.

Susan Keane Baker is the author of *Managing Patient Expectations: The Art of Finding and Keeping Loyal Patients*. She developed her own coping skills for dealing with difficult people during her seventeen years as a hospital Vice President and seven years as Director of the Quality Initiatives program for a national PPO with nineteen million members. With Leslie Bank, she is the co-author of the guide, *I'm Sorry to Hear That ... Real Life Responses to Patients' 101 Most Common Complaints About Health Care*. Ms. Baker also serves as a Commissioner on the Connecticut State Commission on Medicolegal Investigations.

Judith S. Beck, Ph.D.

Judith Beck, Ph.D. is the Director of the Beck Institute for Cognitive Therapy and Research, a non-profit organization in suburban Philadelphia that trains mental health professionals, nationally and internationally, in Cognitive Therapy. She is also Clinical Associate Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. She received her doctoral degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1982, has written nearly 100 articles and chapters, and made hundreds of presentations, nationally and internationally, on a variety of topics related to cognitive therapy. In addition, she has written books on a cognitive behavioral approach to weight loss, including *The Beck Diet Solution* and two other books for consumers.

Jeanne Blankenship, M.S., R.D.

Jeanne Blankenship is a clinical bariatric nutrition expert and research dietitian. She has served as the nutrition coordinator for a large bariatric surgery program and is also well versed in clinical weight management and women's health issues. Jeanne served as the chair of the nutrition workgroup for the multi-center NIH Longitudinal Assessment of Bariatric Surgery (LABS) project. She is currently an evidence-based analysis reviewer in bariatric surgery for the ADA. She also founded and facilitates the Northern California Bariatric Nutrition Network and works as a consultant dietitian for pre- and post-surgical bariatric surgery clients.

R. Maurice Bonilla, M.D.

Dr. R. Maurice Bonilla is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics and Bariatrics. He has been involved in weight management since 1986, both in a hospital setting and in his private weight management practice. He was the Medical Director of St. Joseph's Hospital Weight Management program in Tampa, Florida for more than twenty years. Dr. Bonilla began his private practice in 1985 where he treats mildly overweight to severely obese patients. He treats complicated medical patients who are obese with a multidisciplinary medically-monitored VLCD. He has helped thousands of patients lose weight and keep it off. Formerly Chief of Internal Medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital, he has been listed in "Guide to Top Doctors" as well as "Best Doctors in Florida."

Christopher Case, M.D.

Dr. Christopher Case is a Board Certified Internal Medicine physician who specializes in Endocrinology. In his private practice, Jefferson City Medical Group, Dr. Case treats individuals with diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis, cholesterol disorders, and diseases of the thyroid, adrenal and pituitary glands. Dr. Case has conducted many research projects and as a result, is well published. His published work includes the following articles: Continuous Intravenous Glucagon, Impact of Weight Loss on the Metabolic Syndrome, The Neglected Americans with High Global Risk of CHD and Low LDL-C, and Prevalence of the Metabolic Syndrome in the United States.

Timothy Church, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Timothy Church is the Director of the Laboratory of Preventive Medicine, the John S. McIllhenny Endowed Chair of Health Wisdom, and Professor at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Louisiana. He earned his Medical Degree and Ph.D. from Tulane University School of Medicine. Dr. Church is also Board Certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine. He has authored more than 50 publications and has received awards for his research.



"I am reassured that we are on the right track with our vision. All speakers were exceptional. Great information for providers, but also for office staff. Very well-rounded conference. We will be happy to attend the 2nd Annual Conference next year! Fantastic! Thanks!"

Darla McKamey

2008 Robard Conference Attendee

Michele Cohen (Ask the Expert Presenter)

Michele Cohen has dedicated the last 14 years in the weight loss field helping professionals provide high quality, effective care. As Training Director of an international weight loss company, she was responsible for regional and center trainings of new hires, staff and managers; ongoing staff and manager productivity; and center and regional profit and loss statements. In her current position, she provides intensive support services to weight loss practices and centers nationwide in the areas of training, sales, marketing, business planning, and daily operations.

Marcia Cox

As President of Physicians Weight Management Centers, Marcia Cox offers a unique perspective to marketing bariatric care. Her background includes over 25 years of insurance experience, 5 years in human resources and 4 years in bariatric practice management and patient care. In 2000, Ms. Cox was awarded the Outstanding Service Representative of Arizona which was awarded by the Certified Insurance Counselors and Certified Insurance Representatives of Arizona. She is also a certified Obesity Help group support leader. She works with local community physicians and her own contracted providers to help patients achieve a healthy weight loss and maintain a healthy lifestyle. She has been instrumental in implementing pilot studies with municipalities and self-funded groups leading to exclusive contracts for bariatric care within these organizations. She is a seasoned presenter.

Wendy Gillett

Wendy Gillett is Founder and President of Caliluna Consulting, specializing in customer service training seminars and business consulting. With years of training/managing her staff, she received the hands-on experience necessary to coach others in the art of providing extraordinary customer service. Ms. Gillett is also co-host of a Southern California radio show and is owner of an online service offering everything needed to take customer service to the next level.

Sharon O'Melia Howard, R.D., M.S., C.D.E., F.A.D.A.

Sharon O'Melia Howard is a registered dietitian with more than 25 years of experience counseling individuals with nutrition issues such as diabetes, weight loss, eating disorders, bariatric nutrition and more. Sharon is a charter Fellow of the American Dietetic Association and a Certified Diabetes Educator. Ms. Howard has developed, with the help of a distinguished group of weight control professionals, the S.T.A.R. (Steps To Avoid Regain) Weight Maintenance program.

Peter Howard Jones, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Dr. Peter Jones is a Board Certified Internal Medicine physician. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, Section of Atherosclerosis and Lipid Research, at the Baylor College of Medicine and the Co-Director of the Lipid Metabolism and Atherosclerosis Clinic, also at Baylor. Dr. Jones's primary focus is his Medical Director position for three Methodist Wellness Services Weight Management programs. Methodist Wellness New

Direction program delivers a VLCD program that encompasses nutritional counseling, behavior modification and wellness, as well as a strong maintenance component. An accomplished speaker, Dr. Jones has made numerous presentations at national and international symposia and has published more than 80 clinical abstracts, articles and textbook chapters.

Robert Kushner, M.D.

Dr. Robert Kushner is a Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Clinical Director of the Northwestern Comprehensive Center on Obesity in Chicago. After receiving his medical degree and finishing his residency in Internal Medicine at Northwestern University, he earned his Masters Degree in Clinical Nutrition and Nutritional Biology at the University of Chicago. Dr. Kushner is the immediate past President of The Obesity Society. In 2002, Dr. Kushner was the recipient of the distinguished Dannon Institute Award for Excellence in Medical/Dental Nutrition Education presented by the American Society for Clinical Nutrition. Dr. Kushner has authored over 160 articles, reviews and book chapters covering medical nutrition, medical nutrition education, and obesity. He is author of *Dr. Kushner's Personality Type Diet and Counseling Overweight Adults: The Lifestyle Patterns Approach and Toolkit*.

Marcia Proffitt (Ask the Expert Presenter)

Marcia Proffitt's 10 years of operating a weight loss center has given her in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience with daily operations, growing center census, performing patient orientations, and creating and executing a comprehensive marketing plan. It is this experience that has assisted her for the past eight years in her current position as a Sales Manager for a leading provider of weight loss solutions. In this position, Ms. Proffitt provides a variety of consulting services for medically supervised weight loss centers including start up assistance, ongoing operational advice, staff training, and marketing and sales support.

Jay Satinsky (Ask the Expert Presenter)

As a Business Development Manager for over 20 years, Jay Satinsky has supported hundreds of weight loss professionals at independent operations, hospital networks and bariatric physician offices to start and grow their businesses exponentially. He has successfully expanded one-location businesses into larger multi-facility chains. Mr. Satinsky has the unique ability to quickly assess the individual needs of each business, create appropriate tools that address those needs, and implement a strategy that overcomes challenges aiding each business in accomplishing its goals.

Tracy Smith, R.D.

As the Managing Behaviorist for the Obesity Treatment Center in Sacramento, California for the past eight years, Ms. Smith has successfully assisted her patients with weight loss through behavior modification. She provides patient education, facilitates group counseling sessions and monitors patient progress throughout their treatment. In her previous role as a dietitian, she has provided nutritional assessments and dietary counseling to patients at risk. Ms. Smith has also spent much of her time over the past fifteen years conducting nutrition education courses.

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Seating is limited.**