

Rebecca Stoltzfus

Web Bio

Information

Biography

Biographical Statement

Rebecca Stoltzfus holds a Ph.D. in Human nutrition from Cornell University (1992) and a B.A. in Chemistry from Goshen College (1984). From 1992-2002, she was assistant and then associate professor in the Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she continues to hold an adjunct appointment. She joined the Division of Nutritional Sciences in 2002 as an associate professor and was promoted to professor in 2005.

Her research focuses on the causes and consequences of malnutrition in women and children in developing countries. She currently directs the Program in International Nutrition, and Cornell's Global Health Program on the Ithaca campus. She is also serving as the Provost's Fellow for Public Engagement

Department Website Summary

[Rebecca Stoltzfus, professor of Nutritional Sciences, discuss the function of red blood cells in this CNN article about fatigue](#)

Professional

Current Professional Activities

- Program Advisory Committee, Helen Keller International, 2007-present.
- Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study, Expert Group Core Member in the Child Nutrition Expert Group, 2008—present
- Advisory Board member, "Improving maternal, neonatal and child health outcomes through better designed nutrition policies and programs", a project of Emory University, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. 2010-2011
- Invited Member, WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group, which is advising the WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development (NHD) to develop a new set of nutrition recommendations in 2010 - 2011

- Invited commentator in the Symposium "Tackling Iron Deficiency and Anemia in Infants and Young Children in Malaria-Endemic Areas: Moving from Controversy towards Guidance for Safe, Effective and Feasible Policies and Programs" held at Experimental Biology 2011
- Co-organizer (with Purnima Menon) and speaker in the Symposium "Building Convergence among Scientific, Programmatic, and Policy Communities Working on Childhood Undernutrition in Developing Countries" to be held at Experimental Biology 2011
- Fellow, Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Mysore India. (2011—present)
- Nutrition Scientific Advisory Group of the New York Academy of Sciences. 2011—present.
- Nutritional Steering Committee for "Global Enterics Multi-Center Study (GEMS)," a project of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2011—present).
- Faculty Fellow, Cornell Center for a Sustainable Future, 2009—present

Research

Current Research Activities

The goal of my research program to improve the health and well being of women and children in low-income communities by improving their nutritional status. Current major research projects include:

- Development and evaluation of strategies to support infant feeding for babies of HIV-infected mothers in Haiti (in collaboration with GHESKIO Centers).
- EBF Tozodii (*Exclusive breastfeeding, and then what?*), a nutrition and sanitation intervention for HIV-exposed infants in rural Zimbabwe (in collaboration with ZVITAMBO Project, Harare Zimbabwe, and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health).
- Sanitation & hygiene and nutrition interventions (SHINE): effect on tropical enteropathy, anemia and growth in young children in rural Zimbabwe. A

cluster-randomized factorial trial. (in collaboration with ZVITAMBO Project, Harare Zimbabwe, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and McGill University).

- Critical assessment of the sustainability of community-based programs to improve child nutrition in Peru (in collaboration with the International Nutrition Institute, Peru)
- Maternal capacities for child care: development of an interdisciplinary framework (in collaboration with ZVITAMBO Project, Harare Zimbabwe, and Alive & Thrive Project, Bangladesh)
- Haiti national nutrition assessment and planning (in collaboration with UNICEF, Haiti)

Extension

Current Extension Activities

None

Education

Education

Ph.D. 1992 - Cornell University, Human Nutrition

M.S. 1988 - Cornell University, Human Nutrition

B.A. 1984 - Goshen College, Chemistry

Courses

Courses Taught

NS 3060 Nutrition Problems in Developing Nations
NS 2060 Introduction to Global Health
NS 6980 International Nutrition Seminar
NS 4620 Global Health Predeparture Seminar Tanzania
NS 4630 Global Health and Policy Issues in Tanzania
NS 7030 Seminar in Nutritional Sciences (team instructor)

Websites

Related Websites

[Division of Nutritional Sciences](#)
[Global Health Program](#)

Administration

Administrative Responsibilities

Director, Program in International Nutrition
Director, Global Health Program, Ithaca campus

Publications

Selected Publications

Kim SS, Habicht

JP, Menon P, Stoltzfus RJ. How Do Programs Work to Improve Child Nutrition? Program Impact Pathways of Three Nongovernmental Organization Intervention Projects in the Peruvian Highlands. IFPRI Discussion Paper, July 2011.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01105.pdf>

Stoltzfus RJ. Iron interventions for women and children in low-income countries. *J Nutr* 2011 Apr;141:756S-62S.

Pelletier DL, Frongillo EA, Gervais SG, Hoey L, Menon P, Ngo T, Stoltzfus RJ, Ahmed AMS, Ahmed T. Nutrition agenda setting, policy formulation and implementation: lessons from the mainstreaming nutrition initiative. *Health Policy Planning* 2011 Feb 3. [Epub ahead of print]

Paul KH, Muti M, Khalfan SS, Humphrey JH, Caffarella R, Stoltzfus RJ. Beyond food insecurity: how context can help improve complementary feeding interventions. *Food Nutr Bull* 2011; 32:244-53.

Mbuya MNN, Humphrey JH, Majo F, Chasekwa B, Jenkins A, Israel-Ballard K, Muti M, Paul KH, Madzima RC, Moulton LH, Stoltzfus RJ. Heat treatment of expressed breast milk is a feasible option for feeding HIV-exposed-uninfected children after 6 months of age in rural Zimbabwe. *J Nutr* 2010; 140:1481-8.

Young SL, Khalfan SS, Farag T, Kavle J, Rasmussen KM, Peltó GH, Tielsch J, Stoltzfus RJ. Association of pica with anemia and gastrointestinal distress among pregnant women in Zanzibar, Tanzania. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 2010; 83: 144-51.

Ag Ayoya M, Garza C, Speikermann-Brouwer GM, Stoltzfus RJ, Nemeth E, Habicht JP, Ganz T, Rawat R, Traoré. Alpha-1-acid glycoprotein, hepcidin, C-reactive protein and serum ferritin are correlated in anemic school children with *Schistosoma haematobium*. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2010;91:1784-90.

Rawat R, Humphrey JH, Mutasa K, Stoltzfus RJ. Predicting adverse HIV related outcomes in a resource limited setting: use of the inflammation marker alpha-1-acid glycoprotein. *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses* 2010; 26:1171-4.

Kung'u JK, Wright VJ, Haji HJ, Ramsan M, Goodman D, Tielsch JM, Bickle QD, Raynes JG, Stoltzfus RJ. Adjusting for the acute phase response is essential to interpret iron status indicators among young Zanzibari children prone to chronic malaria and helminth infections. *J Nutr* 2009; 139: 2124-31.

Rawat R, Humphrey JH, Ntozini R, Mutasa K, Iliff PJ, Stoltzfus RJ. Elevated iron

stores are associated with HIV disease severity and mortality among post-partum women in Zimbabwe. *Public Health Nutr* 2009; 12:1321-9.

Kung'u J, Boor KJ, Ame SM, Ali NS, Jackson AE, Stoltzfus RJ. Bacterial populations in complementary foods and drinking-water in households with children 10-15 months old in Zanzibar, Tanzania. *J Health Pop Nutr* 2009 27:41-52.

Kung'u JK, Goodman D, Haji HJ, Ramsan M, Wright VJ, Bickle QD, Tielsch JM, Raynes JG, Stoltzfus RJ. Early helminth infections are inversely related to anemia, malnutrition and malaria and are not associated with inflammation in 6-23 month old Zanzibari children. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 2009; 81:1062-70.

Paul KH, Dickin KL, Ali NS, Monterrosa EC, Stoltzfus RJ. Soy-rice based processed complementary food improves nutrient intakes in infants and is equally acceptable with or without added milk powder as assessed using Trials of Improved Practices in Pemba Island, Tanzania. *J Nutr* 2008; 138:1963-8.

Stoltzfus RJ. Research needed to strengthen science and programs for the control of iron deficiency anemia and its consequences in young children. *J Nutr* 2008; 138: 2542-6.

Tielsch JM, Khatri SK, Stoltzfus RJ, Katz J, LeClerq SC, Adhikan R, Mullany LC, Black R, Shrestha S. Effect of zinc supplementation on mortality in children aged 1-48 months: a community-based randomized placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet* 2007; 101:766-72.

Alatorre Rico J, Kordas K, Lopez P, Rosado JL, Garcia Vargas G, Cebrian ME, Stoltzfus RJ. The efficacy of iron and/or zinc supplementation on cognitive performance of lead-exposed Mexican school children: a randomized, placebo-controlled trial. *Pediatrics* 2006; 117:518-527.

Miller MF, Stoltzfus RJ, Iliff PF, Malaba LC, Mbuya NV, the ZVITAMBO study group, Humphrey JH. Impact of maternal and neonatal vitamin A supplementation and other postnatal factors on anemia in Zimbabwean babies: a prospective randomized study. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2006; 84:212-222.

Olney D, Pollitt E, Kariger P, Khalfan S, Ali N, Tielsch J, Sazawal S, Black R, Allen LH, Stoltzfus RJ. Iron supplementation with or without zinc reduces time to walking unassisted among Zanzibari infants 5-11 m