

Special Lecture by Dr. Joel Gittelsohn

Professor, Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins
Bloomberg School of Public Health

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 | 4:00–5:30 PM

Seminar Room 1, 2nd Floor, Faculty of Medicine Experimental
Research Building (教育研究棟 2階 第1セミナー室)

Title: *A Nutritional Anthropologist's Career in Public Health:
My Research Journey*



Abstract: In this introductory presentation, I will give an overview of my training, education and research work over the course of my career. I will emphasize some of the lessons learned, from both successes and failures, over 35 years of research and collaboration in the field of public health nutrition. Most of my work has centered on developing, implementing and evaluating intervention trials to improve healthy food access and consumption, through education, environmental and (more recently) policy change. This work has taken place in schools, food stores, food pantries, restaurants, and other community settings – each possesses its own strengths and weaknesses.

Biography: Dr. Joel Gittelsohn is an esteemed Professor in the Center for Human Nutrition, Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a leader in public health nutrition and medical anthropology. With a Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology, and a M.S. in Nutritional Sciences, and over 380 peer-reviewed publications to his name, Dr. Gittelsohn is dedicated to the primary prevention of chronic diseases, particularly within underserved communities. His extensive body of work has led to innovative interventions aimed at transforming food environments and enhancing nutritional education, effectively addressing obesity and diabetes in Indigenous populations, including Native American, First Nations, Inuit, and Pacific Islander communities, as well as in urban settings like Baltimore City.

Dr. Gittelsohn's research is characterized by a comprehensive approach that integrates cultural information, educational and environmental approaches, and systems science methods to model the impacts of policy changes on urban food environments, driving significant improvements in dietary habits. He has successfully led multiple intervention trials that span various settings, including schools, corner stores, restaurants, churches and community organizations, demonstrating marked success in enhancing food purchasing and consumption behaviors. His recent endeavors include the development of digital applications to improve access to healthy foods, emphasizing sustainability and community engagement. Currently, Dr. Gittelsohn leads several significant grants, including initiatives to improve food access in collaboration with local food pantries, independently owned restaurants, and small retail stores.

*No registration required for the lecture. **RSVP to join the post-lecture reception (6 PM at Capo Pellicano, ¥6,000 per person) by September 15.***

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