

Joseph E. Donnelly, EdD, FACSM is a Professor and Director of the Division of Physical Activity and Weight Management in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Donnelly studies physical activity within the context body weight regulation and energy balance, academic performance and cognition, and the application to physical and intellectual disabilities.

Dr. Donnelly earned a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education from Davis and Elkins College, a Master of Science in Exercise Physiology from Eastern Illinois University, and a Doctorate of Education in Exercise Physiology from West Virginia University. He has held professional appointments at Blackburn College, the University of Nebraska-Kearney, the University of Kansas, and currently at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Dr. Donnelly is a prolific scholar in the field of exercise science and sports medicine with over 200 publications. His early contributions focused on developing novel methods for assessing body composition and this evolved to research to pioneering the contribution of exercise for weight loss and weight loss maintenance. This research expanded to the broader areas of energy balance to understand the interplay between energy expenditure and energy intake, and to explore variability in body weight regulation in response to exercise. Within this context Dr. Donnelly has developed and implemented a clinical weight management program to translate research findings into improved patient care. His contributions have further included physical activity in school-based interventions to examine novel interventions to enhance physical activity across the curriculum and to explore effects on student learning and cognition. Dr. Donnelly has also been a pioneer in applying physical activity and interventions for individuals with physical, developmental, and intellectual disabilities.

Across his career Dr. Donnelly has been a mentor to many young professionals who have evolved into leading scientists and scholars. Dr. Donnelly has been an active member of the American College of Sports Medicine and has served in leadership roles that have strengthened and enhanced the breadth of the organization. This has included authoring ACSM Position Stands and serving as the inaugural editor-in-chief for the ACSM Translational Journal.

These contributions to research and scholarship, clinical care, and education and service to exercise science and sports medicine culminate in the recognition of Dr. Donnelly as the recipient of the 2024 Citation Award of the American College of Sports Medicine.