

Dr. Andrea Kriska has made unparalleled contributions to three areas: (1) scientific contributions to the field of physical activity and health; (2) commitment towards diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice (DEISJ); and (3) mentorship of students and early career faculty.

Dr. Kriska is a preeminent investigator in diabetes research. Her impact is unparalleled – to our knowledge, there is no one in exercise science who has had a profound impact in all these areas: development of tools for measuring physical activity; investigation of the role of physical activity in type 2 diabetes prevention (in particular, in minority populations); and translation of lifestyle interventions to the community setting. Dr. Kriska led the physical activity component of the research that established the effectiveness of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) lifestyle intervention as well as efforts to translate DPP as a large-scale public health initiative. This work on DPP represents an accomplishment of singular significance to our field of physical activity and public health: DPP is possibly the field's best model for demonstrating how an evidence-based lifestyle intervention (with goals of physical activity and weight loss) can be translated to broad societal application. Dr. Kriska and colleagues laid the foundational work in creating the DPP intervention and, more importantly, in creating tools to translate the DPP into non-research diverse settings.

Dr. Kriska has been a staunch proponent for organizational change to enhance DEISJ. She was an influencer of organizational DEISJ and long ago set the standard for what ACSM could be in terms of scientists who are not only diverse in area of expertise, but also demographic representation. In 2006, Dr. Kriska was a member of the Ad hoc Committee on Diversity Action. She was the quiet strength who helped to convince the Board of Trustees that DEISJ initiatives were imperative to enhancing ACSM organizational success leading the Board in 2008 to approve the Leadership and Diversity Training Program (LDTP). Her efforts with ACSM and those within her own university helped set standards for other organizations with respect to DEISJ. Incredibly, this was almost 20 years ago... decades before DEISJ issues became topical in all areas of science.

Dr. Kriska is a wonderful and caring colleague and friend who goes out of her way to help others – she is revered by her former students and mentees and was awarded the University of Pittsburgh's Provost Award for Excellence in Mentoring. A former student, now a junior faculty member wrote: "I am proud to have been a student of Dr. Andrea Kriska. She challenged me to be a better student and ultimately, a better scientist." A former mentee, now a senior faculty member had this to say: "I can speak personally about her excellence and commitment as a mentor, having personally benefited from Dr. Kriska's scientific and personal guidance for 20 years. Dr. Kriska took me to my first ACSM meeting in 2005 in Nashville, Tennessee, and I will be forever grateful to her for introducing me to this wonderful organization that has also become my professional home. Dr. Kriska encouraged me not only to participate in symposiums and research presentations ACSM meetings, but also to follow her example and get involved ACSM diversity efforts and leadership."

In summary, Dr. Kriska has directly and indirectly influenced literally thousands of current and future research scientists and health/fitness professionals. She is a credit to women, to ACSM, and to our profession.