

## Upcoming Seminar

### A Dynamic Economic Model of Weight Change

**Edward Norton, PhD**

**Professor, Department of Health Management & Policy and the Department of Economics,  
University of Michigan**

**November 11, 2009 from 3:00-4:30pm  
Carlson School of Management, Room 2-206**

The ongoing debate about the economic causes of obesity has focused on the changing relative prices of diet and exercise. This paper uses a model that explicitly includes time and spatially varying macro-level urbanization and price measures as instruments to correct for the endogenous and autocorrelated choices of diet, physical activity, drinking, and smoking on weight. We apply a dynamic panel system GMM estimation model on longitudinal (1991–2006) data from China and found that among adult men in China, roughly 10% of weight gain was due to declines in physical activity, while another 10% was due to higher fat intake.

Edward C. Norton joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in 2008 as professor in both the School of Public Health's Department of Health Management and Policy and in the Department of Economics. He is an associate director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research at the University of Michigan. In addition to his affiliations with the University of Michigan, Dr. Norton is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research in the Health Economics Program. Before coming to Michigan, he taught at UNC at Chapel Hill and at Harvard Medical School. His research interests in health economics include long-term care and aging, and econometrics. In 2003, UNC at Chapel Hill awarded him the Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement by Young Faculty.

**This seminar is jointly sponsored with the Department of Health Policy and Management,  
School of Public Health**

**This seminar is free and open to the public, RSVP is not required.  
Please email [mili@umn.edu](mailto:mili@umn.edu) with any questions.**