

Troen – Brief Biosketch

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Professor Troen is a member of The Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment, of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he directs the Nutrition and Brain Health Laboratory and teaches in the School of Nutrition Science and the School of Public Health. He is the Chair of the MSc Program in Food and Nutrition Science.

Troen's research spans basic *in vivo* Nutrition Science, epidemiology and clinical trials. Building on this broad expertise, he is increasingly engaged with Nutrition and Public Health policy-research and advocacy, focusing on strengthening the evidence for policy interventions with formative and evaluative research, and on the need to integrate and harmonize Food and Nutritional Security initiatives across government agencies and policies.

For many years his basic research was concerned with clarifying the biological connection between dietary quality and brain health. However, for many people, putting nutritional insight into practice is not simply a matter of life-style choices, but is driven by both life-circumstances and by the food environment. Prevalent food insecurity is a key driver of ill health, deprivation and economic harm worldwide, including in High-Income Countries in Europe and Israel. Evidence-based policy interventions are essential to improve the nutritional security, welfare, health and resilience of individuals and nations, to enhance the quality of the food system, and to ensure that it is fair, safe and sustainable. Therefore, Troen's evolving research interests and public service, aim to improve Israeli food-policy reform and anti-obesity legislation, micronutrient fortification and food security. He is particularly interested in how Israeli policies affect disparities in diet and health that correspond to socioeconomic and ethnic differences in food insecurity, and how to integrate different levels of policy instruments to achieve system-wide improvement in availability and access to health-promoting and environmentally sustainable food.

He has served on several government committees on nutrition, health and food security, including the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute steering committee for evaluating the Israeli government's front of package (FOPL) food labelling policy; the Surveys and Research committee of the National Nutritional Security Council; and the Israel Ministry of Health's committee on micronutrient fortification. Internationally, he is Israel's representative to the Iodine Global Network (IGN) and a Member of World Federation of Public Health Associations (WHFPA) working group on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

In his capacity as an associate member the Israel Association of Public Health Physicians, Troen has provided expert testimony on food policy and nutritional security to Knesset (parliamentary) oversight committees including to the Health Labor and Welfare Committee, Finance Committee, Interior Committee, Special Committee on Child Rights, Special Committee on the coronavirus pandemic and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee. Among his activity, he has led a civil society position paper submitted to Israel's National Security Council on national food security needs in the wake of the pandemic; Led a stakeholder roundtable on food security in the framework of Israel's National Food System Dialogs in preparation for the 2021 UN World Food Summit; and organized a national conference on micronutrient deficiencies in Israel, an international webinar and conference on Food Security for the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and a forthcoming Batsheva de Rothschild workshop on food security with support from the Israel Academy.

Troen's current research relevant to the proposed research activity includes studies on the state of food insecurity and policy interventions in Israel; Evidence-based evaluation of micronutrient approaches to food fortification in Israel; Behavioral and choice-architecture research using eye-tracking technology, econometric data, consumer surveys and field work to evaluate the Israeli Front of Package Labeling and the mechanisms influencing consumer health-choices; Collaborative economic evaluation modelling the impact of Agricultural policy to increase Israeli food sovereignty on consumer welfare and dietary diversity at the national level; A global health pilot project of the impact of irrigation and nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Zambia.

Troen received his doctorate (DPhil) from Oxford University in 2001 and his BSc from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1996. Prior to returning home to join the Hebrew University in 2010, he was on faculty at the Freidman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and the Jean Mayer United States Department of Agriculture Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, in Boston, Massachusetts.