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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Physician Speaks About Building Healthy, Sustainable Communities May 18 at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly's STRIDE Center will host a nationally-known physician and panel of local government and health speakers May 18 to discuss environmental and economic factors behind America's obesity epidemic and community changes needed to combat it. The event is free and open to the public and will be held on Wednesday, May 18 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Spanos Theatre at Cal Poly.

Richard Jackson, M.D., M.P.H., and chair of Environmental Health Sciences at the UCLA School of Public Health, will speak on "Confronting the Crisis, Crash and Collapse: Creating Co-beneficial Solutions for Healthy Communities, Economic Growth, and Sustainable Resources." His lecture will be followed by a panel discussion with university, agriculture and San Luis Obispo County government officials, and a question and answer session.

Panelists include Cal Poly Professor and STRIDE Center Director Ann McDermott; San Luis Obispo County Health Officer Penny Borenstein, M.D., M.P.H.; County Supervisor Jim Patterson; and Bill Spencer, co-owner of Windrose Farms. Chair of the County Board of Supervisors, Adam Hill, will offer introductory remarks. KSBY Anchor and Cal Poly Professor Richard Gearhart will moderate the panel discussion.

During his career, Jackson focused on the impact of the environment on health, particularly in relation to children. Much of his work has concentrated on how the "built environment," such as architecture and urban planning, affects health.

Jackson recently served on the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects, and he has also chaired the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health. He is currently conducting policy analyses of environmental impacts on health ranging from toxicology, chemical body burdens, terrorism, sustainability, climate change, urban design and architecture. He is also developing policy analyses in how farm, education, housing and transportation policies affect health.

The event is co-sponsored by Cal Poly's Center for Sustainability in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, and the County of San Luis Obispo.

For more information about this event, contact Cal Poly's STRIDE Center at [stride@calpoly.edu](mailto:stride@calpoly.edu) or 805-756-0673.

[About STRIDE:](#)

Cal Poly' STRIDE (Science Through Translational Research in Diet and Exercise) Center is dedicated to promoting healthy weight across the lifespan. It is based in the College of Science and Mathematics. Find out more at <http://stride.calpoly.edu>

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