

## **DR. STEPHANIE ATKINSON**

Dr. Stephanie Atkinson is Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Associate Chair of Pediatrics, Research, and Associate Member, Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences and a member of the McMaster Medical Sciences Graduate Faculty in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Dr. Atkinson holds an appointment as Special Professional Staff in The Children's Hospital of the Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation through which she acts as clinical consultant for nutritional problems in pediatrics.

Dr. Atkinson directs an internationally recognized research program in pediatric nutrition and bone metabolism particularly pertaining to prematurely born infants and children with bone disorders secondary to pediatric diseases or drug therapy. Her research has elucidated the steroid drug-induced perturbations in the growth hormone-insulin-like growth factor-I axis that result in arrest of statural and skeletal growth in premature infants and children requiring steroid therapy (such as those with leukemia, cystic fibrosis, rheumatoid arthritis and nephrosis) and also in children on anti-epileptic therapy. Other areas of current research include a longitudinal birth cohort study to investigate early determinants of risk of obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes in children; and investigations of "late effects" on body composition and bone mass in former premature infants and survivors of pediatric cancers or epilepsy. Dr. Atkinson has served in major professional leadership positions as member of the inaugural Governing Council of The Canadian Institutes for Health Research from 2000 to 2005, as an Institute of Medicine (IOM)-appointed member to the Food and Nutrition Board's Standing Committee for the Scientific Evaluation of the Dietary Reference Intakes (DRI) (1995-2005), as Chair of the Panel on Calcium and Related Nutrients, and more recently as member of several program planning committees on DRI topics. As an expert advisor she has worked with the NICHD (USA), the Life Science Research Office (USA), the Nutrition Committee of the Canadian Pediatric Society, the March of Dimes (USA), Health Canada, the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, as well as consultant to several multi-national nutritional/pharmaceutical companies. She currently serves as a Consultant on the Scientific Advisory Council and member of the Executive for Osteoporosis Canada, a member of the Grants Advisory Committee of the SickKids Foundation Board, and an executive member of the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientists' Program. In 2006-2007 she served as the first president of the new American Society of Nutrition (ASN). In 2007, she was elected to the ILSI North America Board of Trustees.