

Prof. Walt Thompson



Prof. Dr. Walt Thompson is Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research and a tenured Regents' Professor of Kinesiology and Health (College of Education & Human Development) and in the School of Public Health, and in the Department of Nutrition (College of Nursing and Health Professions) at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Prior to joining the faculty at Georgia State University in 1994, Dr. Thompson was a tenured Professor of Exercise Science and Director of the Laboratory for Applied Physiology at the University of Southern Mississippi and Program Director for the Center for Cardiac Rehabilitation and Health Enhancement at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago. He has also held adjunct academic appointments at Northeastern Illinois University and at George Williams College. Dr. Thompson has been the Chairman of the ACSM Committee on Certification and Education, Chairman of the ACSM International Relations Committee, Chairman of the ACSM American Fitness Index, Chairman of the ACSM Publications Committee, and the Founding Chairman of the Committee on Accreditation for the Exercise Sciences for the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

He has given lectures on health-related topics in 26 different countries (some multiple times) on the continents of Europe, Africa, North America, South America (including Central America), and Asia. Dr. Thompson also serves on the Sports Science Committee of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) where he is charged with the coordination of international research projects at all IPC sanctioned events (including the winter games in PyeongChang). Dr. Thompson has published over 125 research-based, peer-reviewed articles on many different topics and has received over \$35 million in funding for his various initiatives. He has authored or has edited 14 books. He served as Senior Editor for the 8th edition of ACSM's Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription. His current interests include wellness coaching as a primary mechanism for behavior change and the integration of sport and physical activity for people with disabilities. Because of his personal interest in at-risk kids living in the inner city, he serves as the Executive Director of the After-School All-Stars Atlanta, a comprehensive after-school initiative for middle school aged children now in 23 sites with an average daily attendance of 3000 and 1600 in summer academies. Dr. Thompson has served on the ACSM Board of Trustees and was twice elected to its Administrative Council. He now serves as the President of the American College of Sports Medicine.

