**Steven Trasino, PhD, MS**

*Associate Professor, Nutrition*

***Areas of Interest:*** Micronutrient and Phytochemical Metabolism in Obesity and Diabetes

***Degrees:*** PhD in Nutrition Science, University of Maryland; MS in Nutrition Science, Columbia University

Dr. Trasino completed his postdoctoral studies at Weill Cornell Medical College, where he studied the role of vitamin A in the pathophysiology and treatment of obesity, diabetes, and other metabolic disorders, as part of a five-year National Institutes of Health training grant in molecular pharmacology. During his training, he demonstrated that states of obesity lead to impaired utilization of dietary vitamin A, and a sub-clinical vitamin A deficiency undetectable by standard blood tests, a state coined “silent” vitamin A deficiency. In examining the effects of pro-vitamin A carotenoids and vitamin A on metabolic pathways involved in obesity and obesity-related cancers, Dr. Trasino has revealed a mechanism of how obesity-driven hormones and lipid metabolites act to disrupt vitamin A metabolism in tumor cells. These findings may have overarching consequences on how vitamin A requirements are determined and assessed in obese adults and children. His research also demonstrated that dietary and synthetic vitamin A analogues possess potent anti-diabetic properties, with the potential to also mitigate fatty liver disease and diabetic kidney disease. As a new faculty member in the Nutrition Program at Hunter College, Dr. Trasino will continue to pursue his research in the effects of obesity on the utilization and metabolism of vitamin A and other micronutrients.