

# Navigating Weight Management: Exploring Root Cause Pathophysiology and Holistic Strategies

*Melody L. Hartzler, PharmD, BCACP, BC-ADM, ABAAHP  
Owner/CEO PharmToTable, LLC  
Director of Clinical Services, Profero Team, LLC*



OPA Annual Conference & Trade Show  
April 5-7, 2024



# Disclosures

- Paid speaker:
  - NovoNordisk Diabetes
  - Abbott Diabetes
  - Medtronic Diabetes
- Owner of PharmToTable, LLC

# Learning Objectives

At the completion of this activity, the participant will be able to:

- Explain the root cause pathophysiology driving weight loss resistance and obesity
- Identify nutrition strategies beyond caloric restriction
- Discuss integrative and functional medicine approaches to a holistic weight management plan

# The Obesity Epidemic

41.9% of U.S.  
adults

1 in 6 youth

\$260.6  
billion/year  
medical costs

4 million  
deaths/year

Worldwide  
prevalence nearly  
tripled between  
1975 and 2016

# Obesity

- A state of chronic or low-grade systemic inflammation
- Metaflammation: obesity-related chronic low-grade inflammation and subsequent altered metabolism

BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Classification
18.5-24.9	Normal weight
25-29.9	Overweight
30-34.9	Class 1 Obesity
35-39.9	Class 2 Obesity
≥ 40	Class 3 Obesity

- “BMI vastly underestimates true obesity”
  - New policy by the American Medical Association advises that BMI be used in conjunction with other valid measures of risk such as, but not limited to, measurements of visceral fat, body adiposity index, body composition, relative fat mass, waist circumference, and genetic/metabolic factors

# Obesity is associated with:

- Type 2 diabetes
- High blood pressure
- Cardiovascular disease
- Stroke
- Arthritis
- Sleep apnea
- Cancer (endometrial, breast, ovarian, prostate, liver, gallbladder, kidney, colon)
- Fatty liver (MAFLD)
- Asthma
- Gout
- Kidney disease
- Fertility problems
- Sexual function problems
- Mental health problems

# Standard of Care

- Measurement of BMI and clinical assessment of weight-related complications are recommended to diagnose
- Goal of 5% to 10% weight loss within 6 months
- Lifestyle changes
  - “Eat less, exercise more”
    - Reduced-calorie healthy meal plan, physical activity, behavioral interventions
- Anti-obesity medications
- Bariatric surgery

# The Problem with Restrictive Dieting

- Meta-analysis by Anderson, et al.
  - More than half of lost weight is regained within 2 years
  - More than 80% of lost weight is regained by 5 years
- 1/3- 2/3 of dieters regain more weight than they lost on their diets



# Exercise Alone isn't Enough

- 150 minutes/week of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise typically produces little to no weight loss by itself
- Exercise shouldn't be the sole focus for weight loss
- Physical activity has a plethora of beneficial health effects and should always be recommended 😊

What's Missing?

Nutrition

Microbiome

Insulin  
Resistance

Hormone  
Imbalance

Chronic Stress

Inadequate  
Sleep

Nutrient  
Depletion

Obesogens

Mental  
Health/Trauma

# Nutrition

- Overconsumption of ultra-processed foods
  - Ultra-processed foods: “formulations mostly of cheap industrial sources of dietary energy and nutrients plus additives, using a series of processes” and containing minimal whole foods
  - Ultra-processed foods represent  $>1/2$  of all calories in the US diet and contribute nearly 90% of all added sugars
  - “Ultra-processed food products are usually packaged attractively and marketed intensively”
- Fewer people prepare meals at home
- Unhealthy food is often cheaper
- Nutrient decline in fruits, vegetables, and grains

# Addiction to Highly Processed Food

- University of Michigan National Poll on Healthy Aging
  - 13% met criteria for addiction to highly processed food in the past year
  - 44% indicated  $\geq 1$  symptoms of addiction to highly processed food
  - Most common symptoms:
    - intense cravings (24%)
    - inability to cut down intake despite a desire to do so (19%)
    - signs of withdrawal (17%)
  - Women  $> 2x$  as likely as men to meet criteria for addiction to highly processed food

This poll found that more than one in ten older adults met established criteria for an addiction to highly processed food. This is similar to, or may even surpass, the prevalence of addiction to other legal and easily accessible addictive substances, such as tobacco (10%) and alcohol (4%).

Ultraprocessed food consumption and risk of overweight and obesity:  
the University of Navarra Follow-Up (SUN) cohort study<sup>1,2</sup>

Raquel de Deus Mendonça,<sup>3,4,6</sup> Adriano Marçal Pimenta,<sup>3,5</sup> Alfredo Gea,<sup>3,7,8</sup> Carmen de la Fuente-Arrillaga,<sup>3,7,8</sup>  
Miguel Angel Martinez-Gonzalez,<sup>3,7-9</sup> Aline Cristine Souza Lopes,<sup>4</sup> and Maira Bes-Rastrollo<sup>3,7,8\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Navarra, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Pamplona, Spain; Departments of <sup>2</sup>Nutrition and <sup>3</sup>Maternal-Child Nursing and Public Health, School of Nursing, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; <sup>4</sup>CAPIES Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel Foundation, Ministry of Education of Brazil, Brasília, Brazil; <sup>5</sup>Navarra Health Research Institute, Pamplona, Spain; <sup>6</sup>Biomedical Research Center Network in Physiopathology of Obesity and Nutrition, Carlos III Health Institute, Madrid, Spain; and <sup>7</sup>Department of Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA

**ABSTRACT**

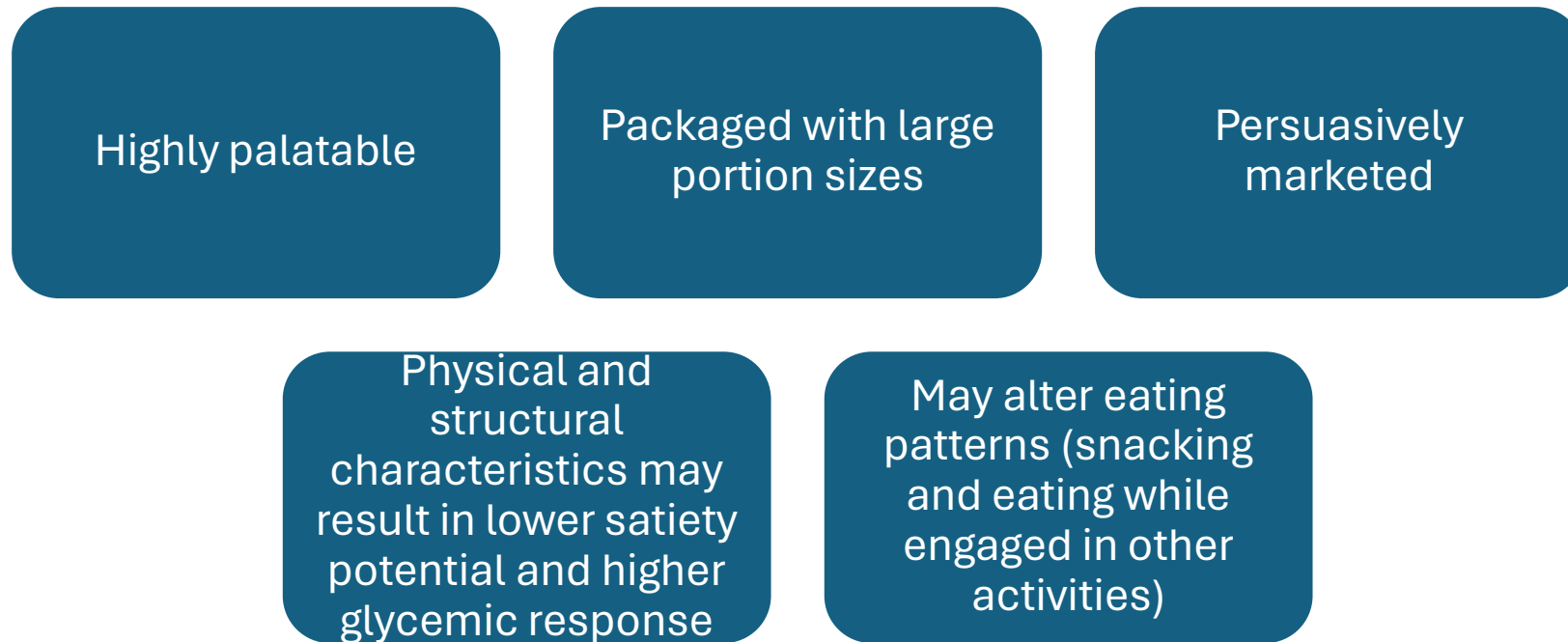
**Background:** Ultraprocessed food consumption has increased in the past decade. Evidence suggests a positive association between

were obese, and in the Eastern Mediterranean ~25% of women and 15% of men were obese (1). Changes in the food system continuously promote obesity.

- 8451 middle-aged Spanish university graduates
- Evaluated the association between ultra-processed food consumption and the risk of overweight and obesity
- Participants were initially not overweight or obese
- 8.9 years median follow-up
- Adults in the highest quartile of ultra-processed food consumption had a significantly higher risk of developing overweight/obesity than those in the lowest quartile

The results suggest that increased ultraprocessed food consumption is associated with a greater risk of overweight and obesity. Strategies for reducing the consumption of this group of foods, such as the maintenance of a traditional food culture and strengthening of the Mediterranean diet, should be encouraged as preventive approaches for obesity.

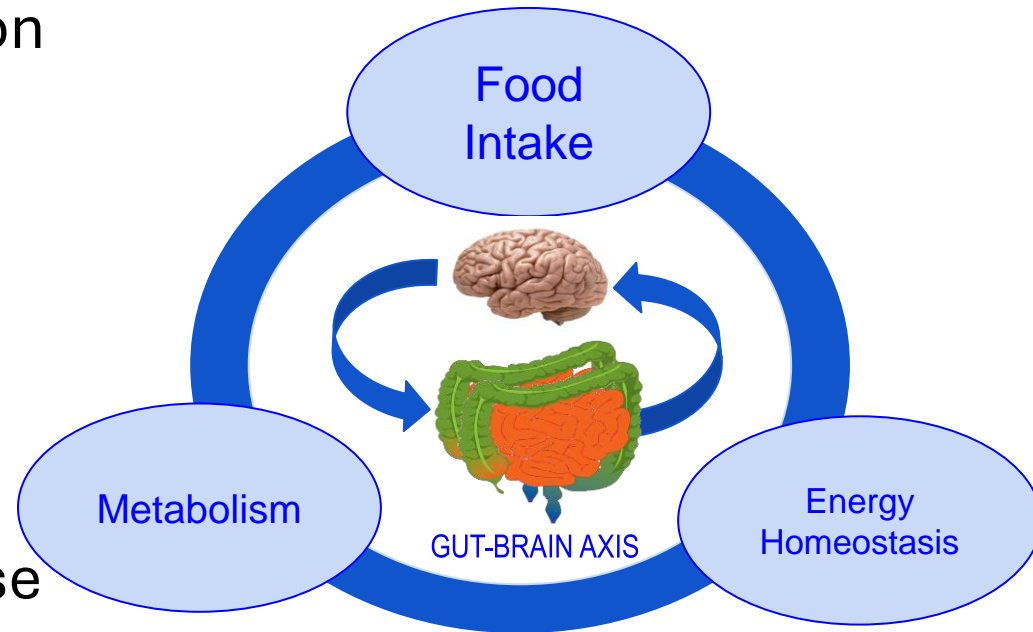
# Other potential mechanistic links between obesity and ultra-processed foods



# GIT Microbiome... an endocrine organ?

## Roles:

- Carbohydrate digestion
- Hormone synthesis
- Neurotransmitter production
- Vitamin synthesis
- Immune response modulation
- Inflammatory response modulation



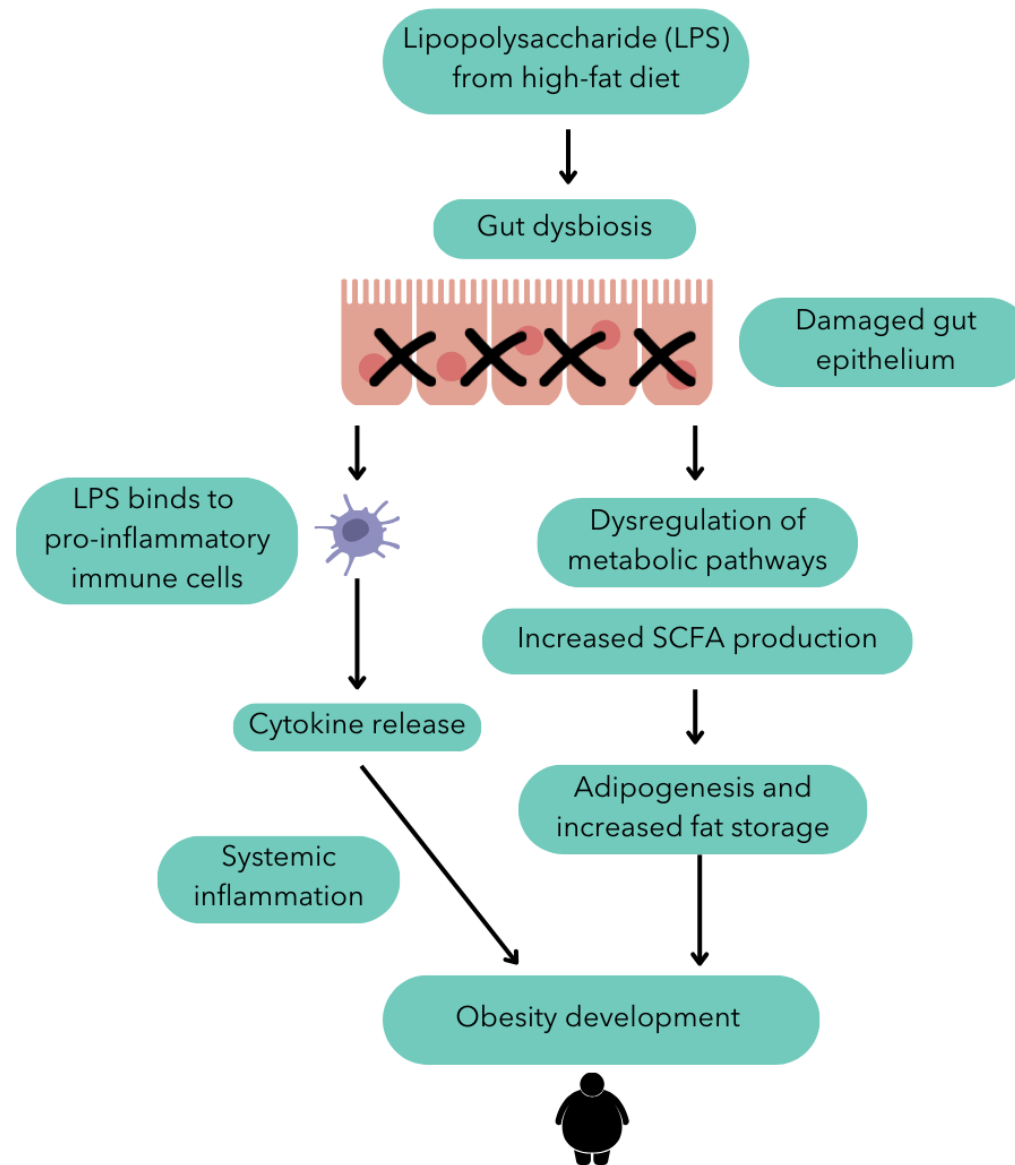


# Dysbiosis

- Lipopolysaccharide (LPS)
  - Highly studied component of gram-negative bacteria
  - Stimulates production of numerous inflammatory mediators
  - Leads to intestinal permeability & chronic inflammation
  - Linked to depression
- Dysbiosis
  - Increases intestinal permeability (IP)

# Obese v Lean Microbiome

- Significantly elevated Firmicutes:Bacteroidetes (F:B) ratio in obesity compared to lean people
- Subjects with low microbial gene richness (MGR) often exhibit chronic inflammation, poor insulin sensitivity and higher BMIs
- Bariatric surgery improves MGR



# FMT for Obesity Treatment?

- Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) being studied for weight loss
- Studies have shown slight improvements in insulin sensitivity, abdominal adiposity, and lipid metabolism but less effect on weight reduction

## Fecal microbial transplantation and fiber supplementation in patients with severe obesity and metabolic syndrome: a randomized double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 2 trial

[Valentin Mocanu](#), [Zhengxiao Zhang](#), [Edward C. Deehan](#), [Dina H. Kao](#), [Naomi Hotte](#), [Shahzeer Karmali](#), [Daniel W. Birch](#), [Kalutota K. Samarasinghe](#), [Jens Walter](#) & [Karen L. Madsen](#) 

*Nature Medicine* **27**, 1272–1279 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

**9381** Accesses | **94** Citations | **189** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

### Abstract

Fecal microbial transplantation (FMT) from lean donors to patients with obesity has been associated with metabolic benefits, yet results so far have been inconsistent. In this study, we tested the application of daily fiber supplementation as an adjunct to FMT therapy to

We provide proof of concept for the use of a single-dose oral FMT combined with daily low-fermentable fiber supplementation to improve insulin sensitivity in patients with severe obesity and metabolic syndrome.

## Effects of Fecal Microbiome Transfer in Adolescents With Obesity: The Gut Bugs Randomized Controlled Trial

[Karen S W Leong](#)<sup>1 2</sup>, [Thilini N Jayasinghe](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Brooke C Wilson](#)<sup>1</sup>, [José G B Derraik](#)<sup>1 2 3 4</sup>, [Benjamin B Albert](#)<sup>1 2</sup>, [Valentina Chiavaroli](#)<sup>1 5</sup>, [Darren M Svirskis](#)<sup>6</sup>, [Kathryn L Beck](#)<sup>7</sup>, [Cathryn A Conlon](#)<sup>7</sup>, [Yannan Jiang](#)<sup>8</sup>, [William Schierding](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Tommi Vatanen](#)<sup>1 9</sup>, [David J Holland](#)<sup>10</sup>, [Justin M O'Sullivan](#)<sup>1 2 11 12</sup>, [Wayne S Cutfield](#)<sup>1 2 3</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 33346848 PMCID: [PMC7753902](#) DOI: [10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.30415](#)

[Free PMC article](#)

### Abstract

**Importance:** Treatment of pediatric obesity is challenging. Preclinical studies in mice indicated that weight and metabolism can be altered by gut microbiome manipulation.

**Conclusion:** In this randomized clinical trial of adolescents with obesity, there was no effect of FMT on weight loss in adolescents with obesity, although a reduction in abdominal adiposity was observed. Post-hoc analyses indicated a resolution of undiagnosed metabolic syndrome with FMT among those with this condition.

# Insulin Resistance (IR)

- IR: decrease in the metabolic response of insulin-response cells to insulin.
- Skeletal Muscle: mutations that reduce the expression of insulin receptor or GLUT4, or any defect in either upstream or downstream signaling pathway would reduce glucose intake into the muscle resulting in a hyperglycemic state
- Adipose Tissue: Insulin acts on adipose tissue in two different ways: (1) stimulating glucose uptake and triglyceride synthesis; and (2) suppressing triglyceride hydrolysis and inducing the uptake of FFA and glycerol from circulation
  - When this tissue become resistant we see increase in FFA

# “Diabetesity”

- The strong pathophysiological link between obesity and diabetes
- Visceral adiposity → IR → diabetes

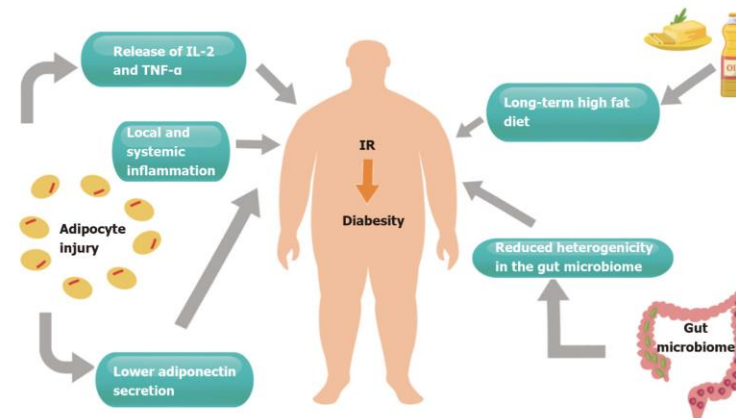


Figure 1 Pathophysiology of diabetes as evidenced by recent literature. IL-2: Interleukin-2; TNF-α: Tumor necrosis alpha; IR: Insulin resistance.

# Hormone Imbalance

Hypothyroidism

PCOS

Postpartum  
weight retention

Menopause



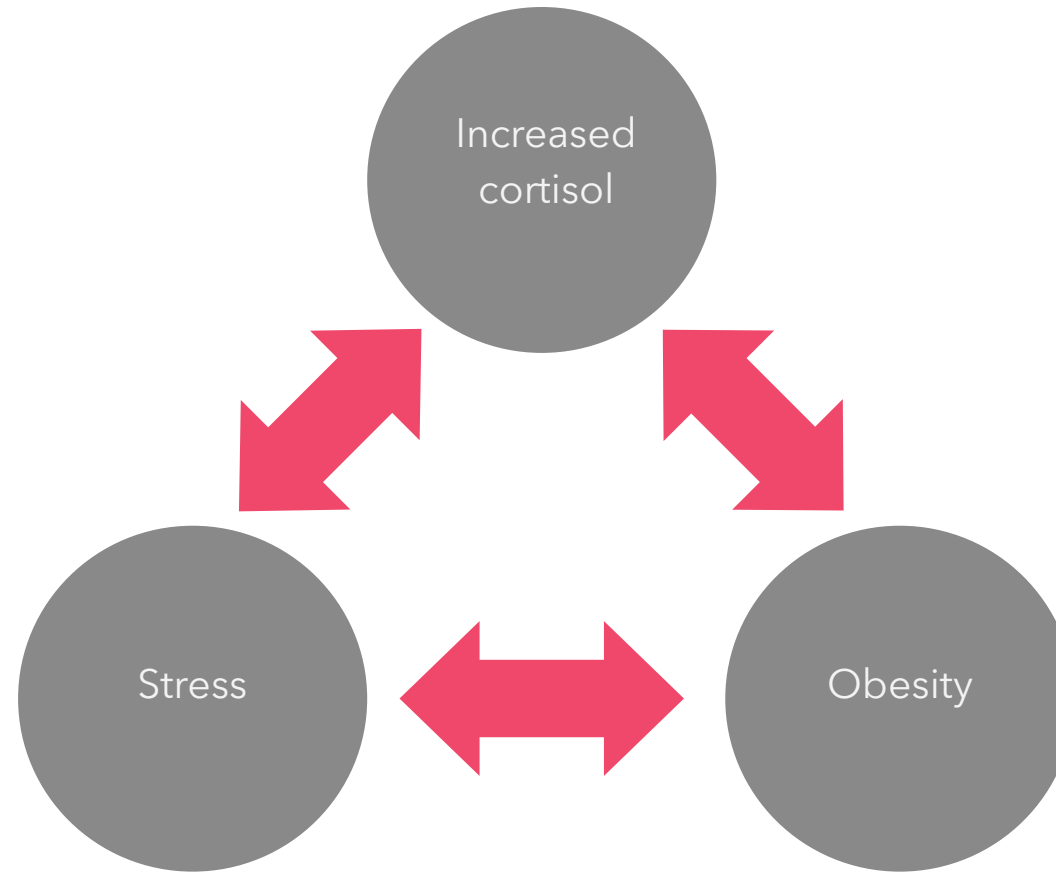
# Chronic Stress

- Cortisol:
  - causes a redistribution of white adipose tissue to the abdominal region
  - increases appetite (“comfort food”)
- Factors that enhance cortisol production
  - Chronic stress
  - Intake of high glycemic foods
  - Lack of sleep
- Obese individuals on average have higher hair cortisol levels
- Hair cortisol concentration (HCC) correlated to a more persistent obesity over time

# Possible Mechanisms

- Overactivity of the HPA axis
- Inflammatory markers
- Individual variation in enzymes that are involved in cortisol metabolism

# Vicious Cycle



# Interesting...

- Cross-sectional cohort study
- Sample of more than 140,000 adults from the general population of northern Netherlands

## **Associations Between Systemic and Local Corticosteroid Use With Metabolic Syndrome and Body Mass Index**

Mesut Savas,<sup>1,2</sup> Taulant Muka,<sup>3\*</sup> Vincent L. Wester,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Erica L. T. van den Akker,<sup>2</sup> Jenny A. Visser,<sup>1,2</sup> Gert-Jan Braunstahl,<sup>5,6</sup> Sandra N. Slagter,<sup>7</sup> Bruce H. R. Wolffenbuttel,<sup>7</sup> Oscar H. Franco,<sup>3</sup> and Elisabeth F. C. van Rossum<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Internal Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, 3000 CA Rotterdam, Netherlands; <sup>2</sup>Obesity Center CGG (Centrum Gezond Gewicht), Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, 3000 CA Rotterdam, Netherlands; <sup>3</sup>Epidemiology, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, 3000 CA Rotterdam, Netherlands; <sup>4</sup>Pediatrics, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, 3000 CA Rotterdam, Netherlands; <sup>5</sup>Pulmonology, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, 3000 CA Rotterdam, Netherlands; <sup>6</sup>Pulmonology, Sint Franciscus Gasthuis, 3045 PM Rotterdam, Netherlands; and <sup>7</sup>Endocrinology, University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, 9700 RB Groningen, Netherlands

**Context:** Use of systemic corticosteroids (CSs) may induce adverse cardiometabolic alteration potentially leading to obesity and metabolic syndrome (MetS). Although evidence is accumulating that local CSs have considerable systemic effects, their effects on cardiometabolic factors in the general population remain unclear.

Conclusions: Use of local CSs, particularly inhaled types, as well as systemic CSs, was associated with higher likelihood of having MetS, higher BMI, and other adverse cardiometabolic traits, especially among women. Because the inhaled agents are the main group of prescribed CSs, this might be a substantial risk to public health in case of a yet-to-be-proven causal relationship.

# Sleep

- One-third or more adults sleep less than 7 hours per night
- Short sleep duration (>5 or 6 h/day) is associated with a 38% absolute increase in the incidence of obesity compared with normal sleep duration
- Every hour a person must shift their internal clock to match the wakefulness period between weekends and weekdays resulted in an increased odds ratio of 1.3 of having metabolic syndrome in the general population
- Circadian disruption associated with obesity
  - High snacking frequency
  - Reduction in total daily sleep
  - Increased exposure to bright light during the night
- Ghrelin increases with sleep restriction; leptin decreases

# Malnutrition in Obesity

- Despite excessive energy consumption, obesity is associated with a shortage of individual microelements
- May be due to:
  - overconsumption of foods high in calories with low-nutrient densities
  - insufficient access to nutrient-rich foods
  - changes in the absorption, distribution, or excretion of nutrients
  - altered micronutrient metabolism resulting from systemic inflammation

# Prevalence of Deficiencies

Micronutrient	Obesity	Type 2 Diabetes
Thiamine (B1)	15-29%	17-79%* includes type 1 data
Pyridoxine (B6)	0-11%	-----
Cobalamin (B12)	3-8%	22%
Folic acid	3-4%	-----
Asorbic acid (C)	35-45%	Decreased levels reported
Vitamin A	17%	-----
Vitamin D	80-90%	85-90%
Vitamin E	0%	0%
Zinc	14-30%	-----
Chromium	-----	20-40%
Selenium	58%	-----

Via M. ISRN Endocrinol. 2012;2012:103472.

# Bariatric Surgery Nutrient Deficiencies

- Procedures that bypass a portion of the small intestine, including Jejunioileal bypass (JIB), Biliopancreatic diversion (BPD), biliopancreatic diversion with duodenal switch (BPD-DS), and Roux- en-y gastric bypass (RYGB) carry the greatest risk of nutritional deficiencies.
  - JIB has been largely abandoned due to high risk of malabsorptive complications. BPD is also less commonly performed.
- Baseline, 6 month and annual screening after bariatric surgery
  - B1, B12, Folate, Iron, Vitamin D, Protein (albumin), Vitamin A, Vitamin E, Vitamin K, B6, Copper, Zinc
- Likely will need more than a multivitamin



# Obesogens

- Molecules with adverse effects on lipid metabolism and adipogenesis
- 1000+ chemicals reported to have endocrine effects
- Exposure from industrial and household products, pesticides, herbicides, plastics, detergents, flame retardants and personal care products
- 2002: Baillie-Hamilton proposed a link between the obesity epidemic and the increase in new industrial chemicals over the past four decades
- 2006: environmental obesogen hypothesis

# Common Obesogens

Perfluoroalkyl  
compounds (PFCs)

Phthalates

Bisphenol A (BPA)

Phytoestrogens  
(genistein and  
daidzein)

Organophosphates

Polychlorinated bi-  
phenyls (PCBs)

Monosodium  
glutamate

Heavy metals

# Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- ACEs: potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years)
- 46% increase in the odds of adult obesity following exposure to multiple ACEs
- ACEs associated with depression, anxiety, and eating disorders

# Mental Health

- Obesity and depression have a significant and bidirectional association
- Obesity associated with approximately 25% increased risk of developing mood and anxiety disorders

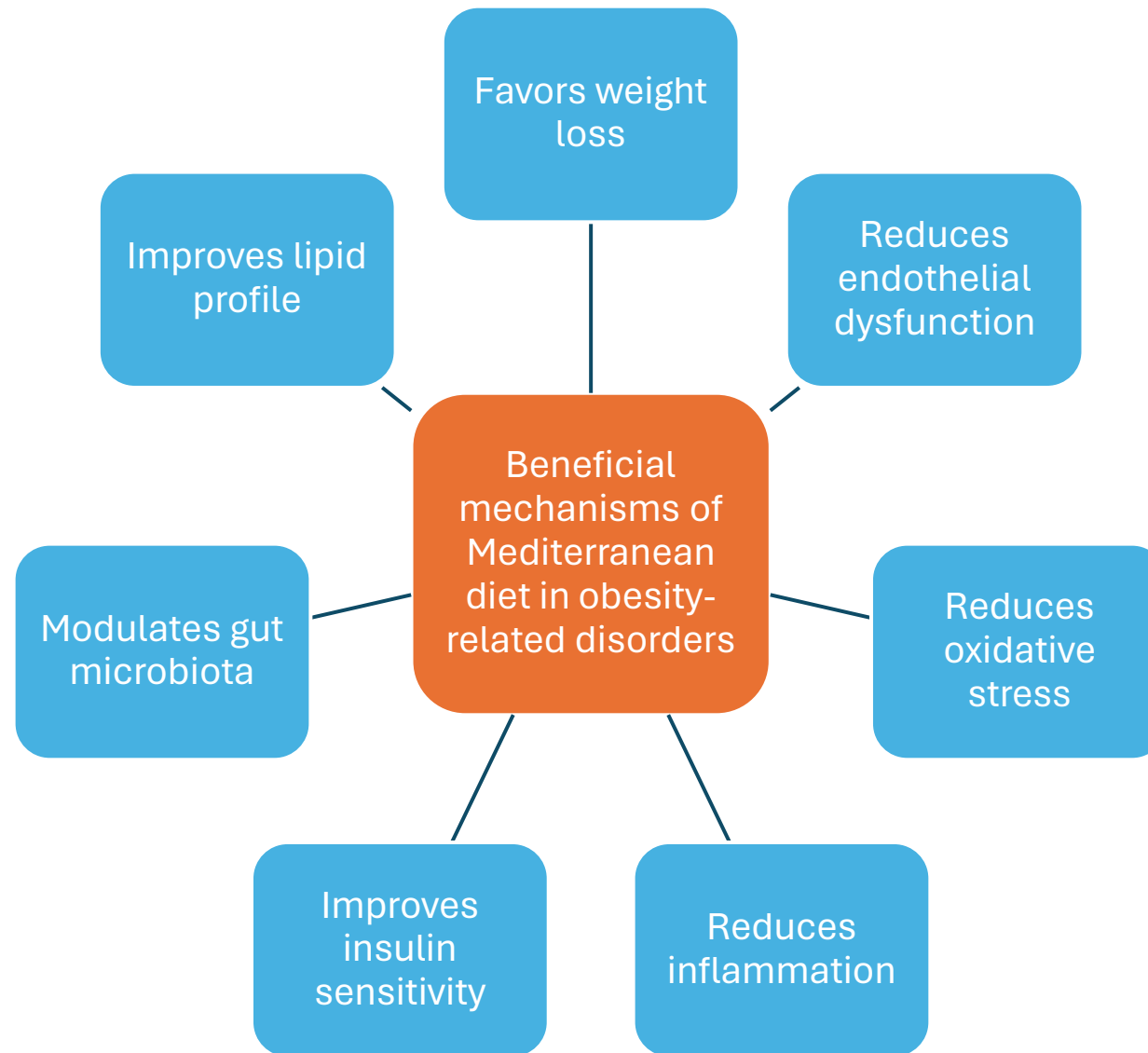
# Functional Approach

# Labs To Consider

- CBC
- CMP
- Lipid profile
- Fasting insulin
- HbA1c
- Complete thyroid panel
- CRP
- Homocysteine
- Vitamin D
- Stool test
- Organic acids
- Omega-3 Fatty Acids

# Mediterranean Diet (MD)

- Diet includes:
  - high intake of vegetables, fruits, nuts, cereals, whole grains, and extra-virgin olive oil
  - moderate consumption of fish and poultry
  - limited intake of sweets, red meat, and dairy products
- Higher adherence to MD is associated with increased likelihood of weight loss maintenance
- MD can reduce central adiposity and visceral fat
- MD pattern proved to be the most effective in prevention of obesity and obesity-related diseases compared to other diets





# Fasting

- Intermittent fasting (IF): alternates feeding days with fasting days
  - protocols do not restrict feeding during the feasting days, where people are allowed to eat normally or *ad libitum* and then abstain from eating for one or 2 days
- Time- restricted eating (TRE): restricting the time when meals are consumed within 24 h
  - Most TRE studies range from 4–12 h of eating window without caloric restriction
  - Early TRE (eTRE): calories early in the day, fast remainder of the day (ex. 7am to 3 pm eating window)
  - Chrono-nutritional strategy
- Fasting-mimicking diets (FMD): periodic cycles of consecutive days consuming a reduced-calorie diet followed by eating *ad libitum*

RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Time restricted eating as a weight loss intervention in adults with obesity

Dunja Przulj \*, Daniella Ladmore, Katie Myers Smith, Anna Phillips-Waller, Peter Hajek

Health and Lifestyle Research Unit, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom

\* [d.przulj@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:d.przulj@qmul.ac.uk)

## Abstract

### Objectives

- n=50
- Mean weight loss:
  - 2.0 kg at 6 weeks
  - 2.6 kg at 12 weeks
- Among participants who provided follow-up data:
  - those who adhered to the intervention for  $\leq 5$  days/week recorded greater weight loss than those with lower adherence
- The intervention had no effect on blood pressure or lipid profile

## Twelve Months of Time-restricted Eating and Resistance Training Improves Inflammatory Markers and Cardiometabolic Risk Factors

TATIANA MORO<sup>1</sup>, GRANT TINSLEY<sup>2</sup>, FRANCESCO Q. PACELLI<sup>1</sup>, GIUSEPPE MARCOLIN<sup>1</sup>, ANTONINO BIANCO<sup>3</sup>, and ANTONIO PAOLI<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Padova, Padova, ITALY; <sup>2</sup>Department of Kinesiology and Sport Management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX; and <sup>3</sup>Department of Psychology, Educational Science and Human Movement, University of Palermo, Palermo, ITALY

- n=20
- 12 months of either a time-restricted eating (TRE) diet or a normal diet (ND) protocol, along with resistance training
- 12 months of TRE:
  - Body mass, fat mass, insulin-like growth factor 1, and testosterone were significantly lower
  - Inflammatory markers, insulin sensitivity, and lipid profile significantly improved

## Effectiveness of Early Time-Restricted Eating for Weight Loss, Fat Loss, and Cardiometabolic Health in Adults With Obesity

A Randomized Clinical Trial

[Humaira Jamshed](#), PhD,<sup>1,2</sup> [Felicia L. Steger](#), PhD,<sup>1,3</sup> [David R. Bryan](#), MA,<sup>1</sup> [Joshua S. Richman](#), MD, PhD,<sup>4</sup> [Amy H. Warriner](#), MD,<sup>5</sup> [Cody J. Hanick](#), MS,<sup>1</sup> [Corby K. Martin](#), PhD,<sup>6</sup> [Sarah-Jeanne Salvy](#), PhD,<sup>7</sup> and [Courtney M. Peterson](#), PhD<sup>1</sup>

[▶ Author information](#) ▶ [Article notes](#) ▶ [Copyright and License information](#) [PMC Disclaimer](#)

- 90 participants with obesity
- 2 groups:
  - eTRE + ER (8-hour eating window from 7:00 to 15:00)
  - control eating (CON) + ER ( $\geq 12$ -hour window)
- eTRE + ER intervention:
  - more effective for weight loss (additional 2.3 kg loss relative to control group)
  - improved diastolic blood pressure
  - greater improvements in mood—including fatigue, vigor, and feelings of depression/dejection

## **Fasting-mimicking diet and markers/risk factors for aging, diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease**

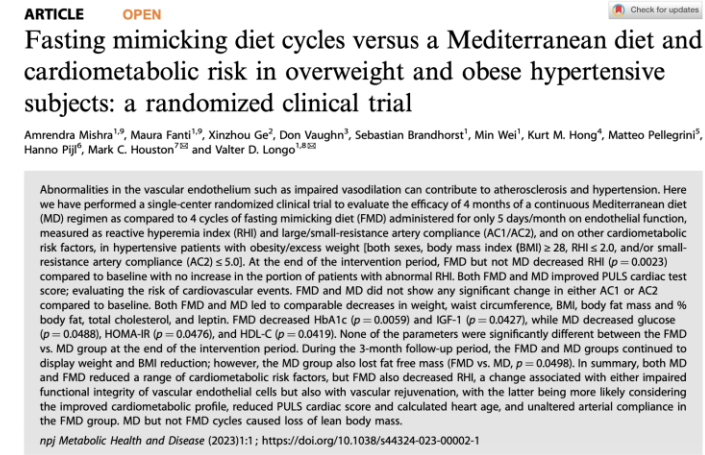
Min Wei<sup>1,\*</sup>, Sebastian Brandhorst<sup>1,\*</sup>, Mahshid Shelehchi<sup>1</sup>, Hamed Mirzaei<sup>1</sup>, Chia Wei Cheng<sup>1</sup>, Julia Budniak<sup>1</sup>, Susan Groshen<sup>2</sup>, Wendy J. Mack<sup>2</sup>, Esra Guen<sup>1</sup>, Stefano Di Biase<sup>1</sup>, Pinchas Cohen<sup>1</sup>, Todd E. Morgan<sup>1</sup>, Tanya Dorff<sup>3</sup>, Kurt Hong<sup>4</sup>, Andreas Michalsen<sup>5</sup>, Alessandro Laviano<sup>6</sup>, Valter D. Longo<sup>1,7,†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Longevity Institute, School of Gerontology, and Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089, USA.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90033, USA.

- Randomized controlled trial of 100 subjects
  - 71 completed three cycles of FMD
    - randomized phase (n = 39)
    - crossed over from control diet to FMD (n = 32)
  - FMD group:
    - reduced body weight, trunk, and total body fat; lowered blood pressure; decreased insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1)
  - Post hoc analysis (all 71 subjects from both arms who completed three FMD cycles)
    - confirmed effects of FMD on trunk and total body fat, blood pressure, and IGF-1

- Four cycles of a once a month 5-day long FMD compared to a continuous regimen of MD x 4 months
  - MD- 40 participants
  - FMD- 44 participants
- Primary outcome: endothelial function and arterial compliance
  - Both MD and FMD had similar effects on endothelial function during the 4-month intervention period
- Secondary outcome: cardiometabolic risk factors
  - After 3-month follow-up period, FMD showed a more sustained long-term effects with decreased Insulin, HbA1c, and HOMA-IR
  - MD group showed greater decrease in prevalence of diabetes\*
- Only FMD group showed a significant decrease in trunk fat mass
- MD caused loss of lean body mass (FMD did not)



# Ketogenic diet (KD)

- Originally introduced in 1920
- Fat to carbohydrate ratio is 5:1
- Ketosis occurs as a result of the change in the body's fuel from carbohydrate to fat.
- A KD maintains the body in a state of ketosis, which is characterized by an elevation of D-b-hydroxybutyrate and acetoacetate.

# Hypothesized mechanisms of KD's weight loss effects

- Reduction in appetite due to higher satiety effect of proteins, effects on appetite control hormones and to a possible direct appetite suppressant action of the ketone bodies
- Reduction in lipogenesis and increased lipolysis
- Greater metabolic efficiency in consuming fats highlighted by the reduction in the resting respiratory quotient
- Increased metabolic costs of gluconeogenesis and the thermic effect of proteins
- Other beneficial effects:
  - Ketones may protect from cognitive impairment caused by weight gain and obesity
  - + effects on mood in overweight subjects
- “Attention should be paid to patient's renal function and to the transition phase from ketogenic diet to a normal diet that should be gradual and well controlled”



## Long-term effects of a ketogenic diet in obese patients

Hussein M Dashti MD PhD FICS FACS<sup>1</sup>, Thazhumpal C Mathew MSc PhD FRCPath<sup>4</sup>, Talib Hussein MB ChB<sup>5</sup>,  
Sami K Asfar MB ChB MD FRCSEd FACS<sup>1</sup>, Abdulla Behbahani MB ChB FRCS FACS PhD FICS FACS<sup>1</sup>,  
Mousa A Khourshed MB ChB FRCS FICS<sup>1</sup>, Hilal M Al-Sayer MD PhD FICS FACS<sup>1</sup>,  
Yousef Y Bo-Abbas MD FRCPC<sup>2</sup>, Naji S Al-Zaid BSc PhD<sup>3</sup>

HM Dashti, TC Mathew, T Hussein, et al. Long-term effects of a ketogenic diet in obese patients. *Exp Clin Cardiol* 2004;9(3):200-205.

**BACKGROUND:** Although various studies have examined the short-term effects of a ketogenic diet in reducing weight in obese patients, its long-term effects on various physical and biochemical parameters are not known.

**OBJECTIVE:** To determine the effects of a 24-week ketogenic diet (consisting of 30 g carbohydrate, 1 g/kg body weight protein, 20% saturated fat, and 80% polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fat) in obese patients.

**PATIENTS AND METHODS:** In the present study, 83 obese patients (39 men and 44 women) with a body mass index greater than 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and high glucose and cholesterol levels were selected. The body weight, body mass index, total cholesterol, low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, triglycerides, fasting blood sugar, urea and creatinine levels were determined before and after the administration of the ketogenic diet.

Changes in these parameters were monitored after eight, 16 and 24 weeks of treatment.

**RESULTS:** The weight and body mass index of the patients decreased significantly ( $P<0.0001$ ). The level of total cholesterol decreased from week 1 to week 24. HDL cholesterol levels significantly increased, whereas LDL cholesterol levels significantly decreased after treatment. The level of triglycerides decreased significantly following 24 weeks of treatment. The level of blood glucose significantly decreased. The changes in the level of urea and creatinine were not statistically significant.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The present study shows the beneficial effects of a long-term ketogenic diet. It significantly reduced the body weight and body mass index of the patients. Furthermore, it decreased the level of triglycerides, LDL cholesterol and blood glucose, and increased the level of HDL cholesterol. Administering a ketogenic diet for a relatively longer period of time did not produce any significant side effects in the patients. Therefore, the present study confirms that it is safe to use a ketogenic diet for a longer period of time than previously demonstrated.

**Key Words:** Diet; Ketosis; Obesity

- 83 obese patients
- Objective: To determine the effects of a 24-week ketogenic diet (consisting of 30 g carbohydrate, 1 g/kg body weight protein, 20% saturated fat, and 80% polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fat) in obese patients
- Significant decrease in triglycerides, total cholesterol, LDL and glucose, and a significant increase in HDL cholesterol

# Address Gut Dysbiosis

Identify & Correct Underlying Causes

- Test



Manage & Treat

- 5R Approach



Reduce Likelihood of Relapse

- Address motility

# 5R Gut Protocol

Remove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food sensitivities, alcohol, aspirin, NSAIDS from the diet</li><li>• Use antimicrobials for dysbiosis, infection, and/or parasites</li></ul>
Replace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digestive support to improve nutrient absorption and metabolism</li><li>• May include digestive enzymes, or agents that promote improved motility and regular bowel movements</li></ul>
Reinoculate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide an environment where good bacteria can thrive and where bad ones cannot</li><li>• Use pre- and probiotics</li></ul>
Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support of the cellular repair process by providing specific nutritional support for the regeneration of the GI protective barrier</li><li>• GI mucosa with healing nutrients and botanicals</li></ul>
Rebalance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lifestyle factors that influence the gut bacteria such as stress, sleep, exercise and relationships and assure ongoing gut health</li></ul>

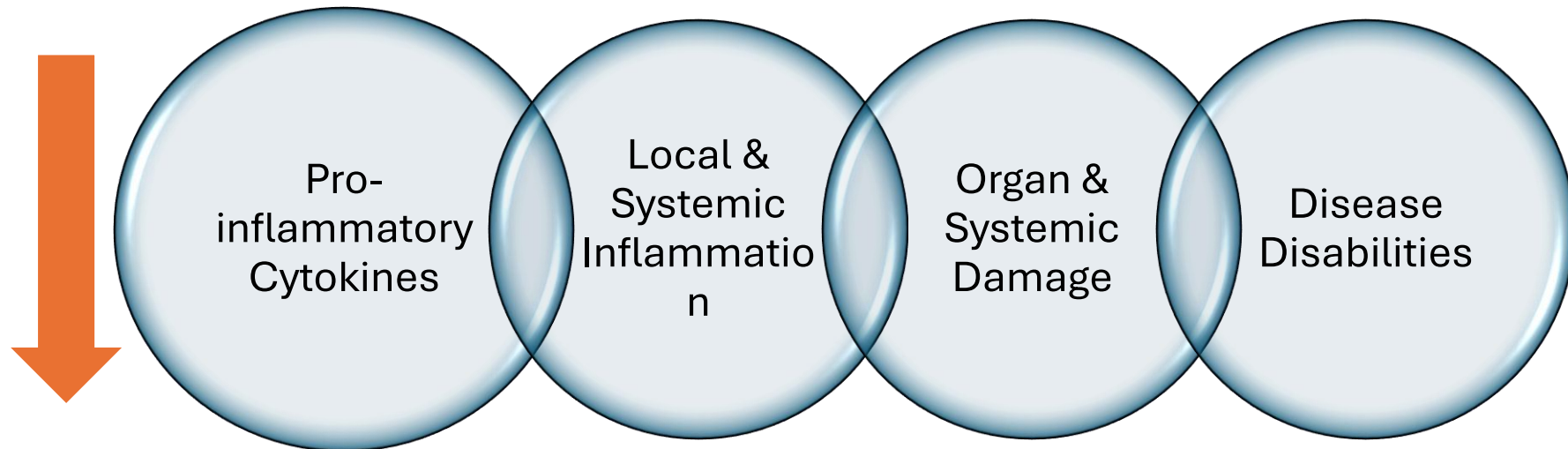
# Probiotics

- Meta-analysis by Koutnikova et al.
  - Probiotics induced improvements in: body weight, BMI, waist circumference, body fat mass, & visceral adipose tissue mass in overweight but not obese individuals
- Meta-analysis by Tabrizi et al.
  - Probiotic supplementation significantly decreased weight, BMI, FPG, insulin, HOMA-IR, triglycerides, CRP in women with PCOS
- Meta-analysis by Lau et al.
  - Prevalence of obesity and hypertension was lower in the probiotic group

# Prebiotics

- Study of healthy, non-diabetic individuals that received supplementation with prebiotics (derived from chicory roots) for 2 weeks showed:
  - An increase in plasma GLP-1 and a decrease in postprandial glucose compared to individuals that received the control (dextrin maltose supplementation).
  - Prebiotic supplementation significantly lowered post-meal hunger scores and improved satiety scores.

# Exercise



# Exercise

- Aerobic Exercise
  - Enhanced peripheral glucose uptake (PGU)<sup>1</sup>
  - Reduced glycemic variability and postprandial glucose (PPG)<sup>2</sup>
- Resistance Exercise
  - Increased serum adiponectin; reduced insulin resistance, and reduced levels of free fatty acid (FFA), and C-Reactive Protein (CRP)<sup>3</sup>

1. Winnick, JJ et al. *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, 2008;93(3), 771-778.

2. Mikus, CR et al. *Diabetologia*, 2012;55(5), 1417-1423.

3. Brooks, NInt J Med Sci. 2006 Dec 18;4(1):19-27.

# Stress Management

- Overweight and obese women who participated in an 8-week stress management program achieved a significantly larger reduction in BMI compared to control group (along with improved perceived stress and depression levels)
- Overweight and obese children and adolescents that underwent a stress-management intervention, had statistically significant weight loss and decrease in the levels of stress and depression, as well as in internalizing and externalizing problems



# Stress Management Techniques

- Meditation
- Yoga, tai chi, or qigong
- Journaling
- Physical activity
- Breath work
- Social connection
- Connect with nature
- Listen to relaxing music
- Spend time with a pet

# Remove and/or Limit Environmental Toxins

- An important first step is to address the topic with patients (many people aren't aware of what they are or where they come from)
- Tips for reducing exposures:
  - Eat organic fruits & vegetables when possible
  - Minimize the use of cosmetics and personal care products (or switch to cleaner brands)
  - Remove artificial sweeteners, high fructose corn syrup, and preservatives from the diet
  - Swap plastic food/drink containers for glass or stainless steel
  - Drink filtered water
  - Get rid of air fresheners and candles in the home

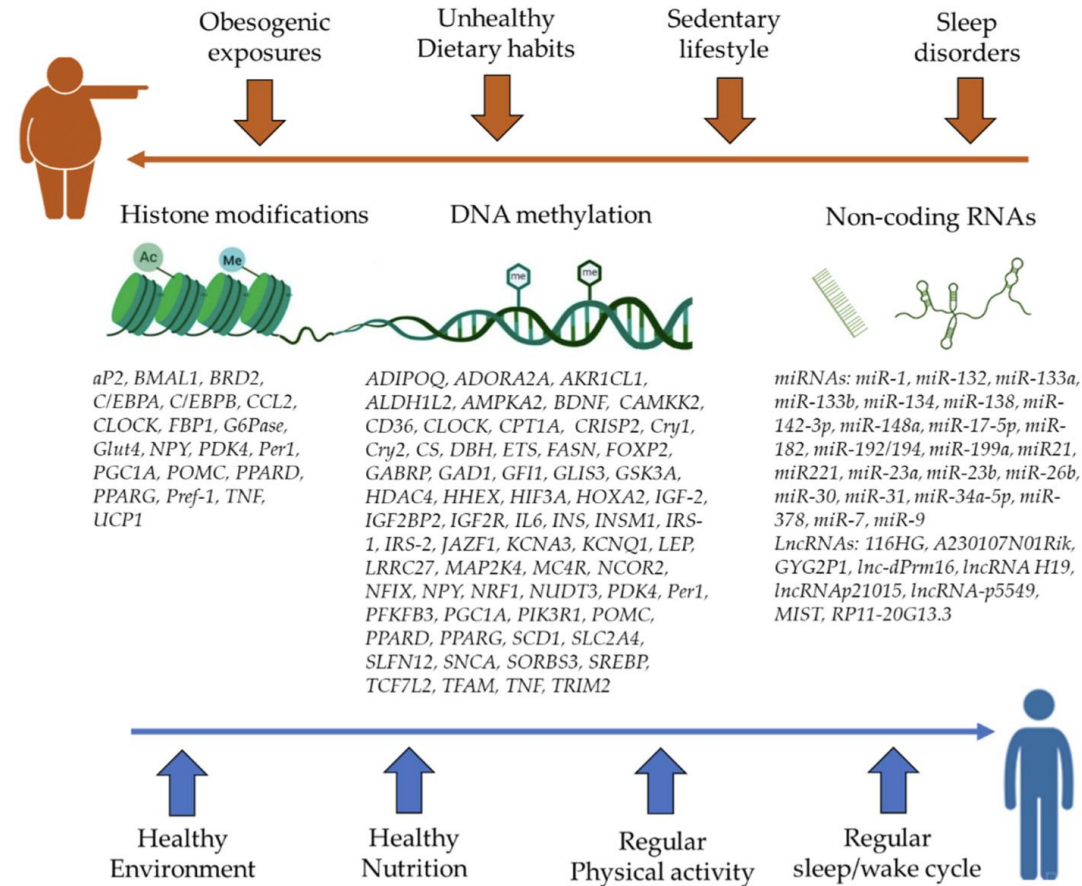
# Improve Sleep Quality & Quantity

- Make sleep a priority!
- Go to sleep and wake up at the same time each day
- Avoid blue light in the evening (blue blocker glasses if needed)
- Limit caffeine intake
- Make sure sleep environment is dark and cool
- Get sunlight in the morning to help set circadian rhythm
- Physical activity
- Manage stress

# Supplements

- Berberine
- Zinc
- Vitamin D
- Omega-3s
- Insulin sensitizers- lipoic acid, chromium, vanadium, cinnamon
- Hibiscus and lemon verbena polyphenols
- Green coffee bean extract

# We Can Change the Course of Epigenetics



# Takeaways

- Obesity is a complex disorder that requires lifestyle modifications including nutrition, sleep, exercise.
- Patients with obesity should work with a provider to address underlying nutrient deficiencies and gut microbiome imbalances to achieve optimal results.

# Need More Information?

Melody L. Hartzler, PharmD, BCACP, BC-ADM, ABAAHP  
[mhartzler@pharmtotableteam.com](mailto:mhartzler@pharmtotableteam.com)



OPA Annual Conference & Trade Show  
April 5-7, 2024

