# Thank you for joining!



We will begin in just a few minutes



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## **Diet ID – FREE ACCESS**

In response to the impact of Covid-19 and the transition to digital care

- Digital Dietary Assessment + Goal Setting
- Completed in 2 minutes
- Real-time results
- Data include nutrient intake, food group intake, HEI Score, sample meal plans, and more
- Your own branded web app in 24 hours





## Diet and Immunity: Fact and Fiction

**David L. Katz, MD, MPH** CEO, Diet ID; President, True Health Initiative

Philip Calder, PhD, DPhil, RNutr, FSB, FAfN Prof. of Nutritional Immunology, U. of Southampton

> Joshua Levitt, ND Naturopathic Physician

Kathleen Zelman, MPH, RD Director of Nutrition, WebMD

April 15, 2020



#### 'I Just Need the Comfort': Processed Foods Make a Pandemic Comeback

Shoppers, moved by nostalgia and hunting for longer shelf lives, are returning to old standbys like Chef Boyardee and Campbell's soup.

As health professionals, we need to reconcile people's...



April 7, 2020 By Julie Creswell, *New York Times* <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/07/business/coronavirus-process</u>ed-foods.html



### **Basic Truths**

- No dietary intervention can substitute for careful personal hygiene and relevant social distancing
- Eating habits absolutely influence the body's ability to resist and fight infection.

Calder PC, Carr AC, et al. Optimal Nutritional Status for a Well-Functioning Immune System is an Important Factor to Protect Against Viral Infections. Preprints 2020. preprints.org/manuscript/202003.0199/v1



#### Valid Mechanisms of Nutrition and Immunity

#### Eating well, even in the short term, can impact risk:



Changes your vascular function, improving delivery of crucial nutrients to cells, bone marrow, etc. Optimizes the balance between PRO- and ANTIinflammatory responses Essentially allows the immune system to:

- More effectively fend off pathogens
- More effectively
   recover if infected



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Venter C, Stefanie Eyerich S. et al. Nutrition and the Immune System: A Complicated Tango. Nutrients 2020;12:818.
 Percival S. Nutrition and Immunity: Balancing Diet and Immune Function. Nutrition Today 2011;46(1):12-17.



### Relationship between nutrition and infectious diseases





### Factors that weaken the body's ability to fight infection



Farhadi S, Ovchinnikov RS. The Relationship between Nutrition and Infectious Diseases: A Review. Biomedical and Biotechnology Research Journal 2018;2:168-172.

#### **Secondary Effects of Nutrition**

Obesity Insulin Resistance Diabetes Hypertension Heart Disease

Metabolic Impairment

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Compromised Immune Function

HIGH RISK / POOR OUTCOMES

### Inflammation : Immunity

- Cannot directly study "strength of the immune system" in vivo
- Studies on diet and inflammation are useful in exploring diet therapies for immune system optimization
- Healthful diets reduce risk of chronic inflammation
- Healthful diets support the gut microbiome, key in immune function

Veldhoen M. Direct interactions between intestinal immune cells and the diet 2012, Cell Cycle, 11:3, 426-427. Oz HS. Nutrients, Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases. *Nutrients* 2017;9:1085.



### **Nutrients & Isolated Effects**

- Protein
- Omega-3s
- B Vitamins
- Vitamin C
- Vitamin D
- Vitamin E
- Carotenoids

- Selenium
- Magnesium
- Zinc
- Iron
- Copper
- Pre/Probiotics
- Glutamine



#### There is a difference between correcting a deficiency and using a nutrient as a drug...

**Note**: Megadosing can be toxic and/or interact with medications and can disrupt metabolism of other nutrients (mineral interactions, e.g. Zn/Cu)

- Childs CE, Calder PC, Miles E. Diet and Immune Function. Nutrients 2019;11:1993.
- Grant WB, Lahore H et a. Evidence that vitamin D supplementation could reduce risk of influenza and COVID-19 infections and deaths. Preprints 2020. https://doi.org/10.20944/preprints202003.0235.v2
- Maggini S, Pierre A, Calder PC. Immune function and micronutrient requirements change over the life course. *Nutrients* 2018;10:1531.

## Zinc as an lonophore

- Pyrithione (PT) Ionophore is needed to increase Zn uptake into cell (allow Zn across cell membrane), where the zinc blocks viral RNA replication
- Chloroquine is a zinc ionophore
- Regular dietary zinc does not include the ionophore
- RDA is 8mg (f) and 11mg (m); UL is 40. Zinc lozenge has at least 75 mg and up to 150mg.

Read SA, Obeid S, et al. The Role of Zinc in Antiviral Immunity. Advances in Nutrition 2019;10:696-710.
 teVelthuis AJW, van den Worm SHE, et al. Zn2+ Inhibits Coronavirus and Arterivirus RNA Polymerase Activity In Vitro and Zinc Ionophores Block the Replication of These Viruses in Cell Culture. *PLoS Pathogens Open Access* 2010;6(11):e100176.











## Functional foods: Evidence?

- Nutrient composition vs whole food effect
- Mushrooms
- Green leafy vegetables
- Berries
- Yogurt
- Kombucha (and other fermented foods)
- Ginger
- Garlic
- Nutritional Yeast

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Jeong SC, Koyyalamudi SR, et al. Dietary intake of Agaricus bisporus white button mushroom accelerates salivary immunoglobulin: A secretion in healthy volunteers. *Nutrition* 2012.
Hansen NW, Sams A. The Microbiotic Highway to Health–New Perspective on Food Structure, Gut Microbiota, and Host Inflammation. *Nutrients* 2018;10:1590.
El-Gamal YM, O Elmasry OA. Immunomodulatory effects of food. *Egyptian Journal of Pediatric*

Allergy and Immunology 2011;9(1):3-13.







Kapoor R, Sharma B, Singh Kawar S. Antiviral phytochemicals: An overview. Biochemistry & Physiology Open access 2017;6(2).

## **Supplements: Evidence?**

- Elderberry extract
- Andrographis
- Green Tea
- Colloidal silver
- Oregano oil
- Echinacea
- Turmeric
- NAC (N-Acetyl Cysteine)
- Quercetin
- Scuterllaria Baicalensis (Skullcap)
- Sulforaphane
- Citicoline

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Liu H, Ye F, et al. Scutellaria baicalensis extract and baicalein inhibit replication of SARS-CoV-2 and its 3C-like protease in vitro. Preprints (Biology) biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.10.035824v1
Meyer M, Jaspers I. Respiratory protease/antiprotease balance determines susceptibility to viral infection and can be modified by nutritional antioxidants. American Journal of Physiology – Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology 2015;308(12):L1189-L1201.

- Wu D, Lewis ED, et al. Nutritional modulation of immune function: Analysis of evidence, mechanisms, and clinical relevance. *Frontiers in Immunology* 2019;9:3160.



### **Foods for Optimal Immune Function**

#### Whole plant foods

- Fiber stabilizes blood insulin and glucose
- High nutrient density ensures nutritional adequacy

#### **Fruits & vegetables**

 Antioxidants/flavonoids/carotenoids/etc. protect cells from oxidative injury

## Nuts, seeds, avocado, olives, cold pressed oils

- Help to regulate inflammatory response
- Rich in vitamin E, an anti-oxidant and immune system modulator

Kapoor R, Sharma B, Singh Kawar S. Antiviral phytochemicals: An overview. Biochemistry & Physiology Open access 2017;6(2).
Effect of fruit and vegetable consumption on immune function in older people: a randomized controlled trial. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition 2012;96:1429-36.

#### Legumes

Rich in zinc, important for lymphocyte function

#### Seafood

 Rich in vitamin D, may decrease susceptibility to infection by promoting optimal white blood cell function

Rich in polyunsaturated oils and zinc

## **Dietary Patterns**

- Nutrients in a variety of health supporting, whole foods work in synergy
- Diets that prevent chronic disease risk also support immune health
- Diet patterns with a high quality score (e.g. Healthy Eating Index 2015) have characteristics known to support immune health
- High in fresh foods, vegetables; low in processed foods, fast food, sugar, etc.



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Boynton A, Neuhouser ML, et al. Associations between healthy eating patterns and immune function or inflammation in overweight or obese postmenopausal women. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 2007;86:1445-55.



## **Clinical Implications**

- Many patients (especially seniors) admitted are malnourished and benefit from supplements to correct deficiencies
- Some nutrient supplements are used for COVID-19 patients, including vitamin C infusions, zinc lozenges
- Once patients are hospitalized, good nutrition is very challenging





### **Consumer Communications**

- Overall diet quality significantly influences immune system function and, of course, overall health.
- We have no data yet on specific protection against COVID-19, so must extrapolate from what we know about immunity in general.
- No dietary intervention can substitute for careful personal hygiene and relevant social distancing



### Conclusions

- Joshua Levitt
- Kathleen Zelman
- Philip Calder
- David Katz



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## **QUESTION & ANSWER**



#### Please submit questions via Q/A feature



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# Thank you for attending!



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