# An Apple a Day...

An Exploration of the Facts, Fictions, and Unknowns of Nutrition

Mini Med School

4 May, 2021

Alexandra Jamieson and Nicole Cameron









About Mini Med School

About the optional survey

We are medical students

• This talk is intended for your entertainment and education, and is not meant to replace advice from your family physician or another health care professional

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- This talk is intended for your entertainment and education, and is not meant to replace advice from your family physician or another health care professional
- Due to the nature and timing of this discussion, you may experience hunger during this presentation
- •Thank you for joining us for our first talk of the series!

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Miss Jamieson is not affiliated with the vitamin/supplement company Jamieson

# Agenda

- Basics of Digestion
- Building Blocks of Food
- Dietary Confusion and Information Overload
- •Things Change: Evaluating Nutritional Advice
- A Brief Exploration of Food Research
- Best Bets: Food Guides and Evidence-Based Eating
- Q & A and Intermission

# Agenda Cont'd

- The Nutrition Label
- Common Myths and Misconceptions
- Food and Drugs
- Fashionable Diets
- You Are an Ecosystem
- Food Sensitivities and Sensitivity Testing
- Different Diets for Different People
- Reading Recommendations
- Q & A and Closing Remarks

### Without further ado...





# Appetizer: The Basics of Digestion

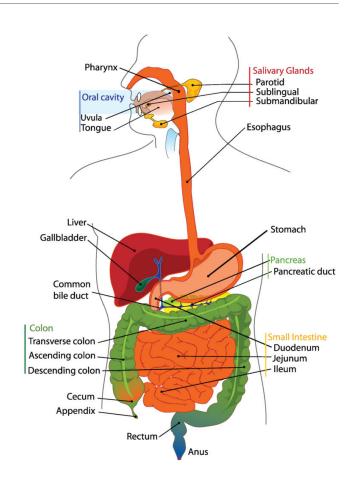
- Digestion starts in the brain the central nervous system
- Thoughts and smells trigger the release of digestive enzymes
- Our gut also has its own nervous system, the enteric nervous system

- •These systems communicate with each other
- Mood and digestion are linked in ways we do not fully understand
- Bowel disorders and mood disorders often occur together



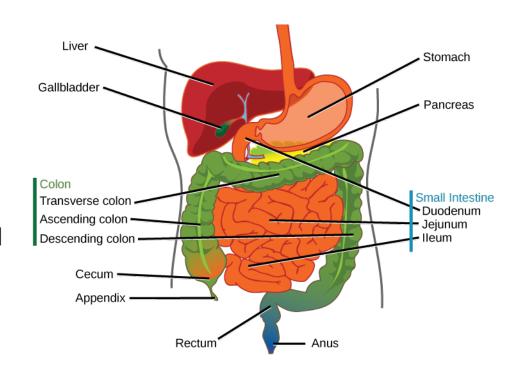
## The Basics of Digestion

- In the mouth, digestion begins, as enzymes in our saliva begin to break food down (crackers and amylase)
- Chewing mechanically breaks food down and leads to the formation of a bolus
- Rhythmic pulsations of smooth muscle around the esophagus move the bolus down to the stomach in a process called peristalsis
- In the stomach, the bolus churns with acids and proteases, breaking it down



## The Basics of Digestion

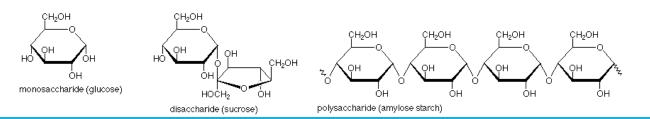
- The small intestine is the major site of nutrient absorption in the digestive tract
- The pancreas secretes many crucial digestive enzymes directly into the small intestine
- Bile from the gallbladder is also secreted into the small intestine to aid in the digestion of fat
- In the large intestine, water and electrolytes are reabsorbed



## The Building Blocks of Food

- Components of food, simplified:
  - Water
  - Dietary fiber
  - Pre- and pro-biotics (to be discussed later)
  - Macronutrients
    - Protein
      - Essential amino acids (vs non-essential)
    - Lipids / fats
    - Carbohydrates (starch and sugars)
  - Micronutrients
    - Vitamins
    - Minerals
    - Phytonutrients

$$H$$
 $R$ 
 $O$ 
amino acid
 $H$ 
 $H$ 
 $OH$ 



## The Building Blocks of Food

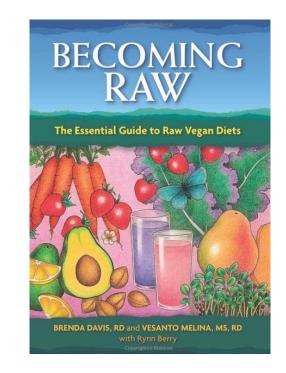
- Components of food, simplified:
  - Water
  - Dietary fiber
  - Pre- and pro-biotics (to be discussed later)
  - Macronutrients (protein, fat, carbohydrates)
    - Essential amino acids (vs non-essential)
  - Micronutrients
    - Vitamins
    - Minerals
    - Phytonutrients

It's all very well until you try to figure out what you should be eating.

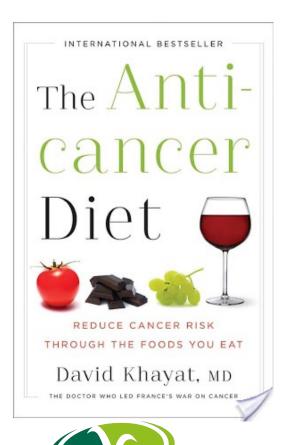








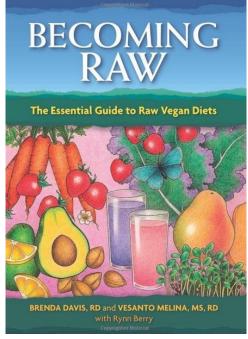


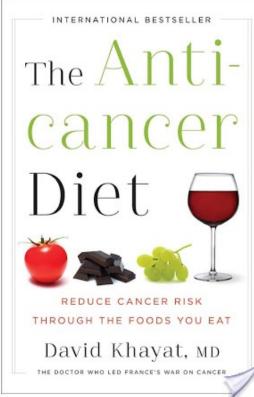


**Vegetarian** society





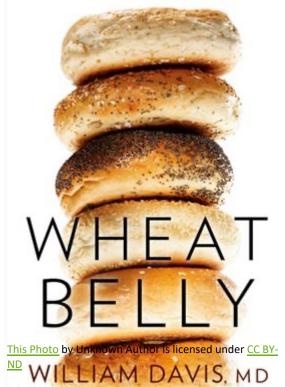




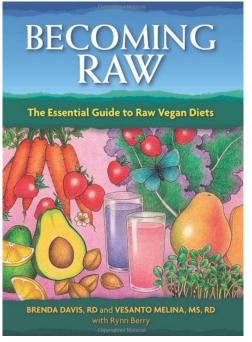




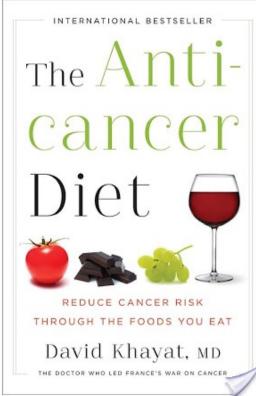








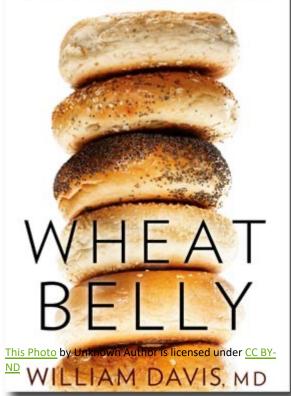




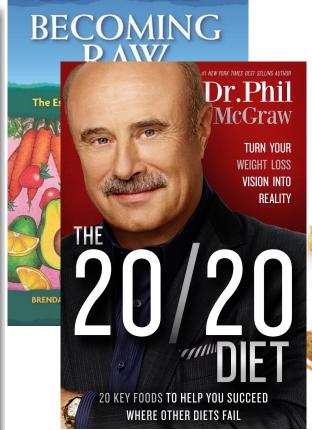


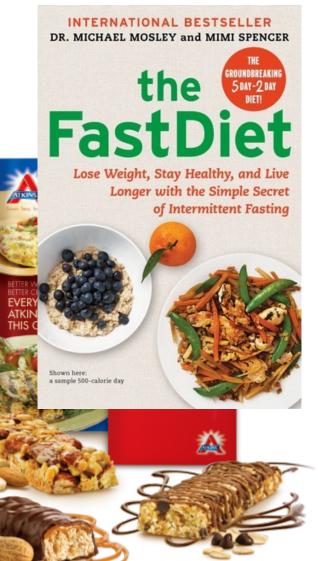


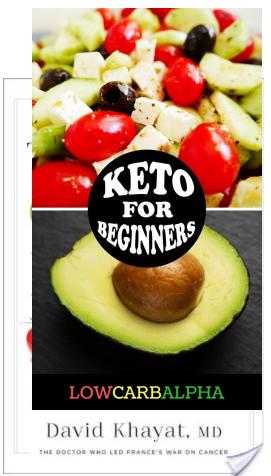




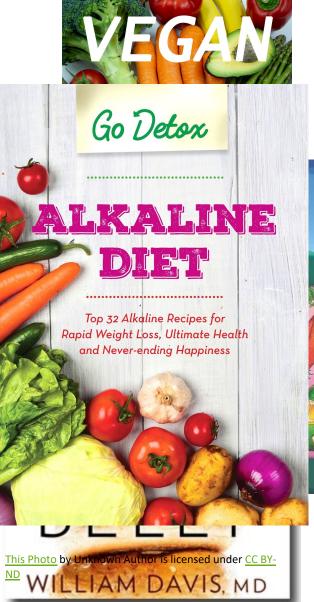




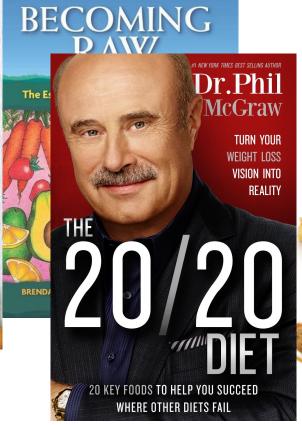


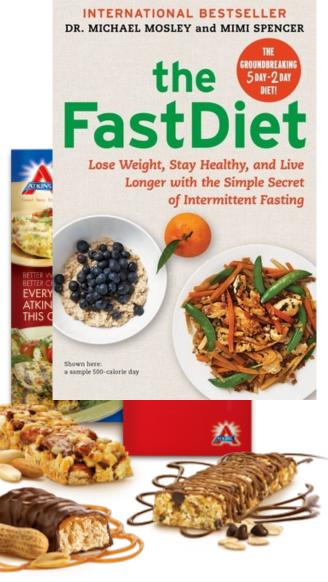


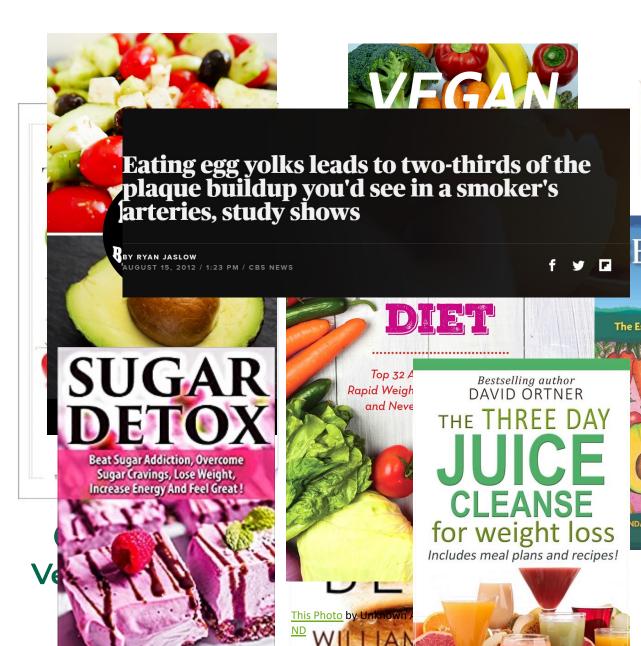




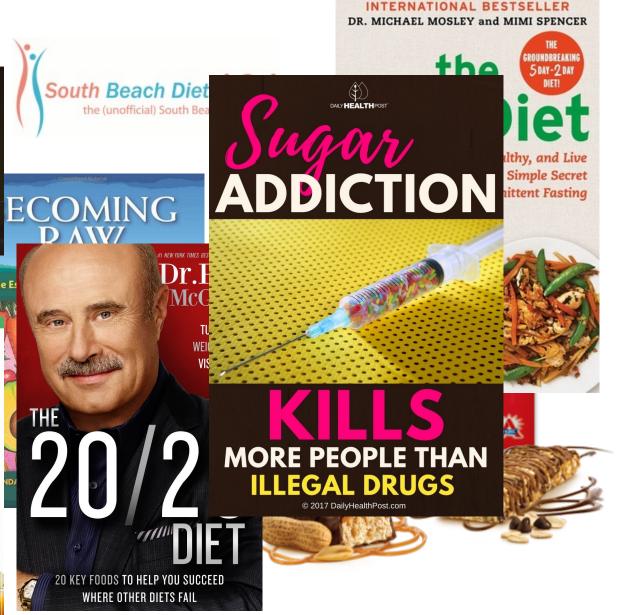




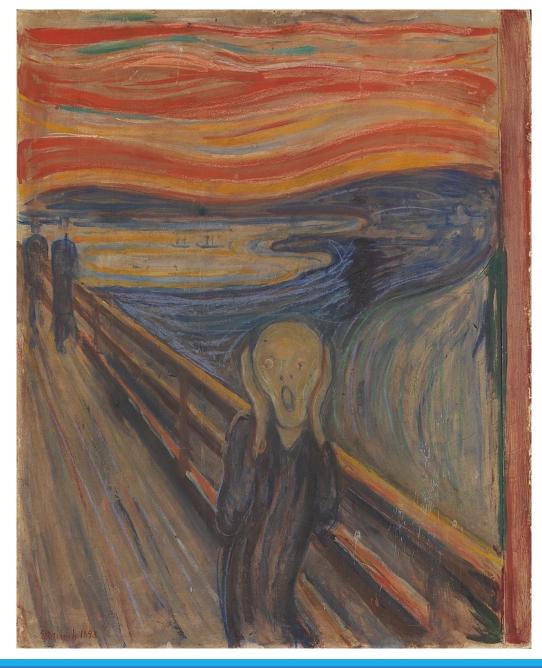




NATHALY SANDFORD







### Dietary Confusion – Information Overload

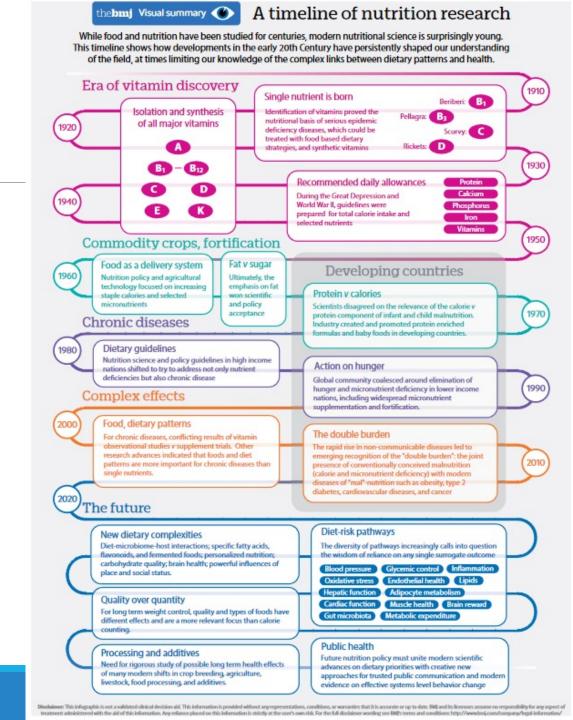
• There is so much conflicting information in literature, including research and journalism, about nutrition. Why?

## Dietary Confusion – Information Overload

- Why is there so much conflicting information in literature, including research and journalism, about nutrition?
- Common problems:
  - Small studies
  - Many confounders
  - Lab vs real world
  - Time constraints
  - Mice vs men
  - Conflicts of interest
  - Poor reporting
  - Clickbait
  - Profit potential

# Things Change

- Mozaffarian D, Rosenberg I, Uauy R. History of modern nutrition science—implications for current research, dietary guidelines, and food policy BMJ 2018; 361:k2392 doi:10.1136/bmj.k2392
- <a href="https://www.bmj.com/content/361/bmj.k2392">https://www.bmj.com/content/361/bmj.k2392</a>
- Visual summary of the many changes in how food and nutrition have been understood over the past 100+ years

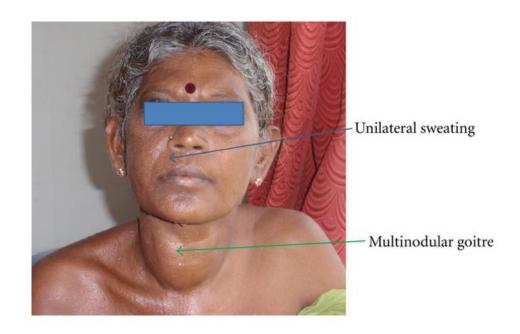


- We have long recognized that dietary deficiencies can be problematic
- Food fortification, like vaccination, is one of the great public health initiatives of the past century:
- 1920s iodization of salt
- 1930s fortification of milk with Vitamin D
- 1940s enrichment of flour and bread
- 1980s calcium added to many products

The History of Food Fortification in the United States: Its Relevance for Current Fortification Efforts in Developing Countries Author(s): David Bishai and Ritu Nalubola Source: Economic Development and Cultural Change, Vol. 51, No. 1 (October 2002), pp. 37-53 Published by: The University of Chicago Press Stable URL: https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/345361

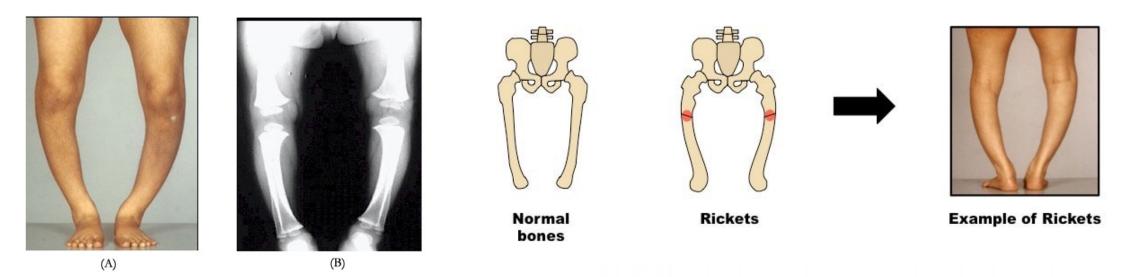
• 1920s - iodization of salt





#### •1930s - fortification of milk with Vitamin D

Figure 2. Photograph of a patient with rickets showing bowing of the legs (A) with classical radiological findings (B). of rickets.



• 1940s - enrichment of flour and bread

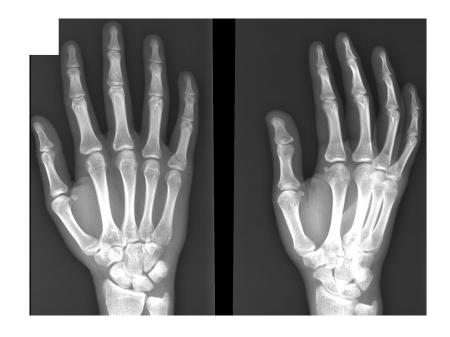






• 1980s – calcium added to many products





- Not food but water fluoridation, since 1945.
- Worth mentioning that water can supply us with trace levels of minerals





https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation

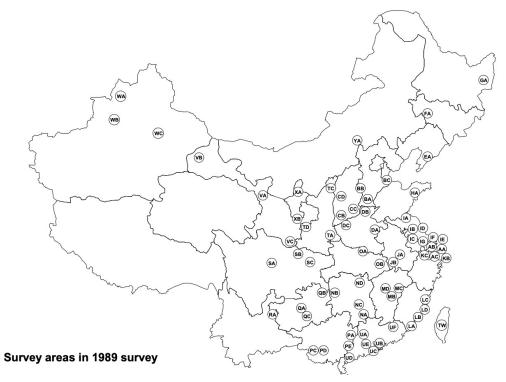
### Food Research

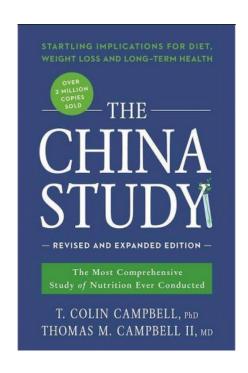
#### Major studies:

- China Study
- Nurses' Health Study
- Blue Zone studies
- Carbohydrate/fiber studies
- Microbiome studies

### Food Research

#### The China Study





#### Food Research

#### The Nurse's Health Study



Breast cancer

Coronary heart disease (CHD) & stroke Colon cancer

**Hip fracture** 

Cognitive function

Eye disease

#### Also of Note: the Mediterranean Diet





#### **FOOD GUIDELINES**

Food Research

Blue Zone Studies



Retreat from meat: Blue zones centenarians eat about 2 oz or less about 5x per month

MONTHLY

#### Reduce dairy

Slash sugar: Consume only 28 grams (7 teaspoons) of added sugar daily

#### Eliminate eggs:

No more than 3 per week

#### Go easy on fish:

Fewer than 3 oz, up to 3 times weekly

#### Snack on nuts:

About 1-2 handsful a day

**Drink mostly water:** About 7 glasses / day; coffee, tea, and wine in moderation

eat often with family and friends

Daily dose of beans: Half-cup to one cup / day

**Go wholly whole:** Single-ingredient, raw, cooked, ground, or fermented, and not highly processed

95-100% plant-based





















## Food Research

#### Carbohydrate and Fiber Studies

 Carbohydrates are an important part of a healthy diet









## Food Research

#### Microbiome Studies



### Food Guides

•A look at Canada's Food Guide and at national food guides from the US, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand

# The Old Canada Food Guide (2007-2018)

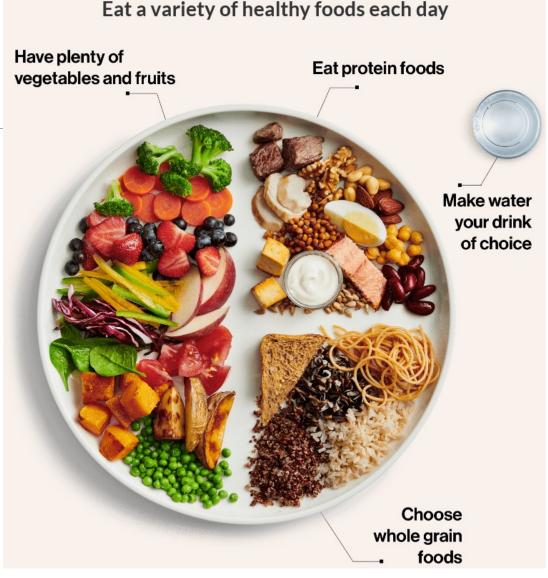


when you are very active.

\* Health Canada provides advice for limiting exposure to mercury from certain types of fish. Refer to www.healthcanada.gc.ca for the latest information

### Canada's Food Guide

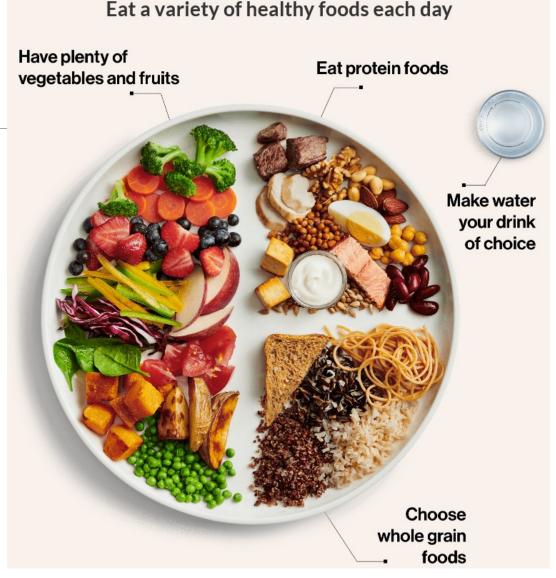
- The food guide formerly known as the Canada Food Guide
- Underwent a considerable revision in 2019
   Goals:
  - to assist Canadians in applying Food Guide recommendations
  - "to ensure alignment with most current evidence on topics such as sodium, saturated fat and sugars"
- Most obvious change: from 4 to 3 food groups



https://food-guide.canada.ca/

### Canada's Food Guide

- Increased emphasis on plant-based foods
- Unsaturated > saturated fat, as before
- Recommends only infrequent consumption of processed foods and foods with high levels of added sugar, salt, and saturated fat
- Limit alcohol (H2O recommended)
- Eat a variety of foods

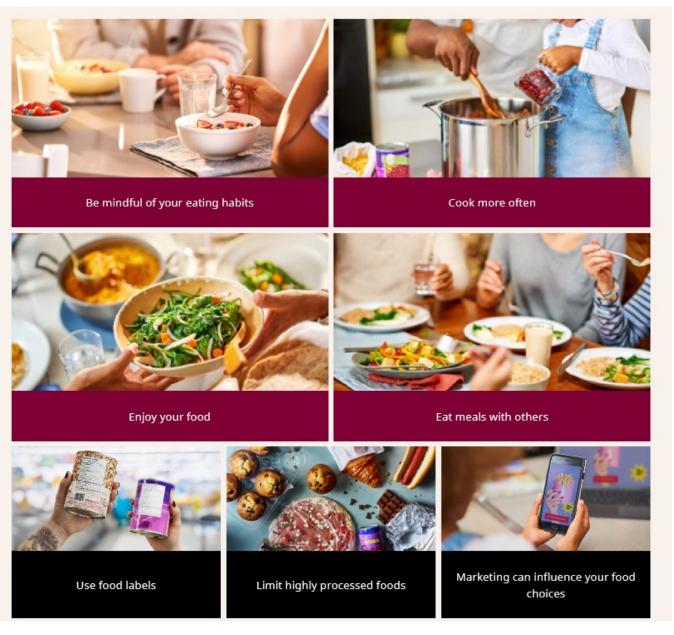


https://food-guide.canada.ca/

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## Food Guides

- New focus on how you eat, not just what you eat:
  - Cooking frequently
  - Eating socially
  - Enjoying your meals
  - Consulting food labels
  - Being critical of food advertising
  - Listen to your body (eat slowly, be aware of hunger, fullness)

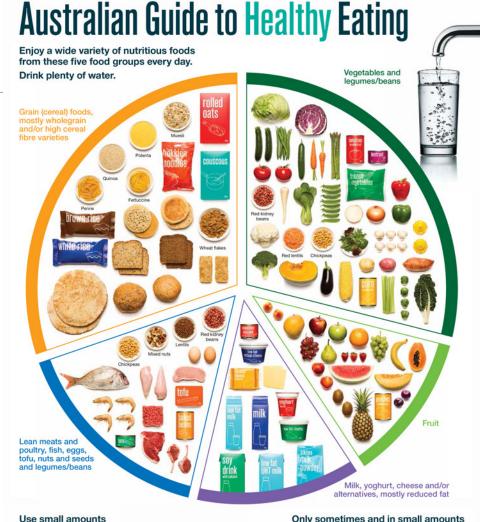


## How does it compare? - Australia

- Australian Guide to Healthy Eating / "Eat for Health" similar
- In this representation, the Australian guide maintains a separation between dairy and protein (like in the old Canada Food Guide)
- Allocates a little more space to dairy/protein and to grains.
- •Fruit is distinct from veg and is allocated less space.
- Guidelines also include promotion of physical activity, breastfeeding and of the safe storage and preparation of food
- As in Canada's Guide limit added sugars/salt/sat fat, alcohol, drink water, eat a variety of foods



www.eatferhealth.gov.au









## How does it compare? - New Zealand

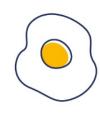
 New Zealand takes a markedly less pictorial approach, and its summary guidelines for adults run 164 pages, but the principles are similar to those of Australia's national food guide.

 Charming physical activity recommendation: the "snacktivity" Enjoy a variety of nutritious foods, including:









Plenty of vegetables and

Grain foods, mostly whole grain and those naturally high in fibre

Some milk and milk products, mostly low- and reduced-fat

Some legumes, nuts, seeds, fish and other seafood, eggs or poultry, or red meat with the fat removed.

Legumes include lentils, split peas, chickpeas and cooked dried beans (eg, red kidney beans, baked beans)



https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/food-activity-and-sleep/healthy-eating

How does it compare?

- The UK

- The Eatwell Guide
- Catchy "5 A Day"
- 6-8 cups fluid a day tea is perfectly acceptable
- Highly consistent with the other food guides so far
- Provides general caloric recommendations by sex







## How does it compare? – The USA

#### There are 4 overarching Guidelines in the 2020-2025 edition:

- Follow a healthy dietary pattern at every life stage.
- Customize and enjoy nutrient-dense food and beverage choices to reflect personal preferences, cultural traditions, and budgetary considerations.
- Focus on meeting food group needs with nutrient-dense foods and beverages, and stay within calorie limits.
- Limit foods and beverages higher in added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium, and limit alcoholic beverages.

There are Key Recommendations supporting the 4 Guidelines, including quantitative recommendations on limits that are based on the body of science reviewed. The Guidelines recommend:

- Limiting added sugars\* to less than 10% of calories per day for ages 2 and older and to avoid added sugars for infants and toddlers;
- Limiting saturated fat to less than 10% of calories per day starting at age 2;
- Limiting sodium intake to less than 2,300mg per day (or even less if younger than 14);
- Limiting alcoholic beverages\* (if consumed) to 2 drinks or less a day for men and 1 drink or less a day for women.

#### And follow these three key dietary principles:

Meet nutritional needs primarily from nutrient-dense foods and beverages.



Choose a variety of options from each food group.



Pay attention to portion size.



https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/

### What Do These Diets Share?

- •Emphasis on a plant-focused diet centred around whole grains, vegetables, legumes, and fruits.
- Encouragement to eat a diverse array of foods.
- Increasingly, a recognition that food is best enjoyed in company and that good food and physical activity are both important to a healthy lifestyle.
- A preference for seafood and moderate amounts of poultry and dairy over red meat.
- Lighter consumption of added sugars and processed foods.
- Not restrictive no 'bad' or 'good' foods, just some to enjoy less often and others to enjoy more frequently.

## **Evaluating Nutritional Advice**

- You are likely to encounter new information about diet almost daily, in conversation and in print
- Be open to new ideas, but also be open to challenging them
- Evaluate the source's reliability
- Consider 'moving up the food chain' or finding the original source of information
- Credentials? Peer-review? Funding?
- Assess the source's intentions
- If it sounds too good to be true...
- Always consult your doctor or a qualified health professional prior to making drastic changes to the way you eat.

## Q&A

•Ask us anything, within reason!

• What we can't answer now, we may be able to find out.

# Intermission

## Agenda Cont'd

- The Nutrition Label
- Common Myths and Misconceptions
- Food and Drugs
- Fashionable Diets
- You Are an Ecosystem
- Food Sensitivities and Sensitivity Testing
- Different Diets for Different People
- Reading Recommendations
- Q & A and Closing Remarks

### The Nutrition Label

- The information on a nutrition label is based on the serving size. Compare the serving size to the amount of food you want to eat then adjust the nutrition information accordingly.
  - Tip: If the serving size is in grams and you are not sure how many grams you eat, look at the total grams of the package, estimate what portion of the package you eat, then calculate accordingly.
- Judge if the food contains a little or a lot of a particular nutrient by looking at the % Daily Value column
  - 5% or less = a little
  - 15% or more = a lot
- Choose foods that are lower in sugar and saturated fat and have little to no added sodium
- Tip for selecting high fiber packaged foods: 5:1 ratio hard to find!
  - Total carbohydrates divided by fiber  $\leq$  5 (eg. 25g carbohydrates/5g fiber = 5)

### The Nutrition Label

#### **ORIGINAL** NEW Serving size **Nutrition Facts Nutrition Facts** stands out more Valeur nutritive Valeur nutritive and is more similar on Per 250 mL / par 250 mL Per 1 cup (250 mL) similar foods Calories is larger pour 1 tasse (250 mL) Amount % Daily Value % valeur quotidienne and stands out Teneur **Daily Values** % Daily Value\* Calories 110 more with bold Calories / Calories 110 % valeur quotidienne\* updated line below Fat / Lipides 0 g Fat / Lipides 0 g 0 % Saturated / saturés 0 g 0 % Saturated / saturés 0 g 0 % + Trans / trans 0 g + Trans / trans 0 g Carbohydrate / Glucides 26 g Cholesterol / Cholestérol 0 mg Fibre / Fibres 0 g 0% New % Daily Value Sodium / Sodium 0 mg 0 % Sugars / Sucres 22 g 22 % for total sugars Carbohydrate / Glucides 26 g 9 % Protein / Protéines 2 g 0 % Fibre / Fibres 0 g Cholesterol / Cholestérol 0 mg Sugars / Sucres 22 g Sodium 0 mg 0 % Protein / Protéines 2 g Potassium 450 mg 10 % Updated list of mg amounts Vitamin A / Vitamine A 0 % Calcium 30 mg 2 % minerals of public are shown health concern Vitamin C / Vitamine C 120 % 0% Iron / Fer 0 mg Calcium / Calcium 2 % New % Daily Value \*5% or less is a little, 15% or more is a lot 0 % footnote \*5% ou moins c'est peu, 15% ou plus c'est beaucoup Iron / Fer

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-labelling-changes.html

•TRUE or FALSE: Certain foods can burn fat.

•TRUE or FALSE: Certain foods can burn fat.

• FALSE.

•TRUE or FALSE or IT HELPS BUT IS NOT ENOUGH: An apple a day keeps doctors and medical students away.

•TRUE or FALSE or IT HELPS BUT IS NOT ENOUGH: An apple a day keeps doctors and medical students away.

• It helps. Apple skins in particular are a good source of antioxidants. Aim for at least "5 A Day" of fruit and veg.

•TRUE or FALSE: You can change the pH of your body with food.

•TRUE or FALSE: You can change the pH of your body with food.

• FALSE.

•TRUE or FALSE: Food is more than fuel.

•TRUE or FALSE: Food is more than fuel.

• TRUE.

•TRUE or FALSE: Alcohol consumption is beneficial to your health.

•TRUE or FALSE: Alcohol consumption is beneficial to your health.

• THE JURY'S OUT.

What about supplements?

- Supplements are a topic all their own
  - A large and poorly-regulated industry
  - Inconclusive evidence
  - Some supplements may adversely affect your wallet
  - Too much of a good thing?
  - Older adults may benefit from taking calcium and vitamin D, and perhaps vitamin B12
  - Vegetarians, and more particularly vegans, may need calcium, vitamins D and B12, zinc, and iron
  - Proceed with caution and communicate with your health care provider.





• And caffeine?

- Caffeine will be discussed more during our "Sleep" talk later this month – stay tuned!
- Key points to be aware of:
  - Both tea and coffee are good sources of antioxidants
  - Tea is a substantial source of fluoride
  - Tea is best separated from your iron-rich meals or multivitamin
  - Caffeine may somewhat decrease calcium absorption, but a little added milk is enough to offset this
  - Moderation in all things, as usual

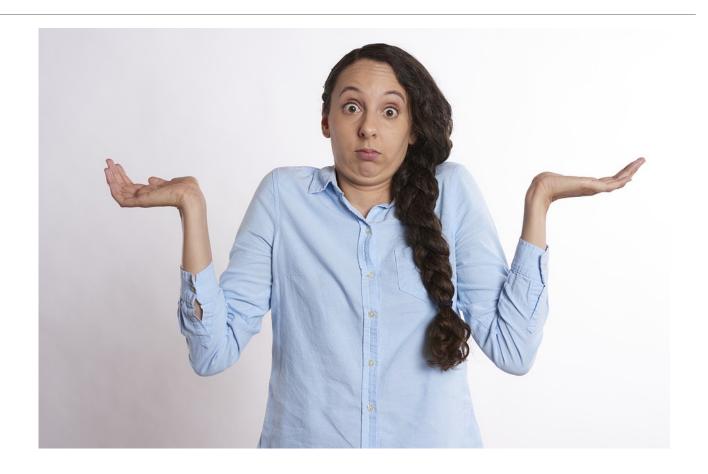
## Food and Drug Interactions

- Culprit #1: the grapefruit
- A refreshing yet antisocial breakfast fruit
- Good to eat if you are taking an iron supplement
- Less so alongside many common medications
- Why
  - Furanocoumarins and a flavonoid, naringin (also found in significant levels in some other citrus fruits)
  - Cytochrome P450 4A3 inhibition in intestine and liver
    - Can increase or decrease drug effects depending on how drug is metabolized; generally, increase
  - More rarely, can inhibit transporters, decreasing drug absorption



## Fashionable Diets

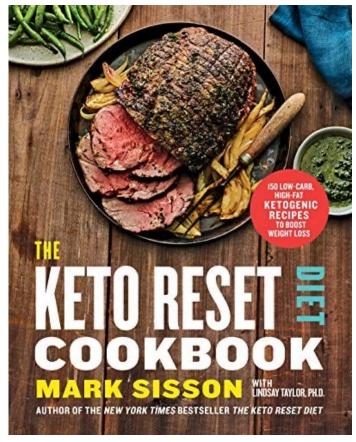
- Keto/Atkins
- Juice cleanses
- Detoxes



## Fashionable Diets

Keto/Atkins

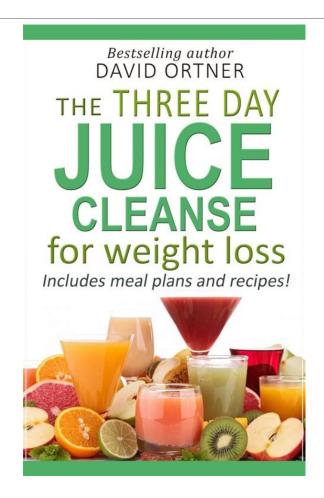




#### Fashionable Diets

Juicing/juice cleanses





#### Fashionable Diets

Detoxes

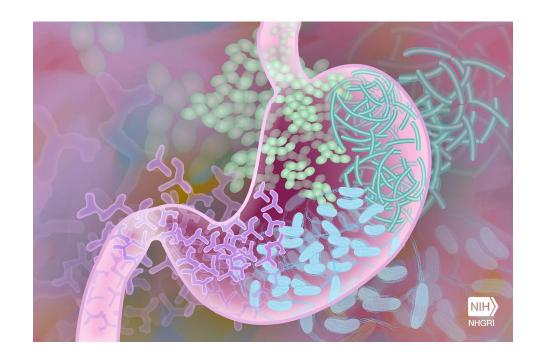






#### You Are an Ecosystem

- A fascinating new area of research the microbiome
- There are an estimated 10 microorganisms in your body for every human cell
- Probiotics are your "gut flora": bacteria and yeasts
  - Usual suspects include *Lactobacillus* species
  - They first colonize you at birth
  - The population's composition changes based on
    - Diet, stress, medications, health, antibiotics
  - A healthy community crowds out GI pests
  - GI function, but also immune system, weight
  - Possible links with mood and cognition



#### You Are an Ecosystem









- Ideally, like vitamins and nutrients, probiotics are obtained from whole foods
- Kefir and yogurt labelled as containing live cultures;
   cheese
- Cultured coconut milk yoghurts and "water kefir" are available for those who do not consume dairy
- Kimchi, unpasteurized sauerkraut
- Miso and tempeh from soy



#### You Are an Ecosystem



- Prebiotics are what the gut flora like to eat
  - fibers and sugar alcohols that we can't digest but that the probiotics can, e.g. inulin
  - e.g. Good sources: garlic, onions, asparagus, chicory, Jerusalem artichokes, legumes, bananas







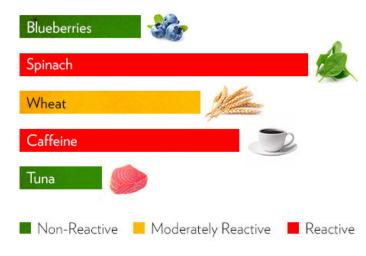




## Food Sensitivities and Sensitivity Testing

- IgG Food Panel Testing
  - (we are not talking about validated tests for lactose intolerance (e.g. hydrogen breath tests) or formal testing for Celiac disease.)





Is your food making you sick?

Even "healthy" foods can cause sensitivities

## Food Sensitivities and Sensitivity Testing

THE MYTH OF IGG FOOD PANEL TESTING



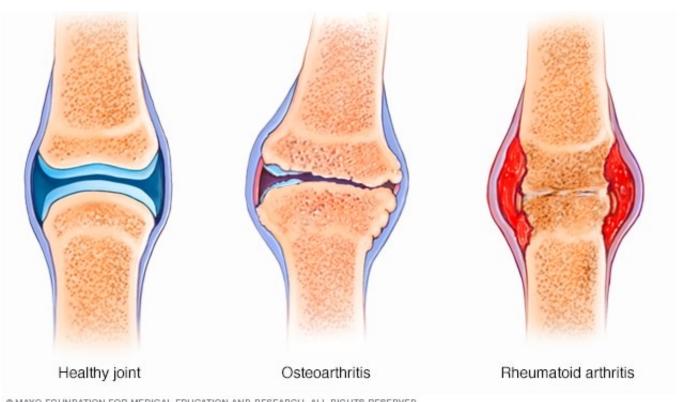




Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Société canadienne d'allergie et d'immunologie clinique

- Arthritis
- Breast cancer
- Diabetes
- IBS
- Celiac disease
- Future?

#### Arthritis



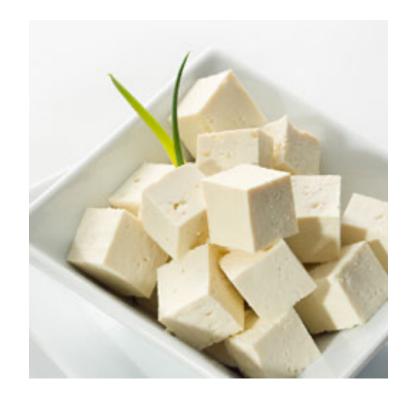


Gout

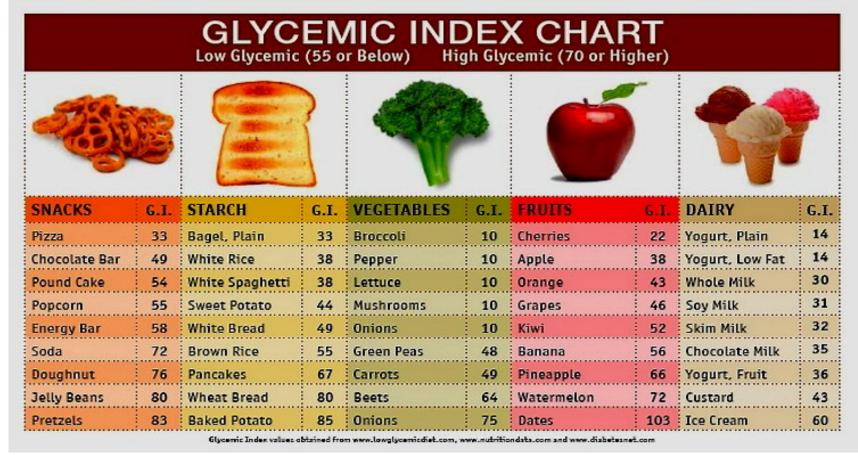
@ MAYO FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Breast cancer



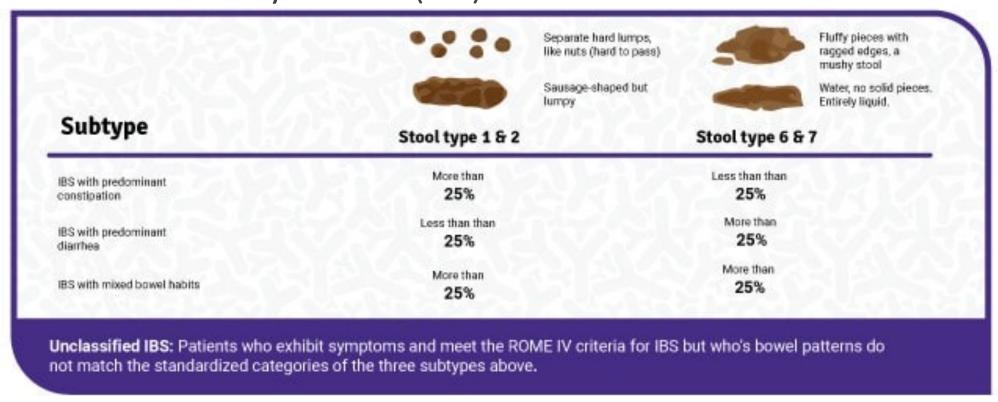


Diabetes



http://www.international-diabetes-association.com/what-they-talk-about-glycemic-index-foods/

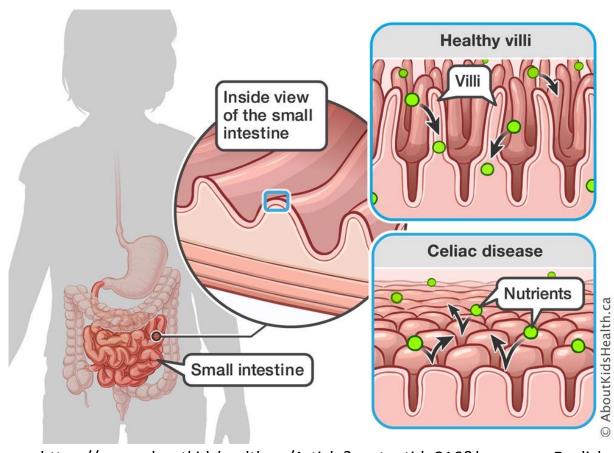
Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)



https://cdhf.ca/digestive-disorders/irritable-bowel-syndrome-ibs/what-is-irritable-bowel-syndrome-ibs/

• Celiac disease





https://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/Article?contentid=816&language=English

• Future?

- Future?
  - Personalized diets?

- Future?
  - Personalized diets?
- NutraIngredients.com

Personalised nutrition startup offers microbiome insights and

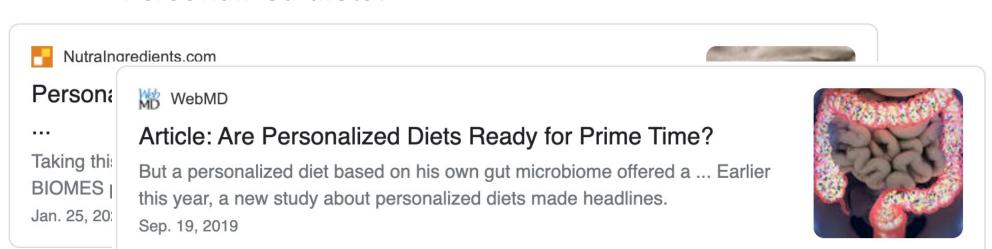
• • •

Taking this, alongside their demographic information and dietary preferences, BIOMES provides a nutrition plan, as well as recommendations ...

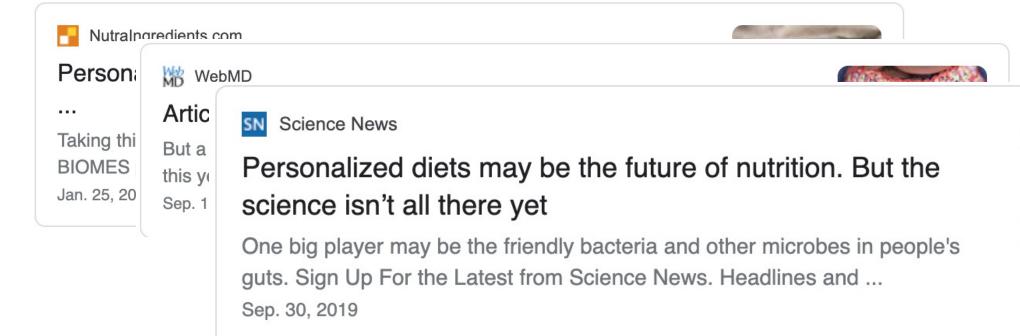
Jan. 25, 2021



- Future?
  - Personalized diets?



- Future?
  - Personalized diets?





## Take home points

- Everything in moderation is still good advice
- Evaluate your sources of information
- Focus on what you can add to your diet, not just what to restrict or remove
- Enjoy your food



#### Reading Recommendations

- From your local library (available at GVPL and likely at other library systems throughout the province; also available for purchase at many bookstores):
  - Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Complete Food and Nutrition Guide, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed, Roberta L. Duyff
  - The China Study, T. Colin Campbell and Thomas C. Campbell II
  - In Defense of Food, Michael Pollan: "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants."

#### • Online:

- HealthLinkBC: <a href="https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthy-eating">https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthy-eating</a>
- Canada's Food Guide: <a href="https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/">https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/</a>
- The Government of Canada Nutrition Labels: <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/understanding-food-labels.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/understanding-food-labels.html</a>
- The Nutrition Source Harvard School of Public Health: https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/
- The Food Medic: https://thefoodmedic.co.uk/
- Google Scholar
- To access this talk and others, go to <a href="https://www.uvic.ca/medsci/people/instructors/gair-jane.php">https://www.uvic.ca/medsci/people/instructors/gair-jane.php</a> or search for "Dr. Jane Gair"

#### • Phone:

- 811 (or 711 for hearing impaired) to be connected to a Registered Dietician
- Always keep your wits about you!

#### Q&A

• Comments, questions, or concerns about what you just heard? About the talk series?

## Closing Remarks

• Thank you to Dr. Jane Gair, our supervisor for this activity, and to Julia De Pieri, our classmate, who will be delivering several of the talks in this series

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Thank you for attending today!