

# Effects of Nutritional Interventions on Aging

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Brennen McKenzie, MA, MSc, VMD



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**Transforming Lives**

# Effects of Nutritional Interventions on Aging

## Brennen McKenzie

### FINAL DISCLOSURE:

Part-time employment- Loyal

### UNLABELED/UNAPPROVED USES DISCLOSURE:

None

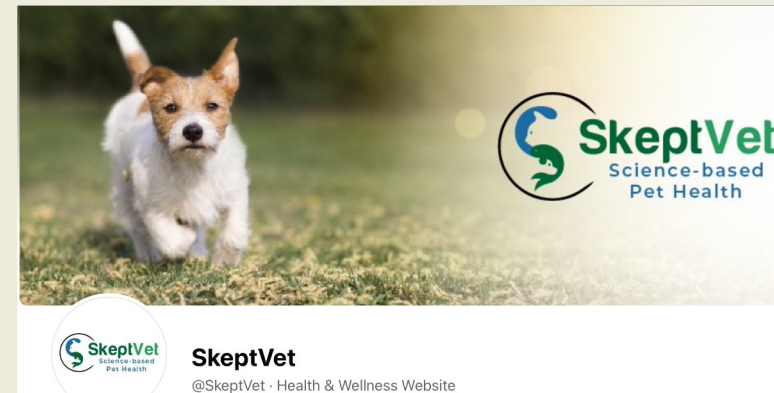
## Who is This Guy?

- VMD
- MSc Epidemiology
- MA Physiology & Behavior



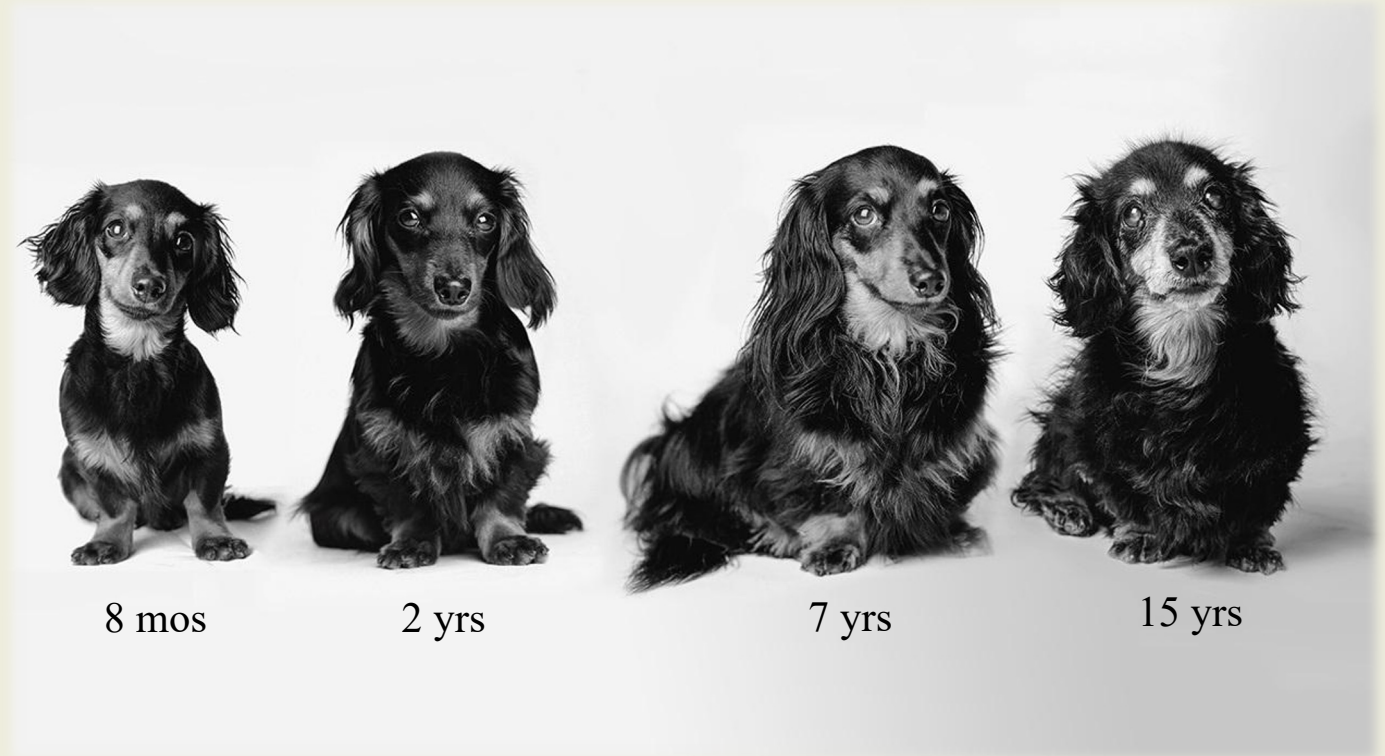
# Who is This Guy?

- Adobe Animal Hospital
- Loyal
- EBVMA
- SkeptVet



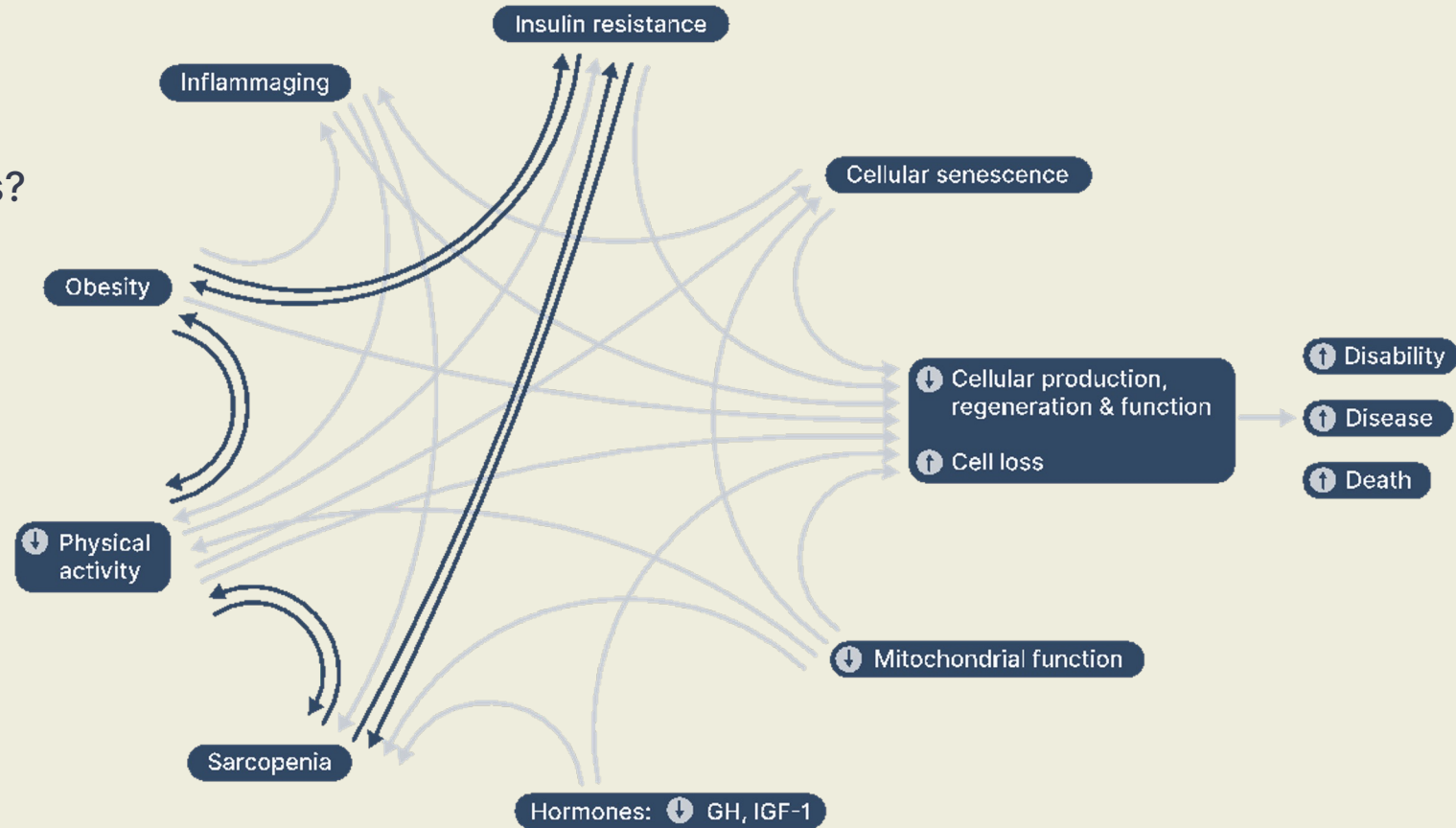
# Aging and Nutrition

→ What is aging?



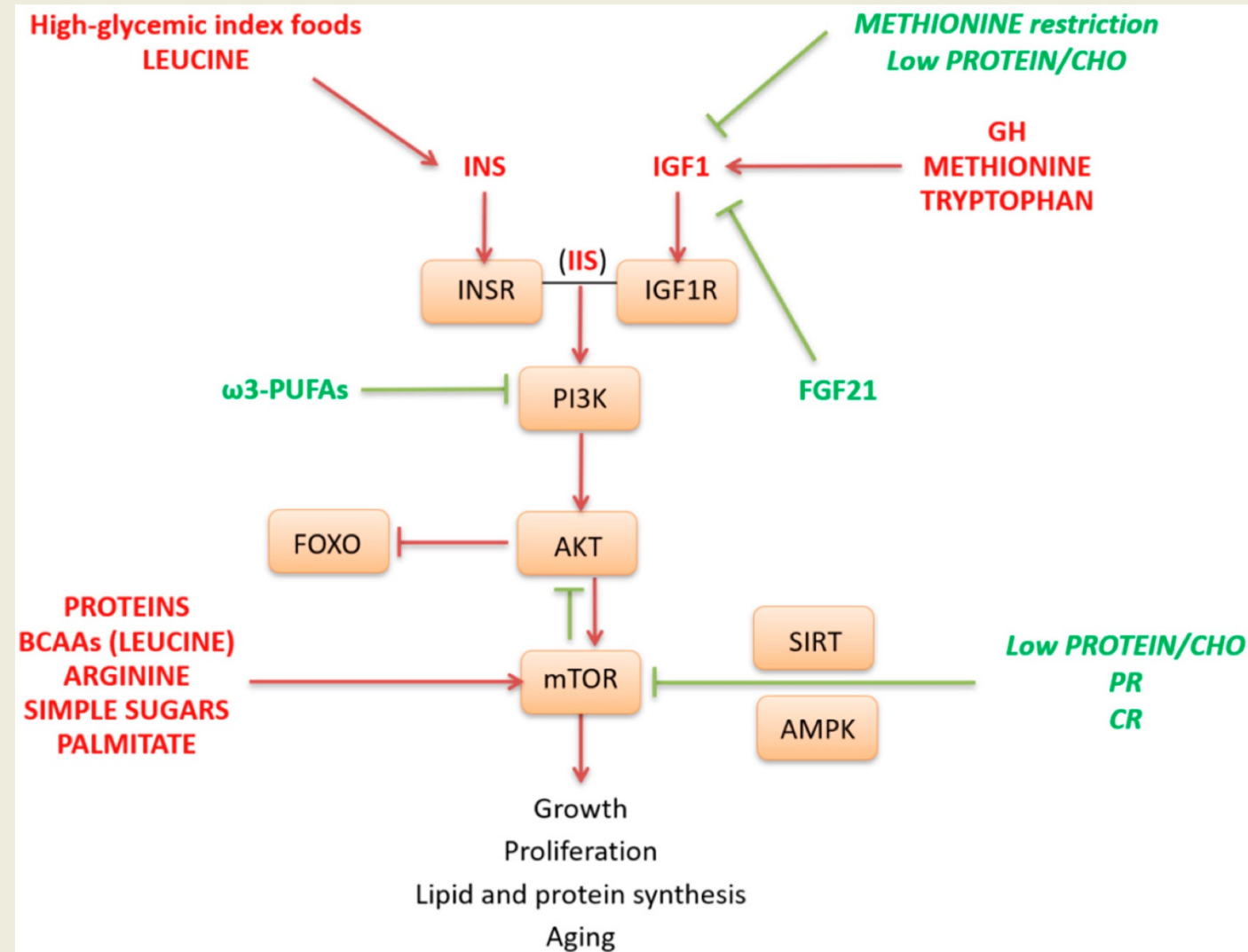
# Aging and Nutrition

- What is aging?
- What are the underlying mechanisms?



# Aging and Nutrition

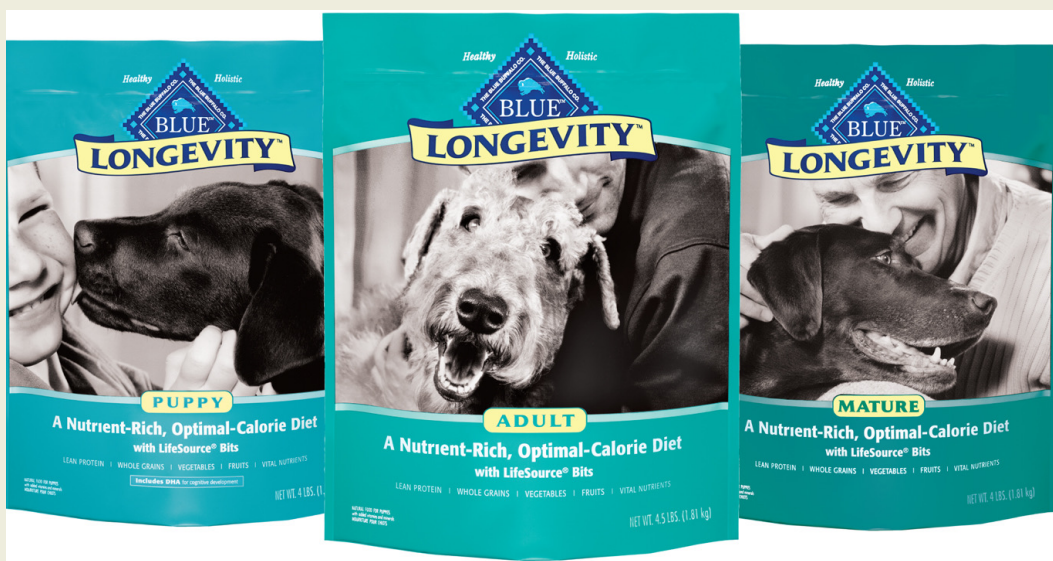
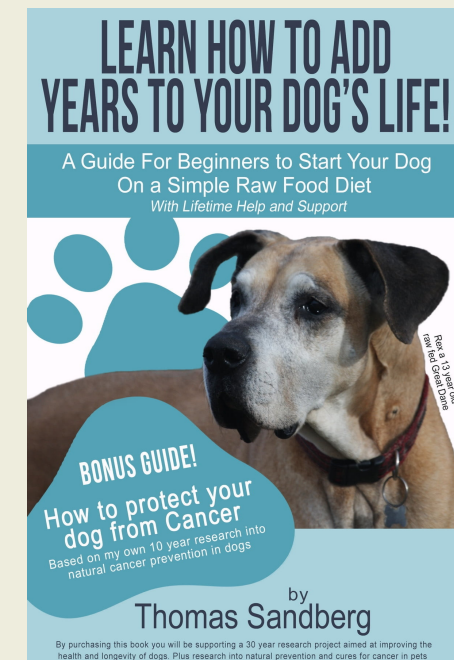
- What is aging?
- What are the underlying mechanisms?
- How does nutrition influence these?





# Aging and Nutrition

- What is aging?
- What are the underlying mechanisms?
- How does nutrition influence these?
- What are the implications?





**WHAT IS AGING?**



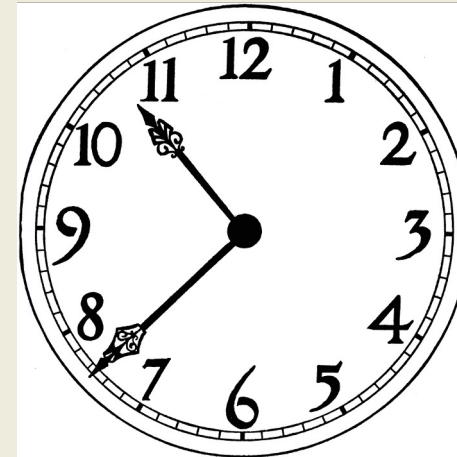
# What Is Aging?

## → Scientific Literature

- The progressive **accumulation of changes** with time associated with or responsible for the **ever-increasing susceptibility to disease and death**
- A persistent decline in the age-specific fitness components of an organism due to **internal physiological degeneration**
- A process of the **progressive functional decline with time**, leading to **disability, dependence, morbidity, and mortality**

# What Is Aging?

- Time Passing
- Physical & Functional Changes
- Increase Risk of Three Ds
  - Disability
  - Disease
  - Death



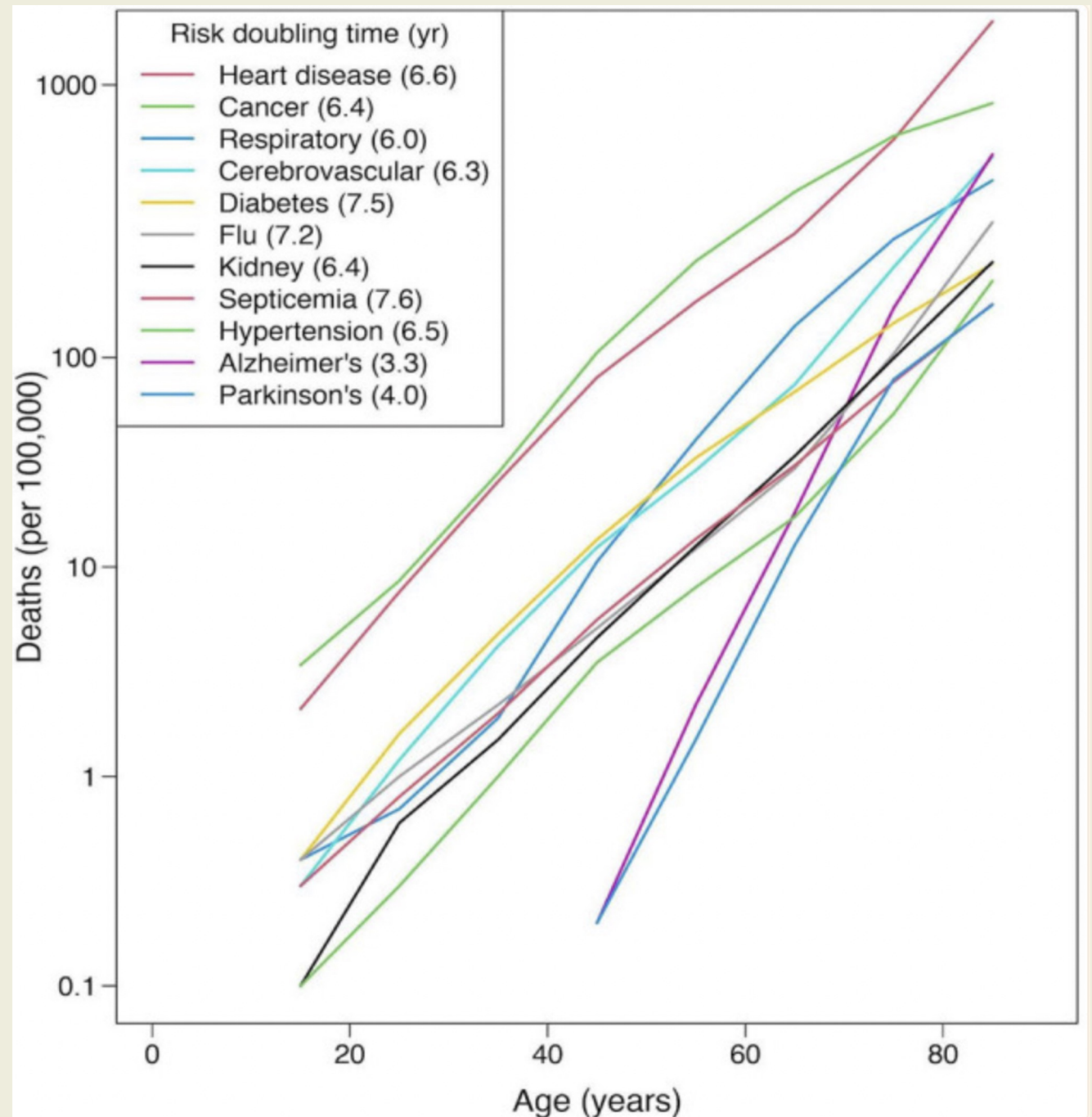
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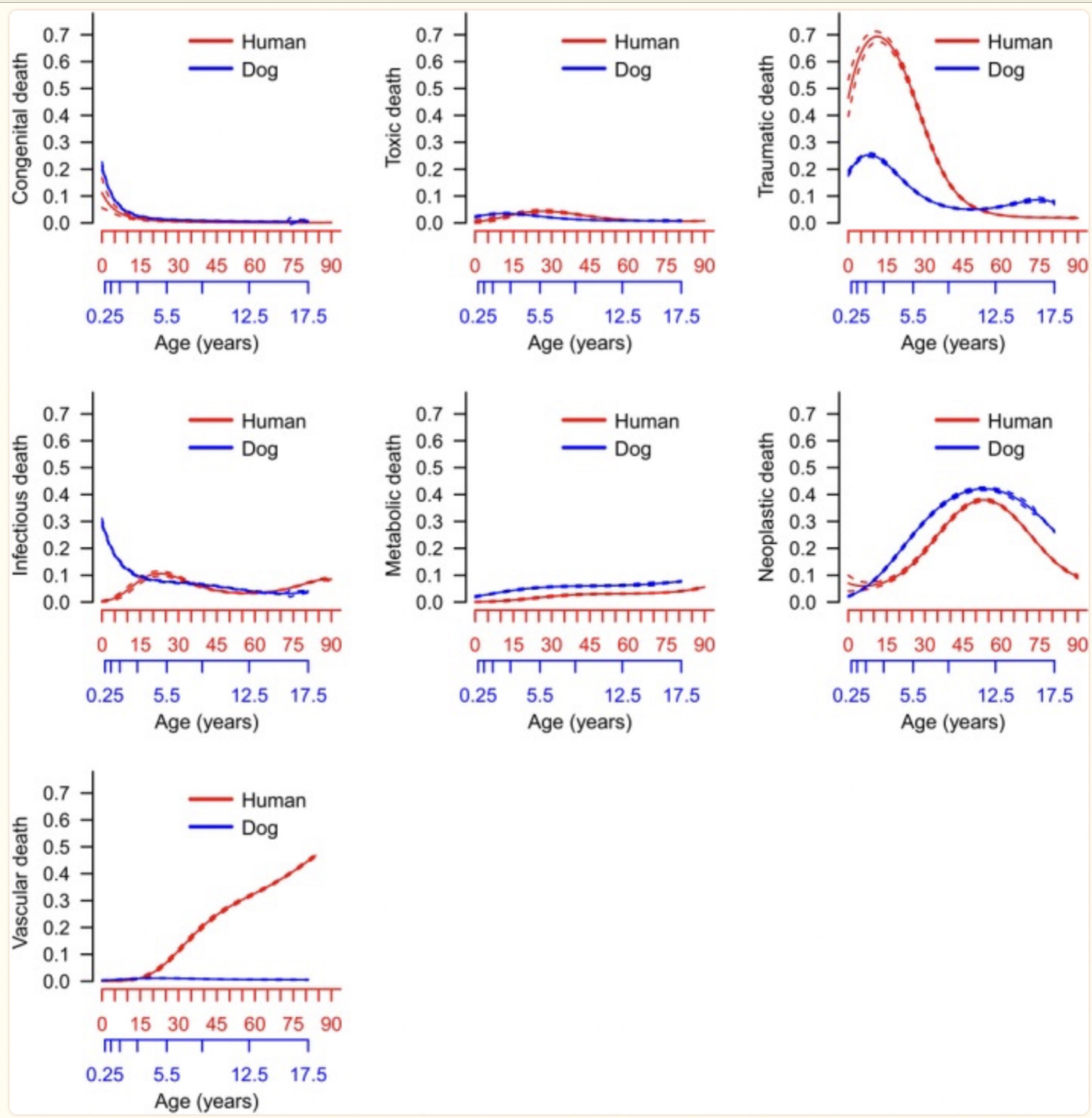
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# What Is Aging?

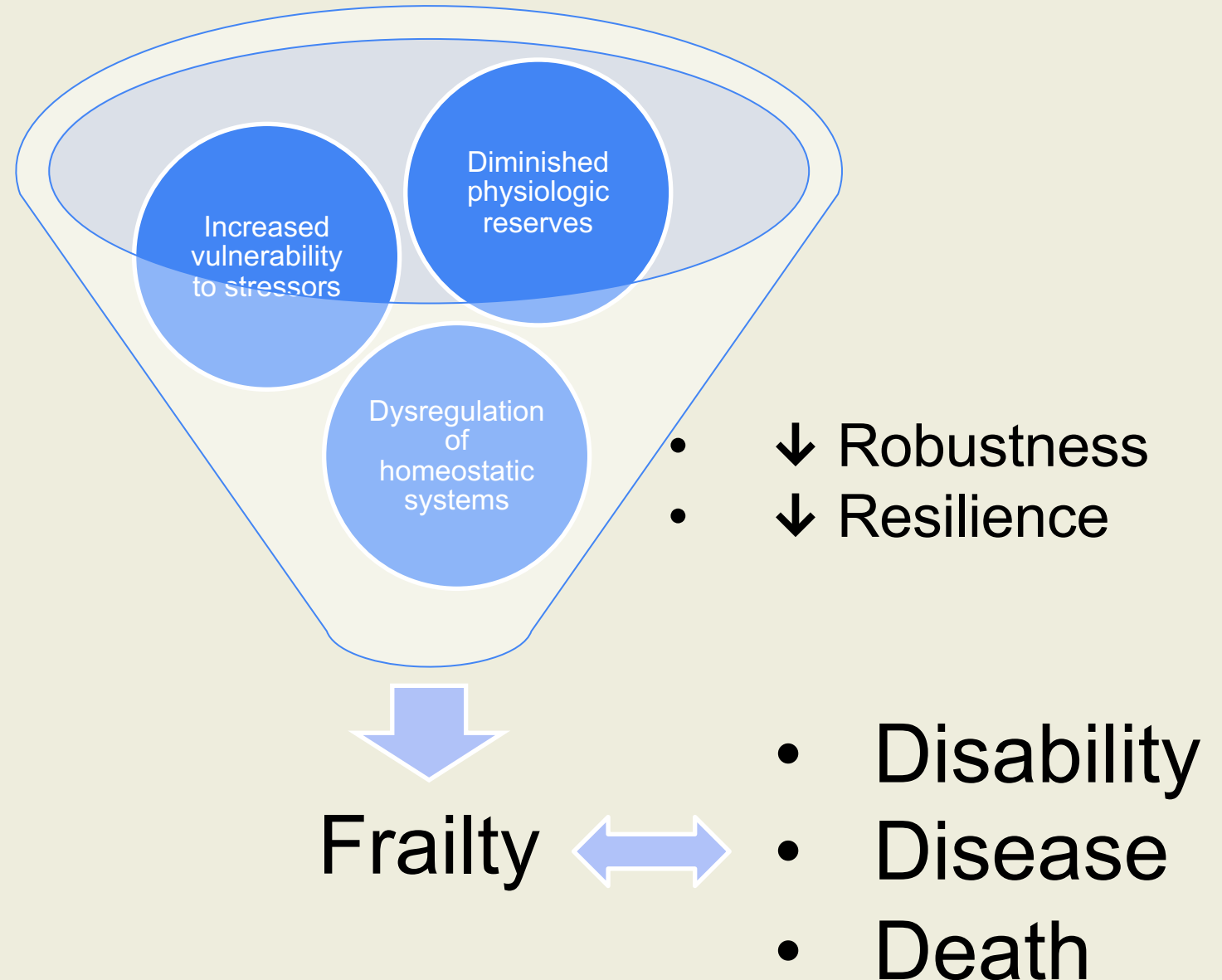
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  - Death



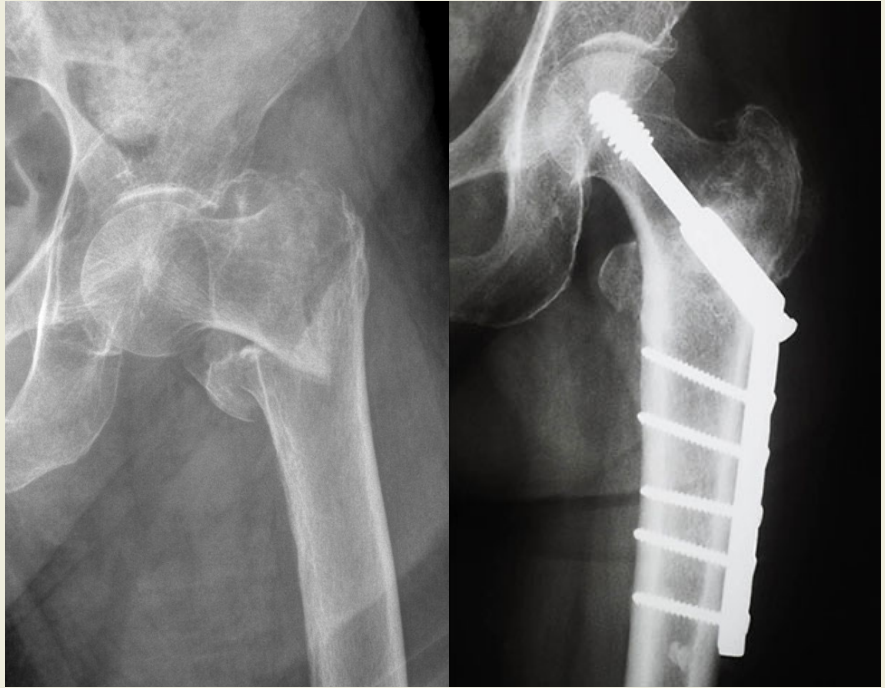
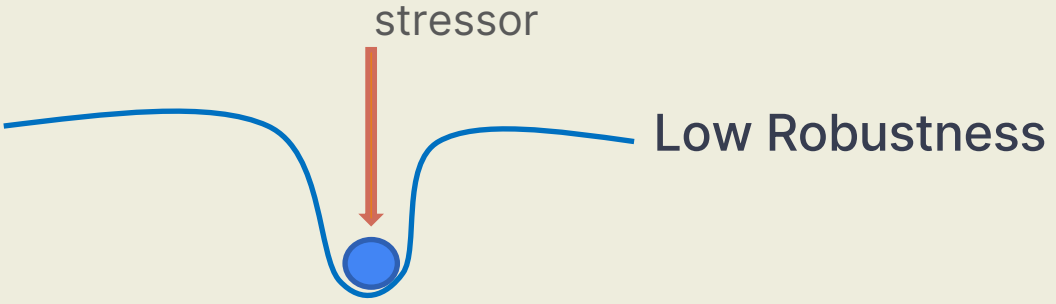
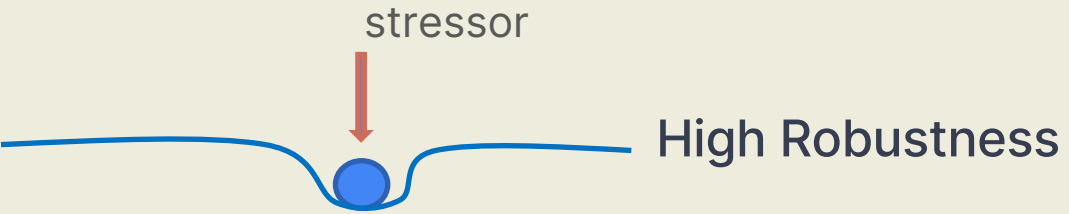


# What Is Aging?

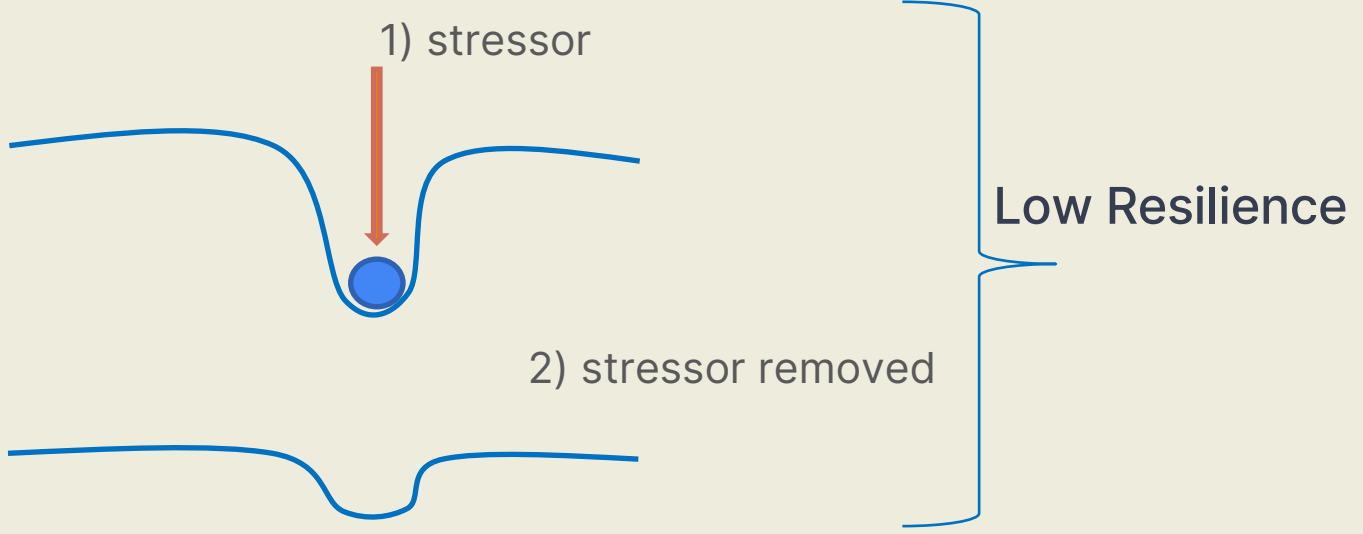
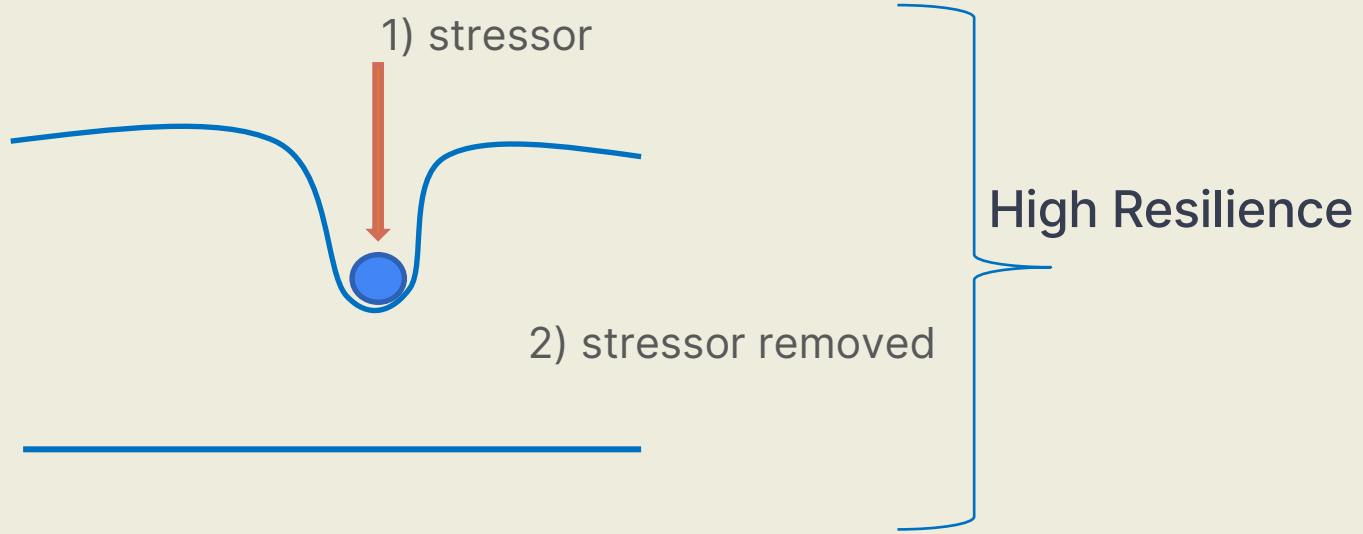
- Time Passing
- Physical & Functional Changes
- Increase Risk of Three Ds
  - Disability
  - Disease
  - Death
- Frailty



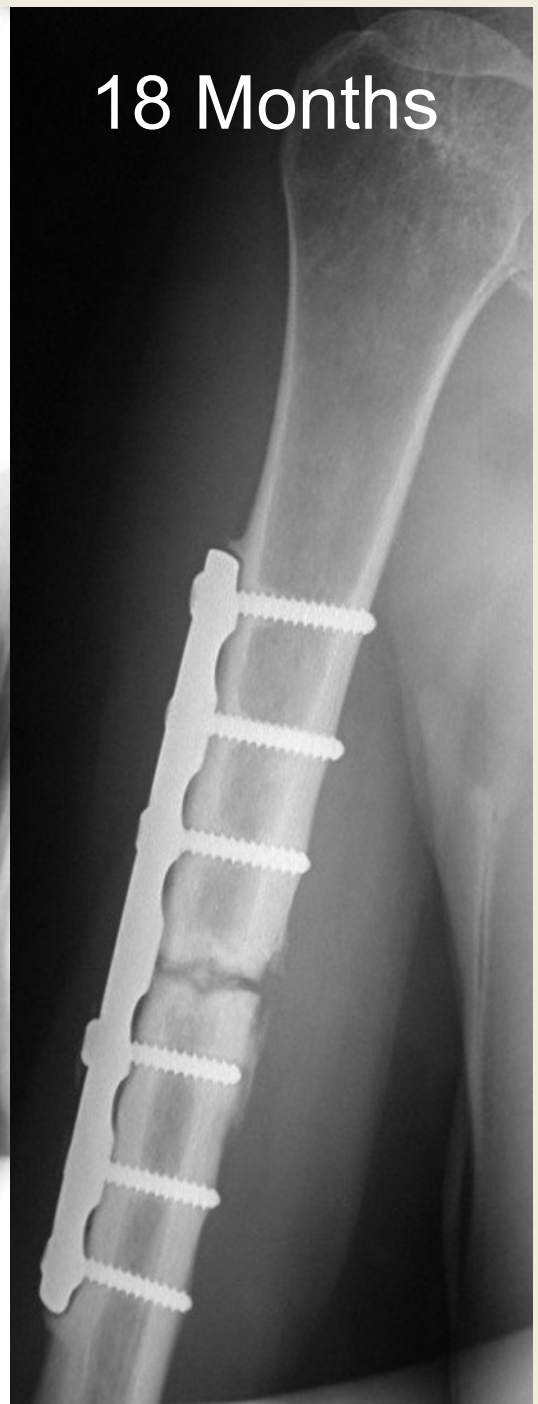
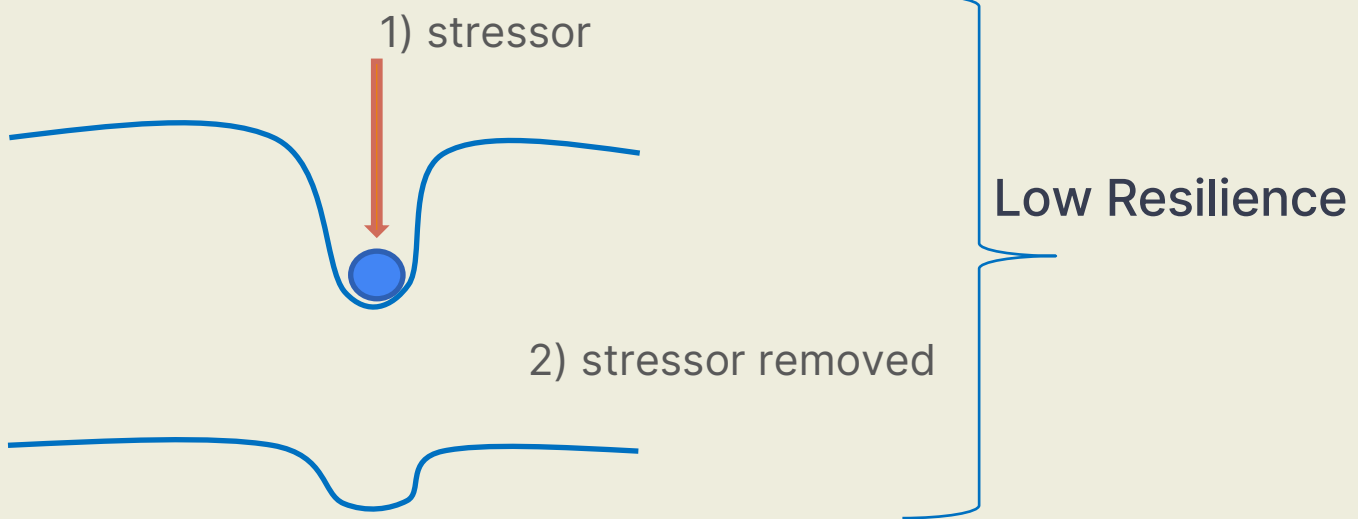
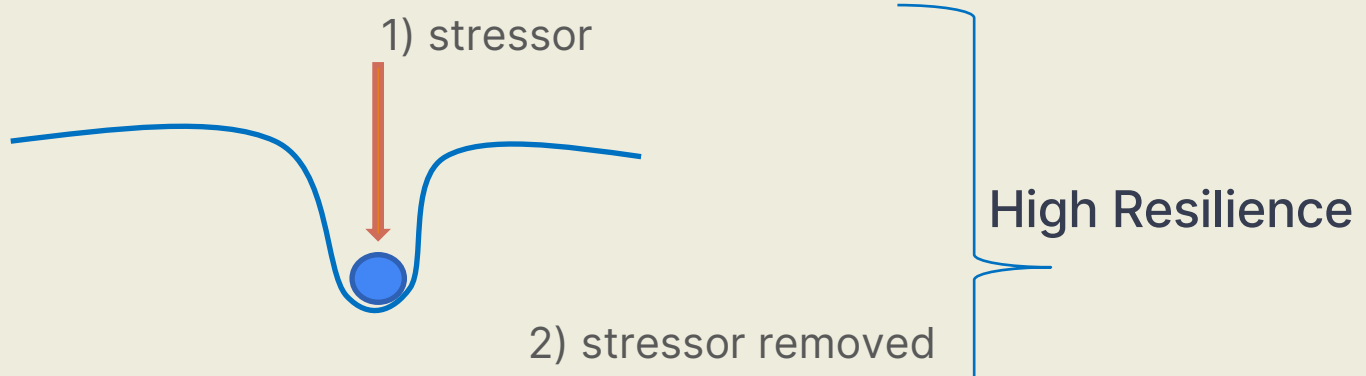
Normal State



Normal State



Normal State





# Nutrition & Aging

## → How Diet Can Impact Aging

- Treatment and prevention of age-associated disease
- Optimization of diet for life stages
- Optimization of diet for individuals
- Targeting mechanisms of aging

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- ~~- Treatment and prevention of age-associated disease~~
- ~~- Optimization of diet for life stages~~
- ~~- Optimization of diet for individuals~~
- Targeting mechanisms of aging



# Mechanisms of Aging



# Mechanisms of Aging

→ It's Just Biology!

→ Cellular & Molecular Mechanisms



→ Tissue Aging



→ Organismal Aging

- Phenotype



# Aging Mechanisms

## Web of Aging

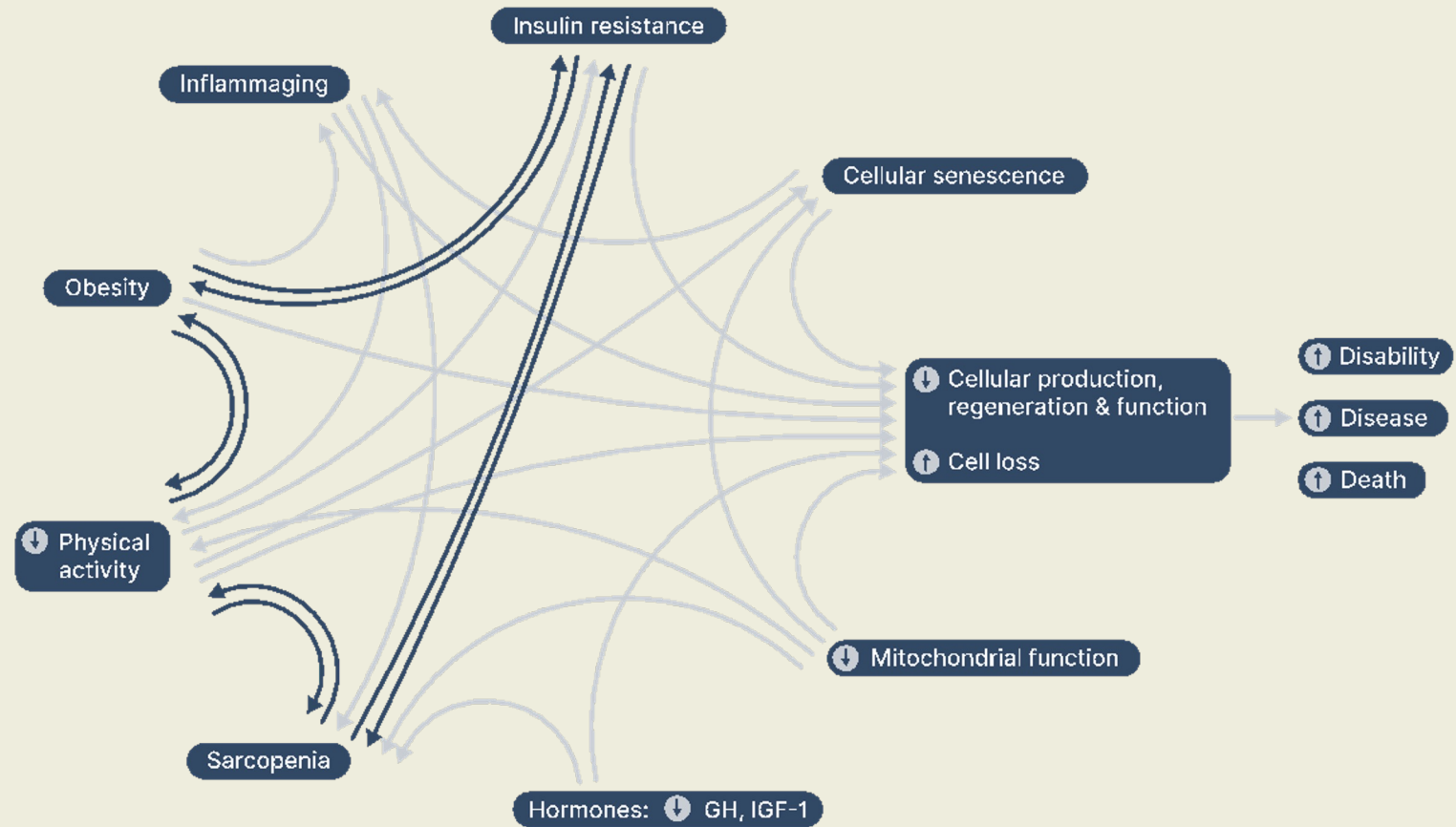
→ Cellular & Molecular Mechanisms



→ Environment



→ Chance



# Aging Mechanisms

## Web of Aging

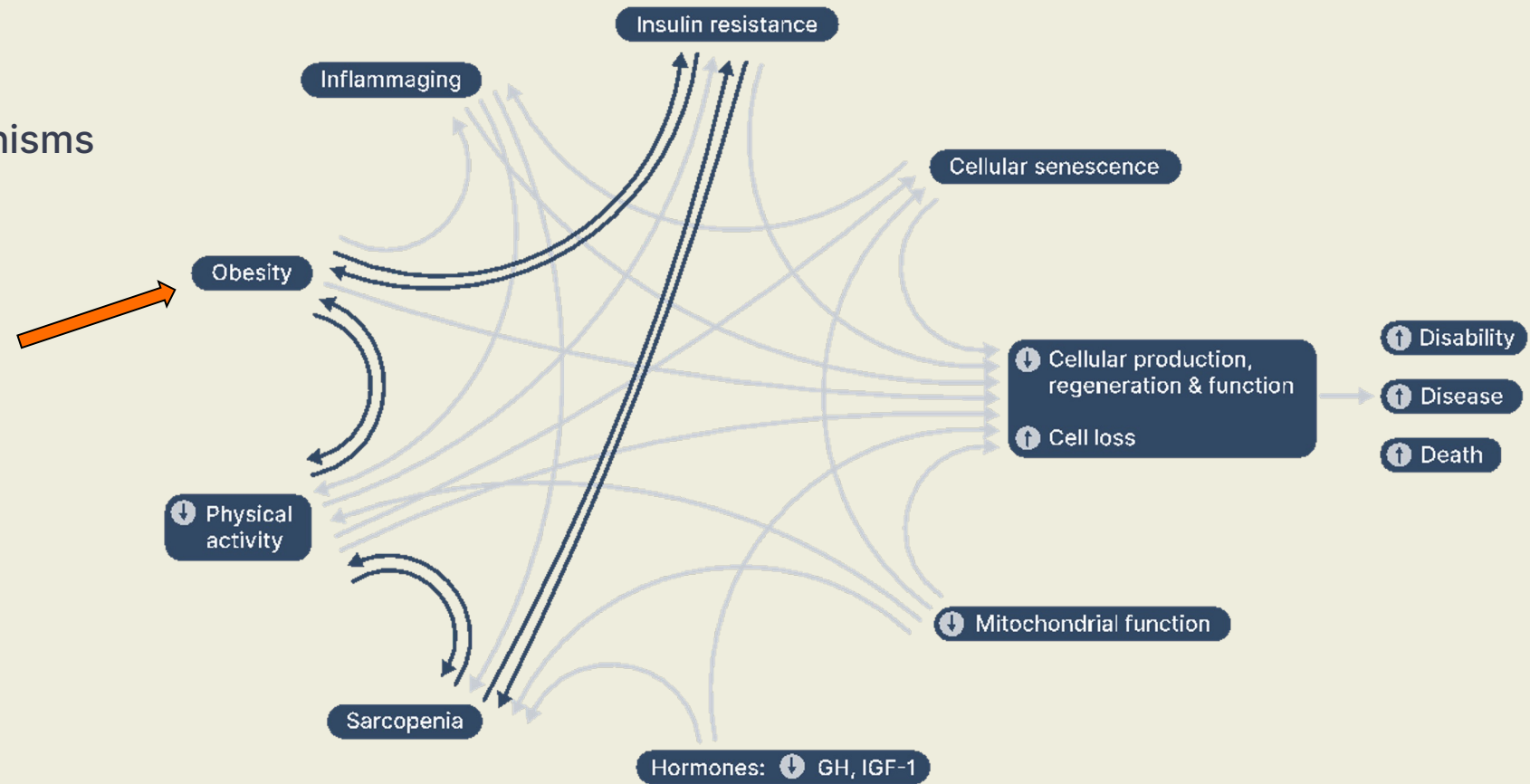
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→ Chance



# Aging Mechanisms

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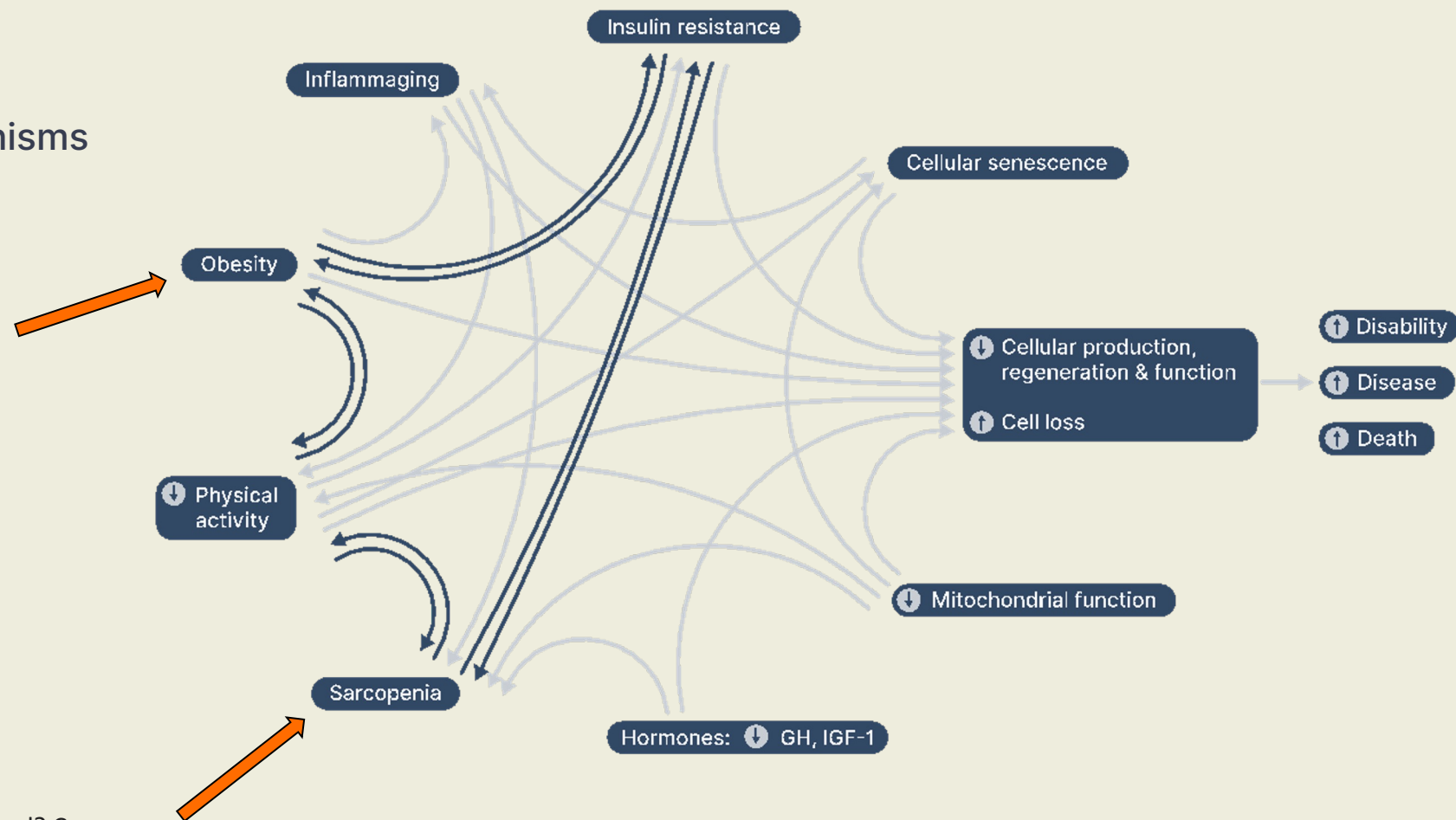
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# Aging Mechanisms

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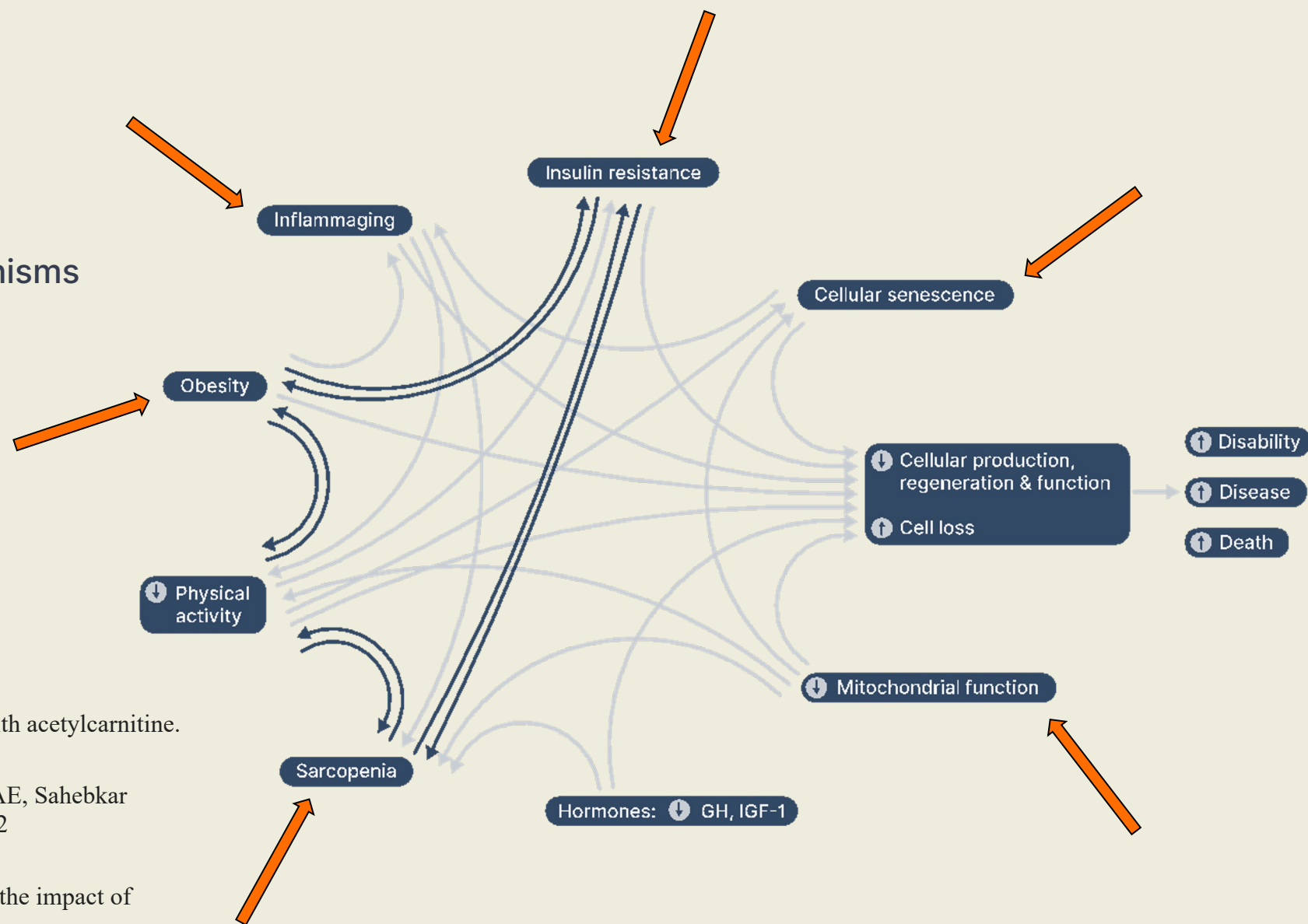
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→ Chance



Ames BN, Liu J. Delaying the mitochondrial decay of aging with acetylcarnitine. *Ann N Y Acad Sci.* 2004 Nov;1033:108-16.

Di Giosia P, Stamerra CA, Giorgini P, Jamialahamdi T, Butler AE, Sahebkar A. The role of nutrition in inflammaging. *Ageing Res Rev.* 2022 May;77:101596.

Maduro AT, Luis C, Soares R. Ageing, cellular senescence and the impact of diet: an overview. *Porto Biomed J.* 2021 Feb 11;6(1):e120.

# Aging Mechanisms

## Web of Aging

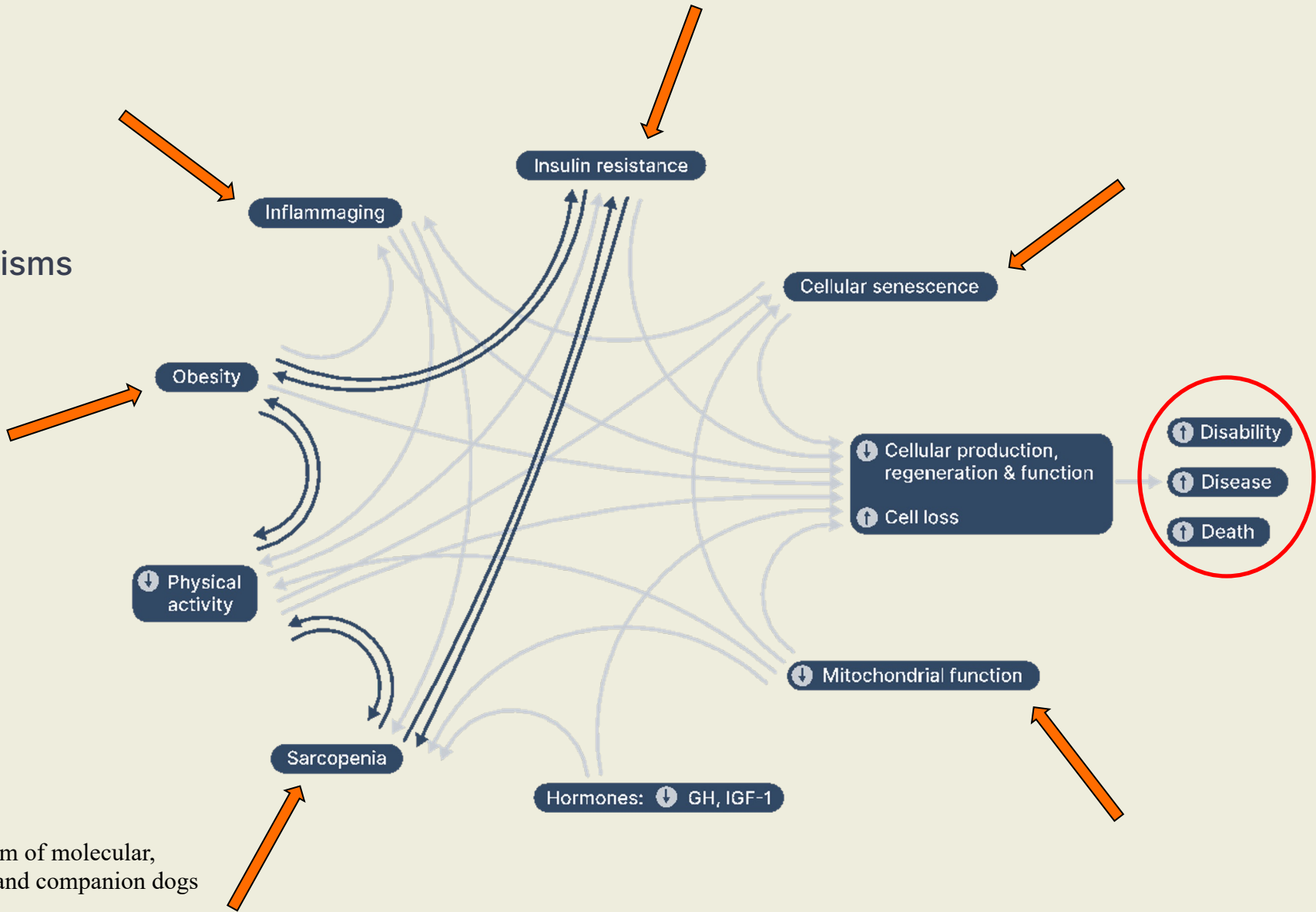
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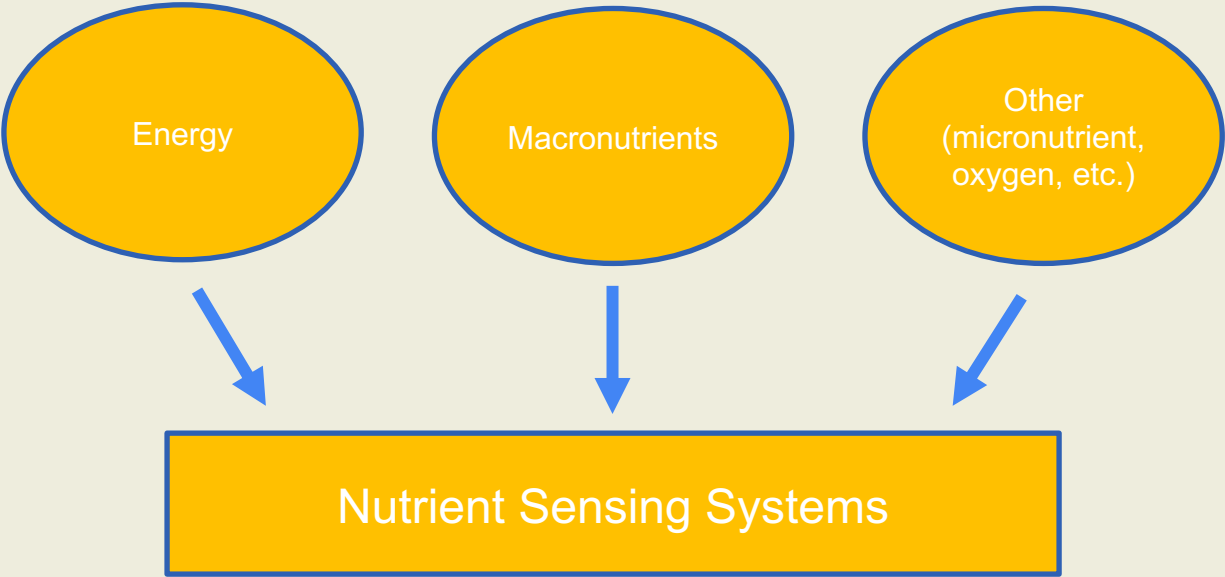
McKenzie, BA. Comparative Veterinary Geroscience: Mechanism of molecular, cellular, and tissue aging in humans, laboratory animal models, and companion dogs and cats. Amer J Vet Res. 2022;83(6:).







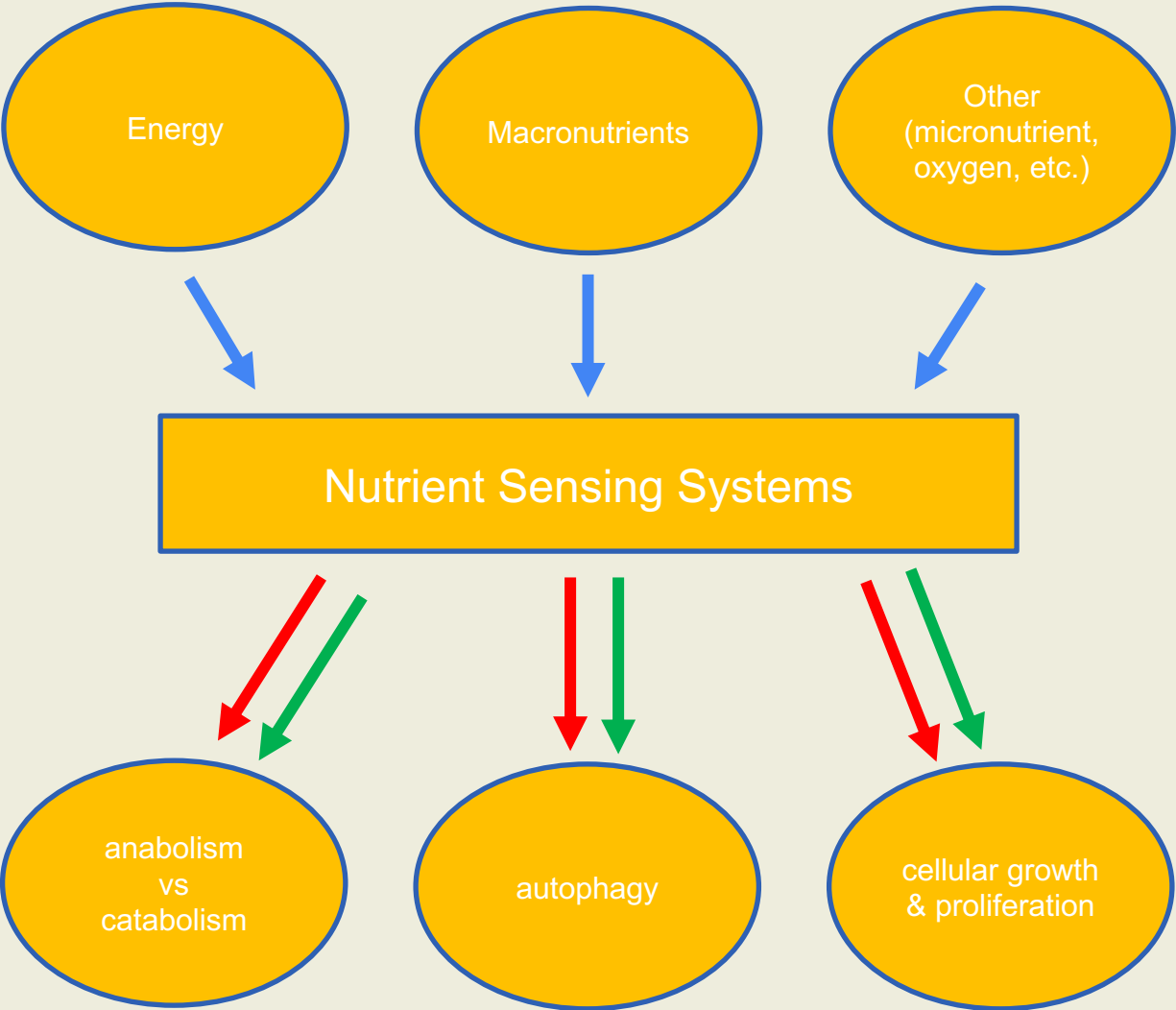
# Nutrient Sensing & Aging



→ **Monitoring**

- energy
- macronutrients
- other

# Nutrient Sensing & Aging

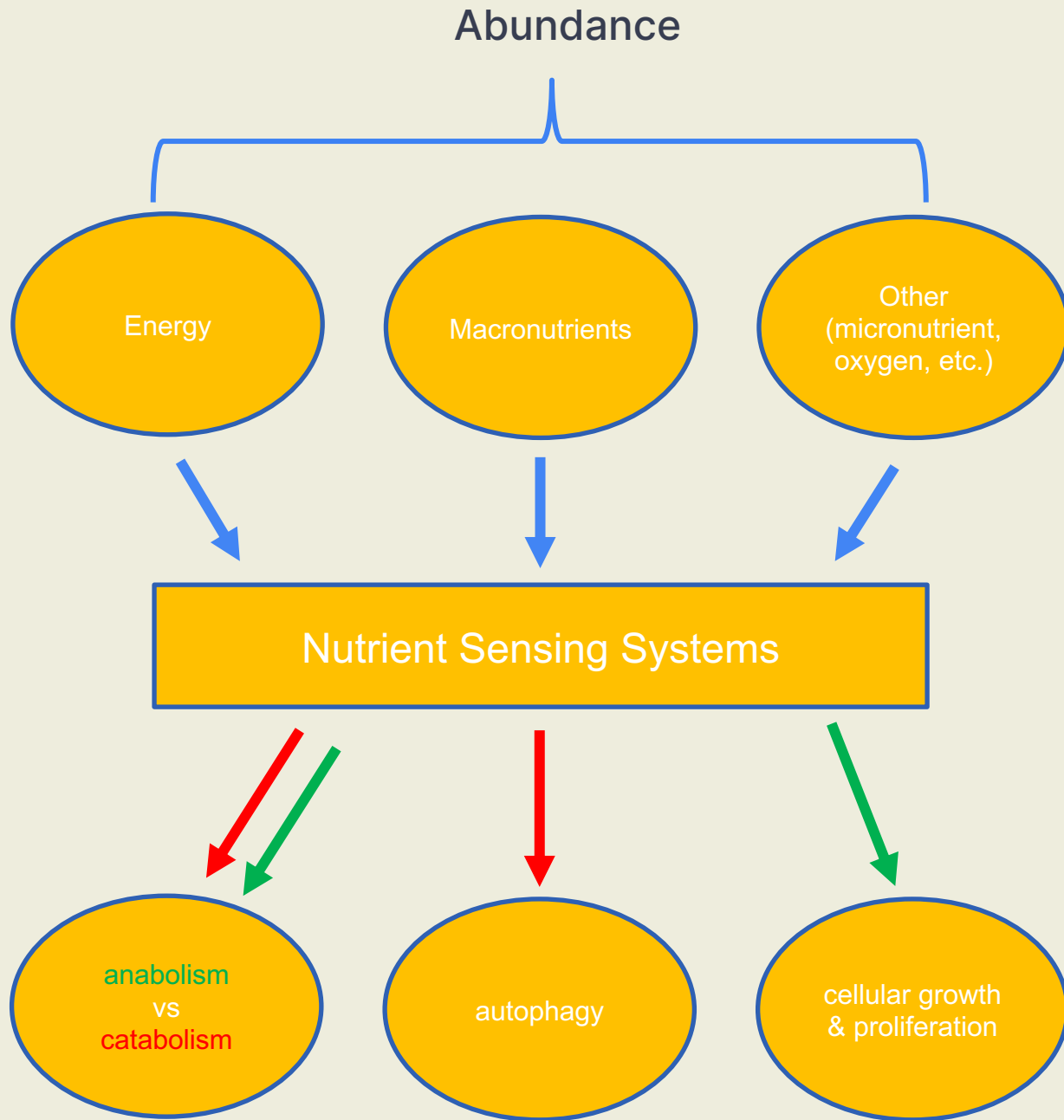


→ **Monitoring**

- energy
- macronutrients
- other

→ **Adjusting**

- anabolism/catabolism
- autophagy
- cellular growth & proliferation



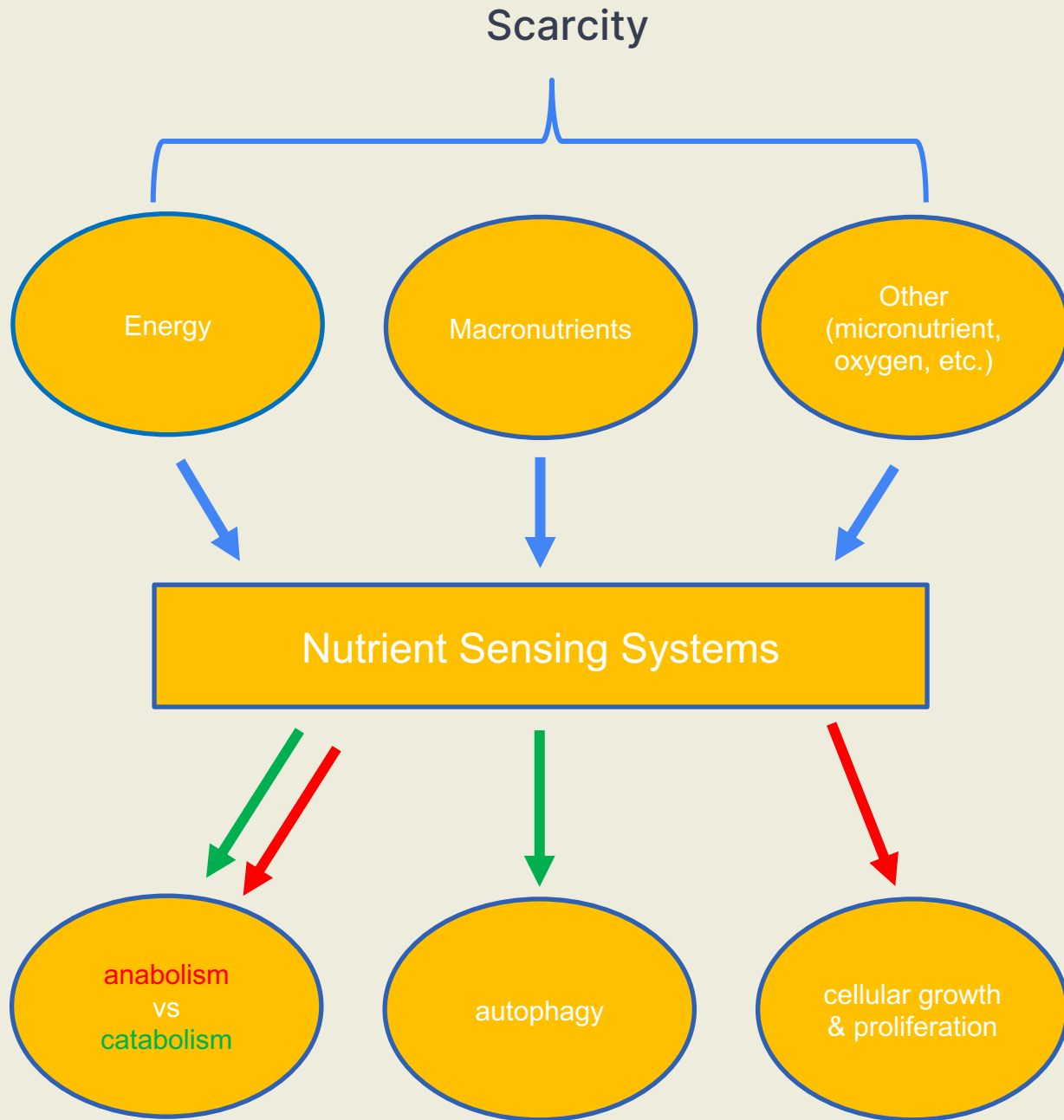
## Nutrient Sensing & Aging

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### → Adjusting

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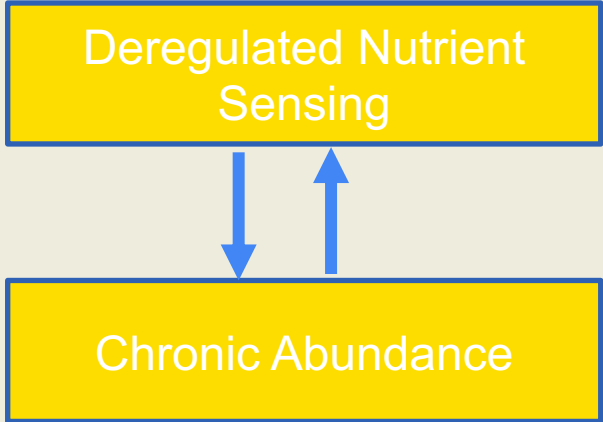
## Nutrient Sensing & Aging

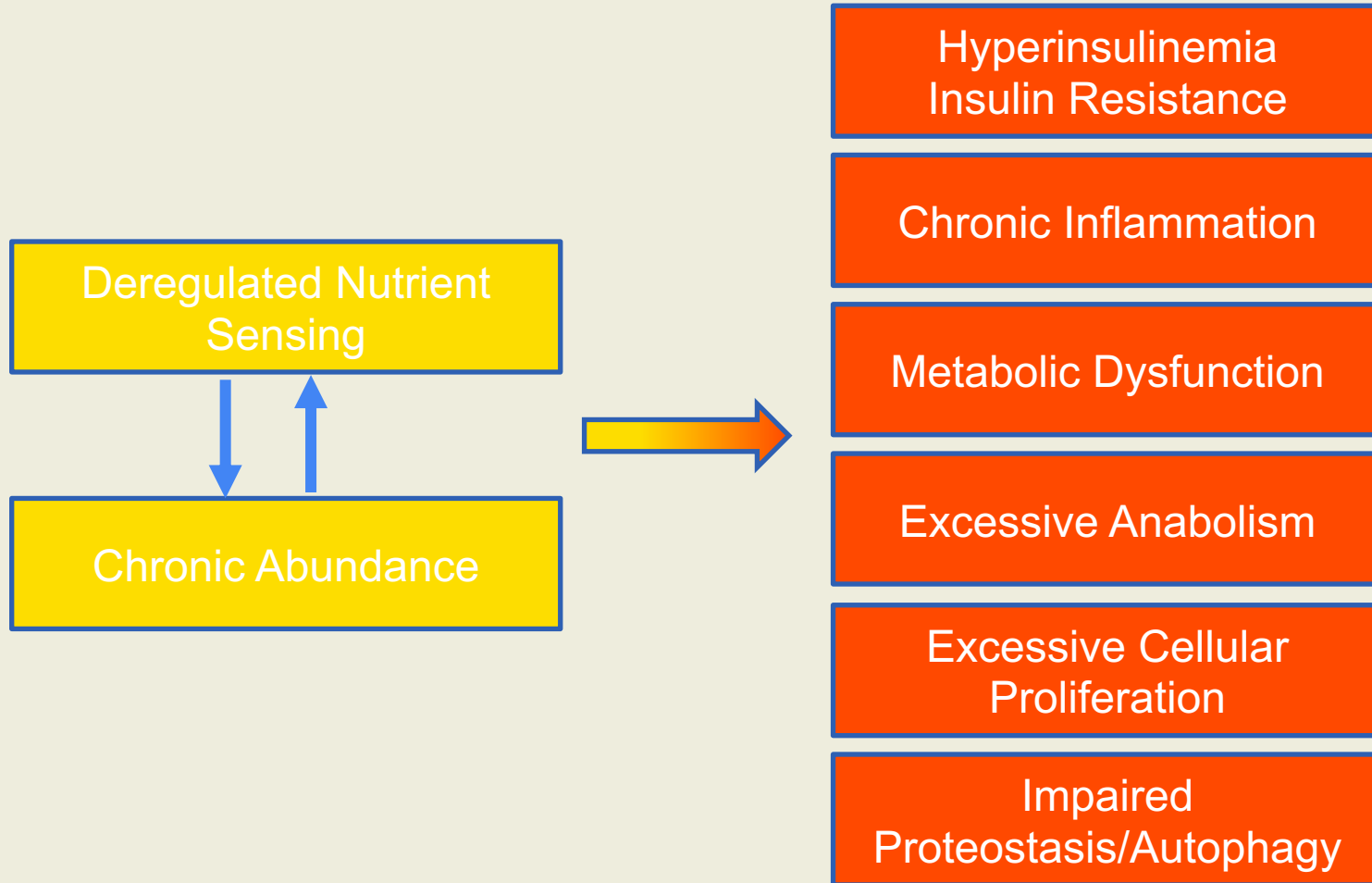
### → Monitoring

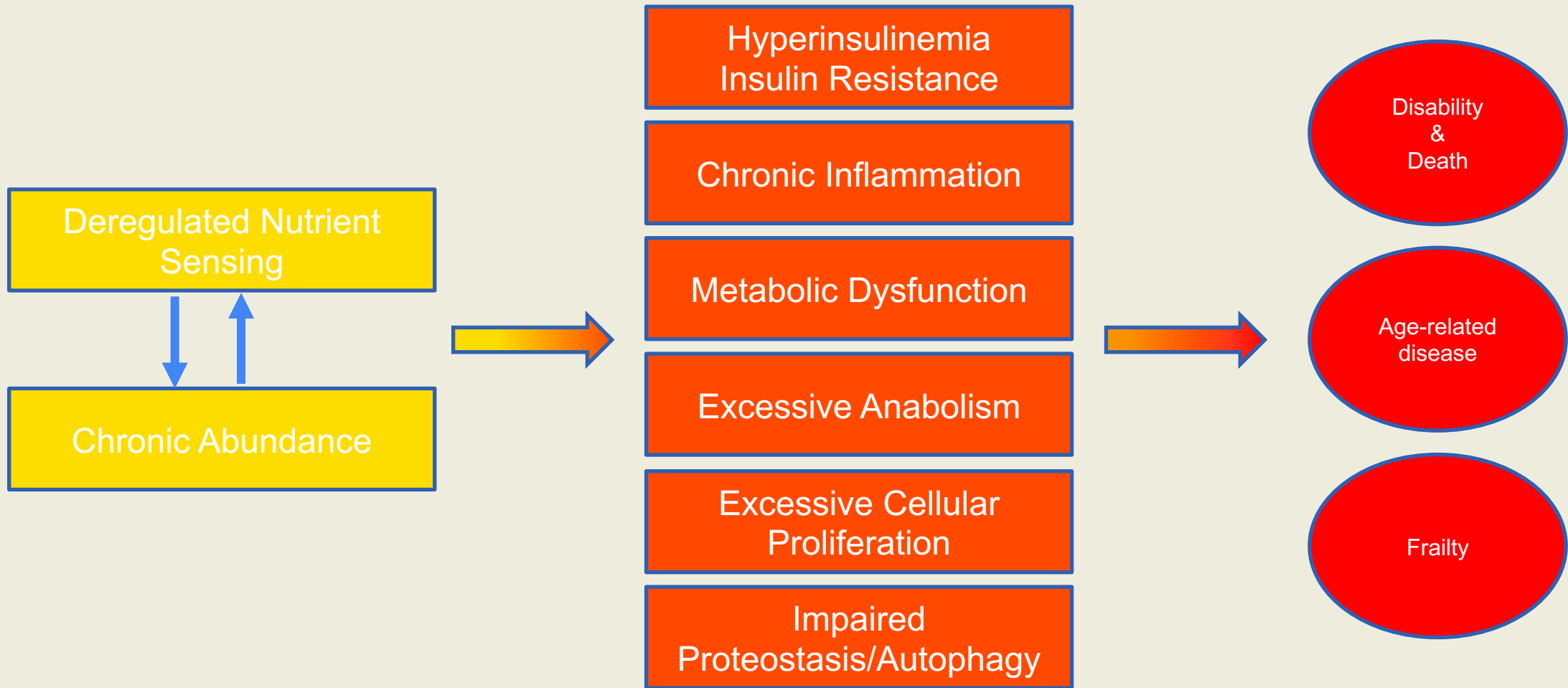
- energy
- macronutrients
- other

### → Adjusting

- anabolism/catabolism
- autophagy
- cellular growth & proliferation









Heroes & Villains





# Villains

## Regulator

mTORC1  
(mechanistic target of rapamycin)

GH/IGF-1  
(growth hormone/insulin-like growth factor 1)

PI3K/AKT  
(protein kinases)

## Activity

## Lifespan Effects



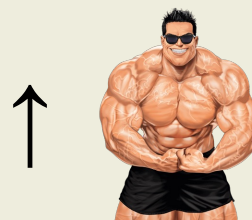
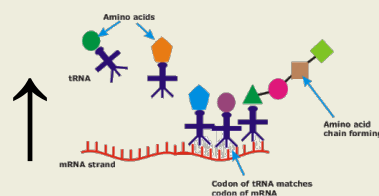
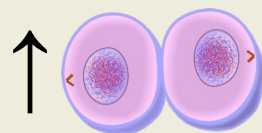
# Villains



## Regulator

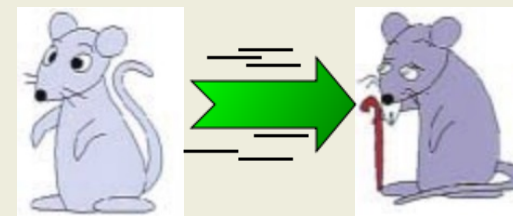
mTORC1  
(mechanistic target of rapamycin)

## Activity

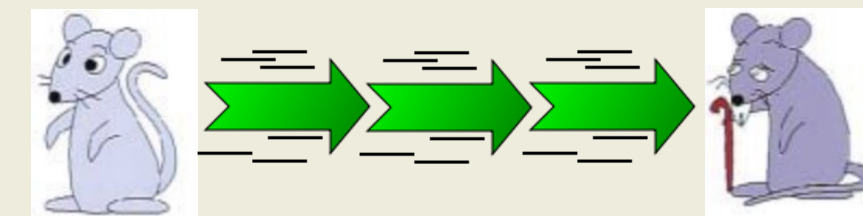


## Lifespan Effects

↑ mTORC1



↓ mTORC1





# Villains

## Regulator

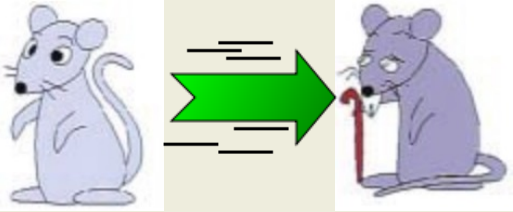
## Activity

## Lifespan Effects

**GH/IGF-1**  
(growth hormone/insulin-like growth factor 1)

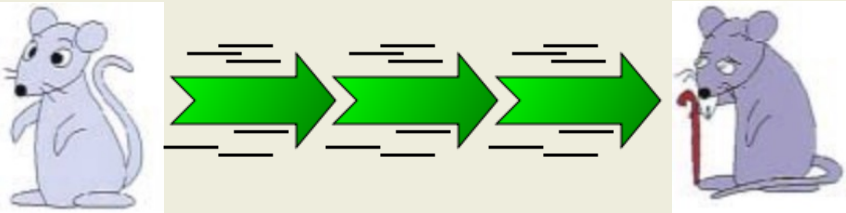
↑ mTORC1

↑ GH/IGF-1



↓ FOXO

↓ GH/IGF-1





# Villains

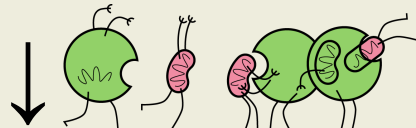
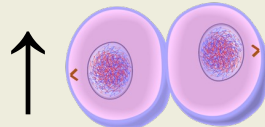
## Regulator

PI3K/AKT  
(protein kinases)

## Activity

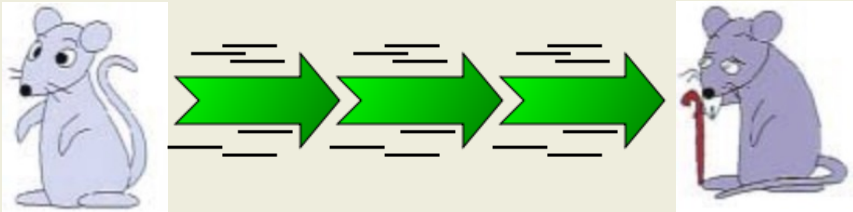
↑ mTORC1

↓ FOXO



## Lifespan Effects

↓ PI3K/AKT



# Heroes



## Regulator

AMPK  
(AMP-activated kinase)

FOXO  
(forkhead box O  
transcription factors)

FGF21  
(fibroblast growth factor  
21)

## Activity

## Lifespan Effects

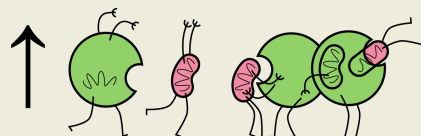
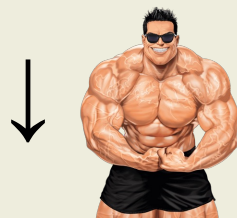
# Heroes



## Regulator

AMPK  
(AMP-activated kinase)

## Activity



↓ mTORC1

↑ FOXO

## Lifespan Effects

↑ AMPK



# Heroes



## Regulator

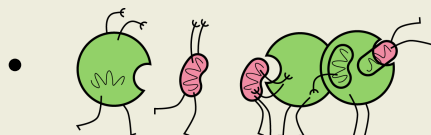
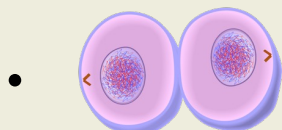
FOXO  
(forkhead box O  
transcription factors)



## Activity

↓ mTORC1

- Nutritional stress response
- Energy metabolism



## Lifespan Effects

↑ FOXO



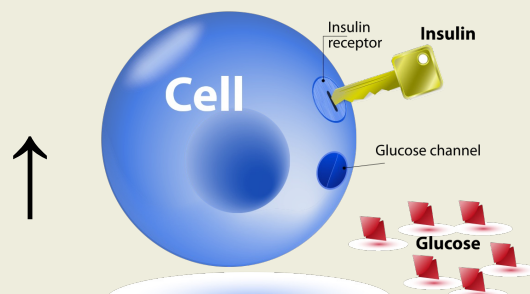
# Heroes



## Regulator

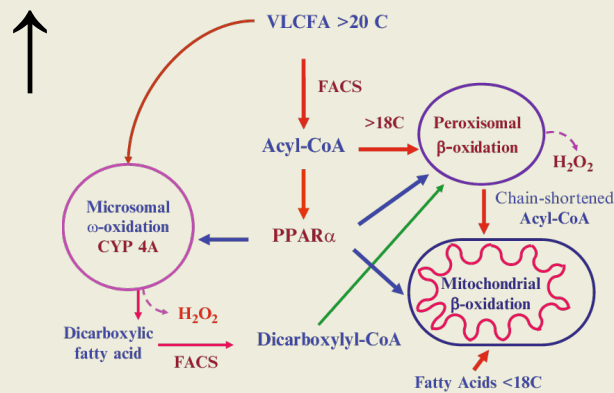
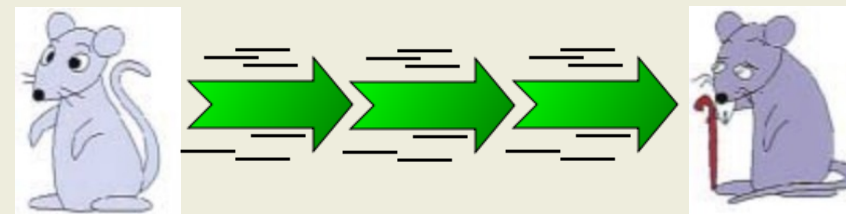
FGF21  
(fibroblast growth factor 21)

## Activity



## Lifespan Effects

↑ FGF21



↓ GH/IGF-1



**Villains**

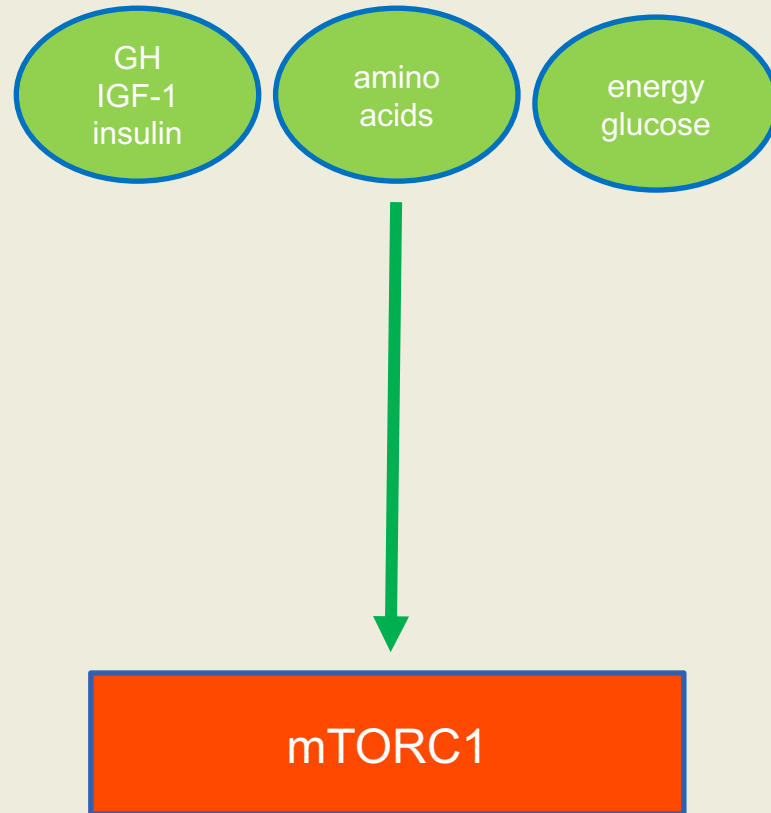


mTORC1

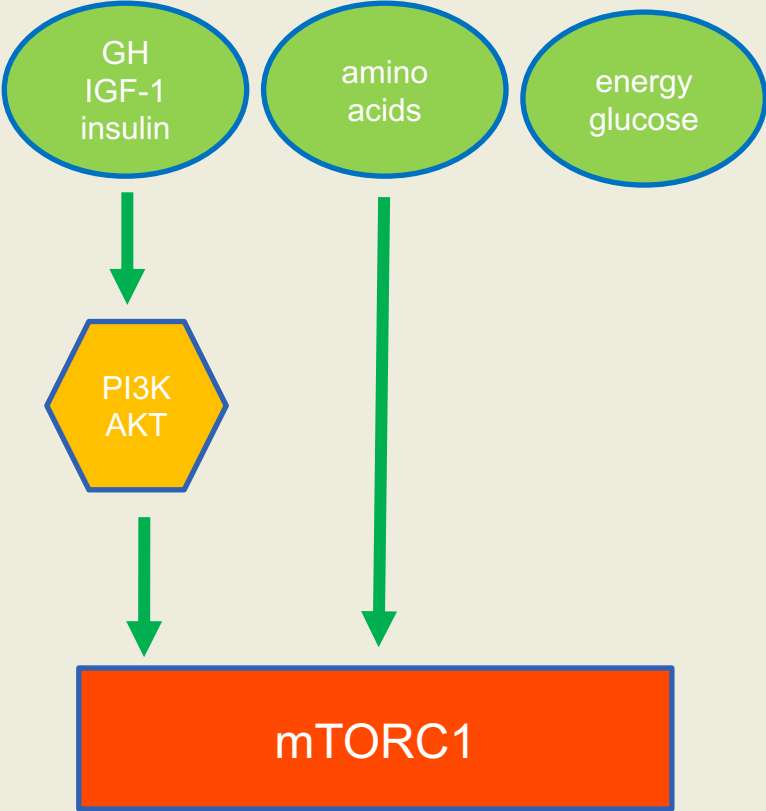
# Villains



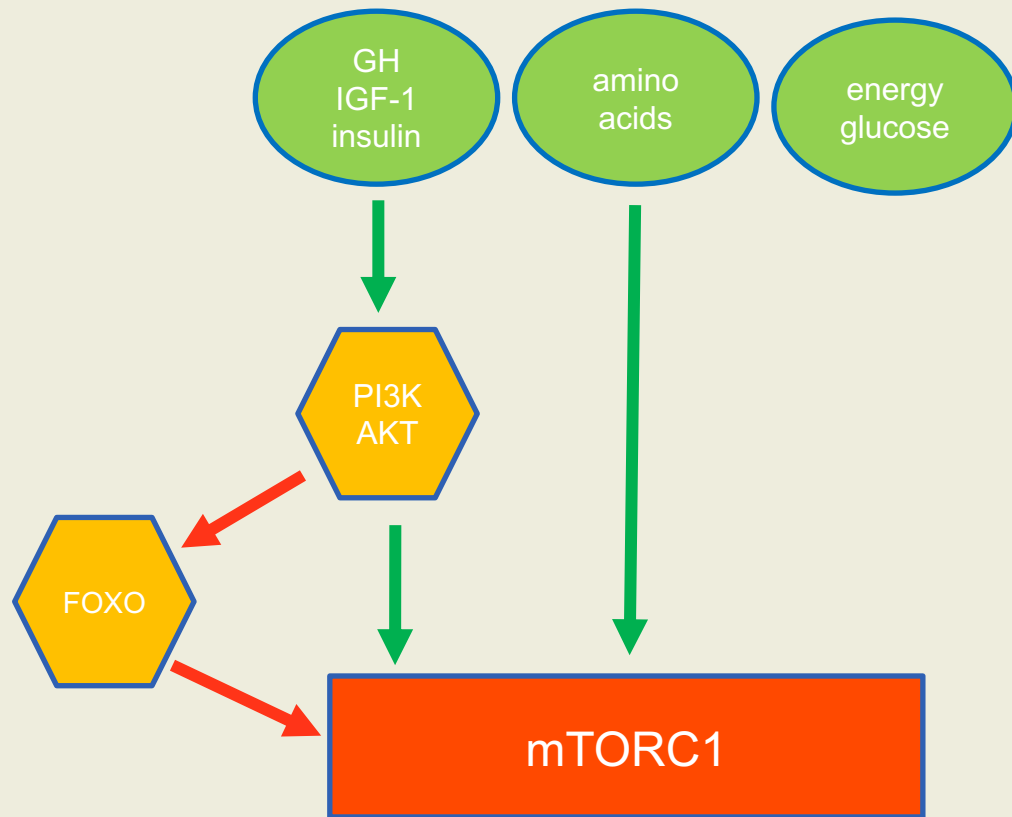
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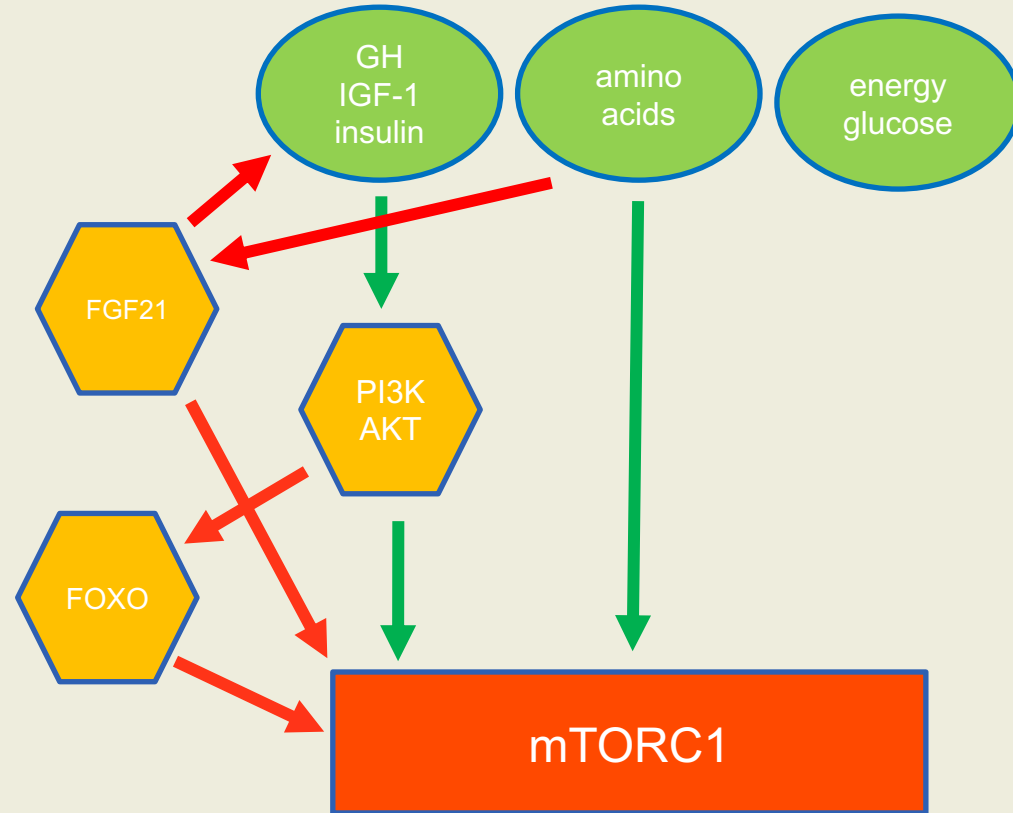


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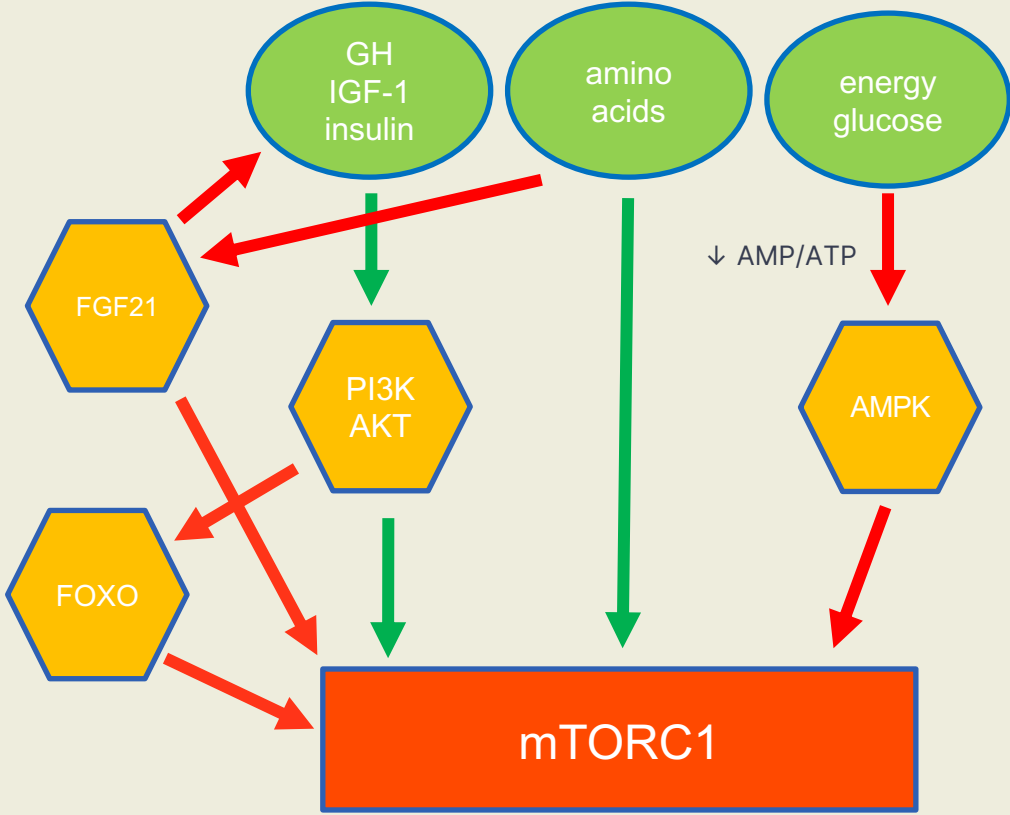


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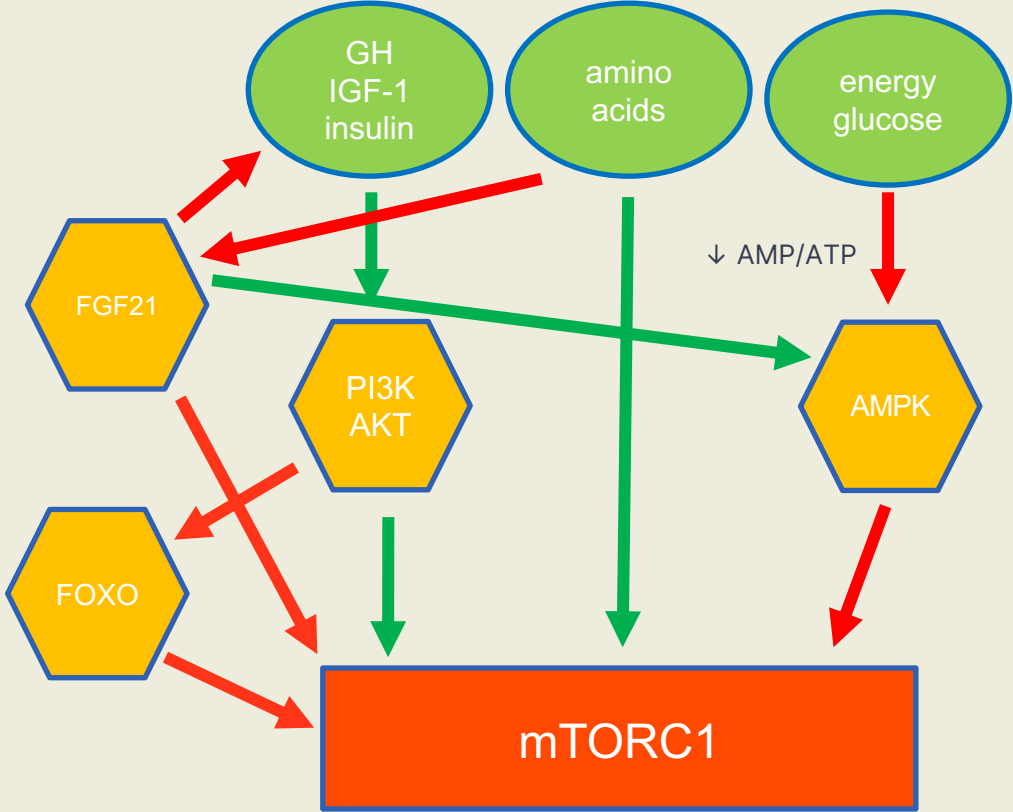




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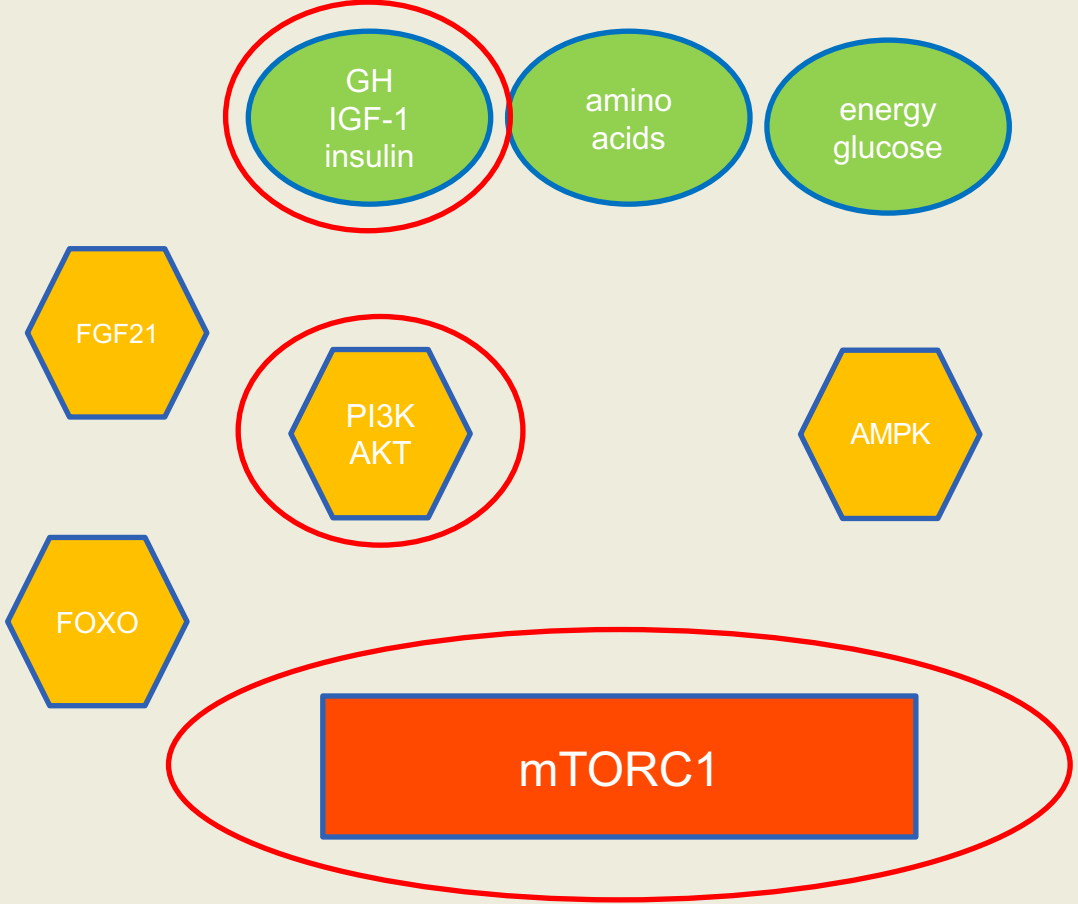


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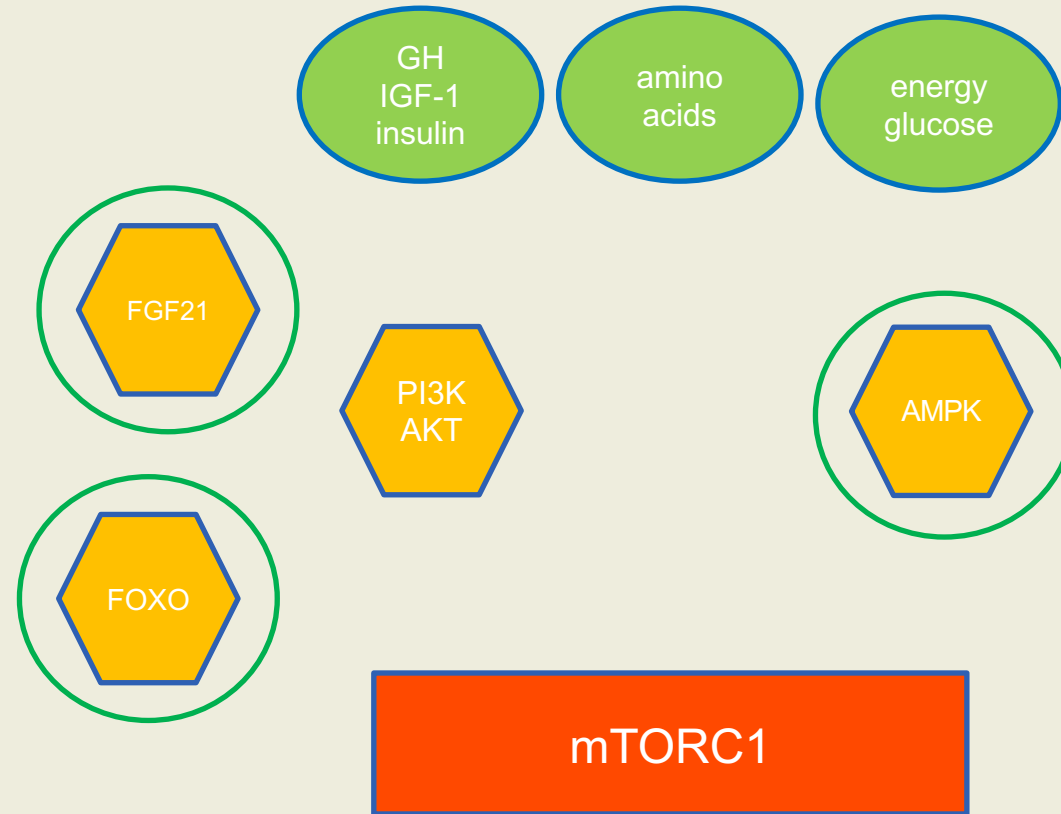




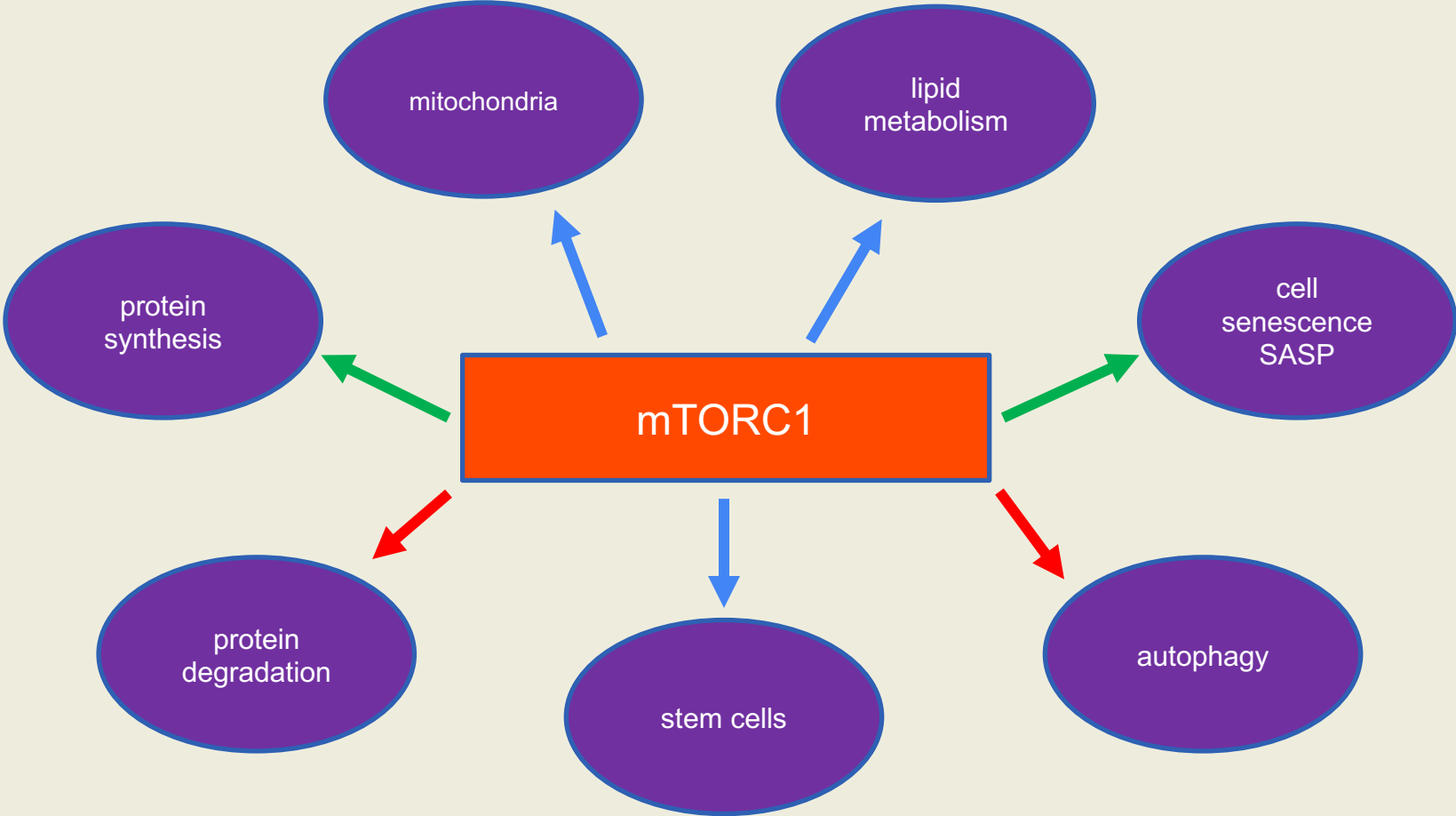
# Villains



# Heroes

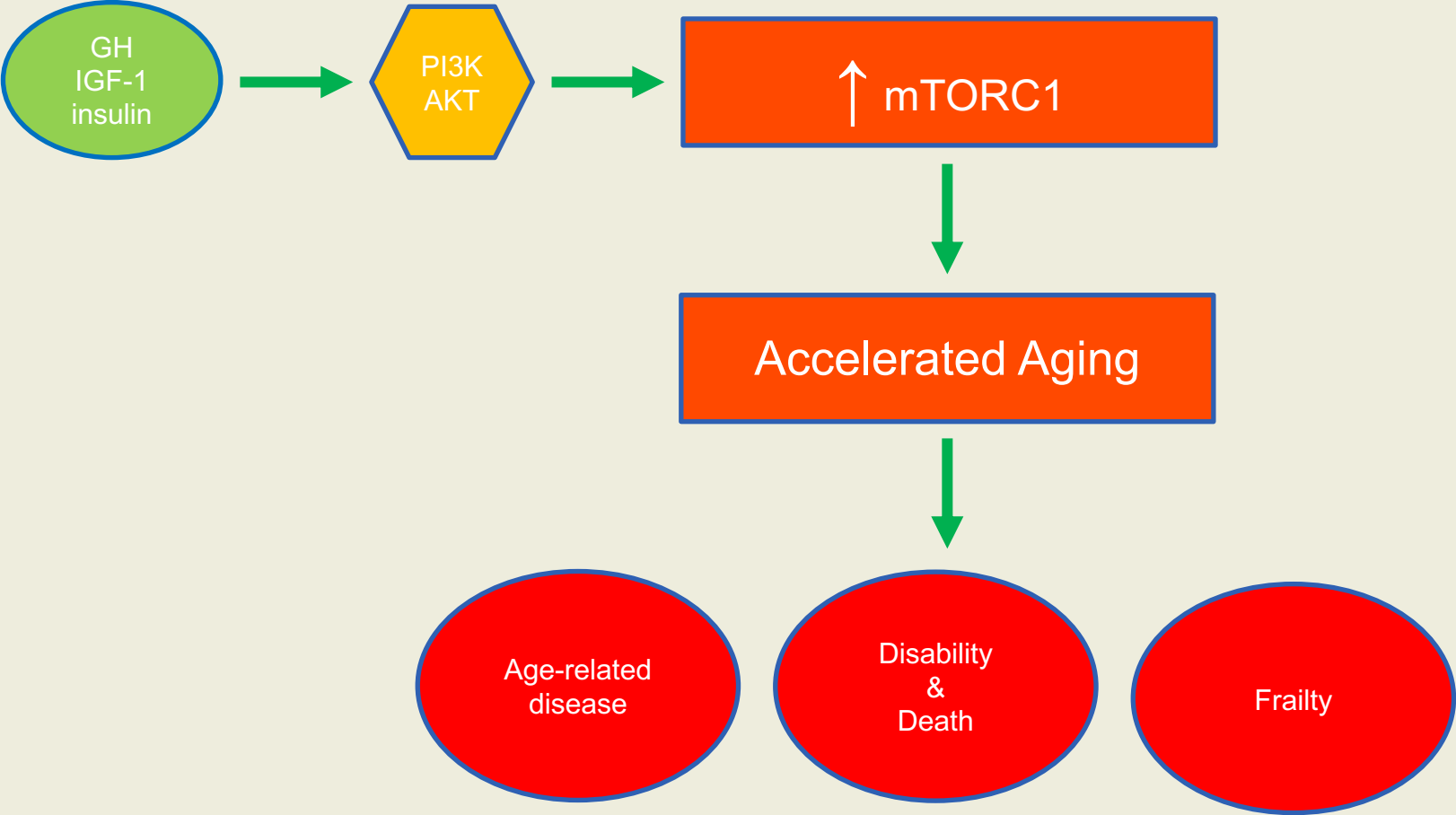


# Villains

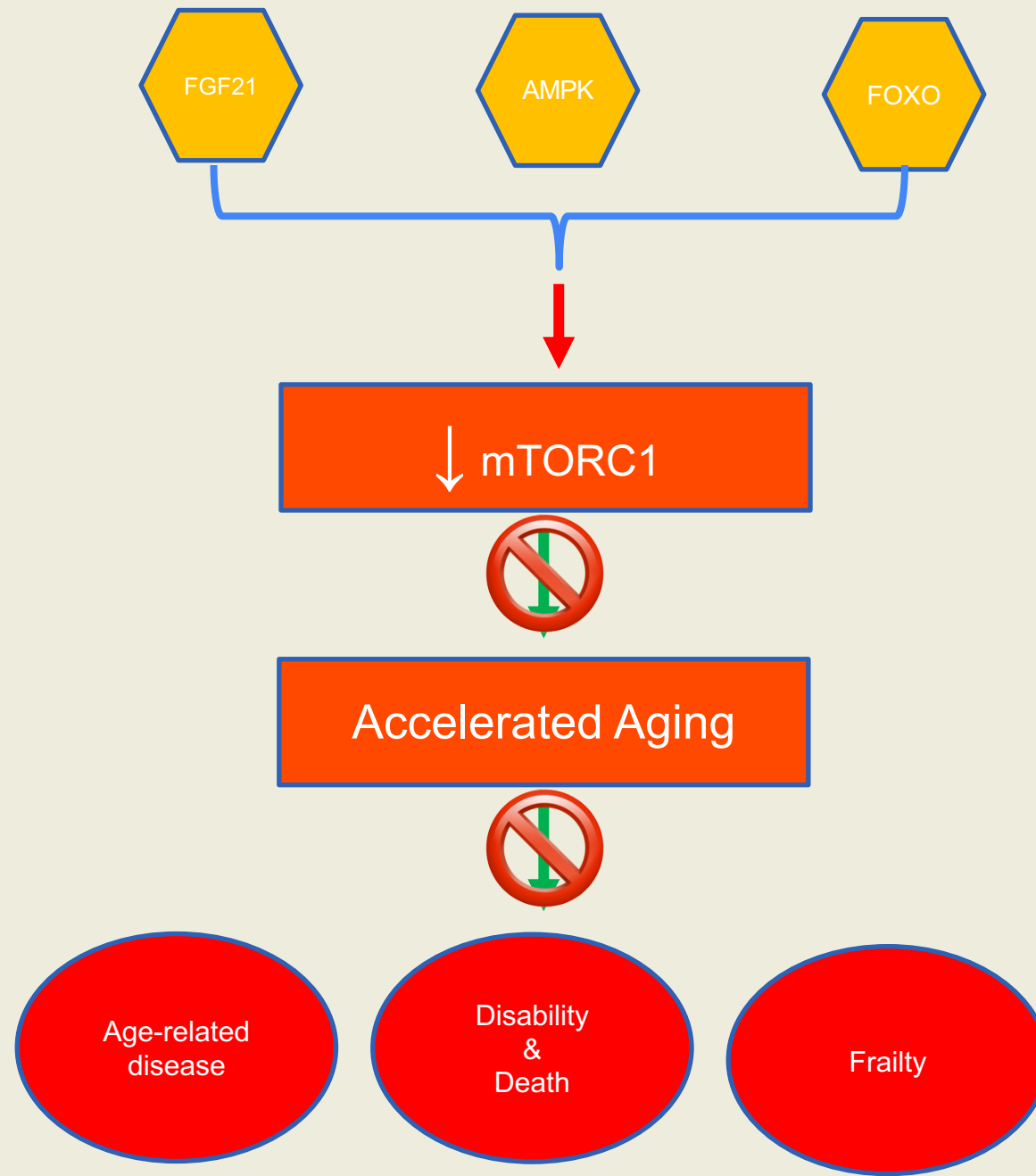




# Villains



# Heroes





**Nutritional Interventions**

# Targeting Aging Mechanisms

## → Restrain the Villains

- mTORC1
- PI3K/AKT
- GH/IGF-1/insulin

## → Support the Heroes

- AMPK
- FOXO
- FGF21



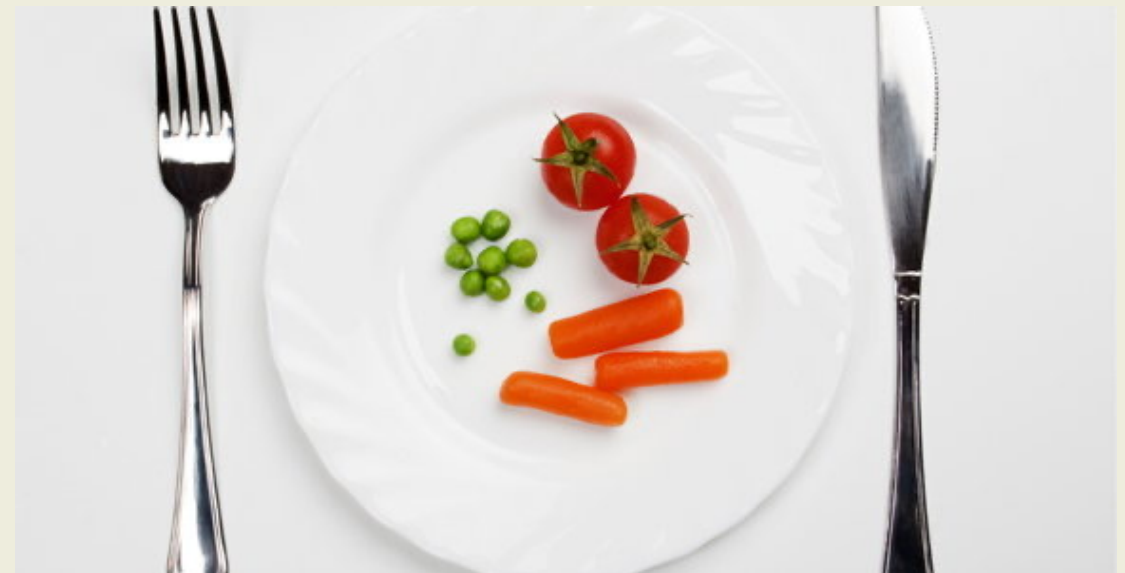
# Targeting Aging Mechanisms

## → Restrain the Villains

- mTORC1
- PI3K/AKT
- GH/IGF-1/insulin

## → Support the Heroes

- AMPK
- FOXO
- FGF21





Dietary Intervention	Description	Lifespan Effect
<b>Low calorie interventions</b>		<b>in mice</b>
“Classic” CR	Daily reduction in calories, typically by 20 to 50%, without malnutrition. Macronutrient ratios are unchanged.	↑ ↑ ↑
CR without protein restriction	CR where protein content is modified so that only calories are reduced and protein intake is not changed.	↑ ↑ ↑
Intermittent Fasting (IF)	CR variant with at least one day of fasting between feedings. Many classic CR studies used intermittent fasting protocols where mice were fed 3 times per week.	↑ ↑ ↑
Fasting-Mimicking (FMD)	Cyclic CR where a low-calorie, ketogenic diet is provided during the restricted phase. In mice, FMD cycles are typically 3–4 days followed by 3 days of refeeding.	↑ ↑
<b>Iso-caloric Diets</b>		
Protein restriction (PR)	In mice and rats, isocaloric protein restriction has been reported to extend lifespan, but the effects appear to be much smaller than CR and may be sex-specific in mice*.	↑
Essential Amino Acid Restriction	Restriction of methionine, tryptophan, or branched chain amino acid content in the diet. Essential amino acid restriction in mice typically involves reducing methionine by about 80%, tryptophan by about 40%, or branched chain amino acids by about 67%. It remains unclear what extent these interventions share similar mechanisms.	↑

→ Targeting Mechanisms of Aging

- Caloric Restriction
- Protein/Amino Acid Restriction
- Fasting/Fasting Mimicking Diets
- Pharmaceuticals

# Caloric Restriction

- Restrict calories without malnutrition
  - 20%-40%



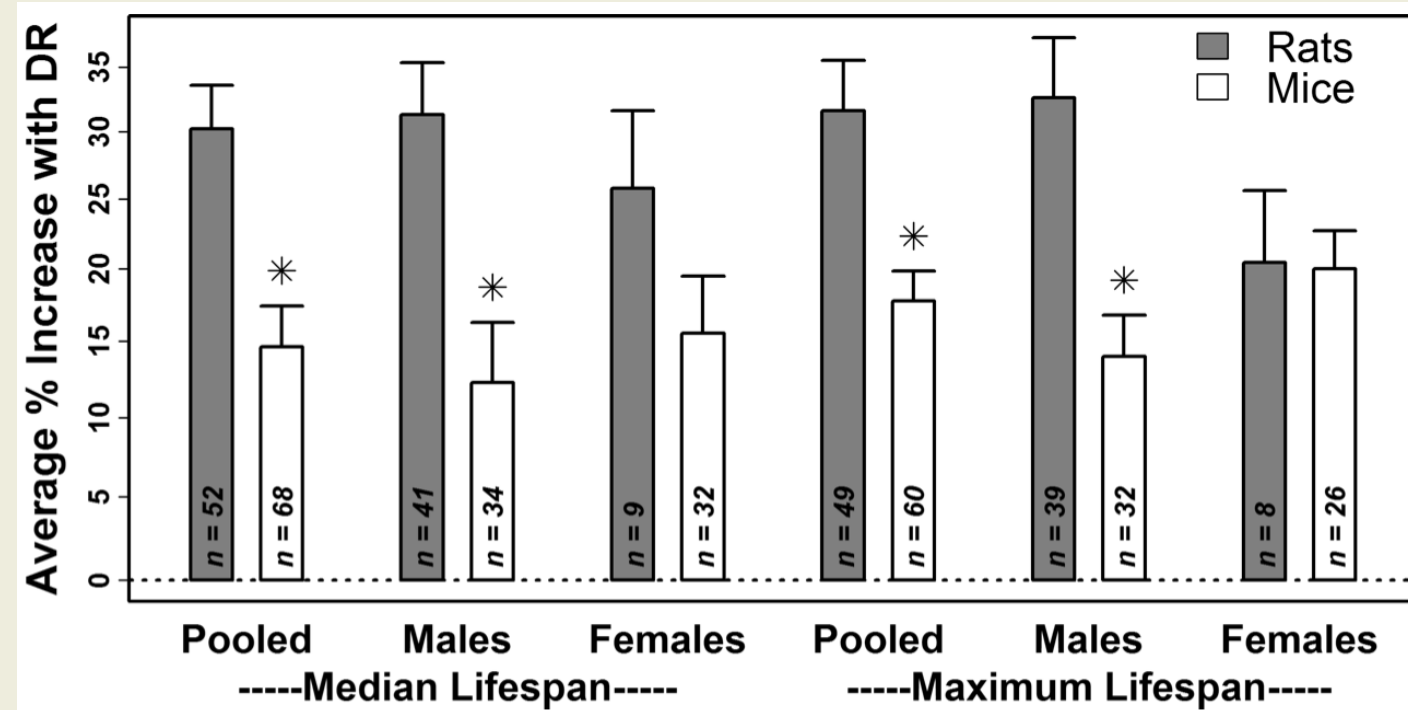
# Caloric Restriction

- Restrict calories without malnutrition
  - 20%-40%
- Extends lifespan (mostly)



# Caloric Restriction

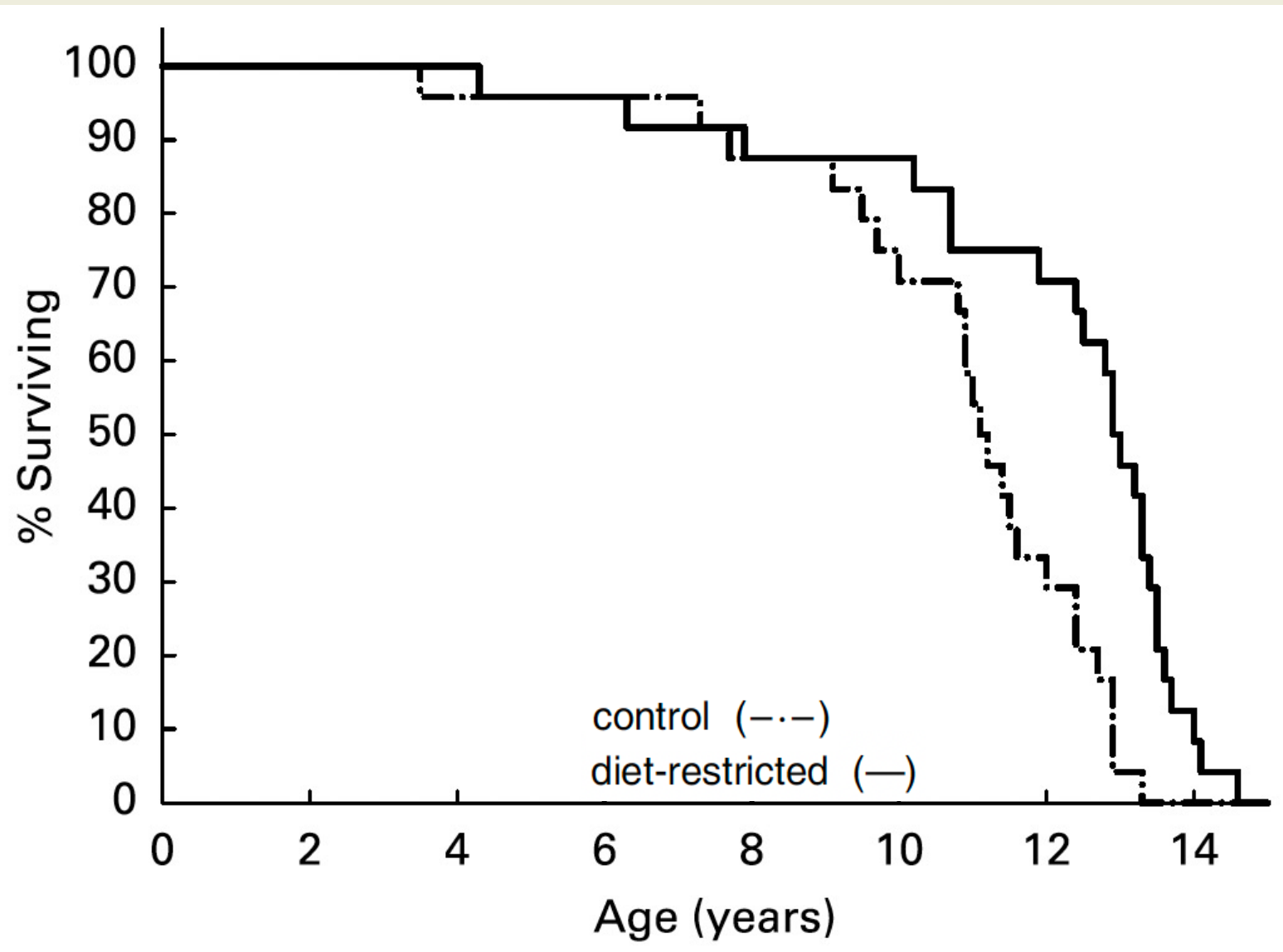
- Restrict calories without malnutrition
  - 20%-40%
- Extends lifespan (mostly)
  - Rats > mice
  - Inbred > wild-derived
  - Sex effects
  - Age of onset effects
  - Species differences
  - Husbandry, diet, etc...



# Caloric Restriction

→ Dogs

- Lifespan (median and maximum)



# Caloric Restriction

## → Dogs

- Lifespan (median and maximum)
- Age-associated disease

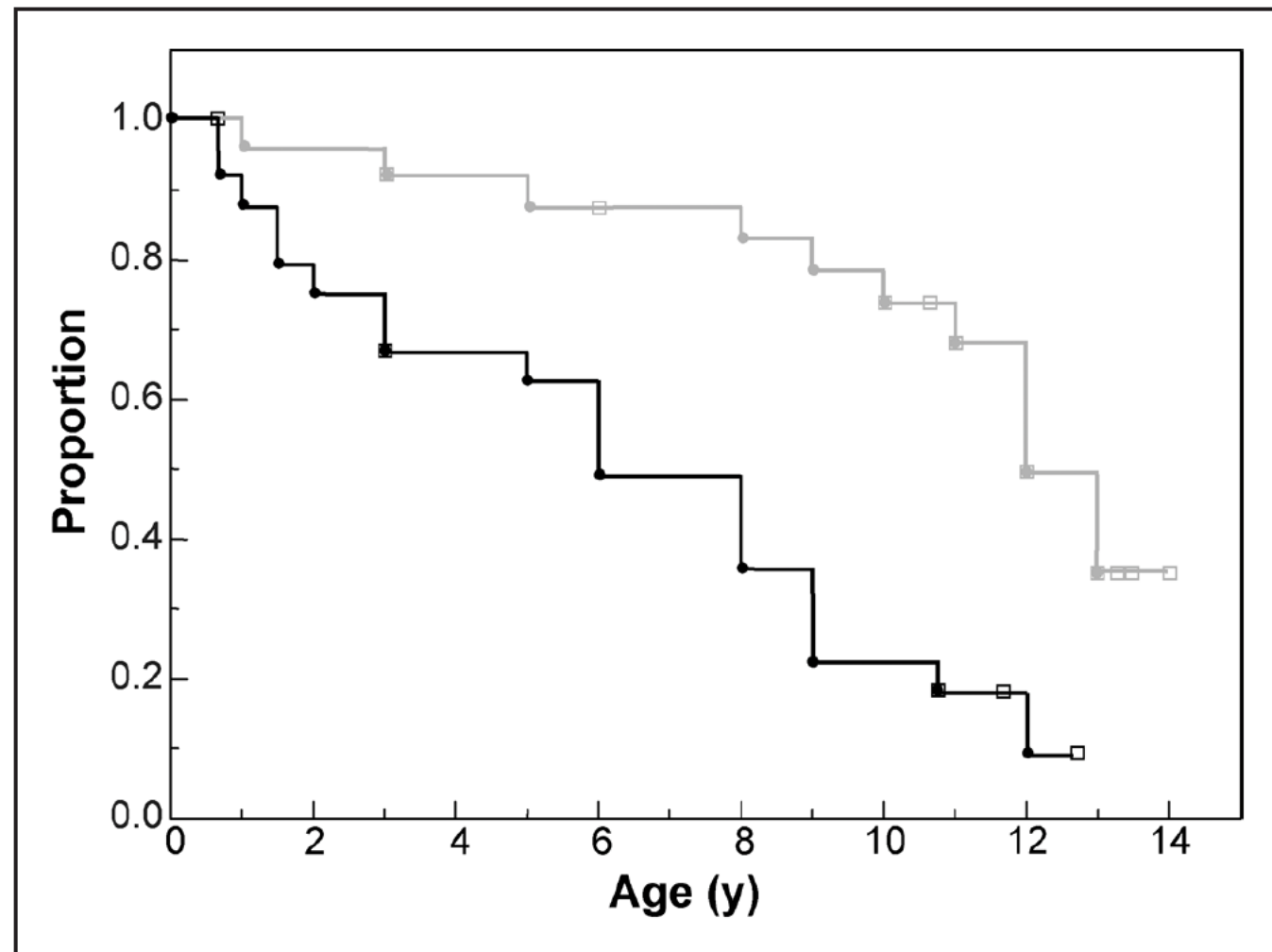


Figure 1—Results of Kaplan-Meier analysis for proportion of Labrador Retrievers (gray line = restricted-fed dogs [n = 24]; black line = control-fed dogs [24]) without radiographic evidence of hip joint osteoarthritis.

# Caloric Restriction

## → Dogs

- Lifespan (median and maximum)
- Age-associated disease
- Metabolic health (glucose, insulin)

### *Insulin sensitivity paired analysis in 9- to 12-y-old control- and restricted-fed dogs*

Age, y	Pairs, n	Treatment	Sensitivity <sup>1,2</sup>
			<i>min<sup>-1</sup>/(pmol insulin<sup>-1</sup> · min)</i>
9	20	Restricted	0.527 ± 0.059
		Control	0.223 ± 0.043
		Difference	0.302 ± 0.078*
10	13	Restricted	0.553 ± 0.077
		Control	0.210 ± 0.025
		Difference	0.344 ± 0.081*
11	9	Restricted	0.505 ± 0.094
		Control	0.187 ± 0.014
		Difference	0.318 ± 0.102*
12	6	Restricted	0.277 ± 0.057
		Control	0.159 ± 0.032
		Difference	0.118 ± 0.067

<sup>1</sup> Values are means ± SEM.

<sup>2</sup> \* Different from control-fed dogs,  $P < 0.05$ .



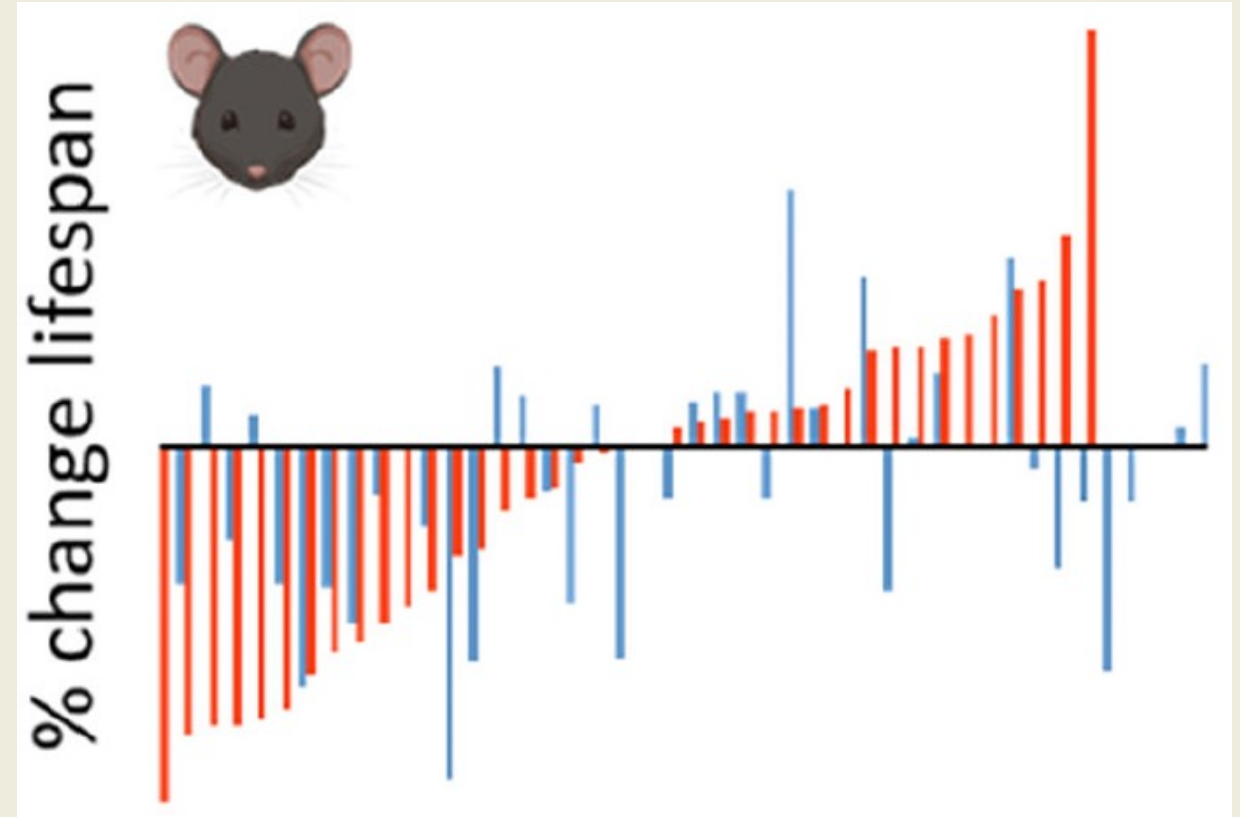
# Caloric Restriction

## → Caveats

- Doesn't always work
- Can be detrimental
- Confounders
  - Age started
  - Diet composition
  - Comparison group
- Not practical

## → Lessons

- Less is more
- Identify mechanisms

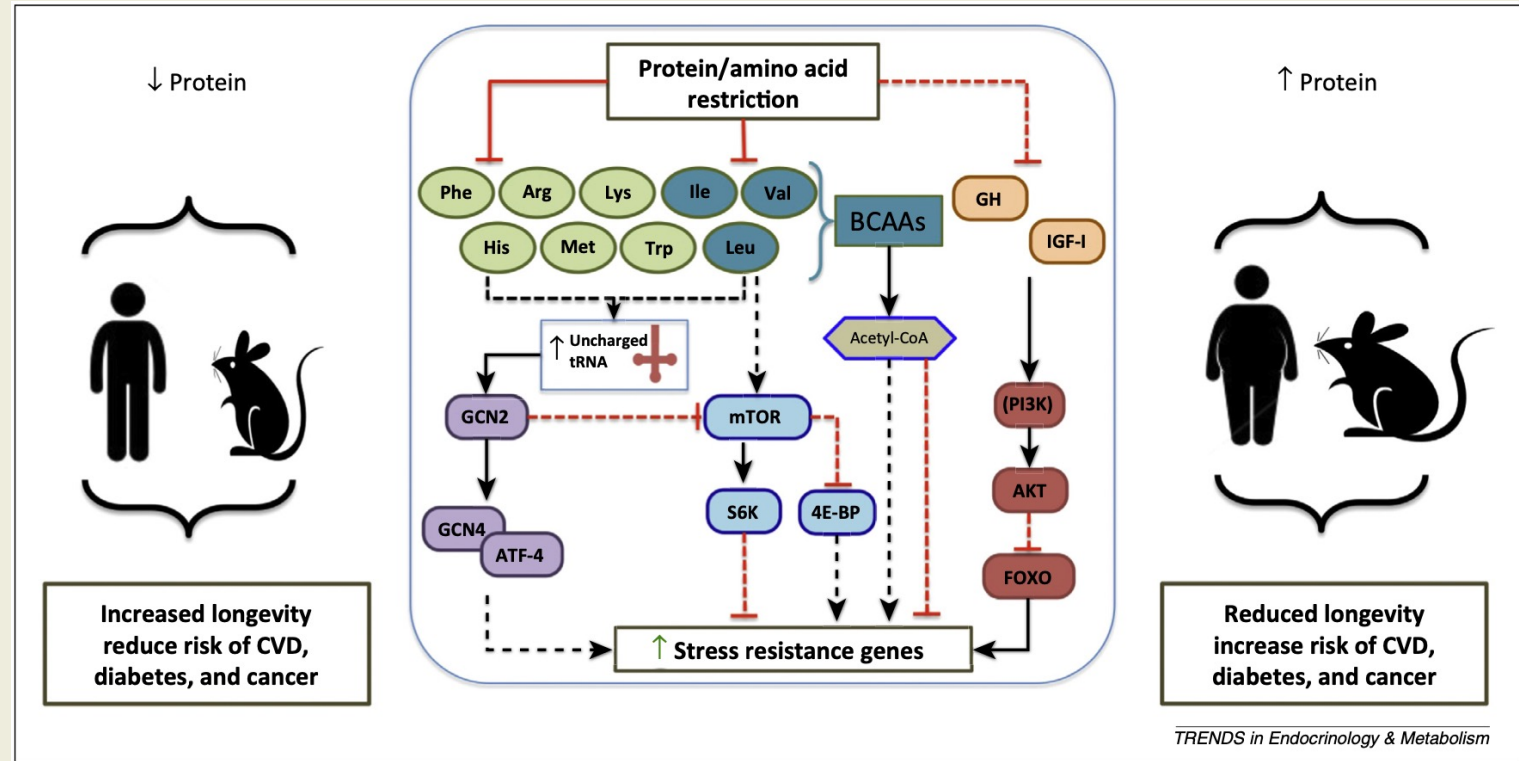


→ Targeting Mechanisms of Aging

- Caloric Restriction
- Protein/Amino Acid Restriction
- Fasting/Fasting Mimicking Diets
- Pharmaceuticals

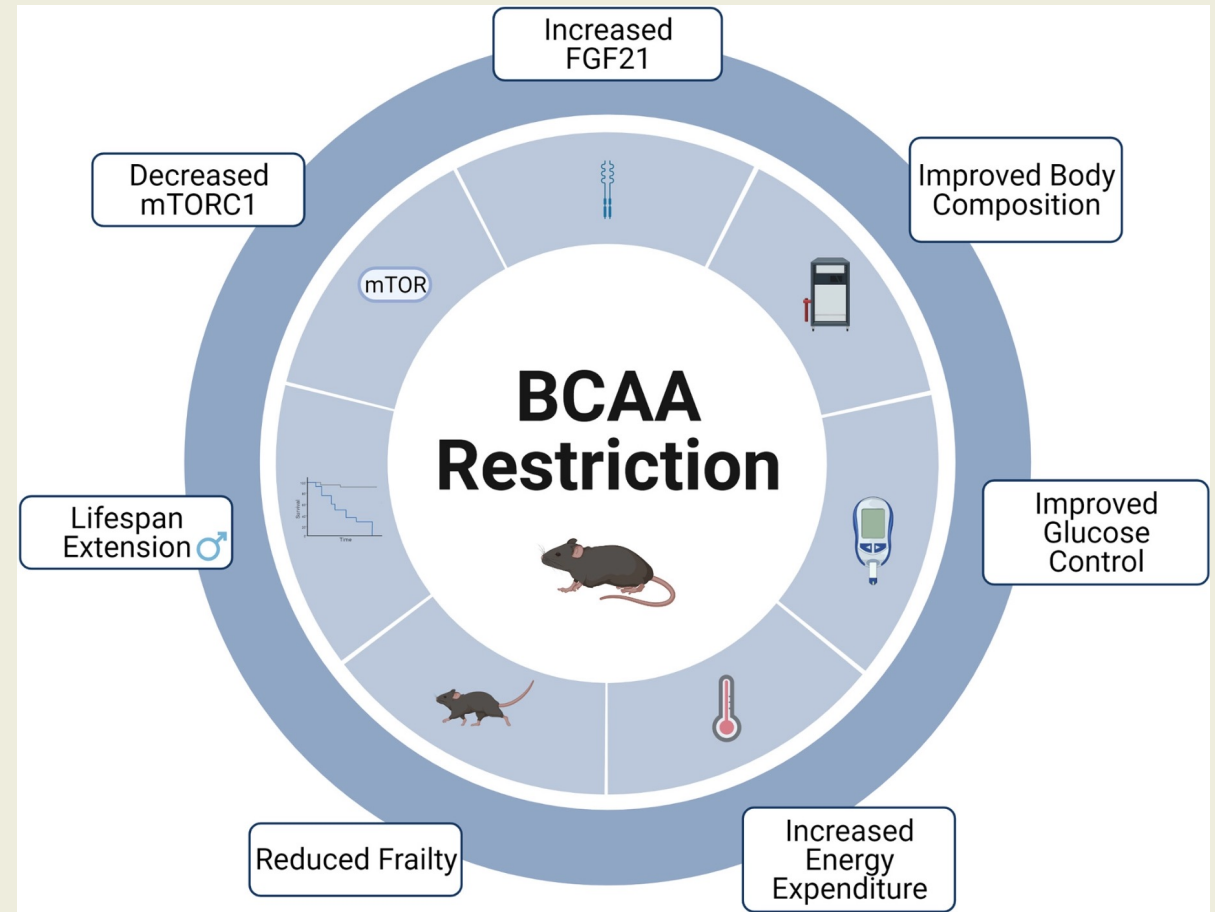
# Protein Restriction

- Extends lifespan & healthspan
- Flies, worms, mice, rats



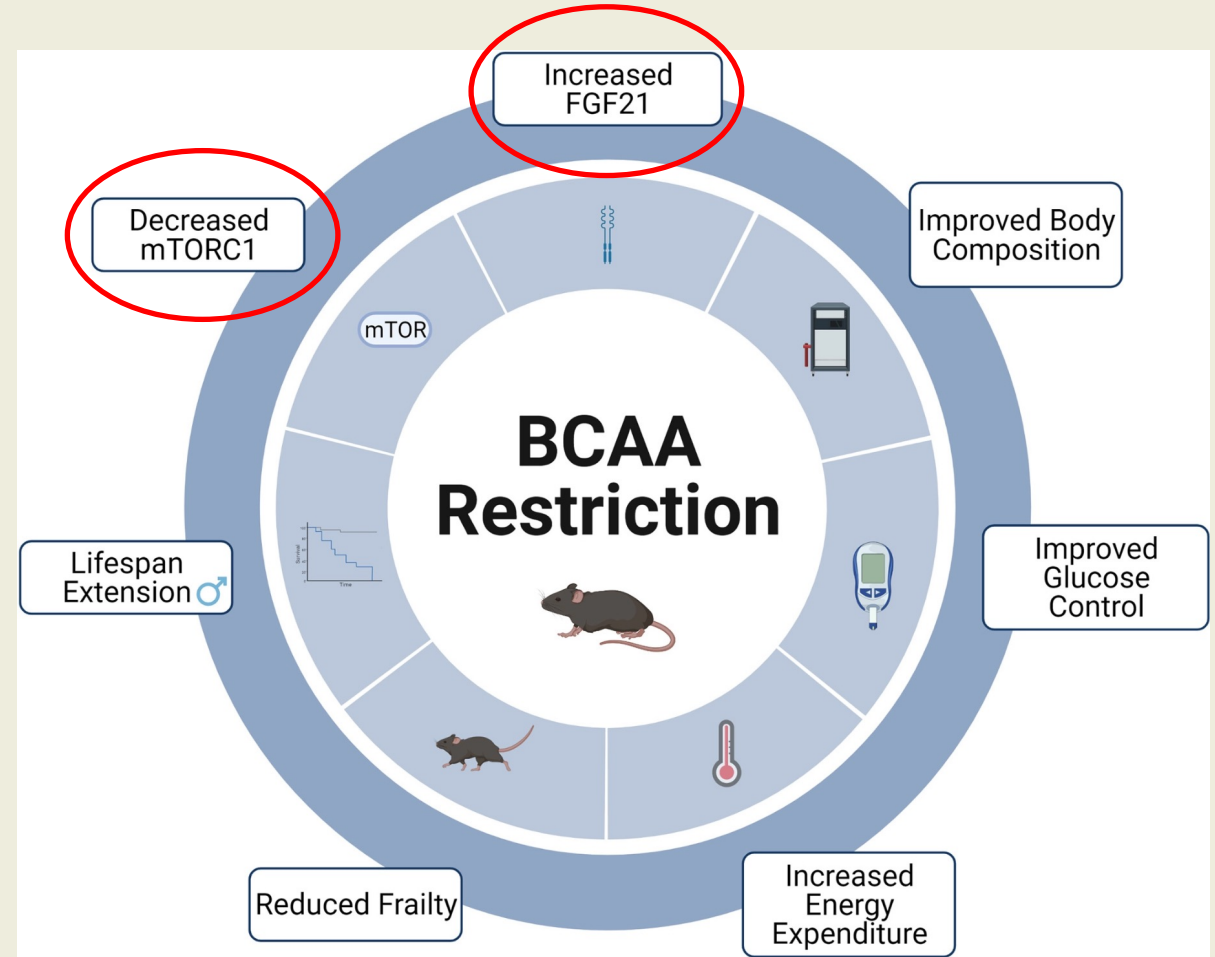
# Protein Restriction

- Extends lifespan & healthspan
  - Flies, worms, mice, rats
- Specific Amino Acids
  - Methionine/cysteine
  - BCAA



# Protein Restriction

- Extends lifespan & healthspan
  - Flies, worms, mice, rats
- Specific Amino Acids
  - Methionine/cysteine
  - BCAA
- Mechanisms
  - mTORC1 inhibition (e.g. isoleucine)
  - FGF21 activation



# Protein Restriction

→ Caveats

- Diets often also CR



# Protein Restriction

## → Caveats

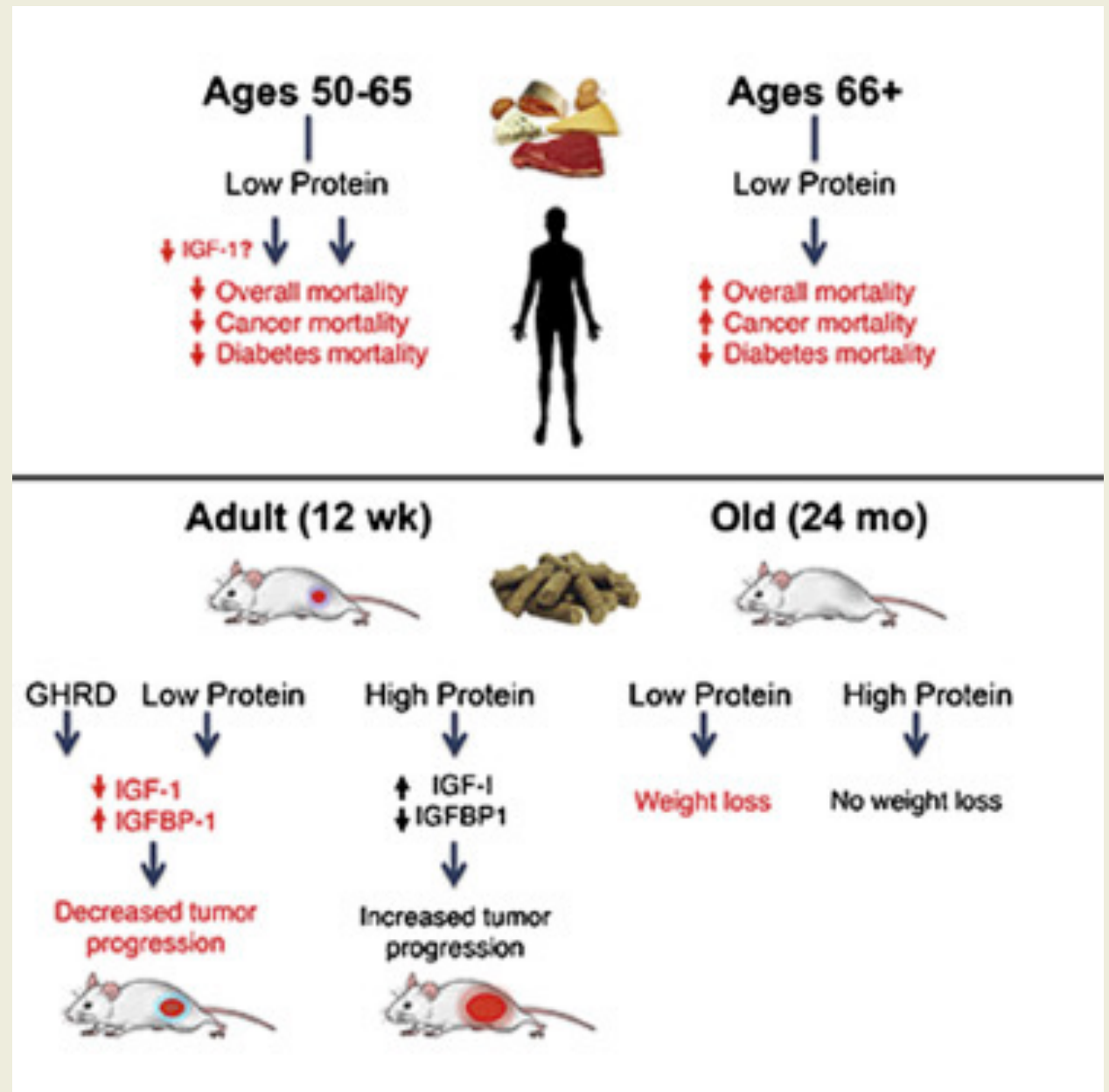
- Diets often also CR
- Isocaloric PR  $\ll$  CR



# Protein Restriction

## → Caveats

- Diets often also CR
- Isocaloric PR << CR
- Effects age-dependent

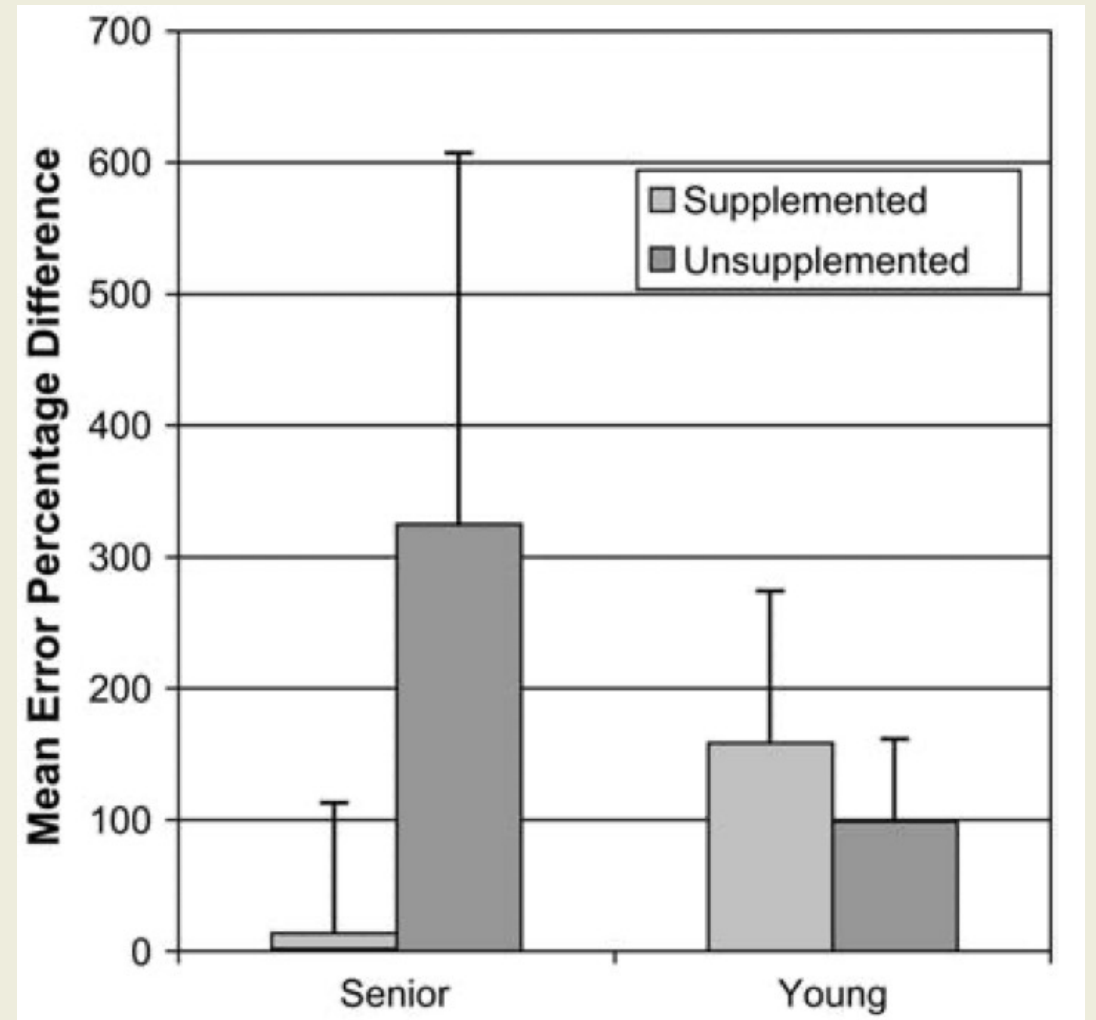




# Protein Restriction

## → Caveats

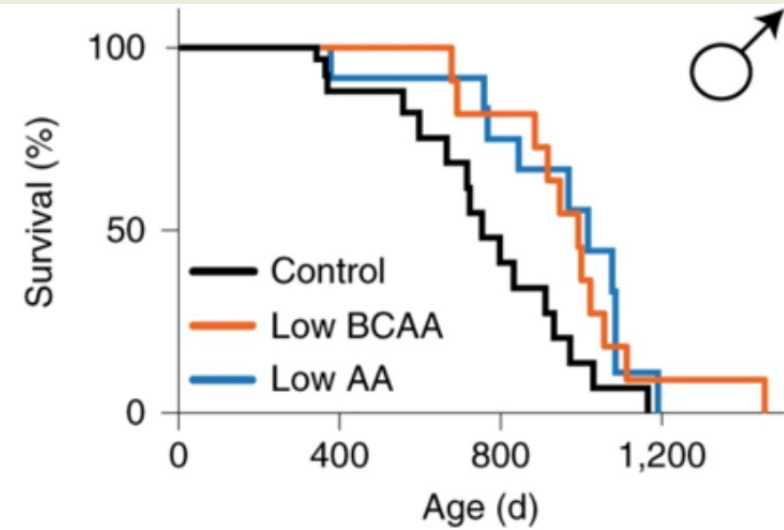
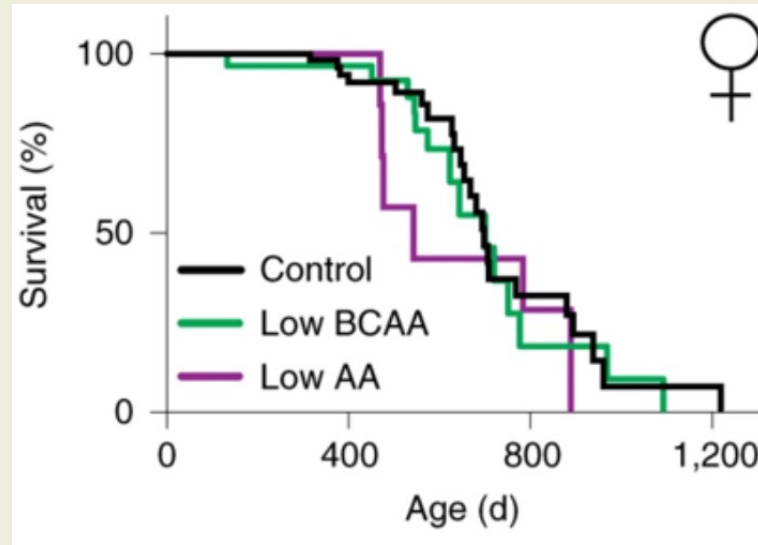
- Diets often also CR
- Isocaloric PR  $\ll$  CR
- Effects age-dependent



# Protein Restriction

## → Caveats

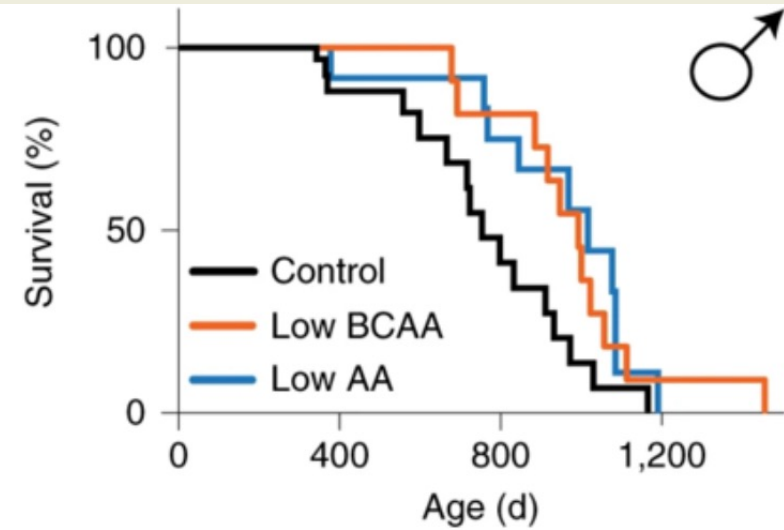
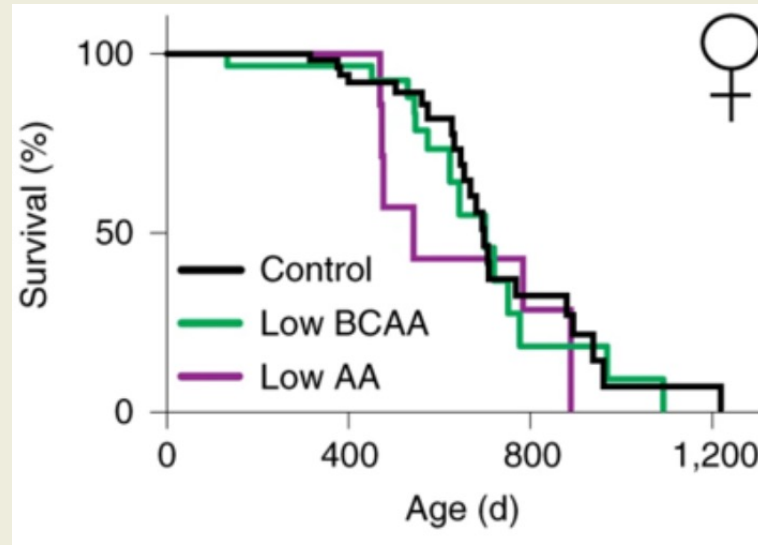
- Diets often also CR
- Isocaloric PR  $\ll$  CR
- Effects age-dependent
- Sometimes sex-specific



# Protein Restriction

## → Caveats

- Diets often also CR
- Isocaloric PR  $\ll$  CR
- Effects age-dependent
- Sometimes sex-specific
- Cats  $\neq$  Dogs  $\neq$  Rats



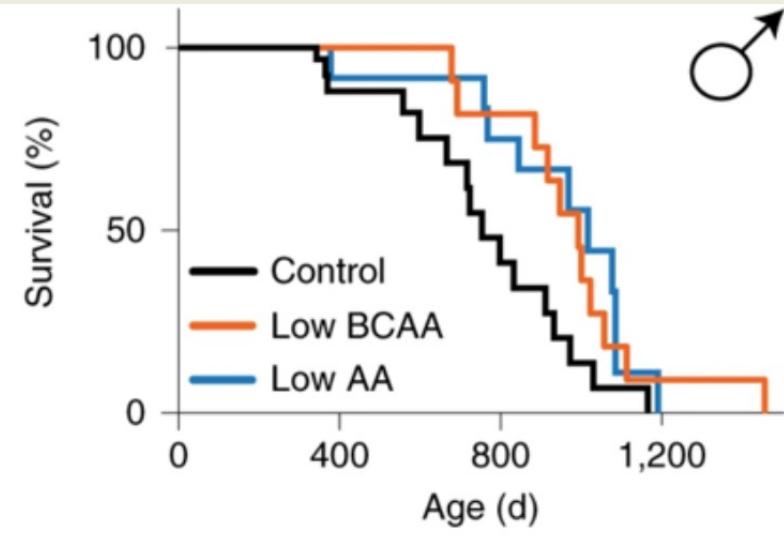
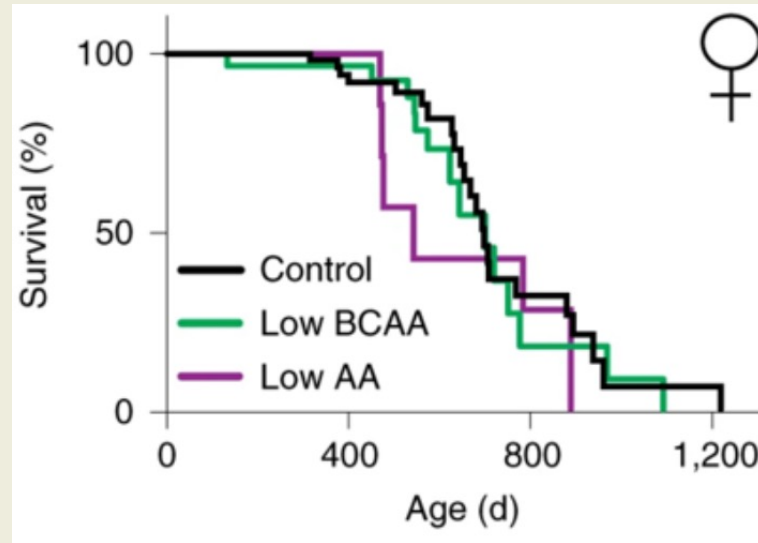
# Protein Restriction

## → Caveats

- Diets often also CR
- Isocaloric PR  $\ll$  CR
- Effects age-dependent
- Sometimes sex-specific
- Cats  $\neq$  Dogs  $\neq$  Rats

## → Lessons

- Can choose specific targets
- No one-size-fits-all

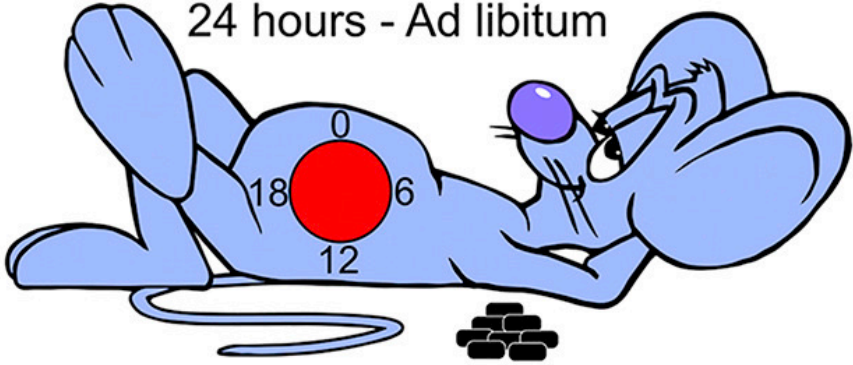
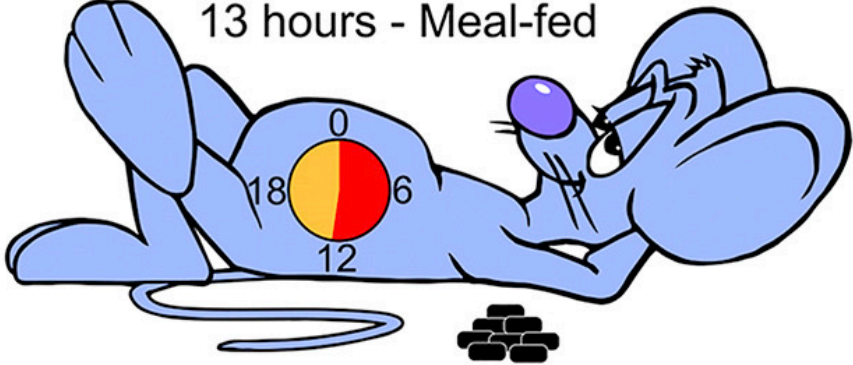
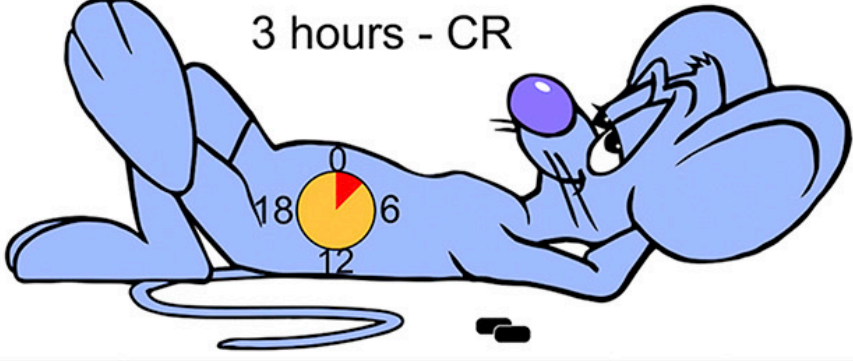


→ Targeting Mechanisms of Aging

- Caloric Restriction
- Protein/Amino Acid Restriction
- Fasting/Fasting Mimicking Diets
- Pharmaceuticals

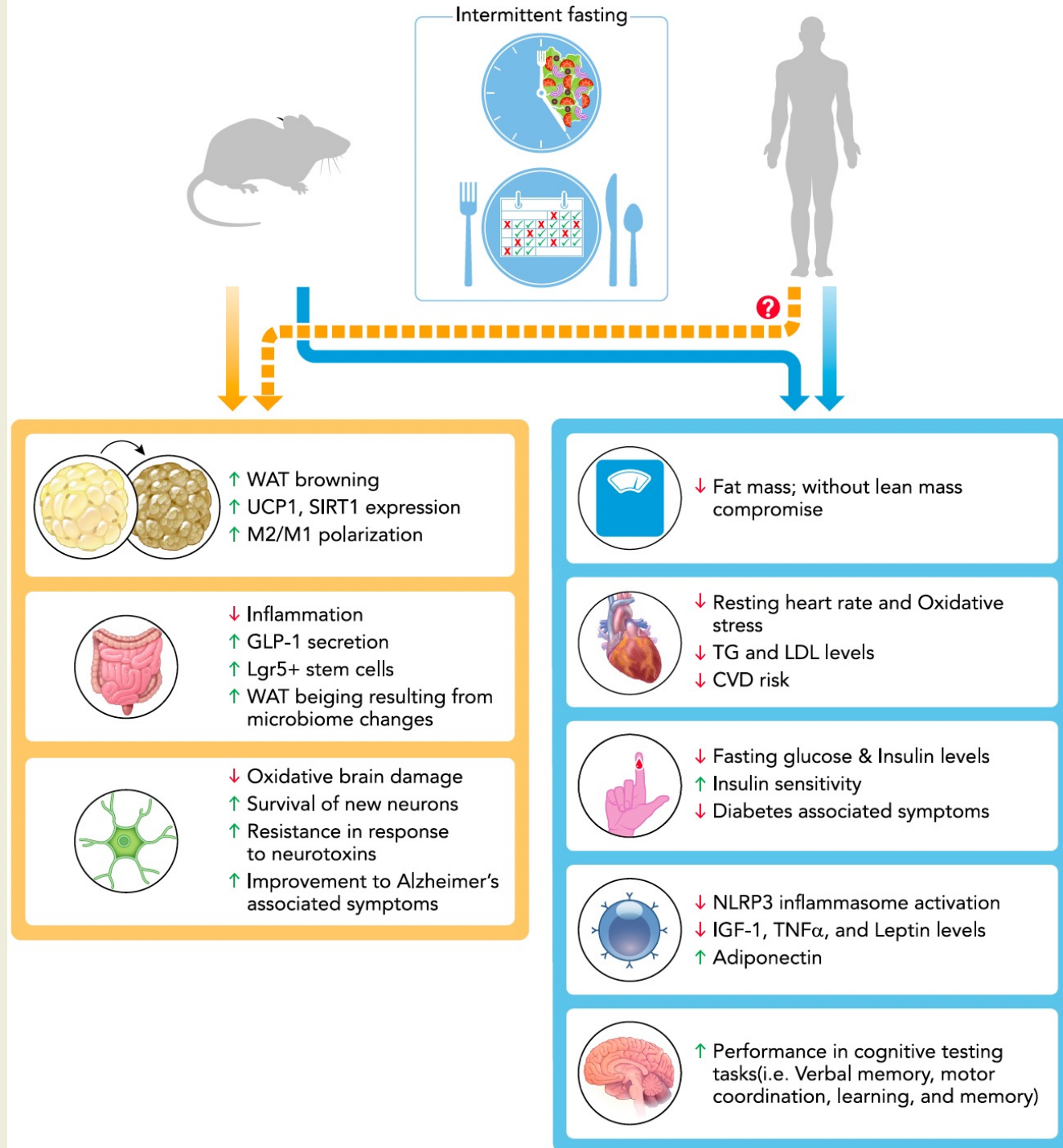
# Fasting

→ Increases lifespan & healthspan

Eating time	Feeding regimen	Delayed disease onset	Lifespan extension
24 hours - Ad libitum		-	-
13 hours - Meal-fed		+	+
3 hours - CR		++	++

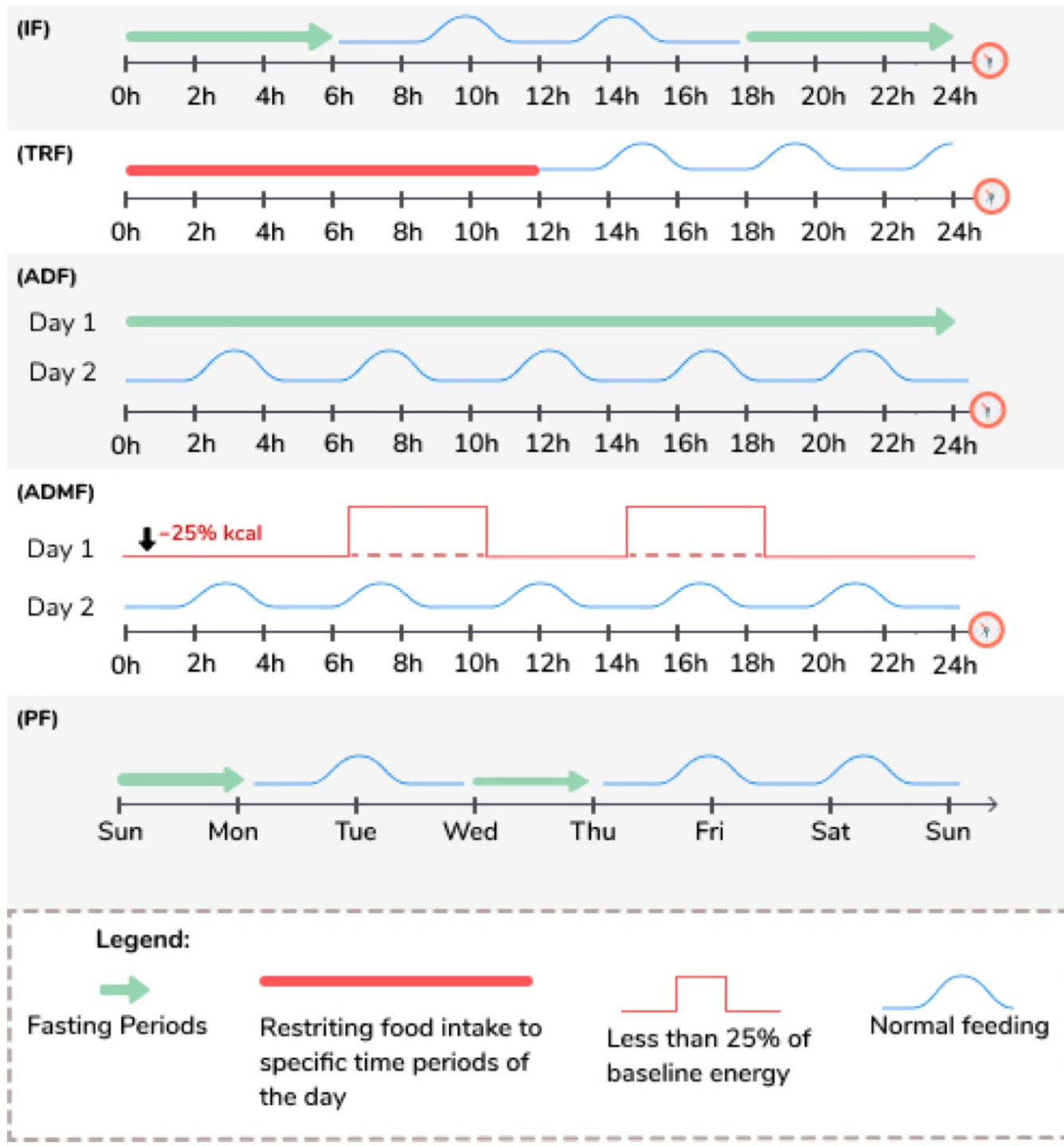
# Fasting

- Increases lifespan & healthspan
- Improves metabolic health



# Fasting

- Increases lifespan & healthspan
- Improves metabolic health
- Various Protocols
  - Fasting/Feeding in various ratios
  - Time-restricted feeding (TRF)
  - Fasting-mimicking diets (FMD)

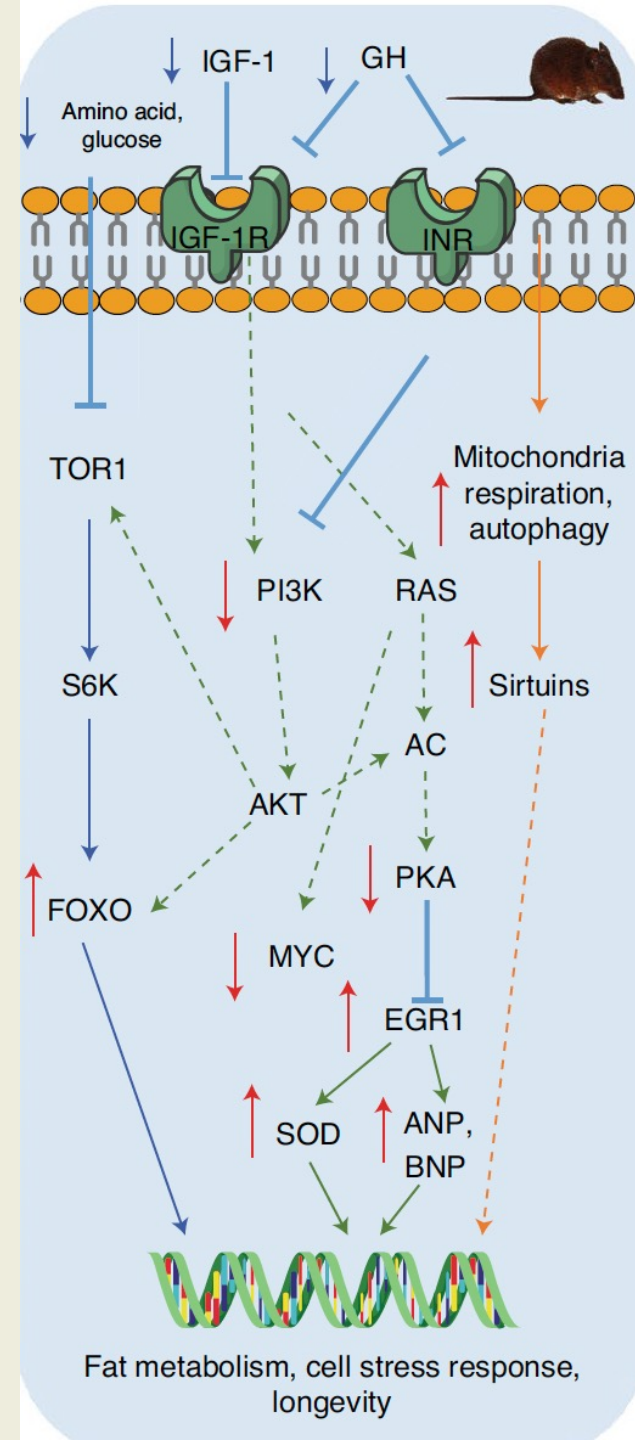




# Fasting

## → Mechanisms

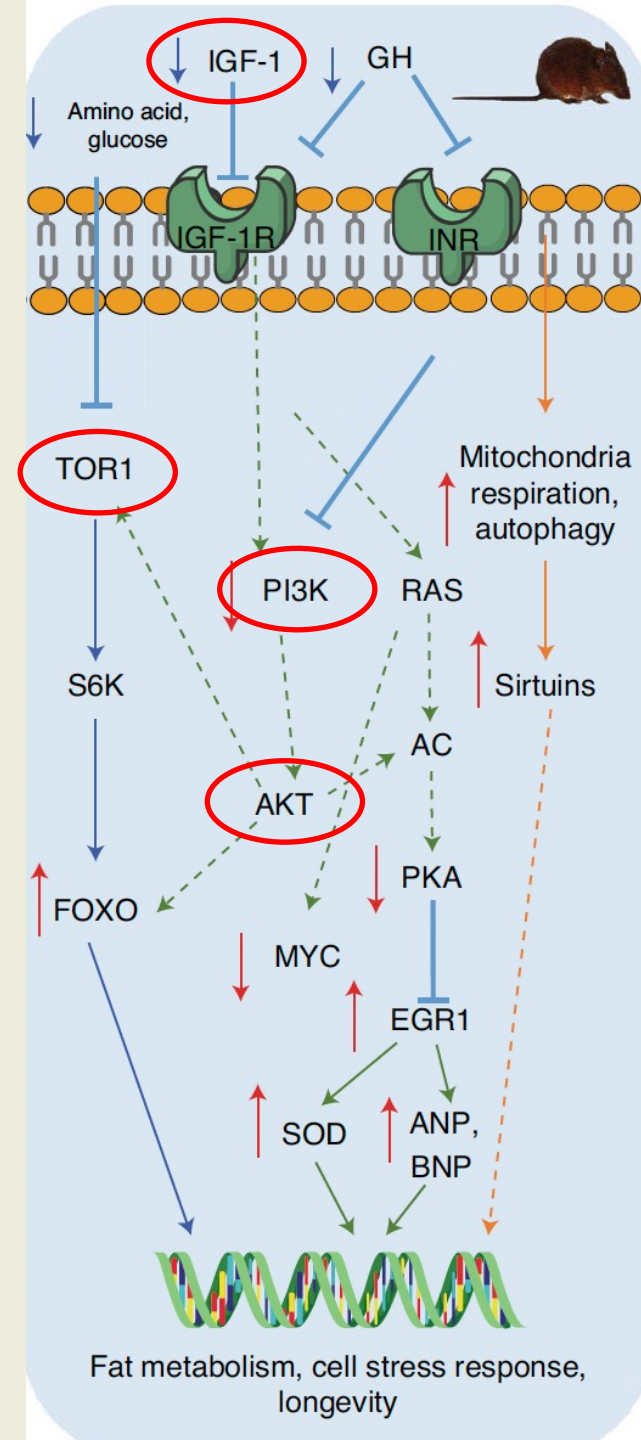
- Induces ketosis
- ↓ IGF-1/insulin
- ↓ mTORC1
- ↑ FOXO, ↑ FGF21



# Fasting

## → Mechanisms

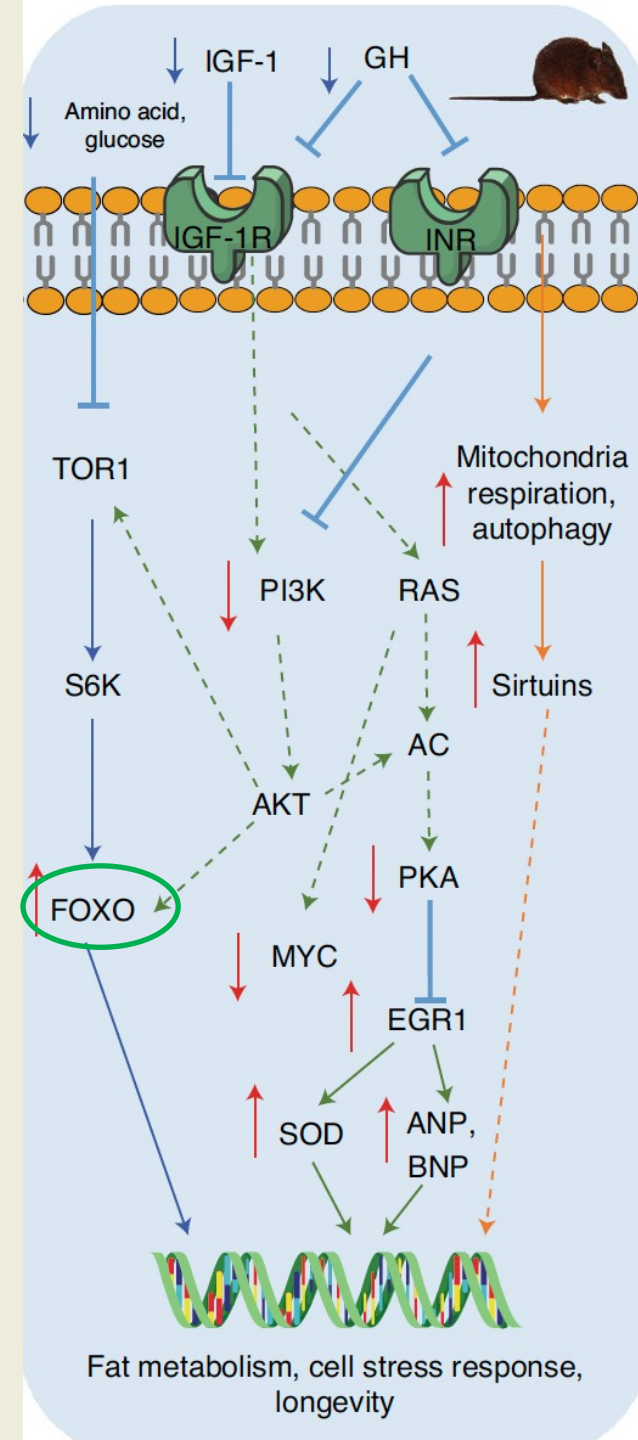
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# Fasting

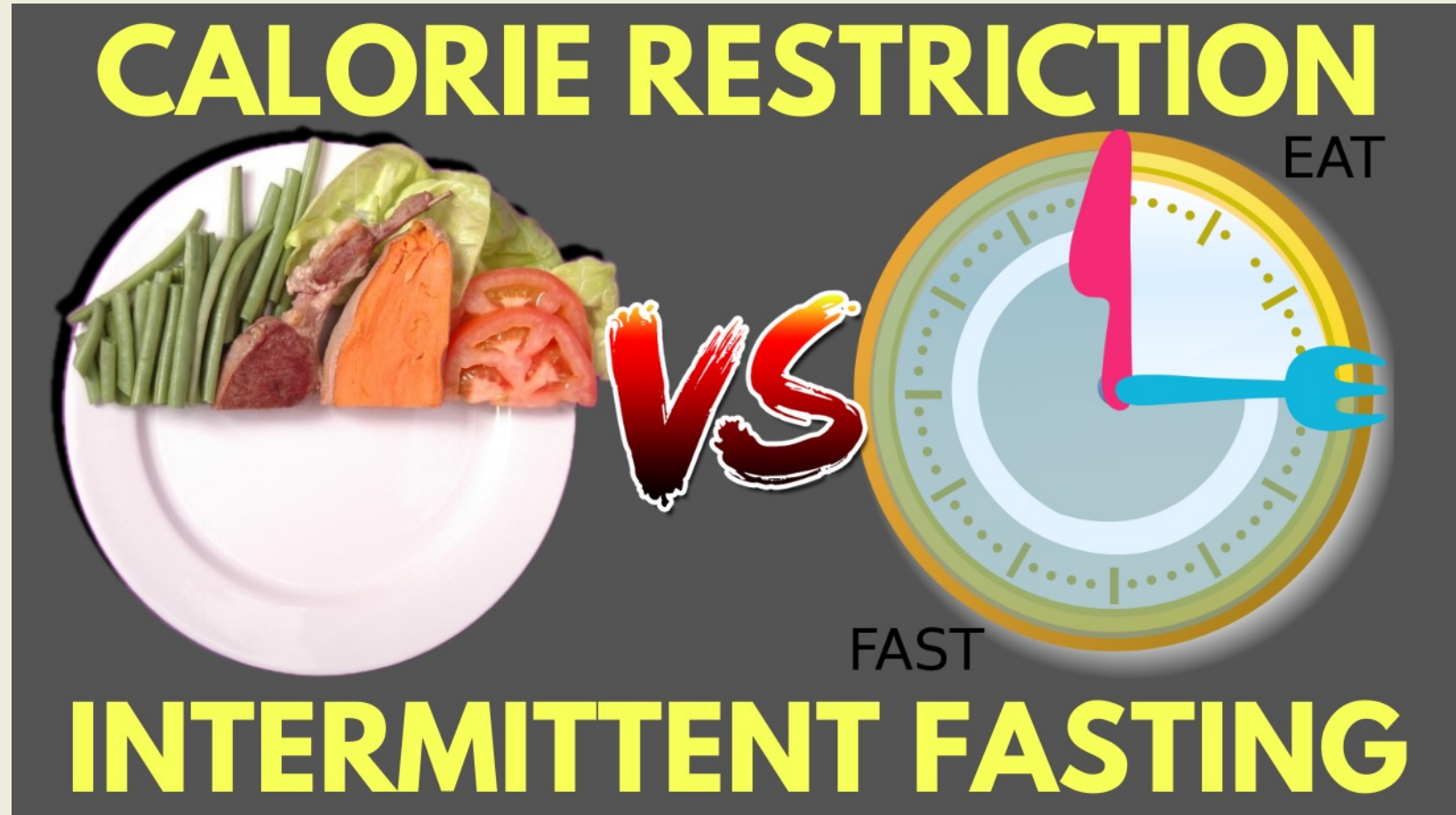
## → Mechanisms

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## Fasting

- Caveats
  - Just CR? < CR?

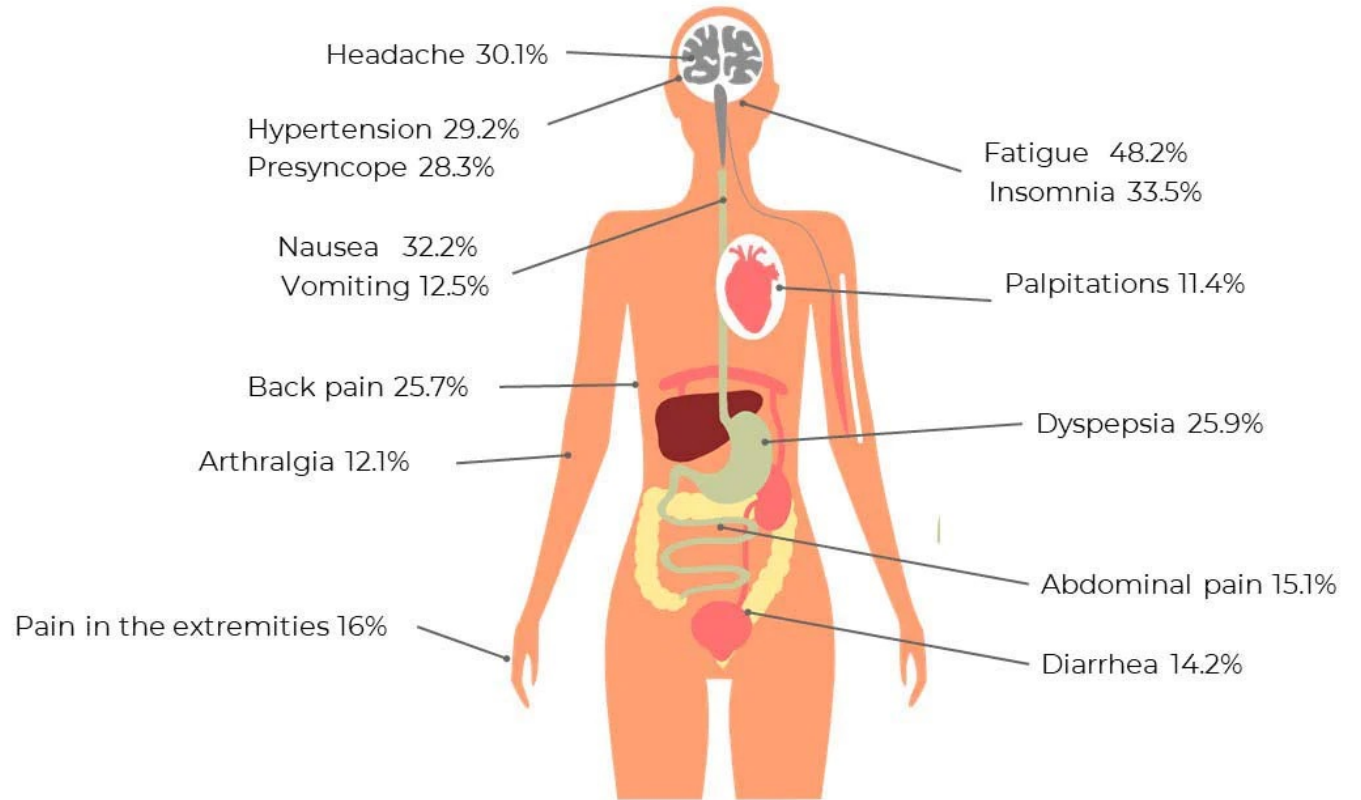


# Fasting

## → Caveats

- Just CR? < CR?
- Adverse effects
  - Hypoglycemia
  - Hypotension
  - Loss of LBM
  - Disordered eating

## What Are The Health Risks Of Water Fasting?

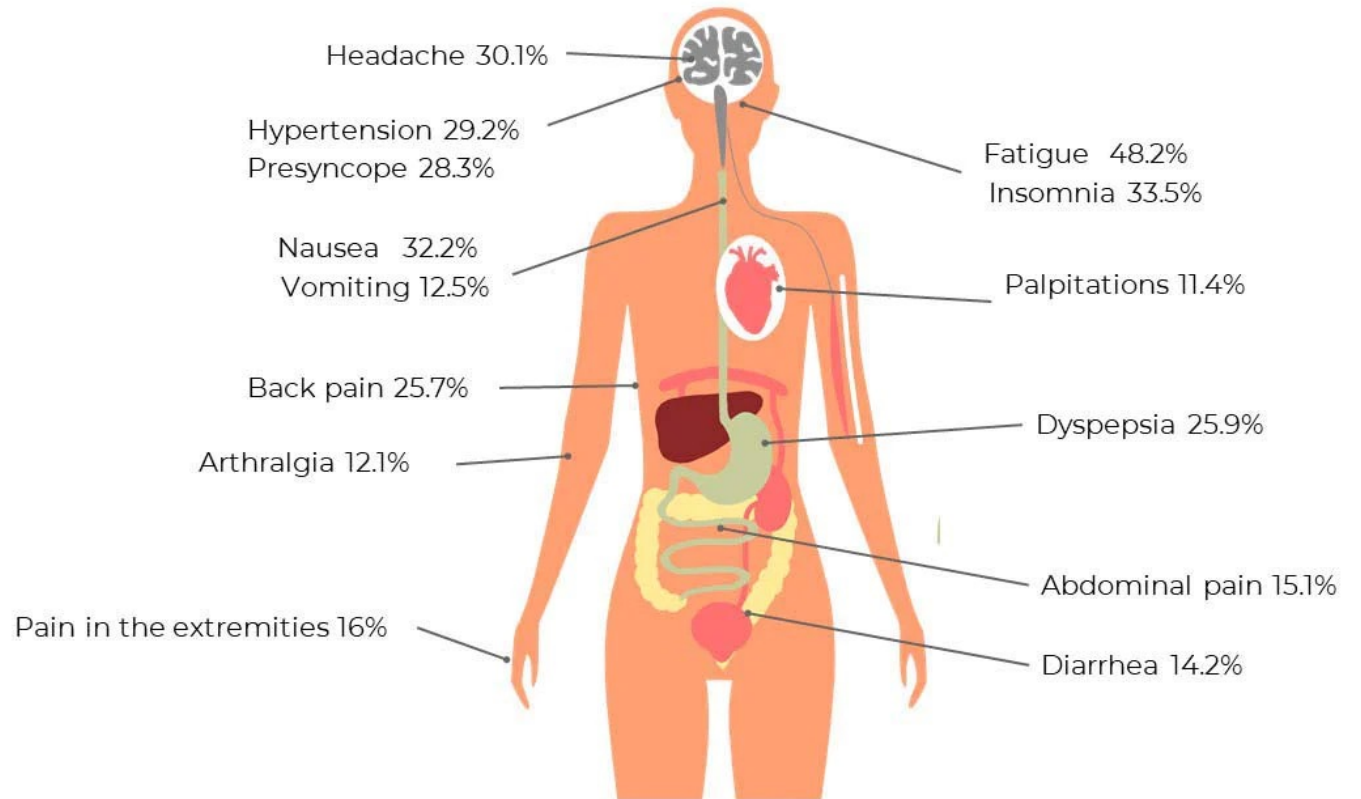


# Fasting

## → Caveats

- Just CR? < CR?
- Adverse effects
  - Hypoglycemia
  - Hypotension
  - Loss of LBM
  - Disordered eating
- Cats ≠ Dogs ≠ Rats

## What Are The Health Risks Of Water Fasting?



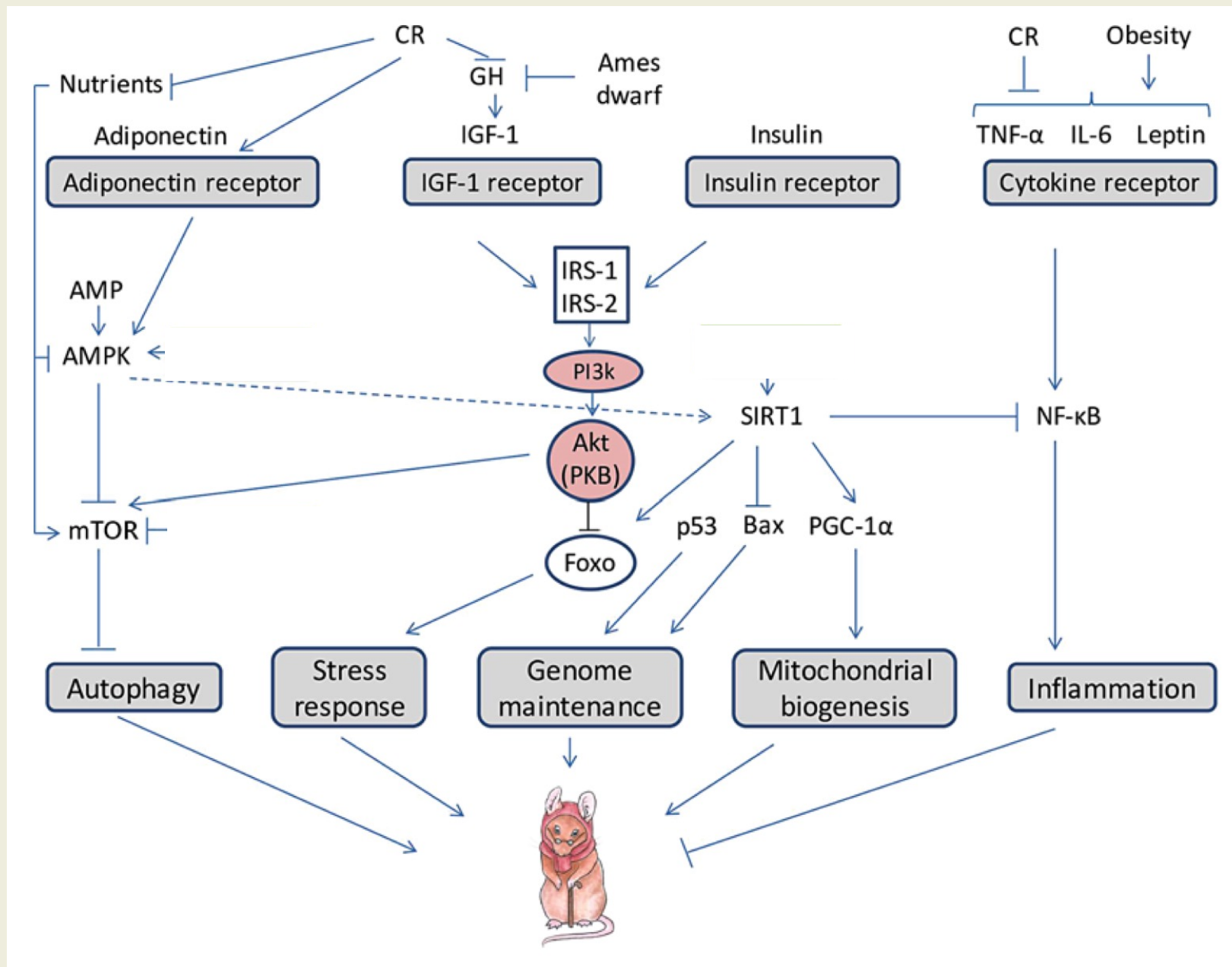
→ Targeting Mechanisms of Aging

- Caloric Restriction
- Protein/Amino Acid Restriction
- Fasting/Fasting Mimicking Diets
- Pharmaceuticals

# Pharmaceuticals

## → Principles

- Target specific pathways
- Consistent/predictable effects
- Clinically practical



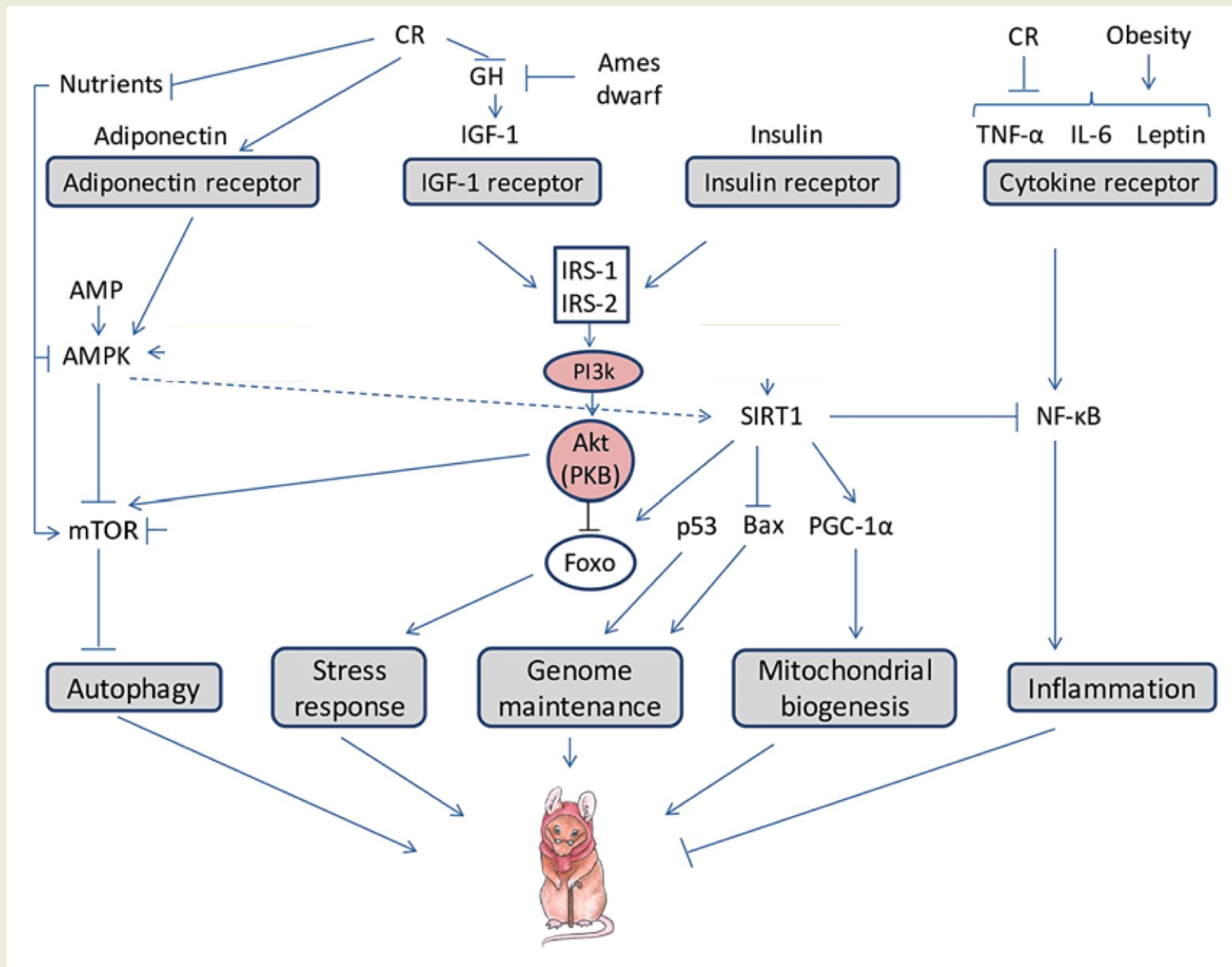


# Pharmaceuticals

## → Principles

- Target specific pathways
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- Clinically practical

## → CR Mimetics



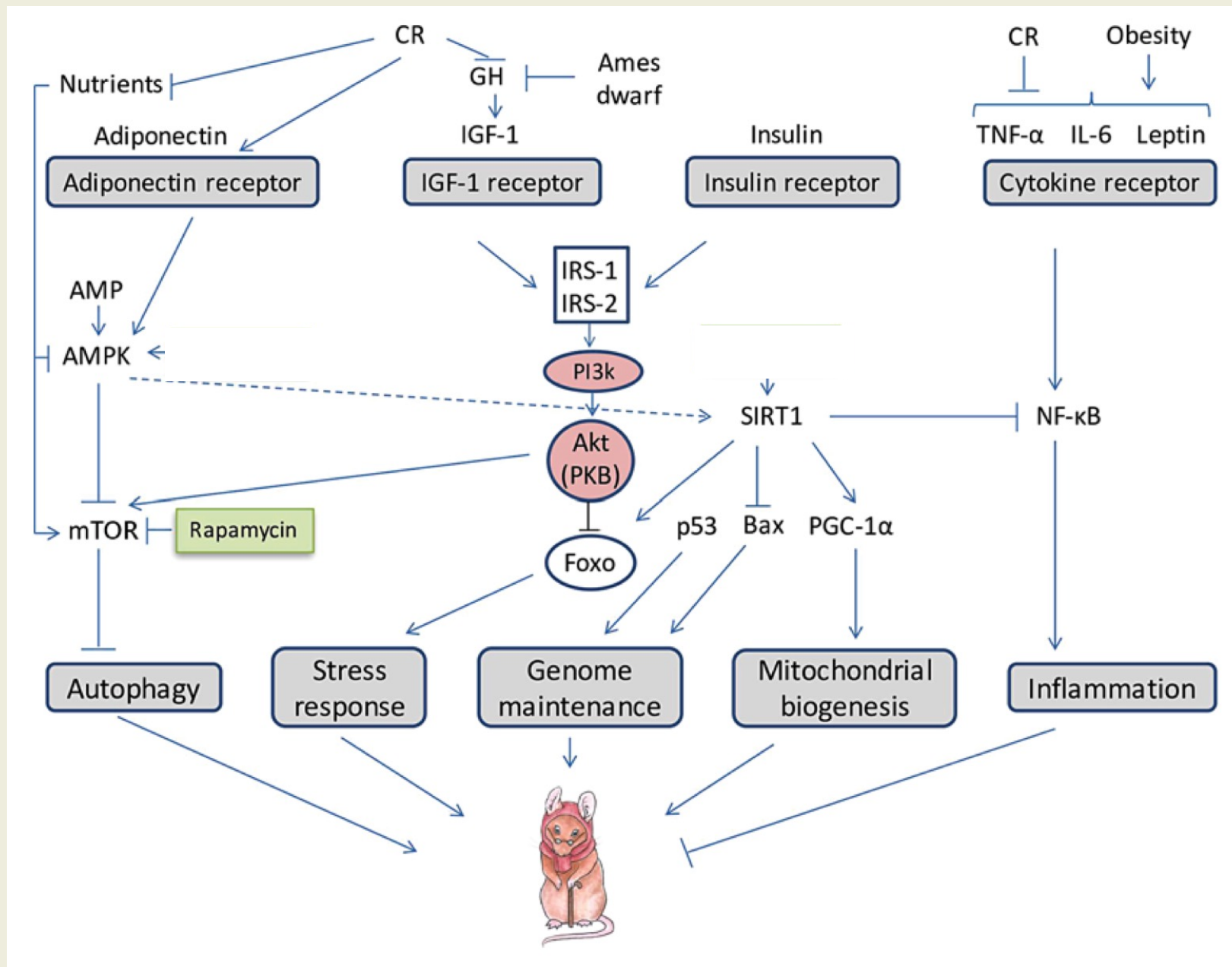
# Pharmaceuticals

## → Principles

- Target specific pathways
- Consistent/predictable effects
- Clinically practical

## → CR Mimetics

- Rapamycin



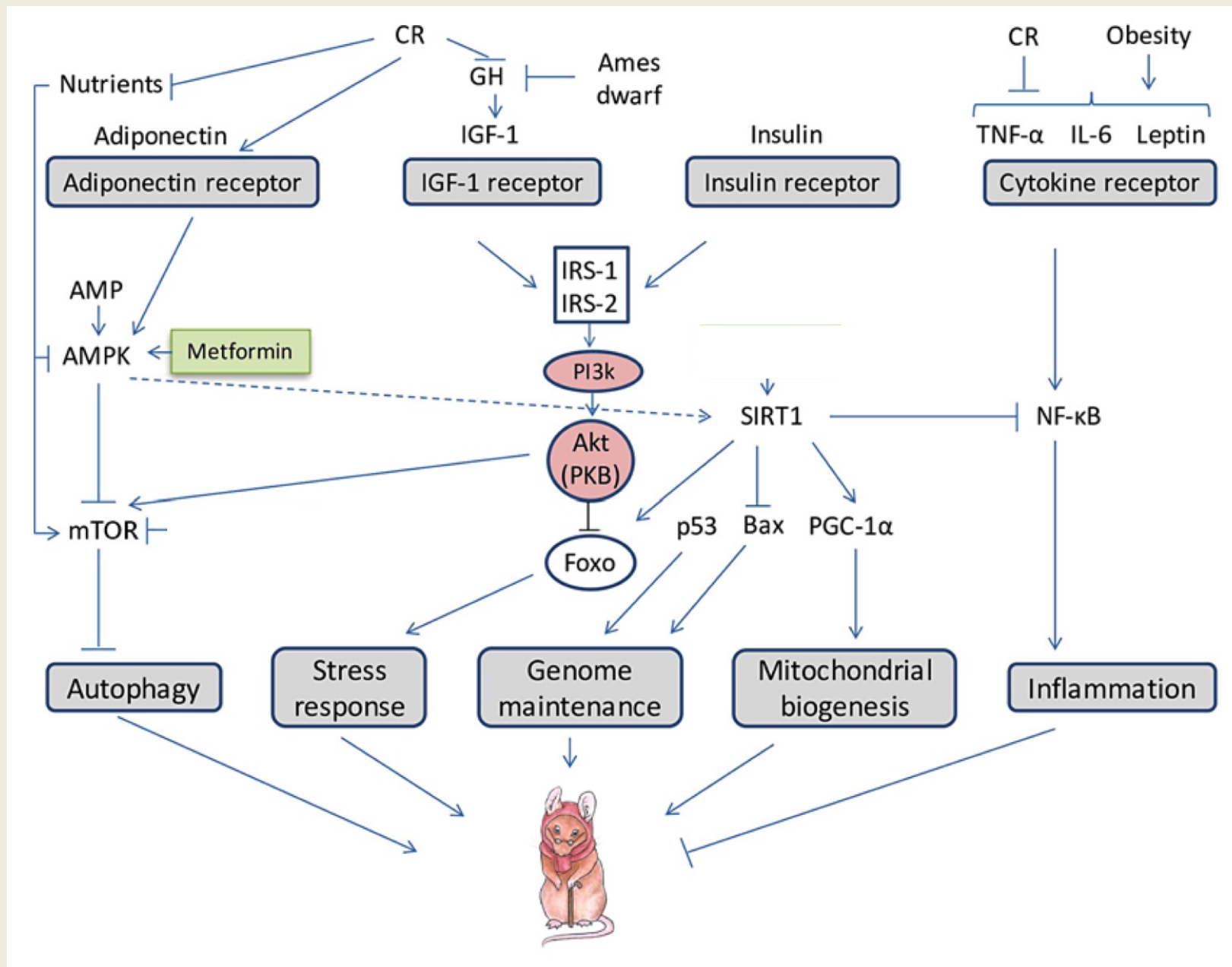
# Pharmaceuticals

## → Principles

- Target specific pathways
- Consistent/predictable effects
- Clinically practical

## → CR Mimetics

- Rapamycin
- Metformin





**Clinical Implications**


→ **Nutrition can Impact Aging**

- Extend lifespan
- Extend healthspan
- Alter aging mechanisms

## → Main Principles

- Less is more
- Biology is complicated
  - patient factors
  - dietary factors
  - non-dietary factors

→ Main Principles

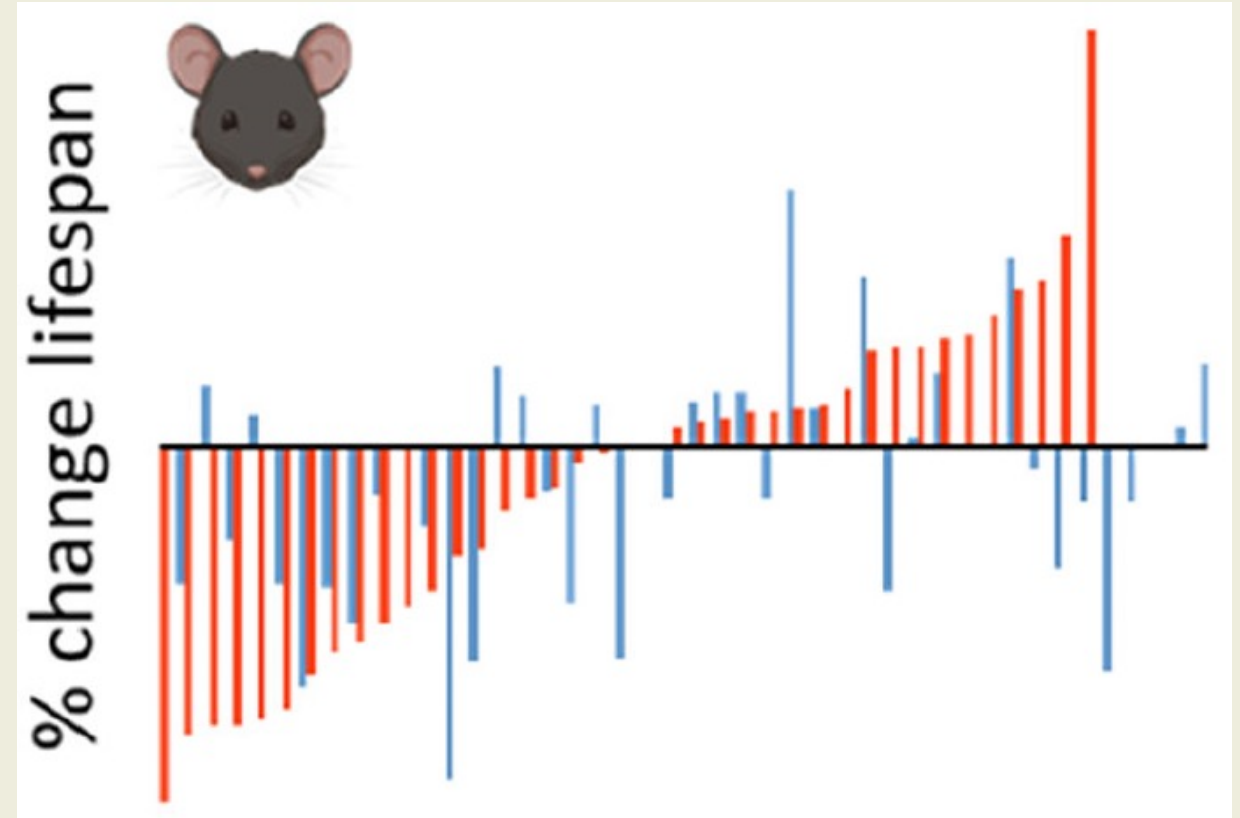
- Less is more
- Biology is complicated
  - patient factors
  - dietary factors
  - non-dietary factors
- Lifestyle  Drugs





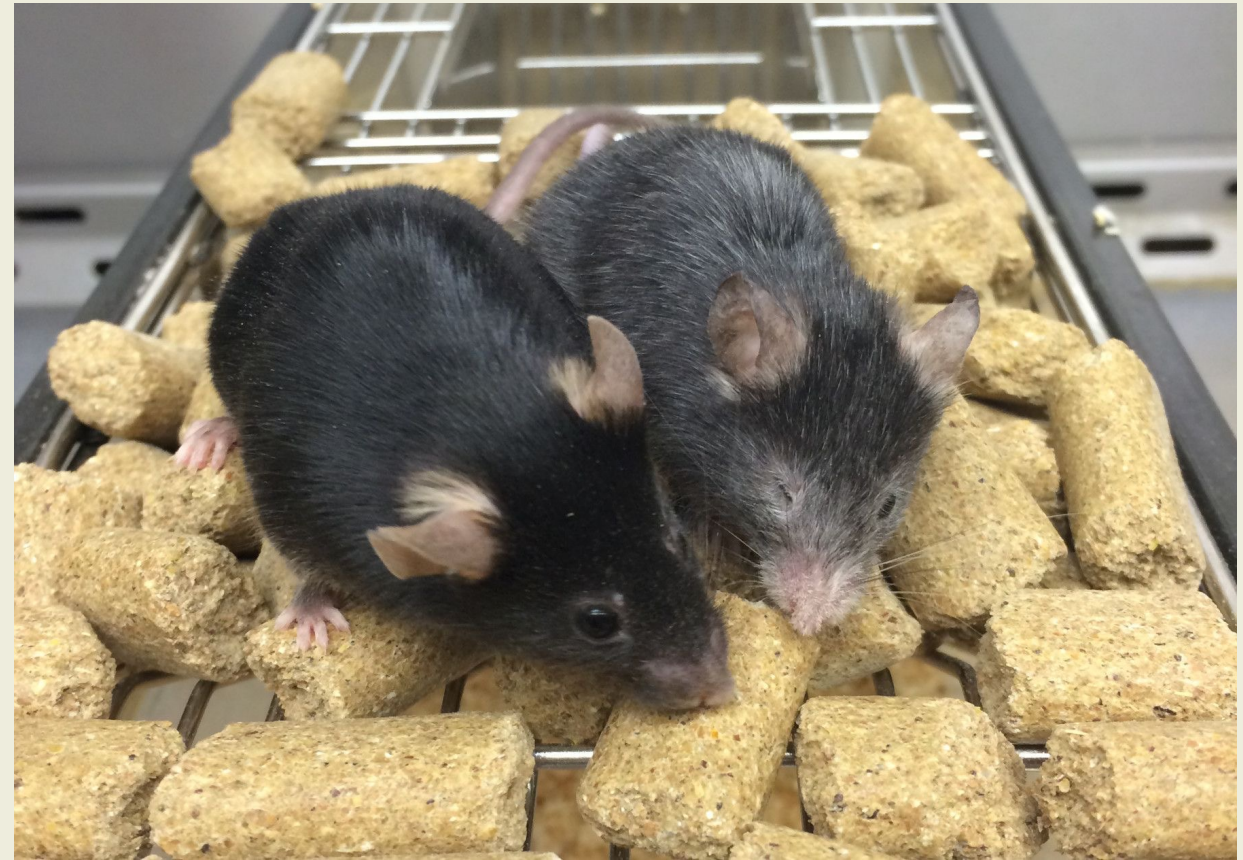
# Fictions of Anti-aging Diets

- CR always works
  - Multiple studies with no effect or deleterious effect
  - Depends on
    - Sex
    - Genetic background
    - Age on onset
    - Dietary formulation
    - ????



# Fictions of Anti-aging Diets

- Macronutrients are “Good” or “Bad”
  - Lifespan extension shown with
    - Decreased calories
    - Decreased carbohydrates
    - Decreased protein
    - ↑ or ↓ specific amino acids

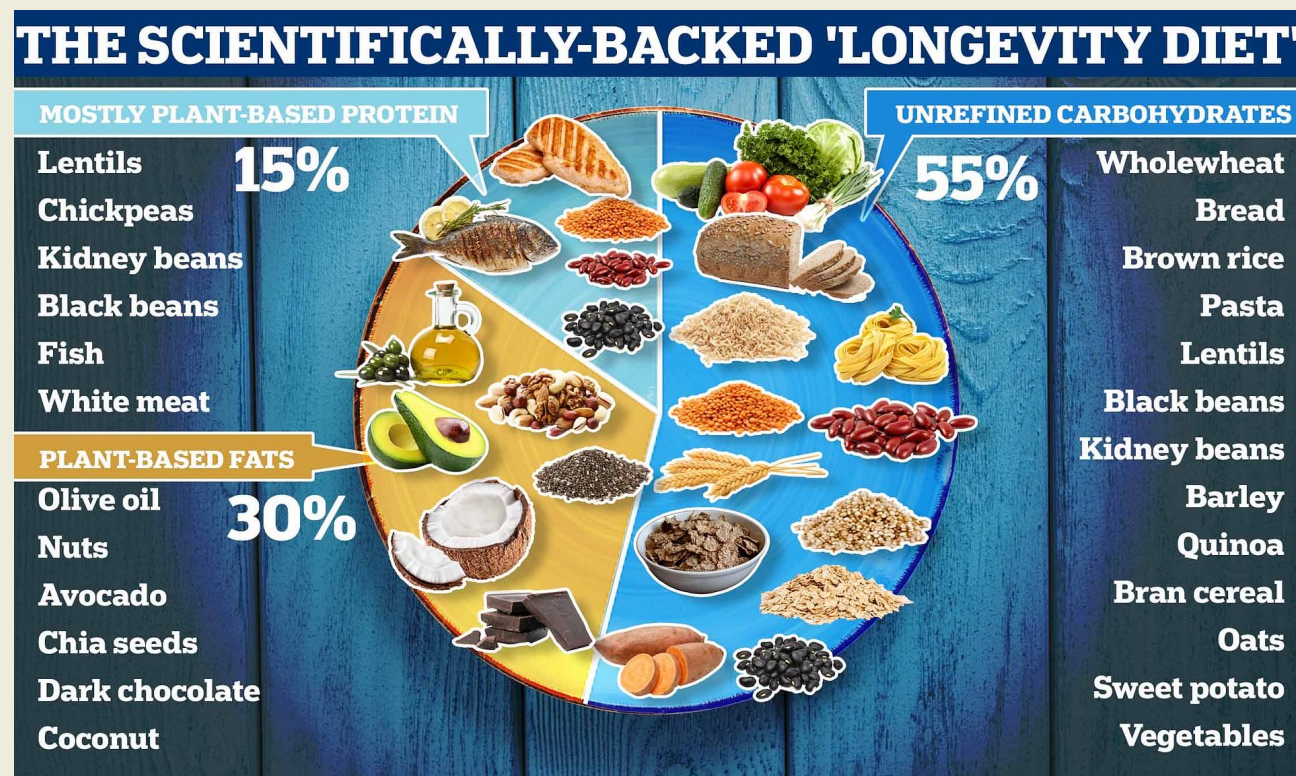


# Fictions of Anti-aging Diets

→ Diet X Extends Lifespan & Healthspan

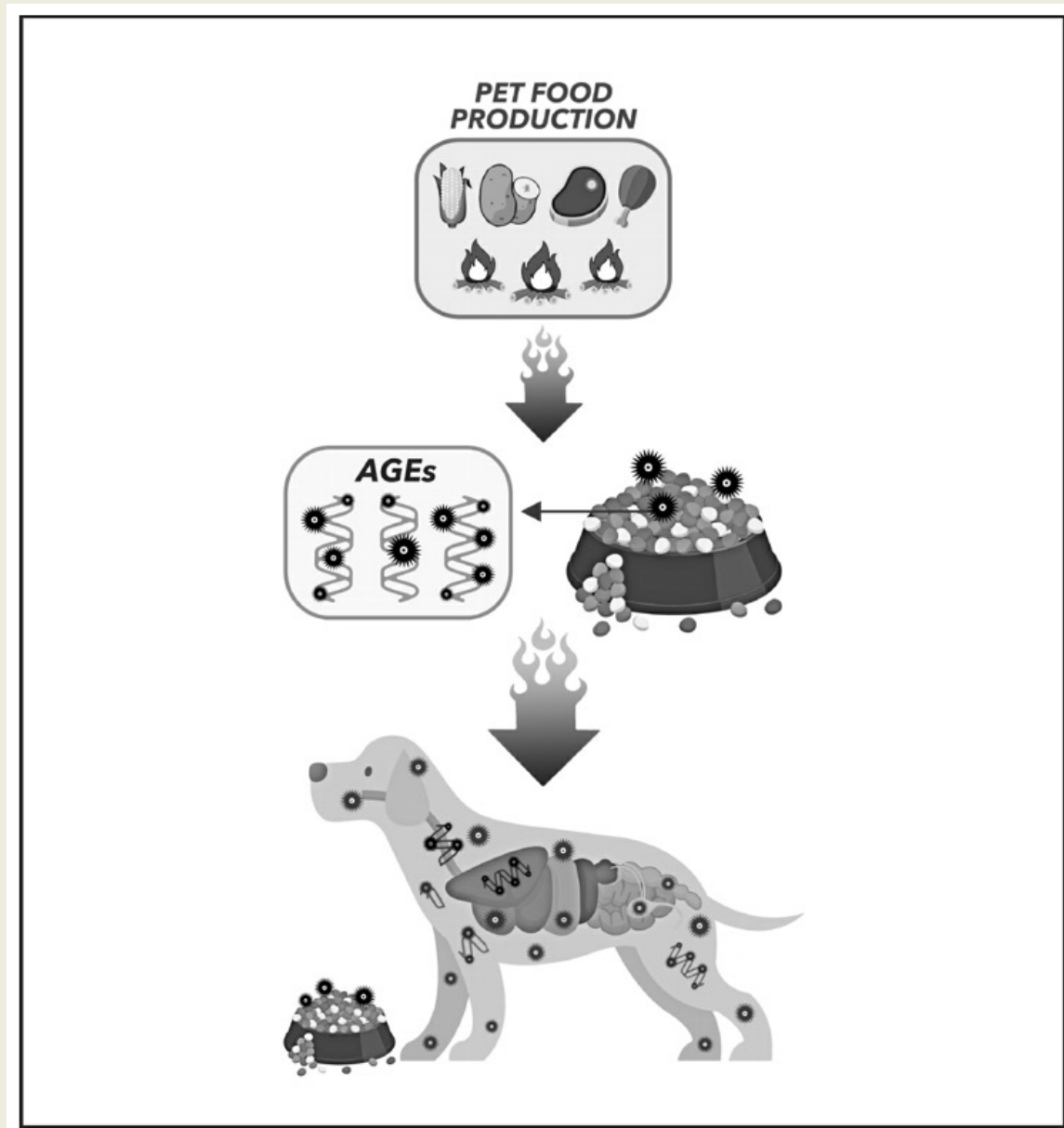
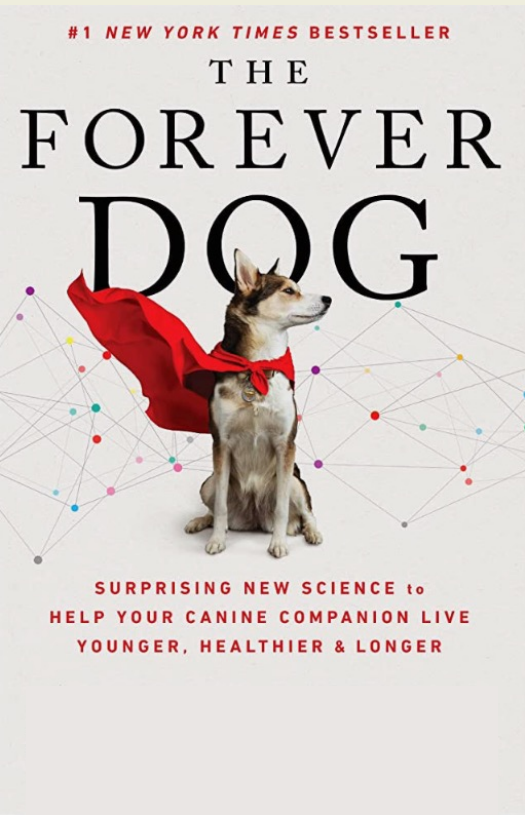
- Limited “real world” evidence

- species
- diets
- populations

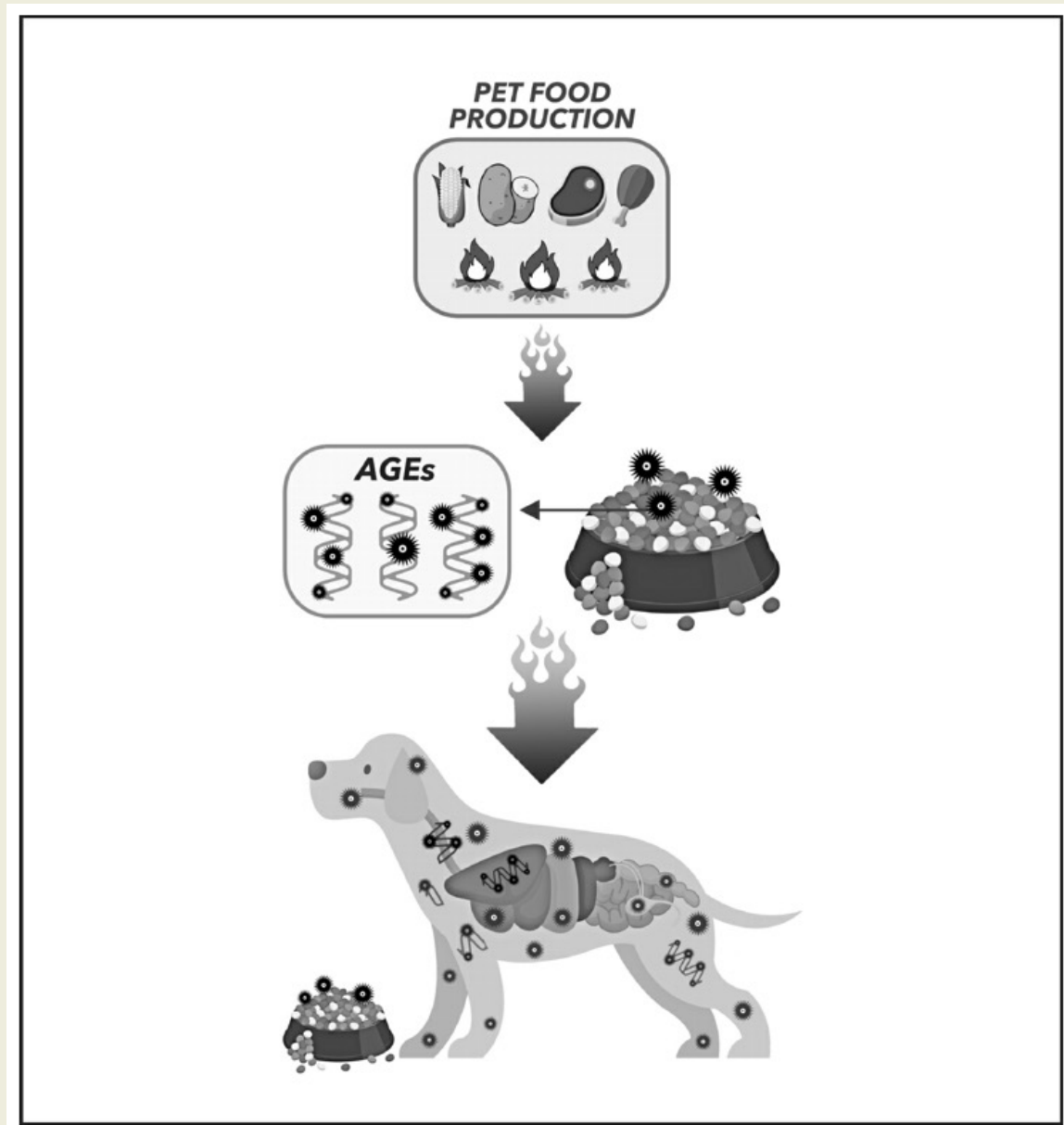
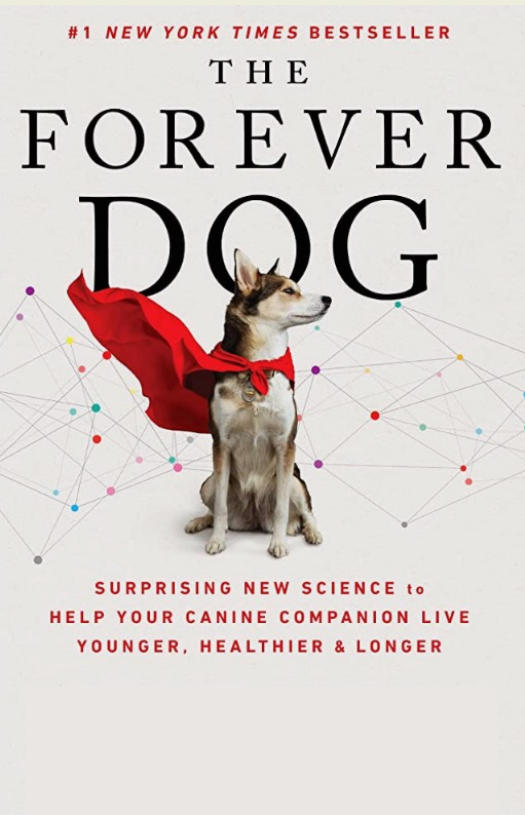


**WARNING:**

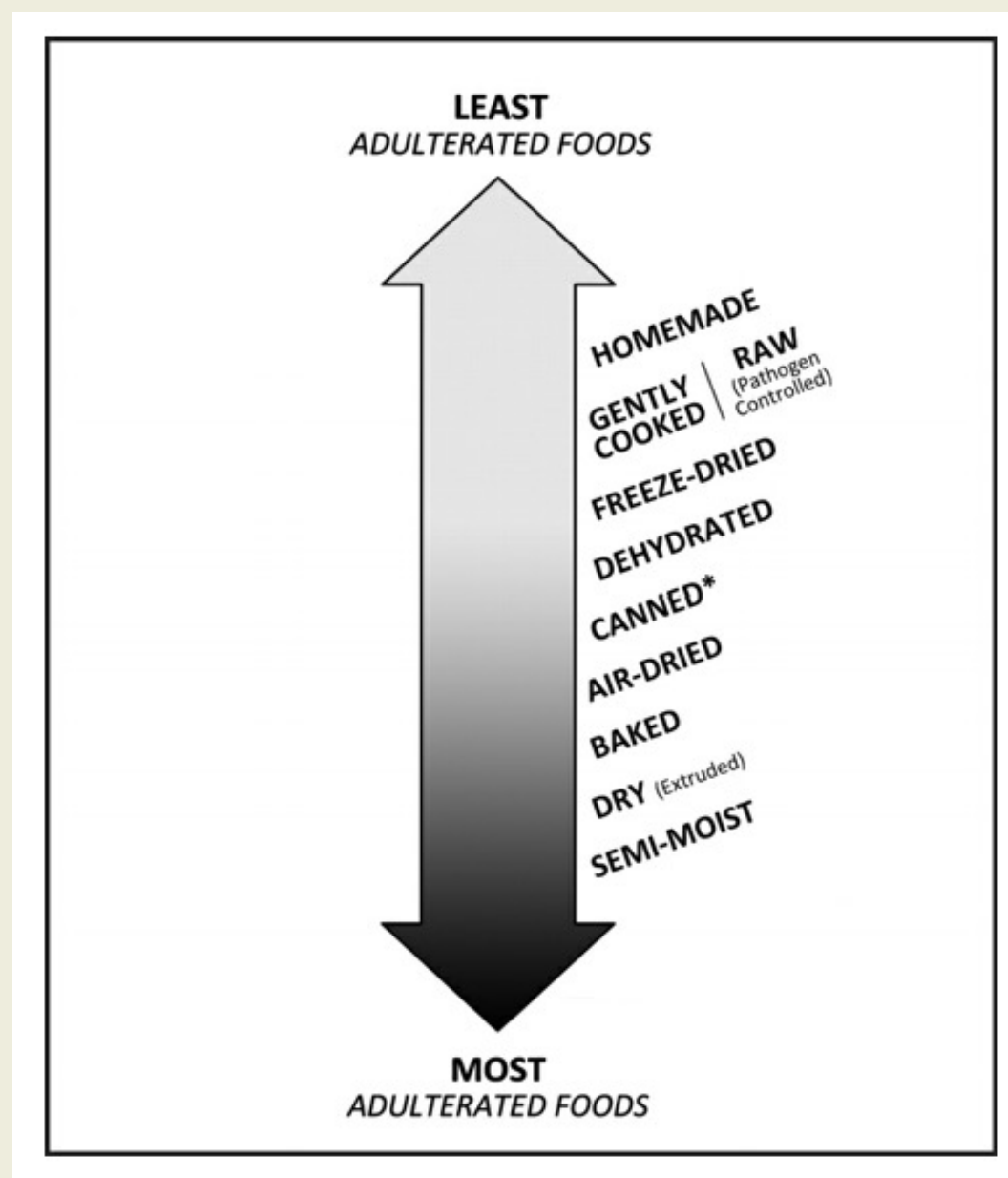
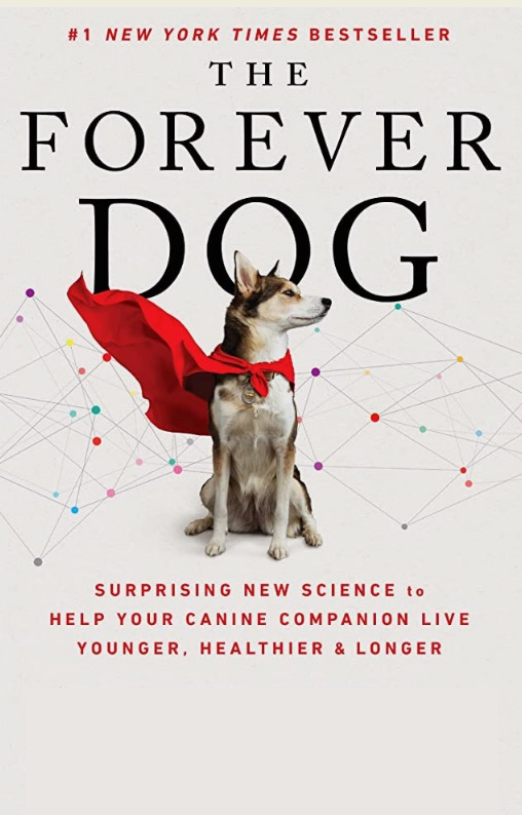
**Viewer Discretion is Advised.**



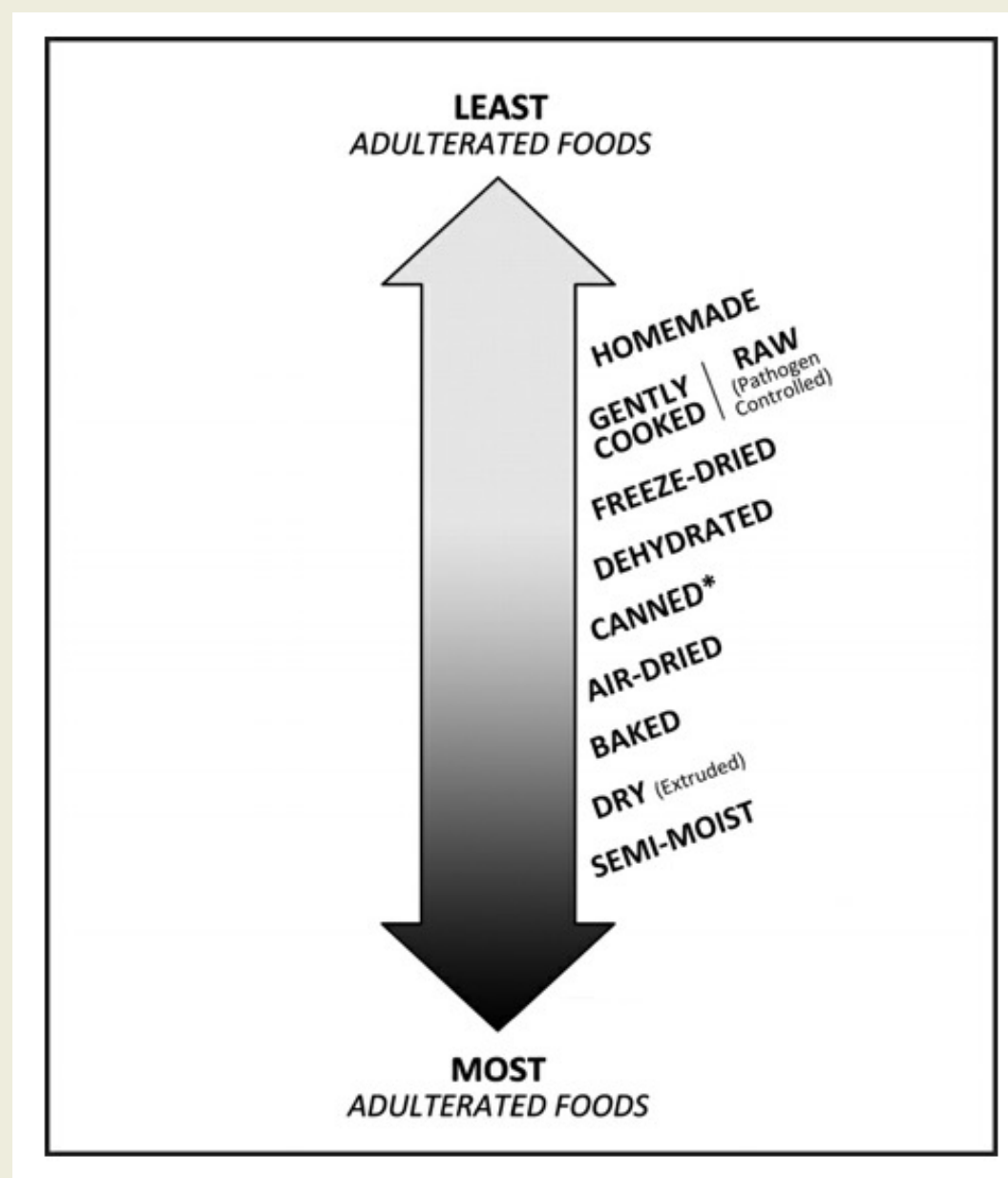
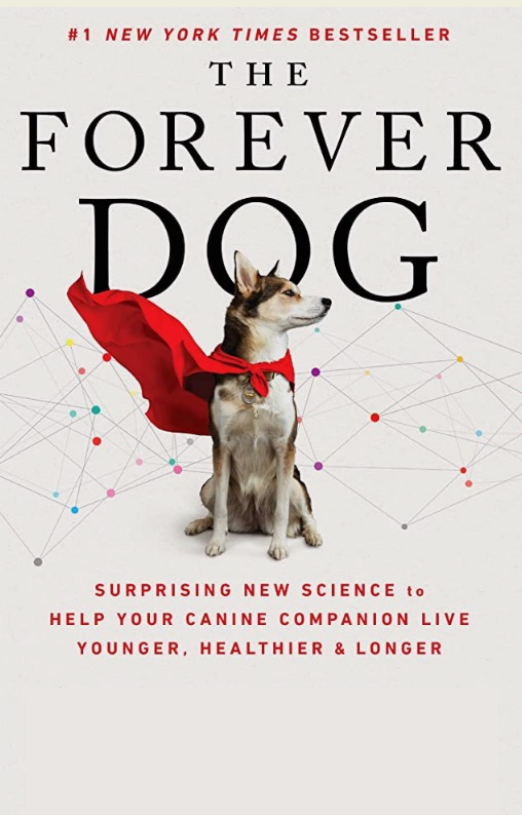
“By some measures we’ve witnessed a decline in canine longevity...Although many dogs are indeed living longer, like people, many dogs are dying prematurely of more chronic disease than ever before.”



“Certainly their health span has diminished. A dog’s life is not as happy as it used to be.”



“While there aren’t any lifetime studies comparing dogs that eat one ultra-processed diet versus a variety of less-processed foods from birth to death, common sense tells us something is wrong with the nutrition picture Big Pet Food has painted for us.”



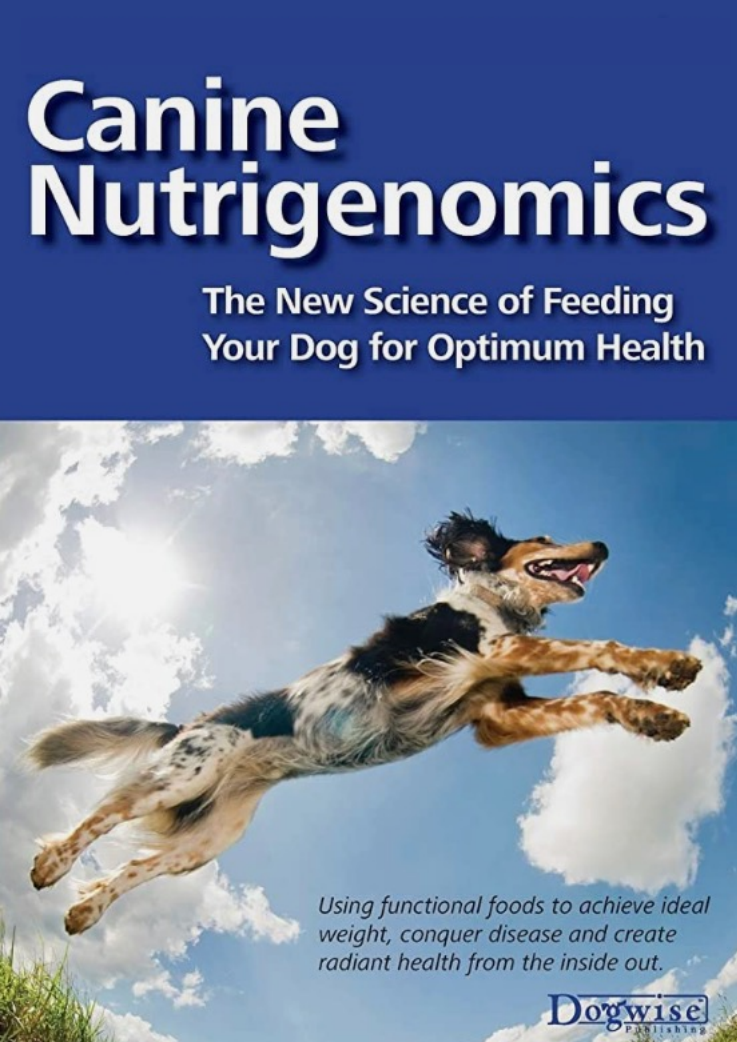
“The average bag of dry dog food contains ingredients that have been high-heat processed at least four times; it is literally dead food.”



“pro-inflammatory ingredients such as ...GMO foods”

“Low-grade autoimmune reaction to gluten can trigger a wildfire of chronic inflammation that affects every organ system in the body. It can even create an immune response that causes subclinical brain inflammation, resulting in age-related dementia.”

”The menacing powers of corn, wheat and soy go even further than you might imagine.”



**Canine Nutrigenomics**  
The New Science of Feeding Your Dog for Optimum Health

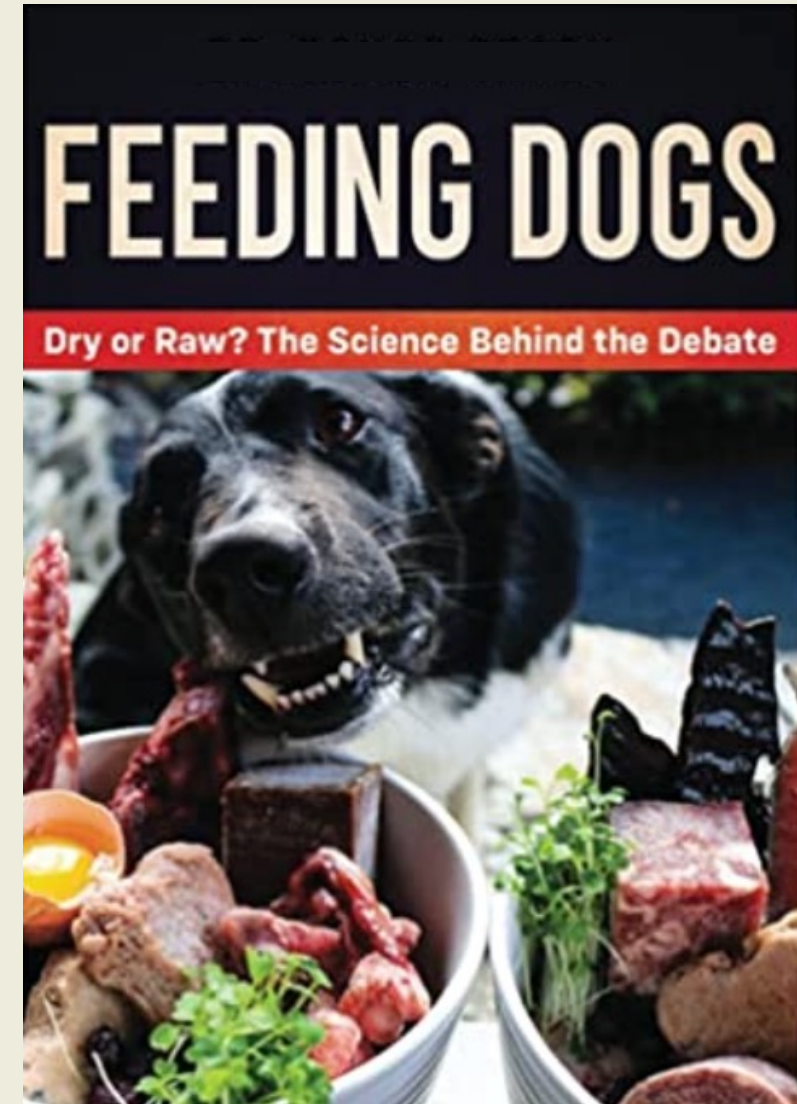
*Using functional foods to achieve ideal weight, conquer disease and create radiant health from the inside out.*

**Dogwise**  
PUBLISHING

“Cancer will play a role in nearly half of canine deaths today with older dogs more likely to get it. This is somewhat as you would expect following a life of high carbohydrate, ultra-processed food products, not to mention the copious amounts of chemical parasite control and annual boosters”

“The [pet food] industry is little more than a profitable dumping ground for the world’s food waste...chronic illness in pets is at an all-time high...you pay with your money and your pet pays with his health.”

“Obesity and diabetes are terrible, chronic diseases that will lay waste to their health...It will shorten their lives and cause significant stress...We, their guardians, are causing it by feeding them the wrong food.”

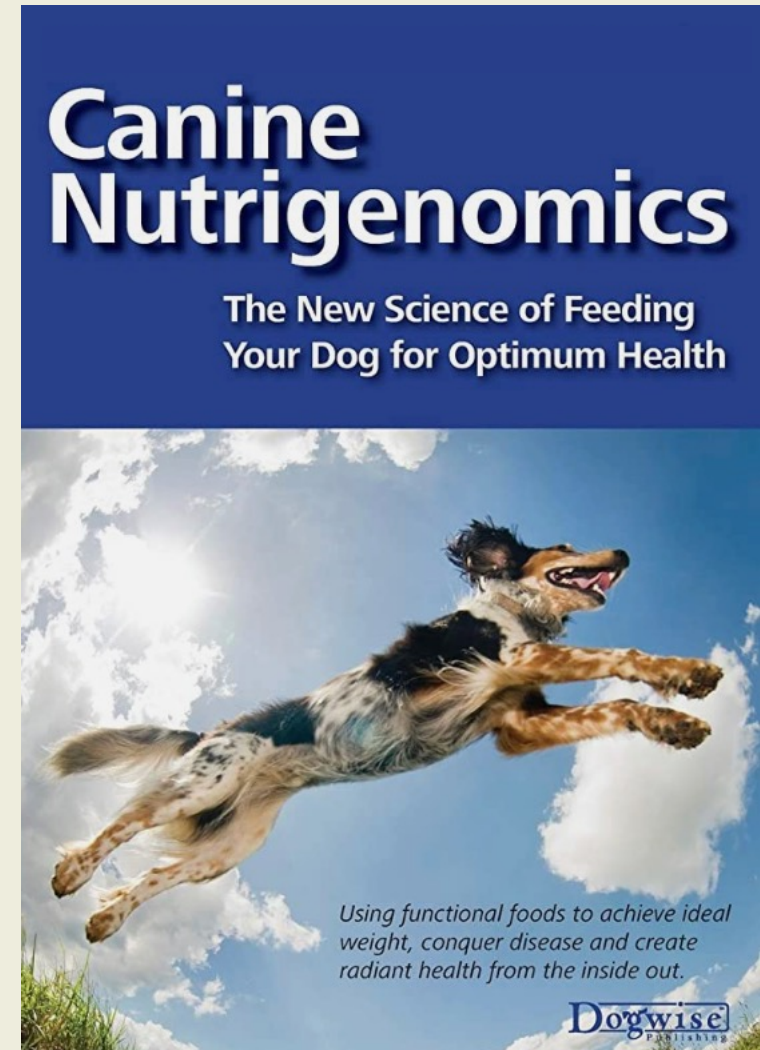




“Kibble is the least nutrigenomics-friendly choice to feed your dog.”

“**Raw foods** are in keeping with the principles of nutrigenomics for several reasons, including increased bioavailability of nutrients, high quality amino acids, typically no chemical additives and lesser propensity to cause food allergies.”

“Many respected holistic veterinarians...have witnessed firsthand the health and vigor of dogs and cats fed raw diets: these animals just “shine” in all respects.”



**Canine  
Nutrigenomics**

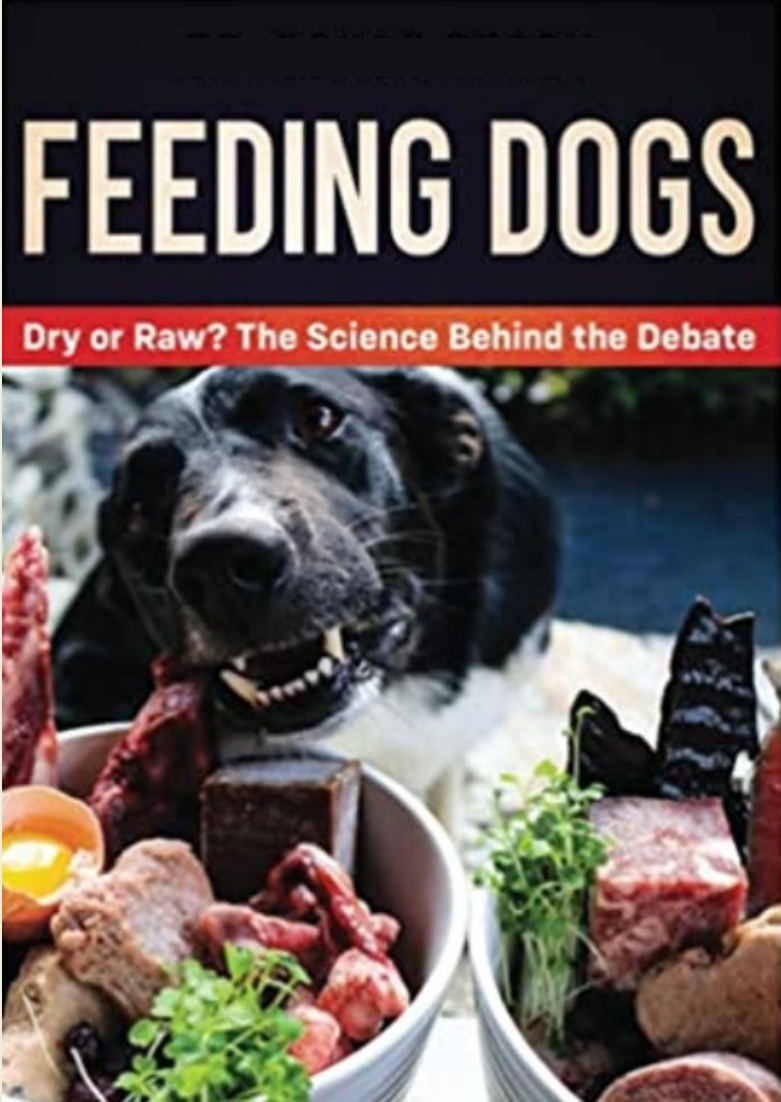
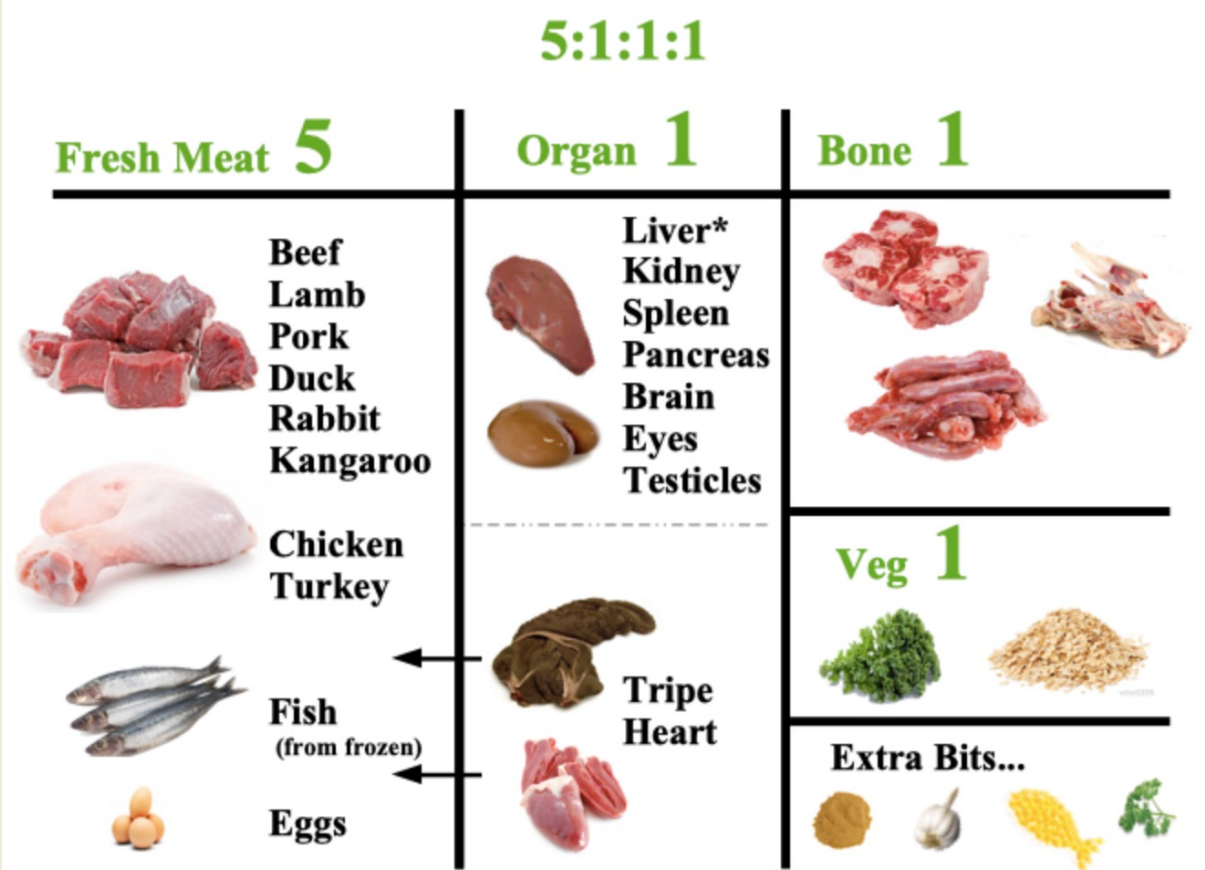
The New Science of Feeding  
Your Dog for Optimum Health

*Using functional foods to achieve ideal weight, conquer disease and create radiant health from the inside out.*

**Dogwise**  
PUBLISHING

“If you are the owner of a dog breed at risk of cancer, the best diet is one entirely free of carbohydrates...This is the keto diet humans are now embarking on.

“Dogs are healthiest, certainly happiest, when fed upon a fresh, species-appropriate diet...a diet of raw, unprocessed meat and bone.”

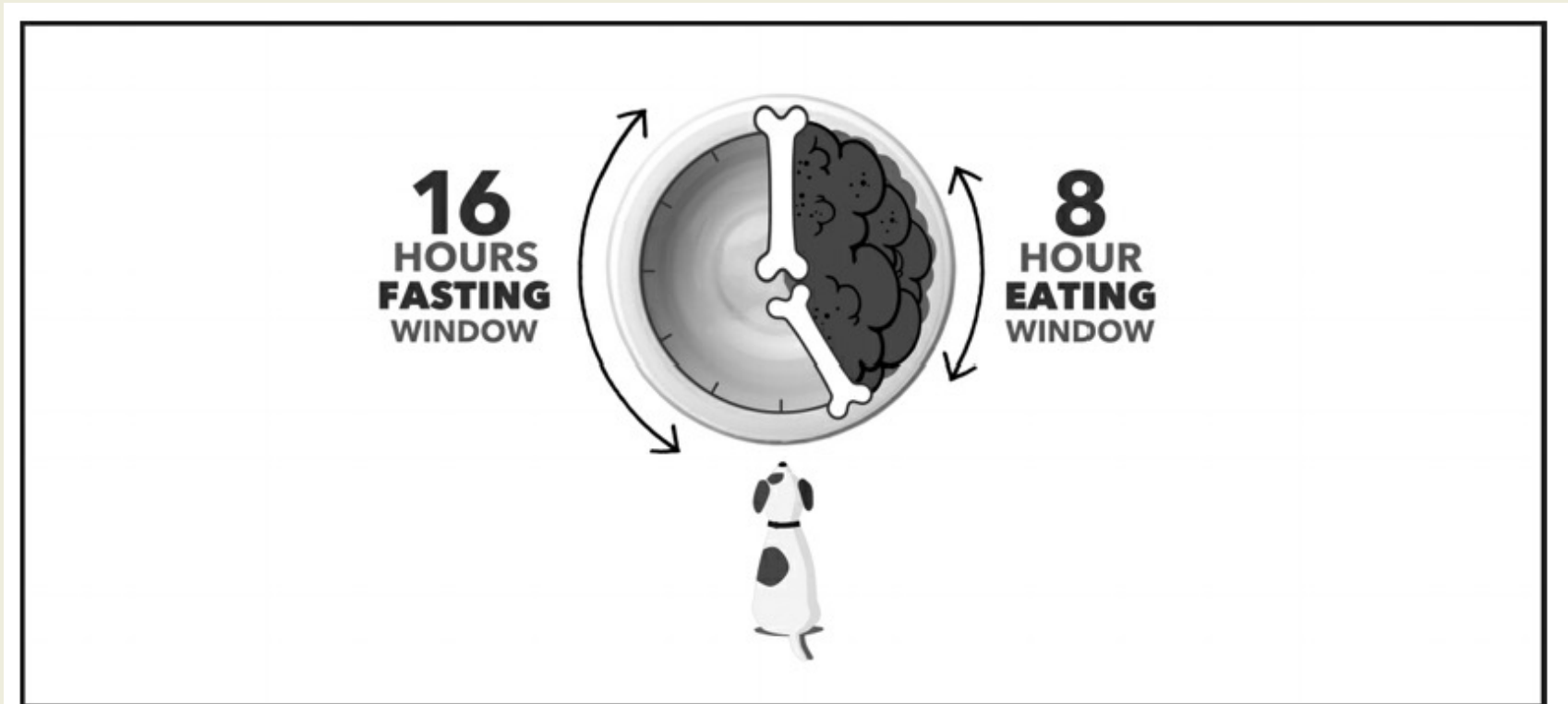
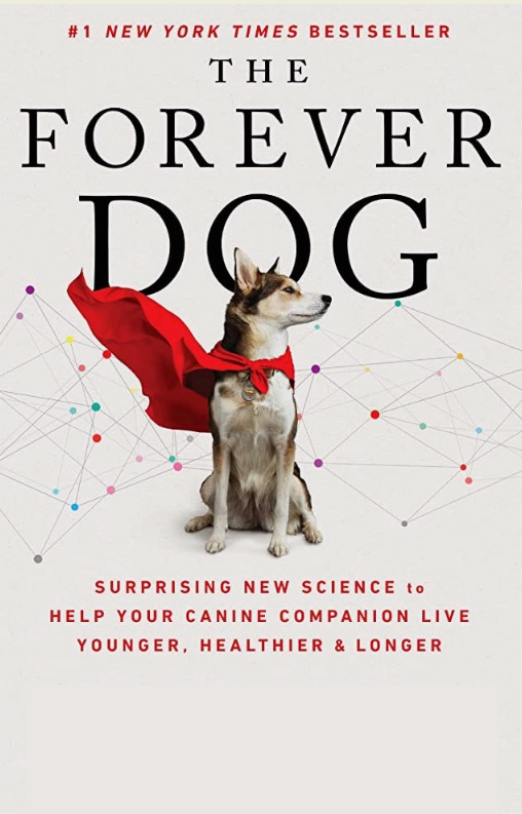


## Adulteration Math Results

**Good:** *previously processed* ingredients blended together, and *heat processed once* (many dehydrated foods).

**Better:** *raw, fresh* ingredients blended together and freeze-dried or high-pressure pasteurized (HPP), as well as raw fresh ingredients blended together and *no-heat or low-heat processed once* (many raw meat dehydrated foods and gently cooked foods).

**Best:** *raw, fresh ingredients* blended together and served, or frozen (*no heat process*) to be eaten within three months (homemade food, commercial frozen raw food).





# The Way Forward





## → Next Steps

- Further investigation of aging mechanisms
- Target-species pre-clinical research
- Clinical studies
  - Validated endpoints
  - Dietary interventions
  - Pharmaceutical interventions

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