

# **Nutrition and the Modern Mind**

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*Every person with a brain  
deserves good nutrition!*



# Nutritional medicine as mainstream in psychiatry

*Jerome Sarris, Alan C Logan, Tasnime N Akbaraly, G Paul Amminger, Vicent Balanzá-Martínez, Marlene P Freeman, Joseph Hibbeln, Yutaka Matsuoka, David Mischoulon, Tetsuya Mizoue, Akiko Nanri, Daisuke Nishi, Drew Ramsey, Julia J Rucklidge, Almudena Sanchez-Villegas, Andrew Scholey, Kuan-Pin Su, Felice N Jacka, on behalf of The International Society for Nutritional Psychiatry Research*

Lancet Psychiatry, 2015

- The emerging and compelling evidence for nutrition as a crucial factor in the high prevalence and incidence of mental disorders suggests **that diet is as important to psychiatry as it is to cardiology, endocrinology, and gastroenterology.**
- Evidence is steadily growing for the relation between dietary quality (and potential nutritional deficiencies) and mental health, and for the select use of nutrient-based supplements to address deficiencies, or as monotherapies or augmentation therapies.
- **The members of the International Society for Nutritional Psychiatry Research advocate recognition of diet and nutrition as central determinants of both physical and mental health.**

Family love and  
social learning



Omega-3  
fats

Soil

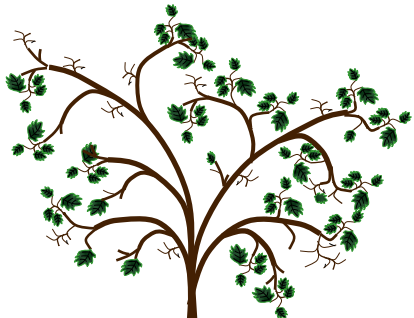
Essential Brain Nutrients

Seed

Genetic Inheritance

Neuron

Family chaos and  
social strife



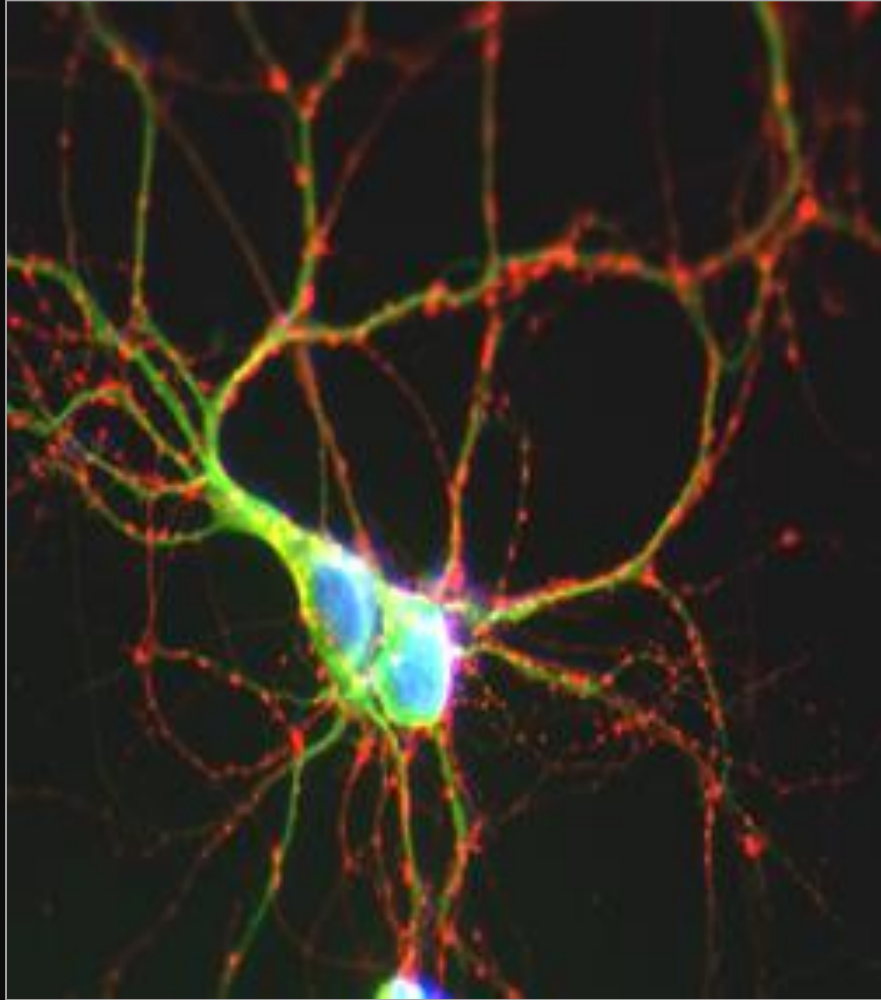
Pb

Omega-6  
fats

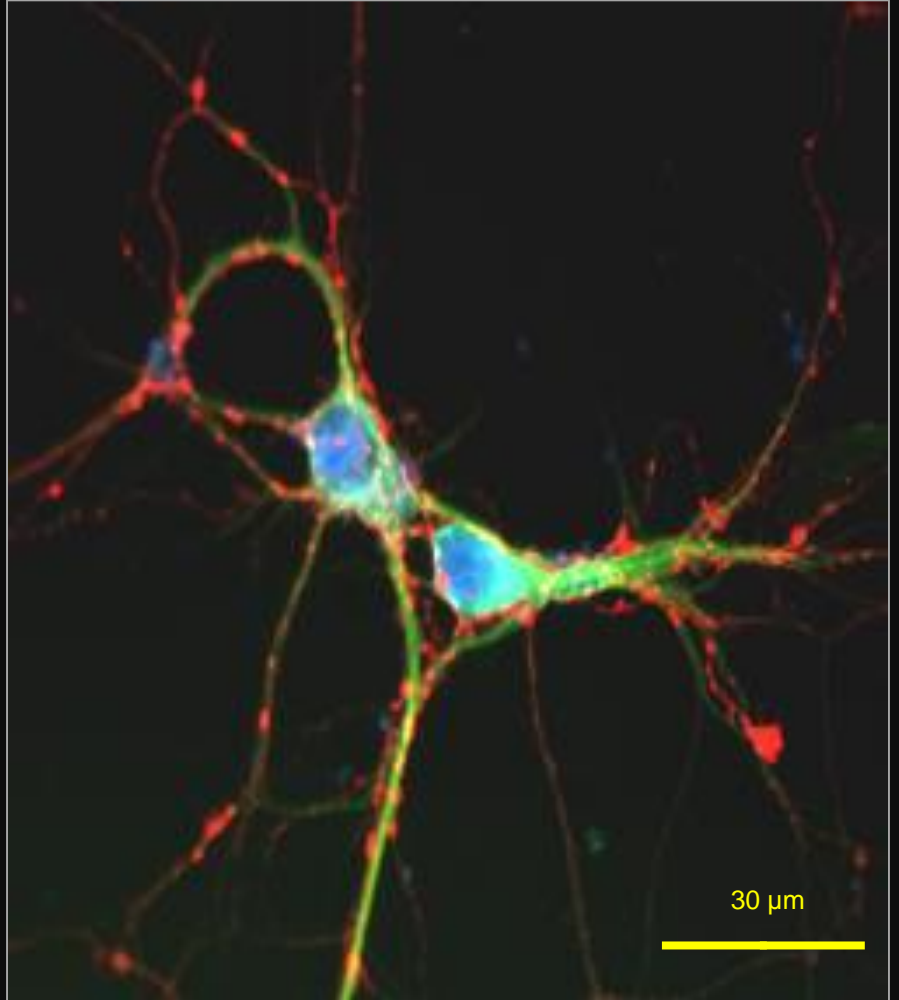
Poor Soil

Deficient in Nutrients

## Adequate DHA (22:6n-3)

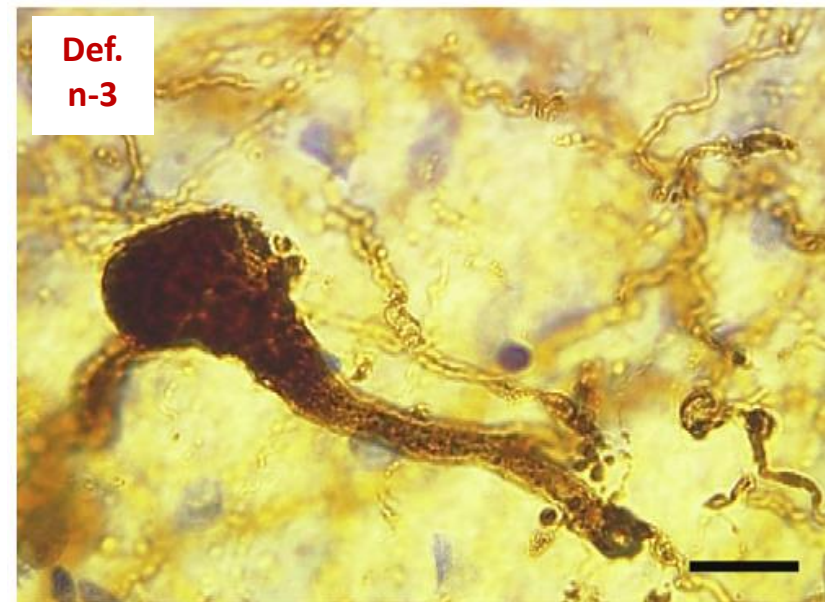
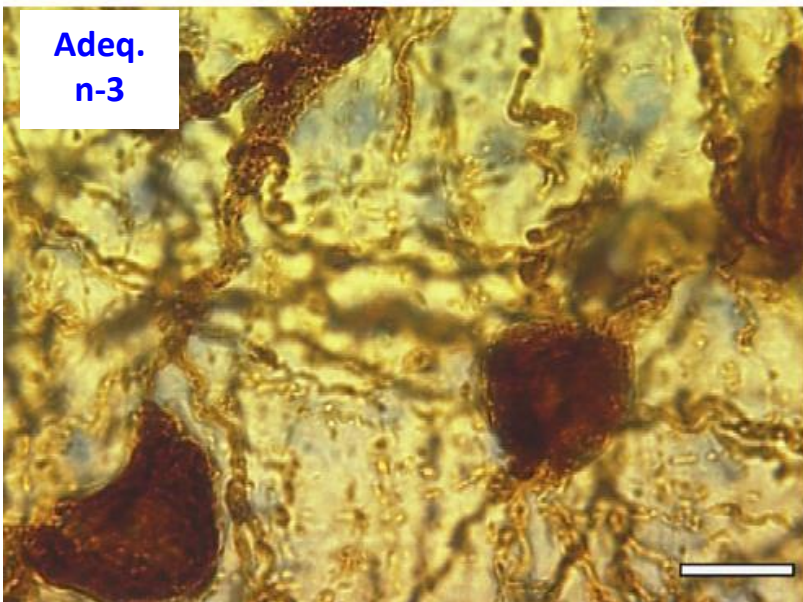
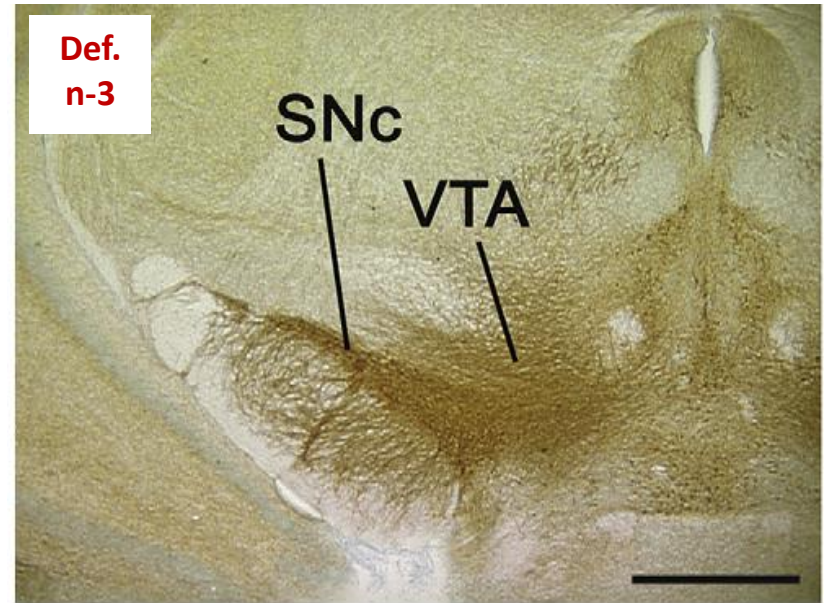
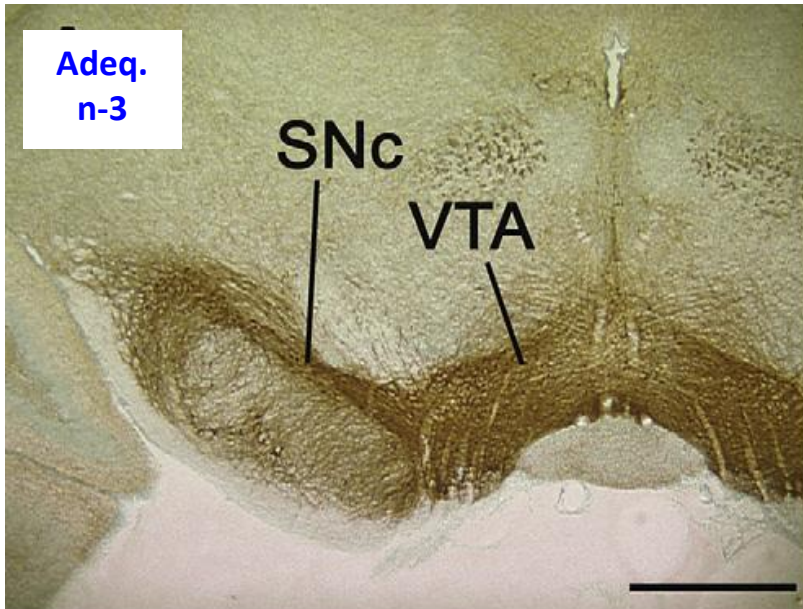


## Deficient (22:5 n-6)



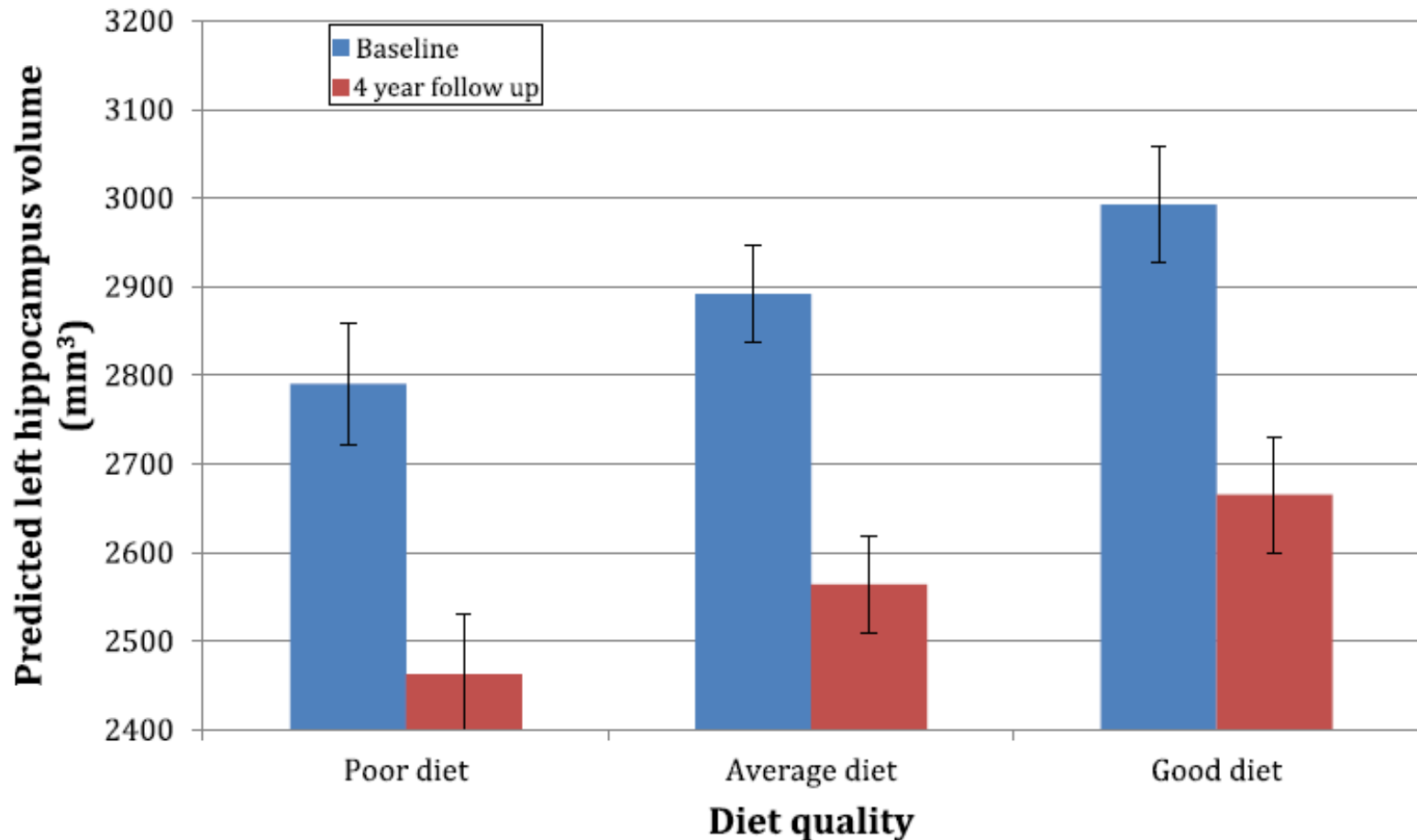


# **n-3 HUFA deficient diets cause 50% loss of dopaminergic neurons**



Tyrosine hydroxylase staining

# “Poor” diets are associated with smaller brain volumes



“Good” diet: fresh vegetables, salad, fruit and grilled fish

“Poor” diet: roast meat, sausages, hamburgers, steak, chips, crisps and soft drinks

# Essential Fats: Metabolism and Dietary Sources

## Omega-6



**18:2n-6 linoleic acid, LA**

Soy bean oil  
Safflower oil  
Corn oil



**20:4n-6, arachidonic acid AA**

Meat,  
Organs



**22:5n-6**

**DPA n-6**

2-series Prostanoids  
4-series Leukotrienes  
Hepoxilins  
Lipoxins  
HETEs  
EETs  
AEA (anandamide)  
2-AG

3-series Prostanoids  
5-series Leukotrienes  
Resolvins  
Maresins  
Protectins  
n-3 monoepoxides  
DHA-EA (synaptamide)  
2-DHG

immune - metabolic - developmental responses

## Omega-3



**18:3n-3 alfa-linolenic acid, ALA**

Flax  
~ Canola  
Leaf plants



**20:5n-3, eicosapentaenoic acid, EPA**

Seafood  
Breast milk (DHA)



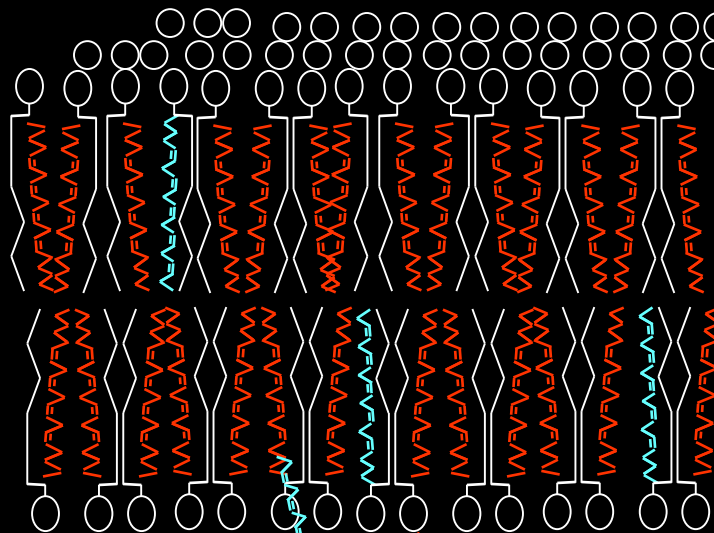
**22:6n-3, docosahexaenoic acid, DHA**  
(brain, retina, testis)

- Competition -

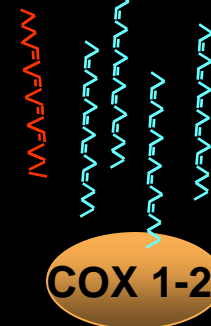
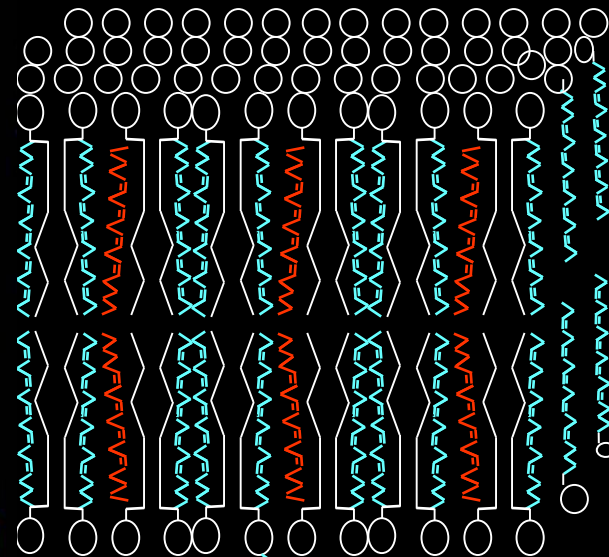
*D6 desat*  
*D5 desat*  
*D6 desat*  
*FADS 1-2*



## U.S. Diet



## Mediterranean Diet



Aspirin  
Other drugs  
> \$ 10 Billion



PGE2

TXA2

"Marijuana like"  
2-AG / AEA

Synapatmide  
DHA- EA

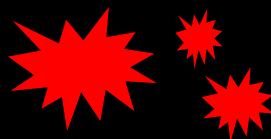
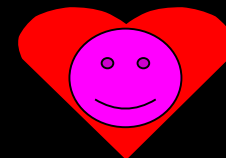
PGE3

TXA3

Obesity  
Addictions  
Depression

New synapses  
Neural  
resilience

Thrombosis



# Omega-3

Plants/Leaves/Insects



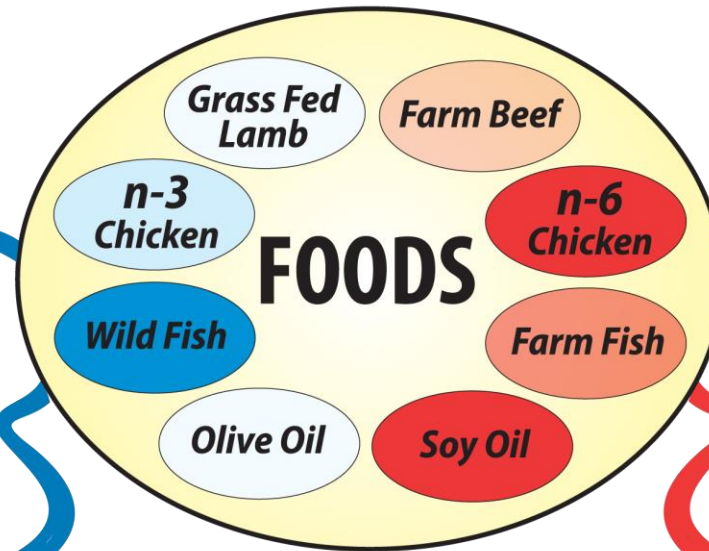
*Traditional Farming & Poultry Raising Utilized a More Varied, Natural & Wild-Type Diet - Rich in Omega-3*

# Omega-6

Plants/Seeds

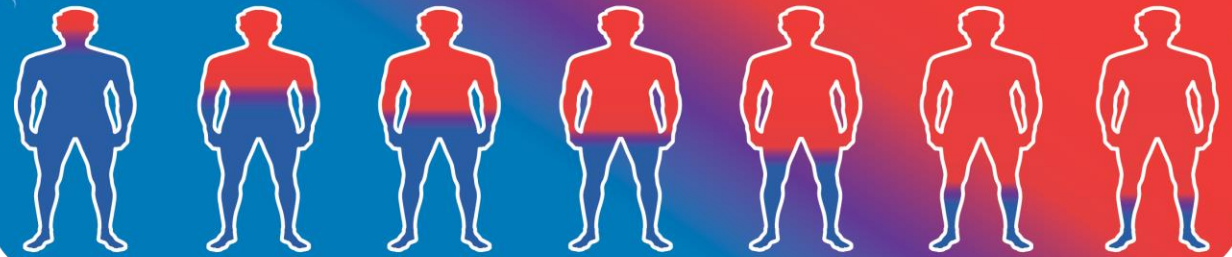


*In the Last Century, Industrialized Farming of Soy and Corn Has Changed Chicken to Be High in n-6 and Low in n-3*



**Reduced  
Inflammation  
& Disease Risk**

**Strong  
Inflammation  
& Disease Risk**



**Omega-3  
in Body**

**70%**  
ACHIEVABLE  
Trad. Innuit

**60%**  
SUPERB  
Trad. Japanese

**50%**  
HEALTHY  
Mediterranean

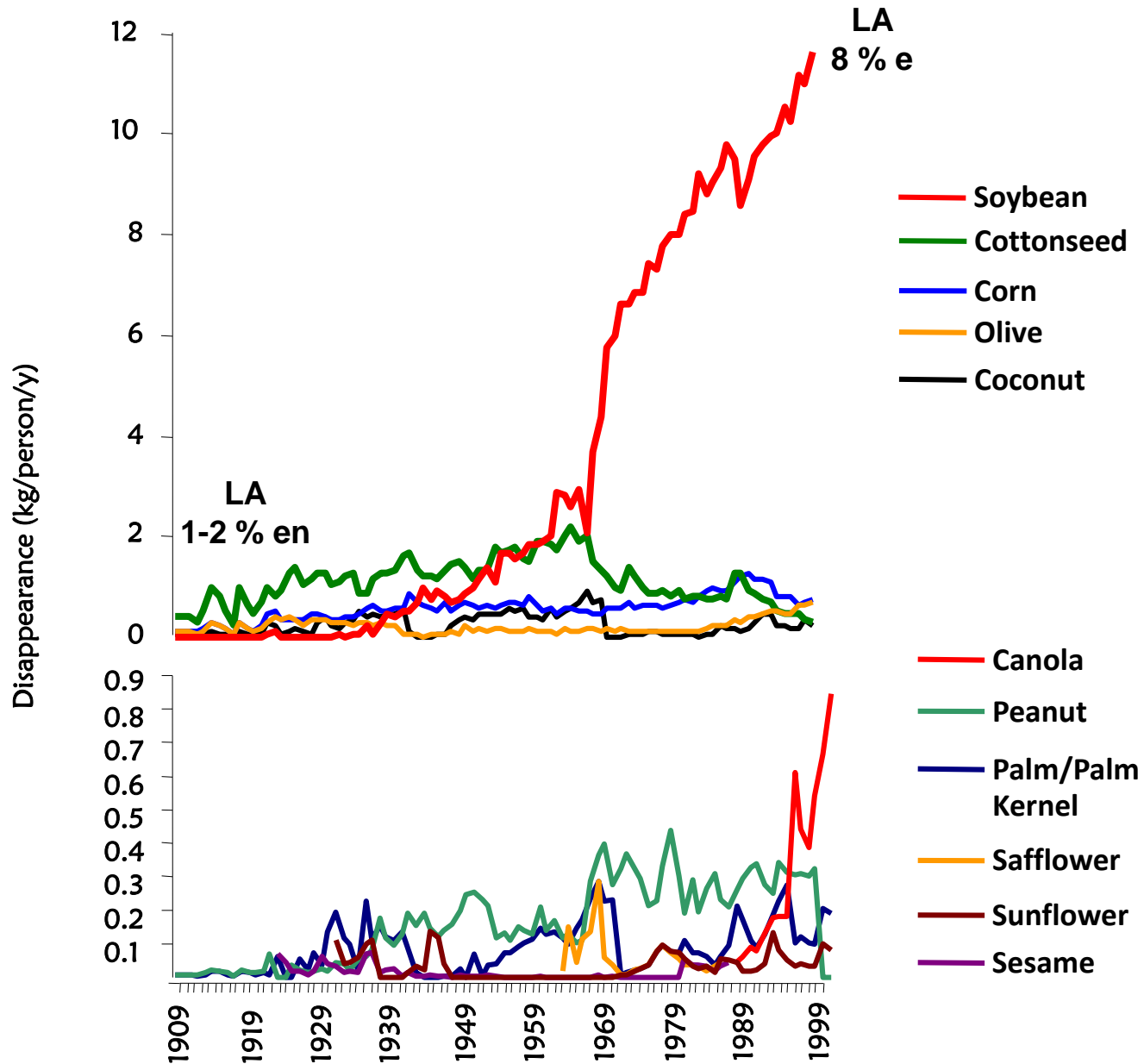
**40%**  
ACTION  
BENEFICIAL

**30%**  
REMEDIAL  
ACTION

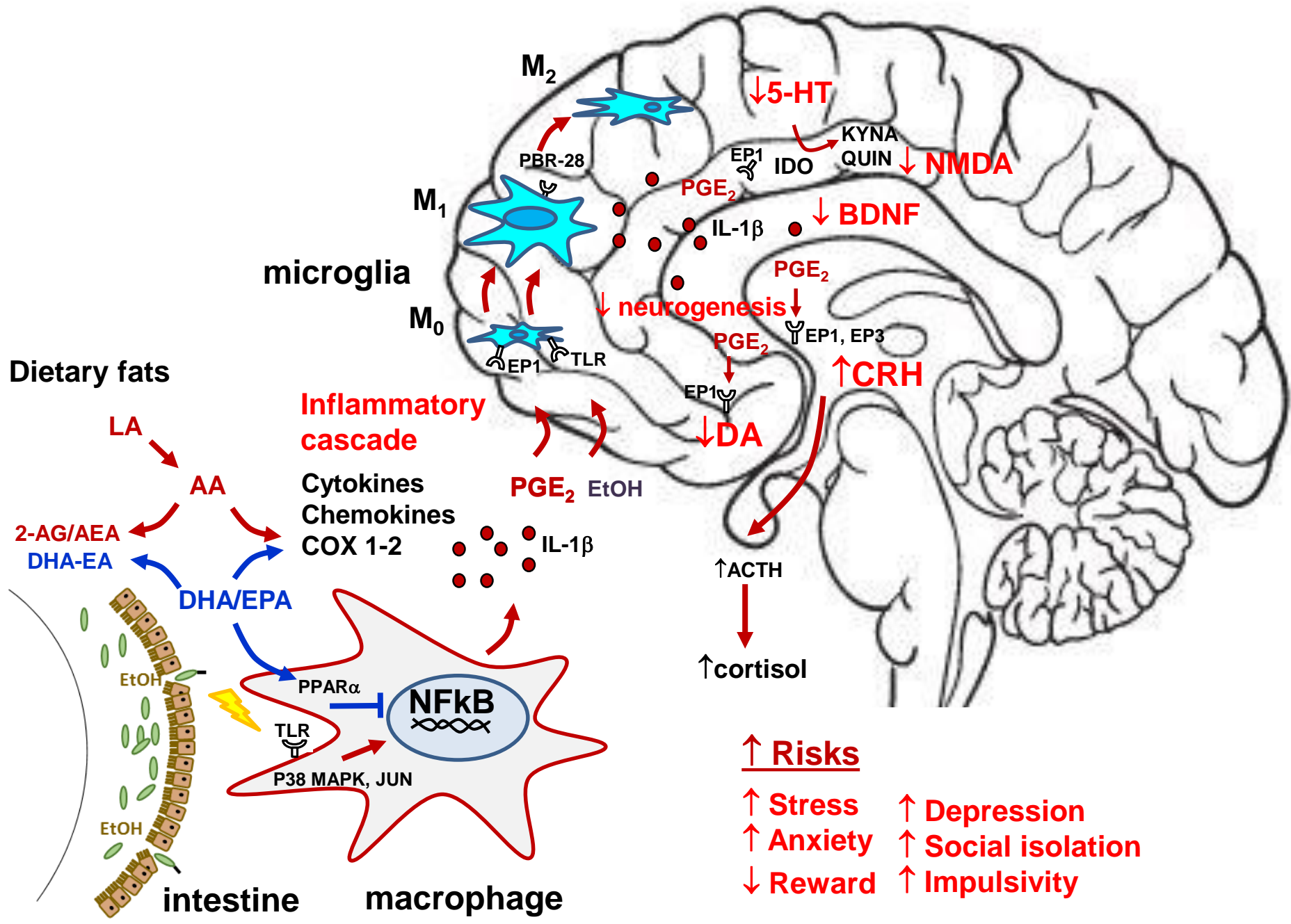
**20%**  
URGENT  
ACTION

**17%**  
US NOW  
DANGER

# Soy oil Consumption Increased 1,000 fold in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, USA



# Dietary fats and neuro-inflammation in mental ill health



# Omega-3 HUFAs and Dysphoric Disorders?

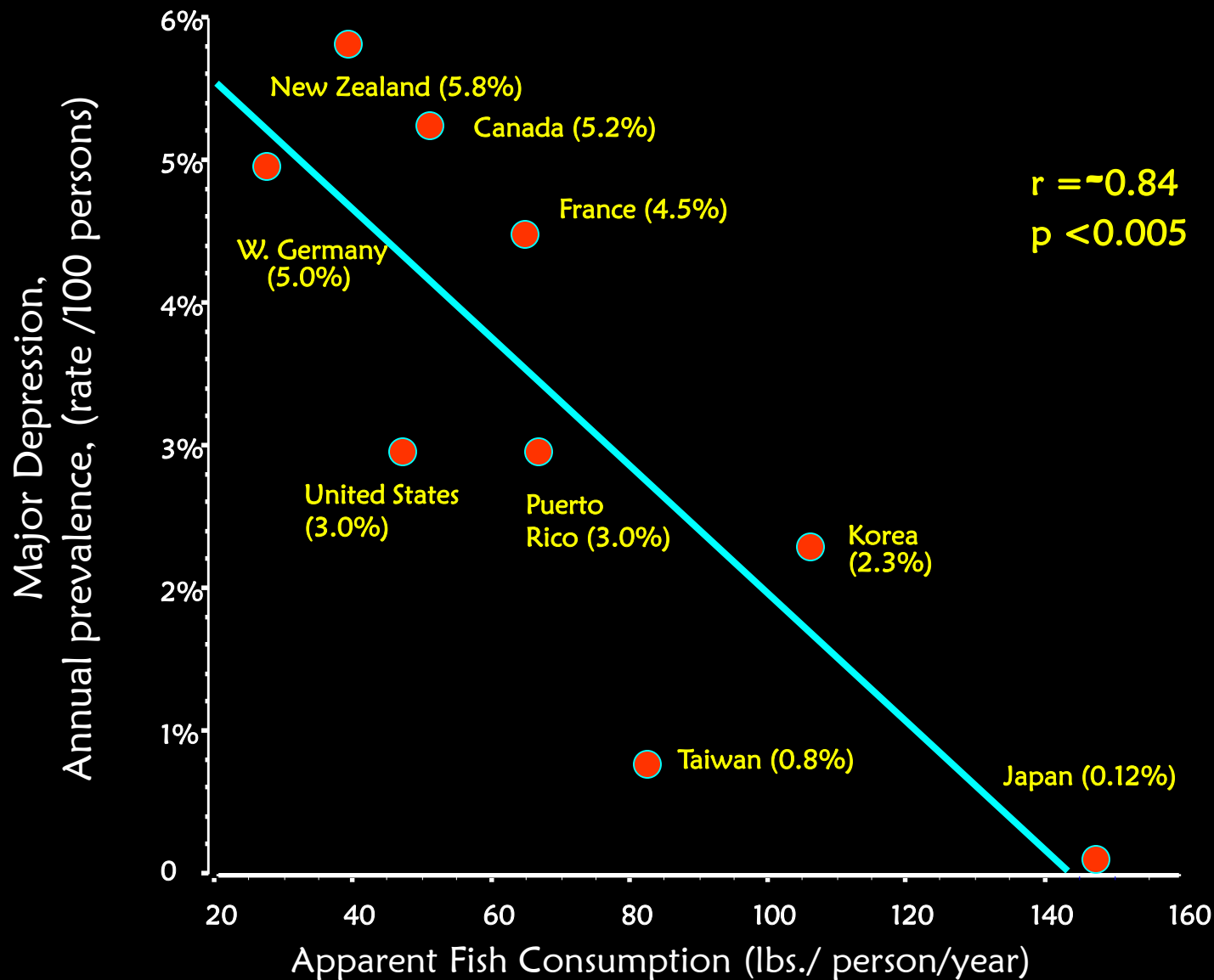
## Overview of human data

Disorder	Plausible mechanism	Epidemiological Ecological	Case control (Tissue)	RCT's	Meta-analyses	Positive clinical effect? Size?
Major depression	Yes	54	17	52	6	<u>Yes</u> Large effect
ADHD	Yes	6	15	10	2	<u>Yes</u> Less than stimulants
Aggression violence/conduct	Yes	8	5	10	2	<u>Replicates</u> Large effect ↓ 40 % in felony violence
Anxiety	Yes	2	5	3	-	Probable -
Alcohol/ Sub. use	Yes	-	4	1	-	Hopeful Large effect
Suicide	Yes	6	4	1	-	Hopeful



# Fish Consumption and Major Depression

## Annual Prevalence by Country



$r = -0.84$

$p < 0.005$

# Mediterranean dietary patterns to reduce depression?

## fish, olive oil and n-3 HUFAs as causal agents

### 1. Dietary patterns

Healthy  
Mediterranean

2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Scientific committee evaluated **ONLY** data on dietary patterns for depression.

### 2. Specific foods

Fish  
Olive oil

**Fish consumption:** a meta-analysis including **n=26** studies, **n=150,278** - lower risks of depression. **RR= 0.83** (95% CI 0.74 to 0.93)

[Li F, et al. J Epidemiol Community Health 2015;0:1–6](#)

### 3. Specific nutrients

n-3 HUFAs

**Blood levels:** a meta-analysis of **n=14** studies with **n=3,318** participants indicate higher blood levels of n-3 HUFAs are associated with lower risks of depression. **g= 0.85**,  $p<0.0000$  [Lin et al, Biol Psychiatry 2010;68:140–147](#)

### 4. RCTs

n-3 HUFAs vs.  
placebo

**Causal testing:** a meta-analysis of **n=52** study conditions with **n=11,038** participants indicate **EPA rich**, n-3 HUFAs treat symptoms in major depressive disorders. **g=0.61** [Hallahan , Hibbeln et al, Br J Psychiatry, 2015](#)

### 5. Mechanistic basis

**Multiple synergistic biological processes:** n-3 HUFAs in neuroinflammation, dopaminergic and serotonergic function, neurogenesis and the stress axis

### 6. Olive oil

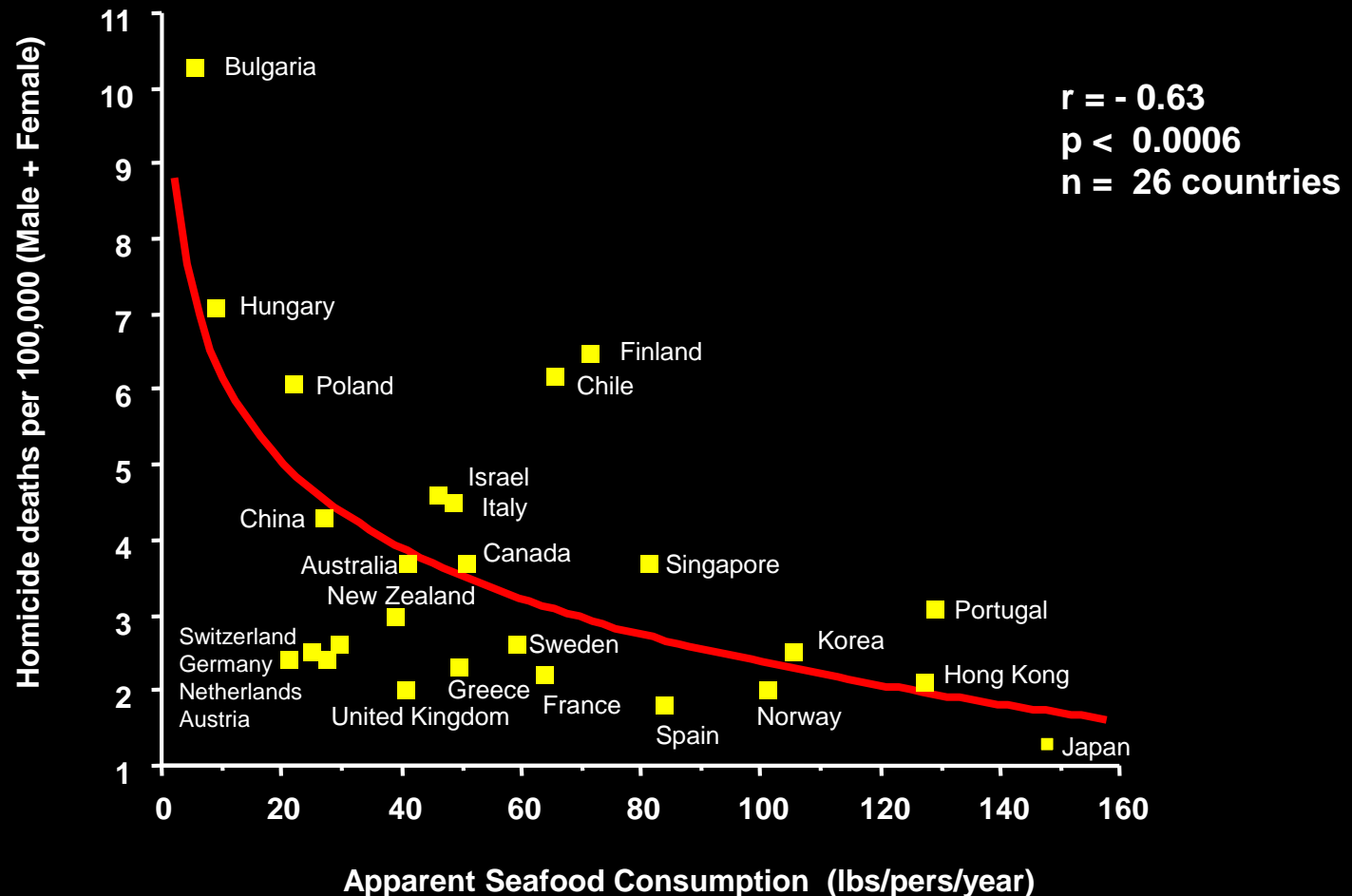
Olive oil, instead of vegetable oils, lowers intake of omega-6 fats and raises blood levels of **EPA** and is associated with lower risk of depression.

[Wolfe et al Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psych. 2009 31;33\(6\):972-7](#)

**Can we stop this?**



# Homicide Mortality Rates<sup>1</sup> and Seafood Consumption



<sup>1</sup>World Health Statistics Annual 1995, WHO, Geneva Switzerland Hibbeln, JR World Rev Nutr Diet, 2001; 88; 41-46

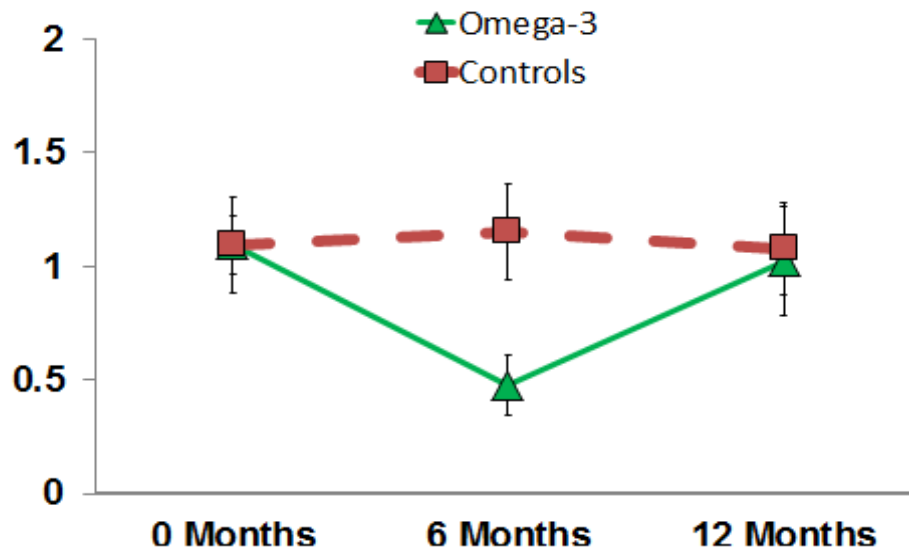
## Mauritius Child Health Project

Age 8-16,  
Randomized, stratified by age, gender  
Blinded, 38.7% Creole, 61.3% Indian

**n=95 omega-3, n= 89 placebo**

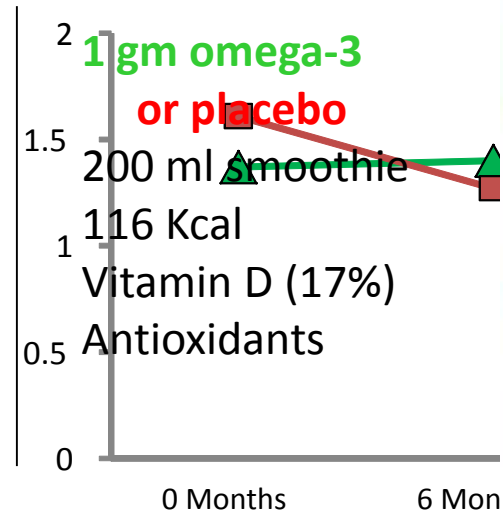
6 mo. intervention, 6 mo. follow up  
Child Behavior Checklist (parent)

### Child Proactive Aggression

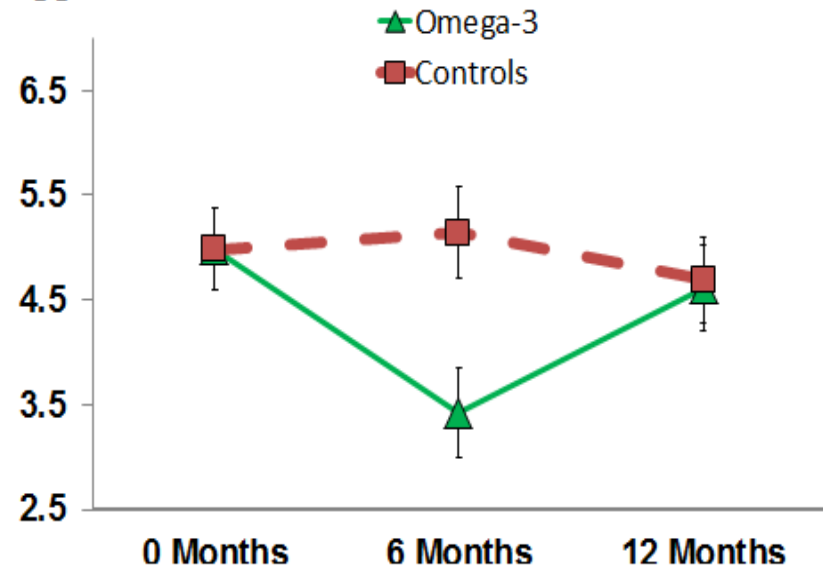


## Omega-3 specific

Delinque



### Child Reactive Aggression

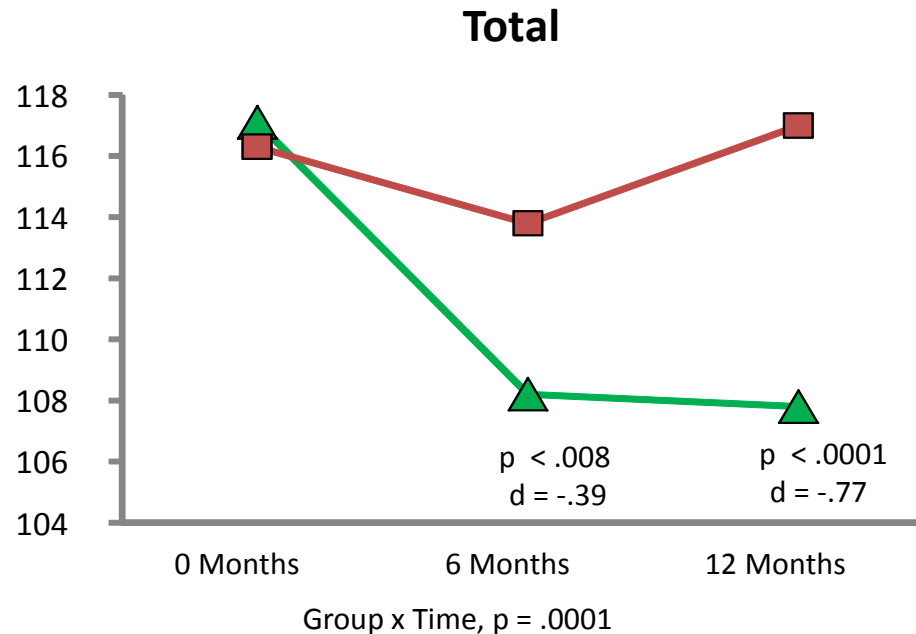


Raine, Hibbeln et al 2014

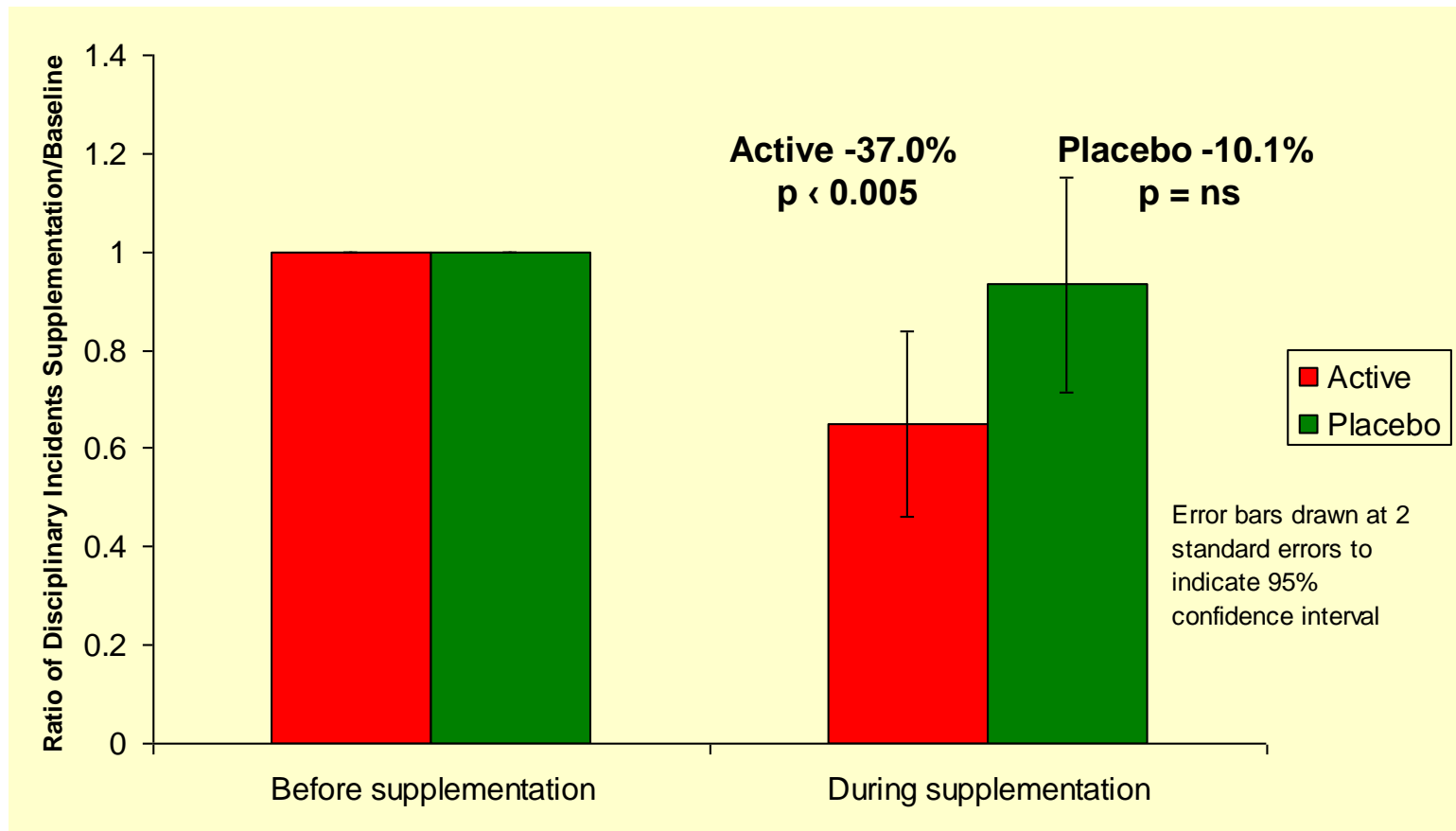


# Parents were less psychopathic when their children took omega-3's

## *Parent Psychopathic Personality Inventory*



# Reduced Felony Violent Offences Among Prisoners with recommended daily amounts of vitamins, minerals and essential fatty acids

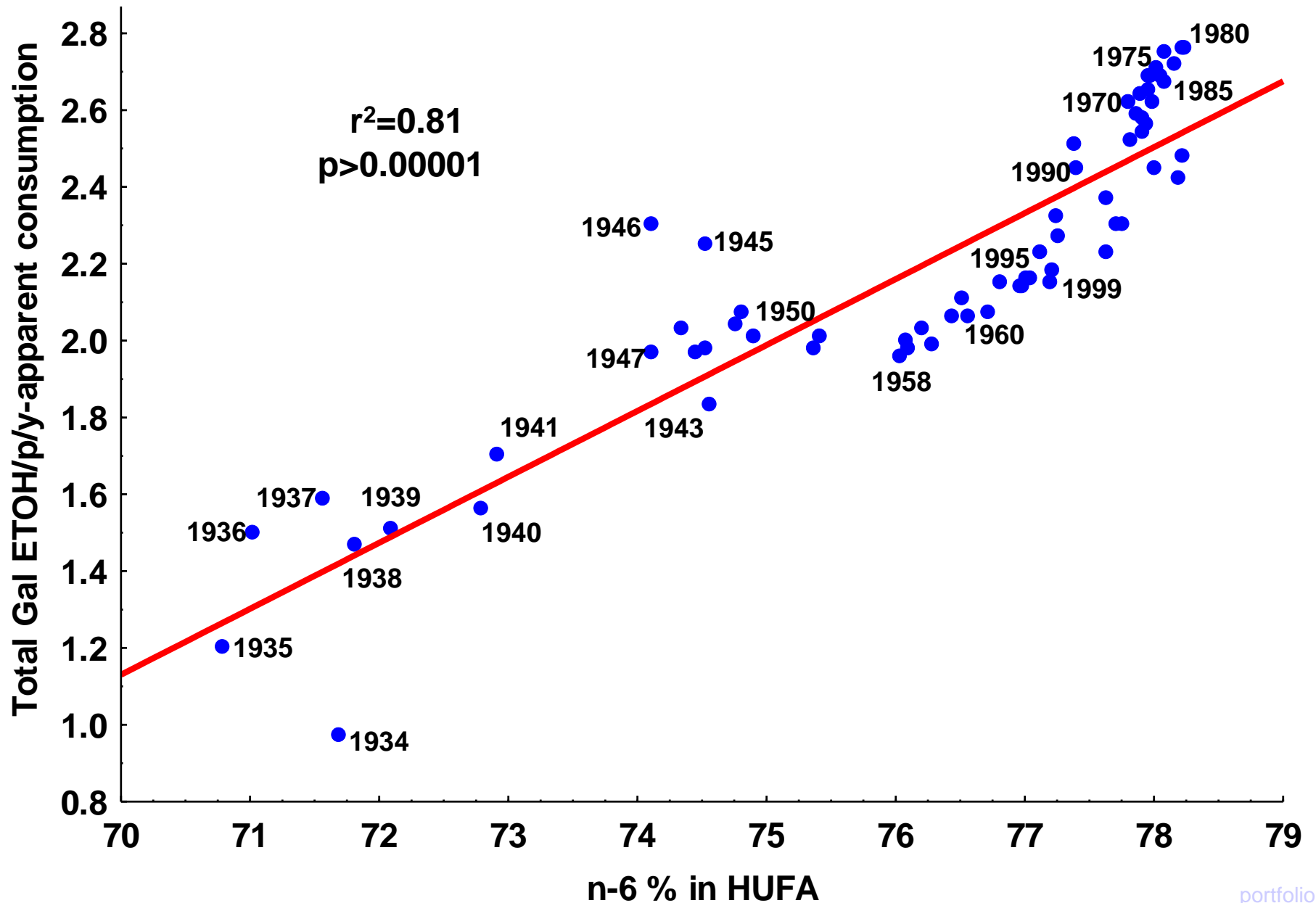


**UK maximum security prison - 338 offences among 172 prisoners  
over 9 months treatment in a compared to 9 months baseline.**

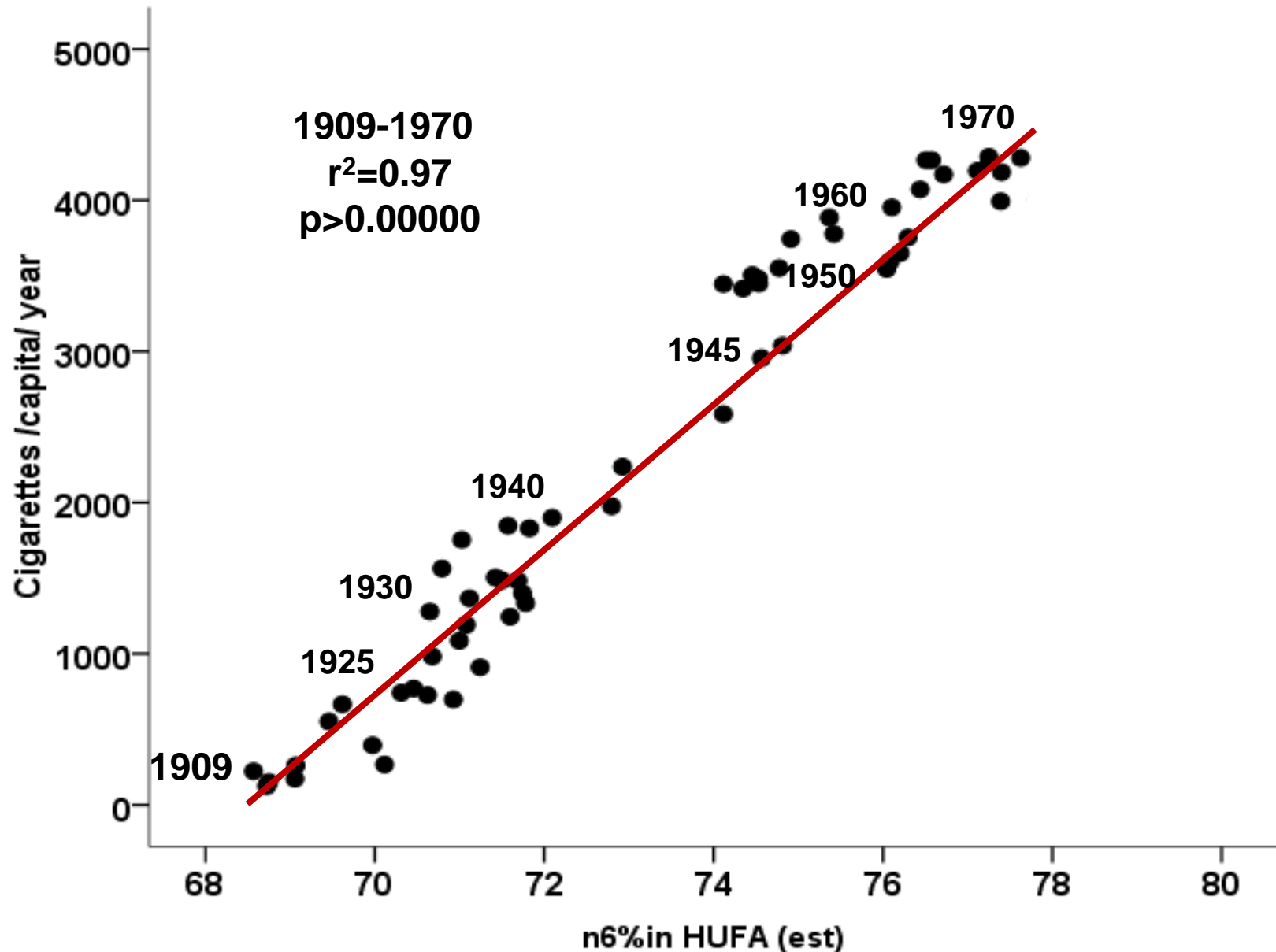
# How about addictions?



# Alcohol consumption and increasing omega-6 fatty acids in tissue compositions (est) in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

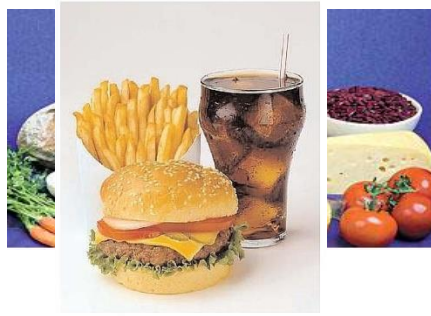


# Cigarette consumption and increasing omega-6 fatty acids in tissue compositions (est) in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

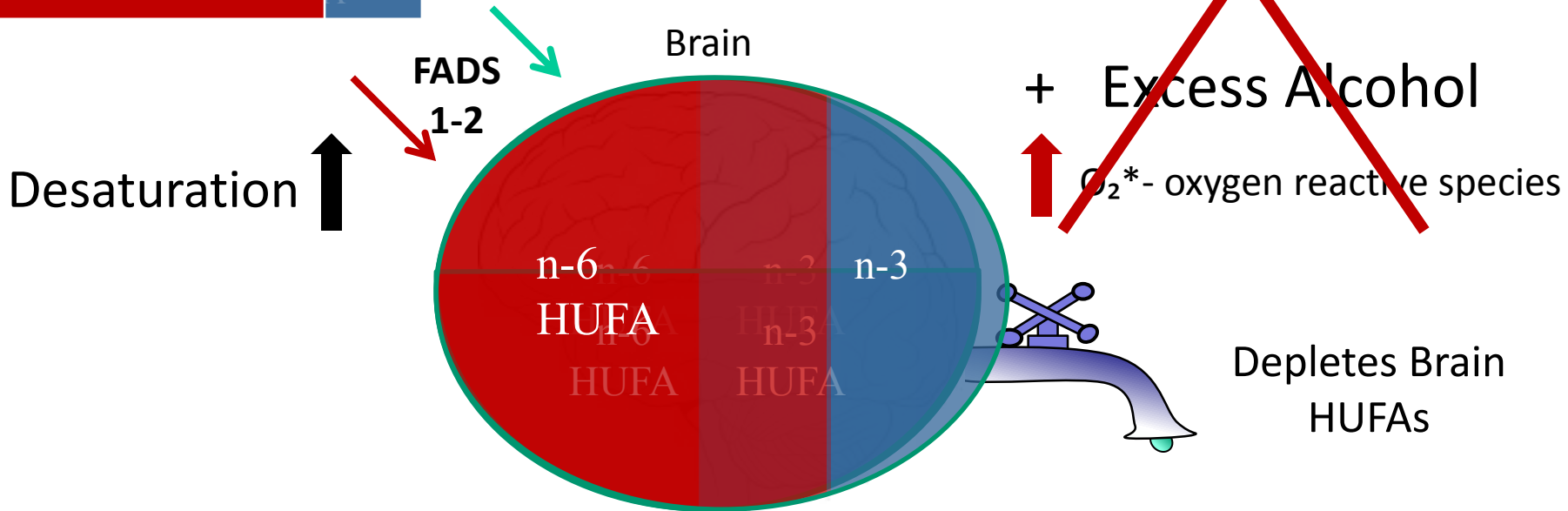




# Current US Diet



Short n-6 LA 8 en%	Short n-3 α-LA 1 en%
Long n-6 HUFA	Long n-3 HUFA



Replaces n-6 HUFA  
but (n-3) DHA ↓ by 50%

Pawlosky et al  
Alcohol Clin Exp Res, 2001

# N-3 HUFA intervention trial

## NIH Clinical Protocol # 01-AA-0141

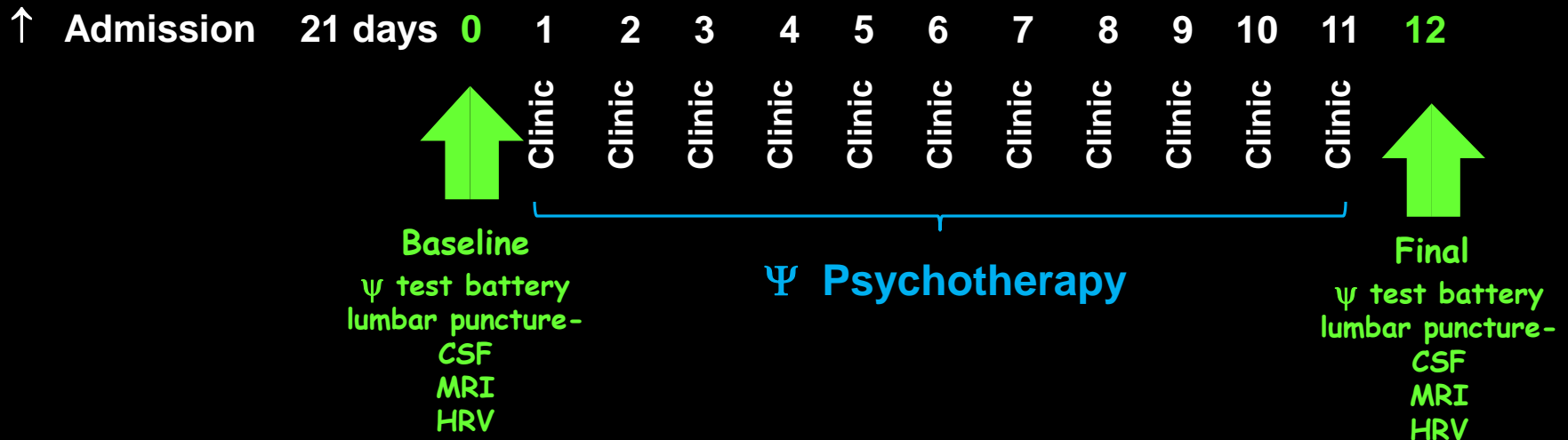
**Aggressive  
Alcoholics, n=96**  
Seafood < 2/wk

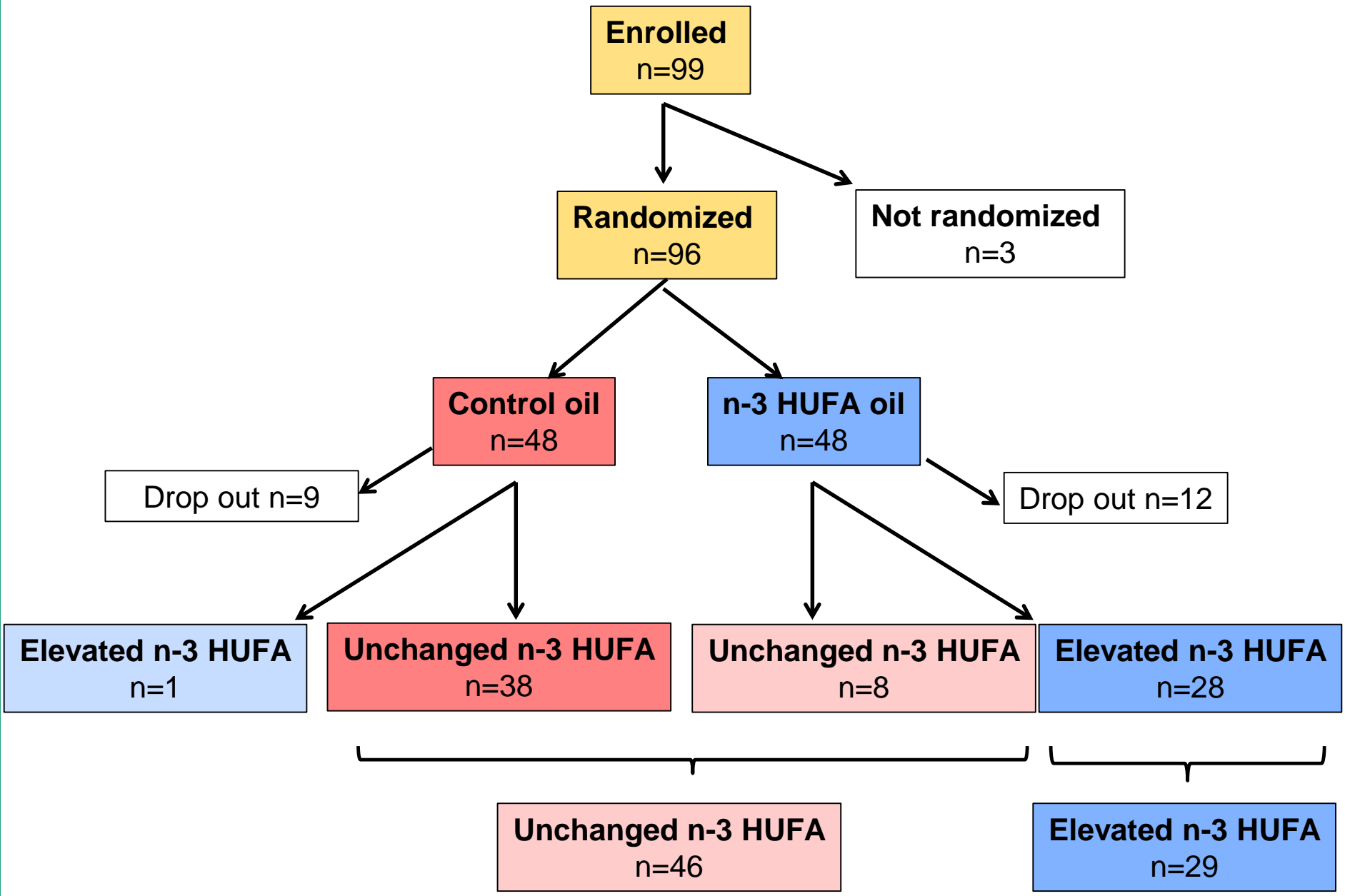
**Active Agent, 2 g/d DHA plus EPA**

**Comparison oil (placebo), Corn oil +1% fish oil**

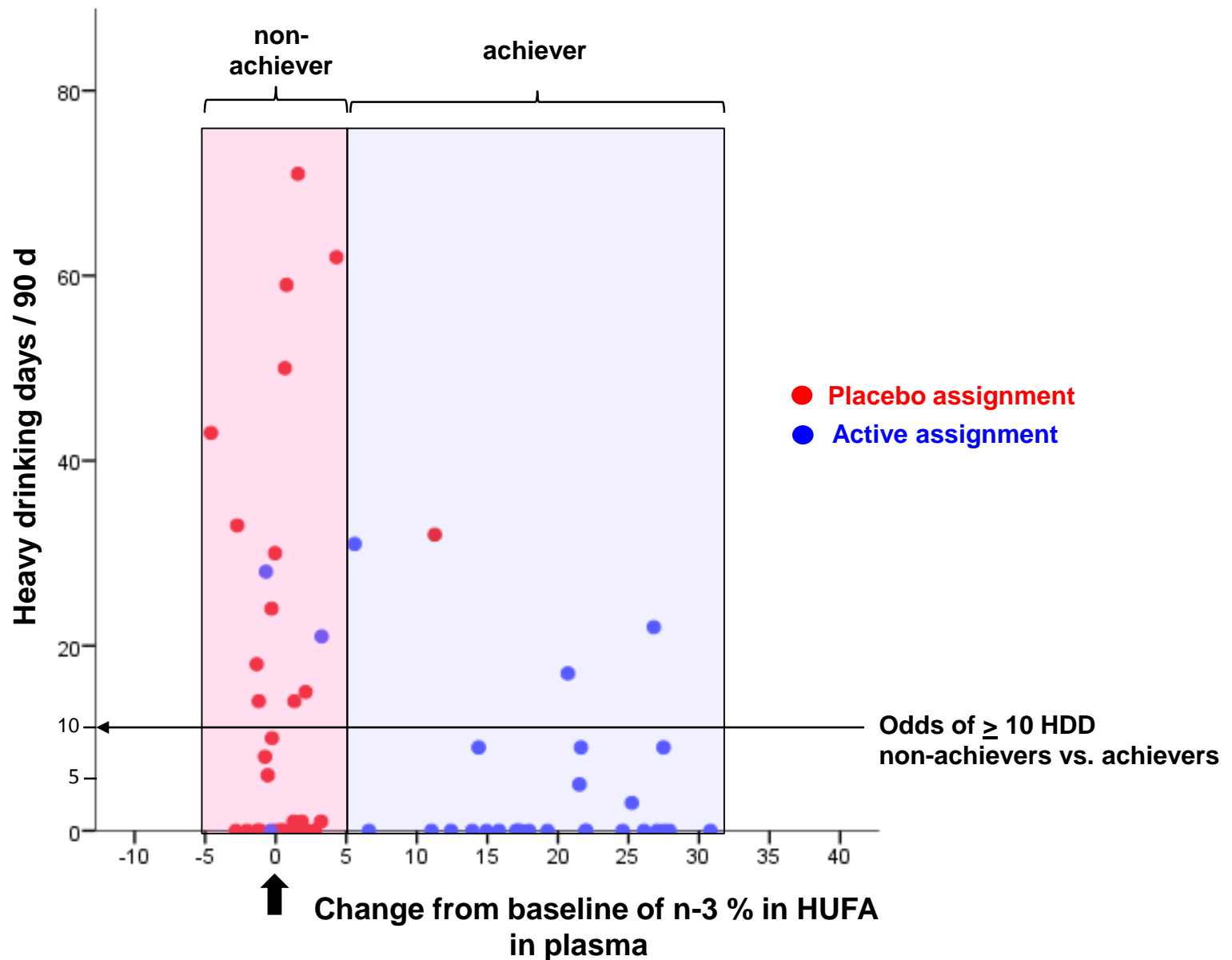
**Randomize**

**Time line (weeks)**





## Biomarker defined compliance (change in n-3 HUFAs) and risk of heavy drinking days (HDD) in the first 90 days of recovery



## Risk of heavy drinking days by n-3 HUFA compliance

(unadjusted)					(adjusted)				
95% C.I.					95% C.I.				
OR	Lower	Upper	p<		OR	Lower	Upper	p<	
<b>5 or more HDD</b>					<b>5 or more HDD</b>				
No n-3 HUFA elevation	<b>2.40</b>	0.88	6.56	0.089	No n-3 HUFA elevation	<b>3.05</b>	0.88	10.53	0.078
					No sober housing	<b>2.71</b>	0.86	8.56	0.089
<b>10 or more HDD</b>					<b>10 or more HDD</b>				
No n-3 HUFA elevation	<b>6.59</b>	1.73	25.05	0.006	No n-3 HUFA elevation	<b>9.59</b>	1.77	52.05	0.009
					No sober housing	<b>5.52</b>	1.33	22.86	0.018
<b>20 or more HDD</b>					<b>20 or more HDD</b>				
No n-3 HUFA elevation	<b>5.06</b>	1.04	24.63	0.045	No n-3 HUFA elevation	<b>8.05</b>	1.13	57.51	0.038
					No sober housing	<b>7.29</b>	1.17	45.32	0.033

HDD indicates Heavy Drinking Days.  
 > 5 std drinks for women > 6 std drinks for men

“Achiever” defined as n-3 HUFA elevation  $\geq 5\%$  change  
 in CSF/ plasma n-3% in HUFA



## Why study pain?

\$300 billion/y in healthcare costs (IOM, 2013)

↑ Risk for suicide

↑ Risk for substance abuse

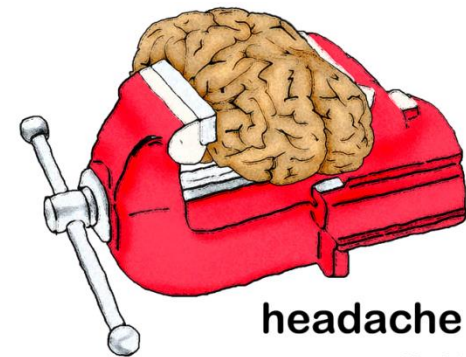
Treatments are inadequate

## Patient population

### Chronic Daily Headache

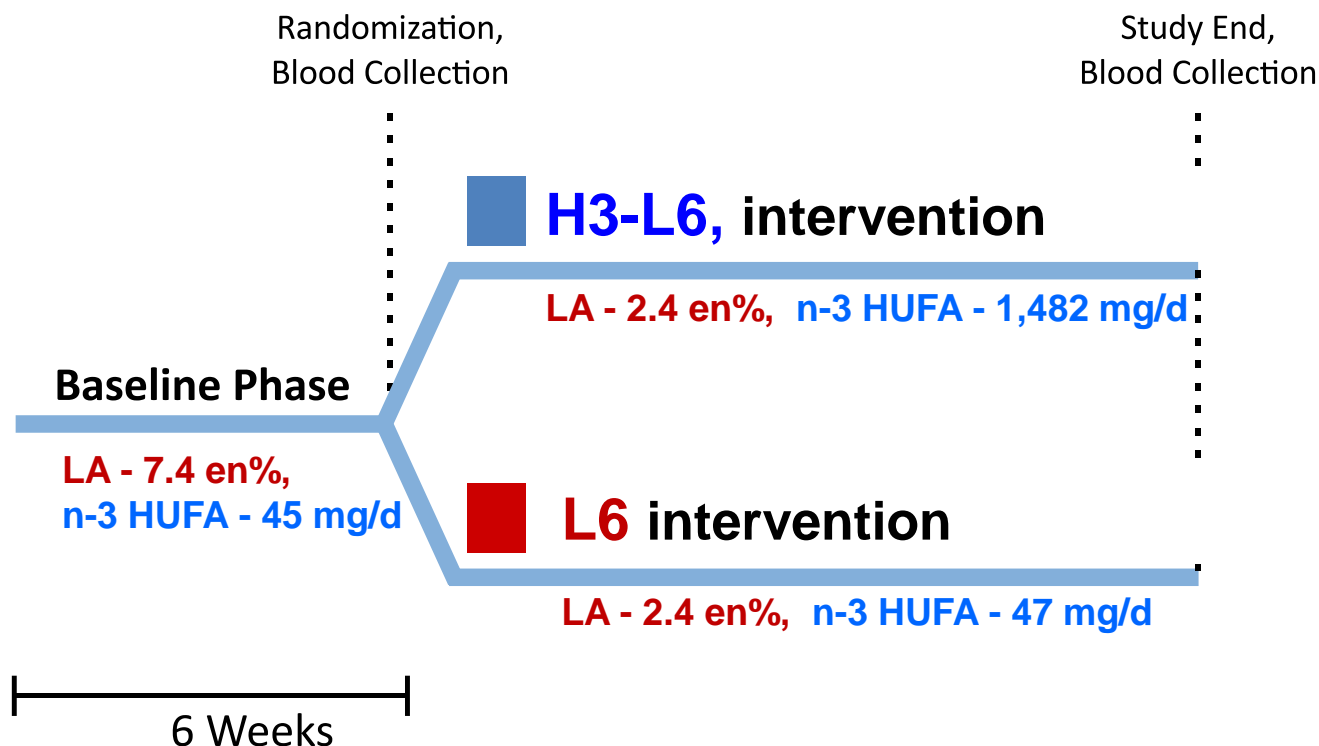
Severely impaired    **23** d/month, **10** h/day

Treatment resistant    **> 6** meds



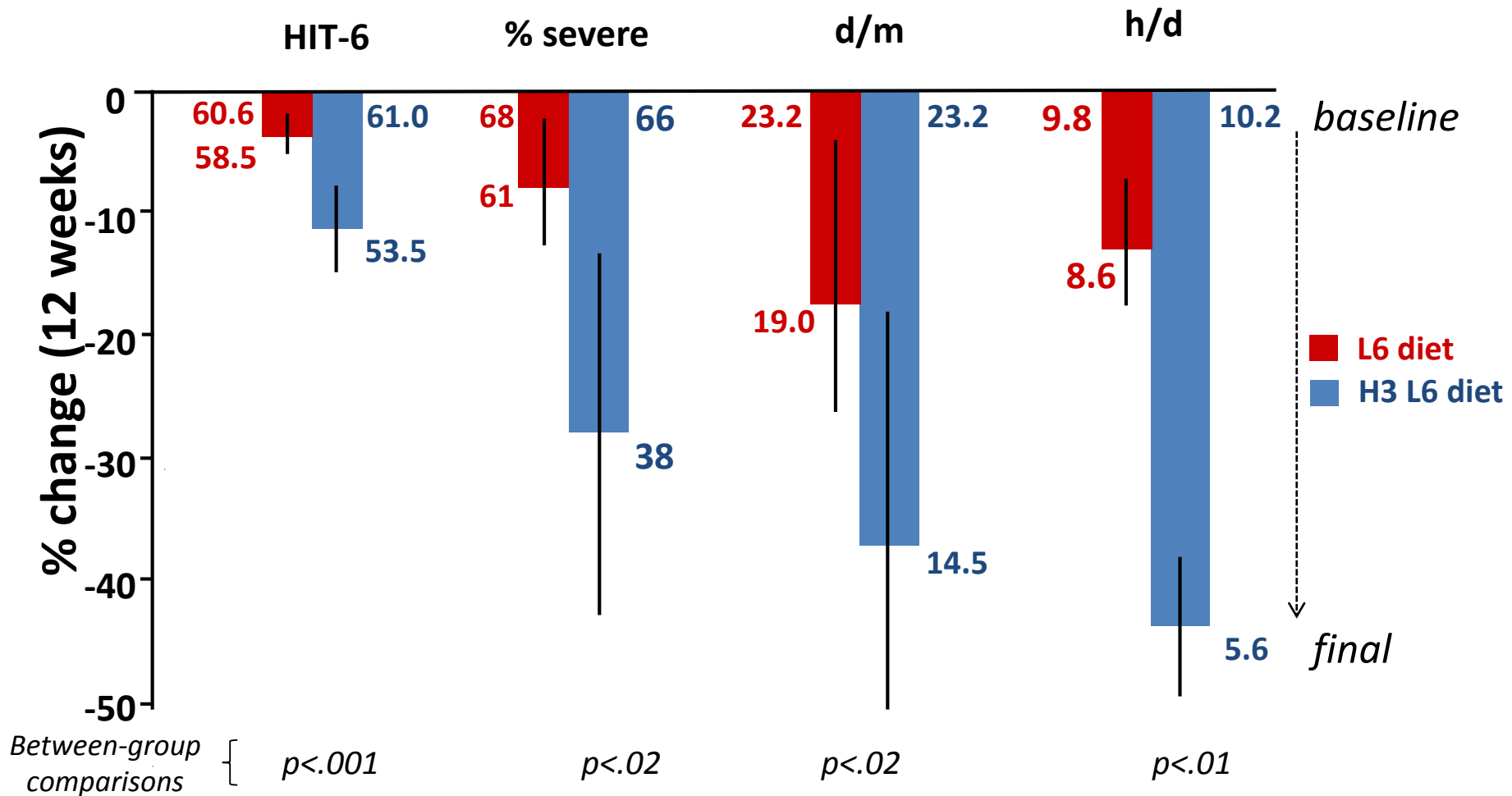


## Does total dietary ↓ n-6 LA and/or ↑n-3 HUFA reduce headache pain, frequency and disability?

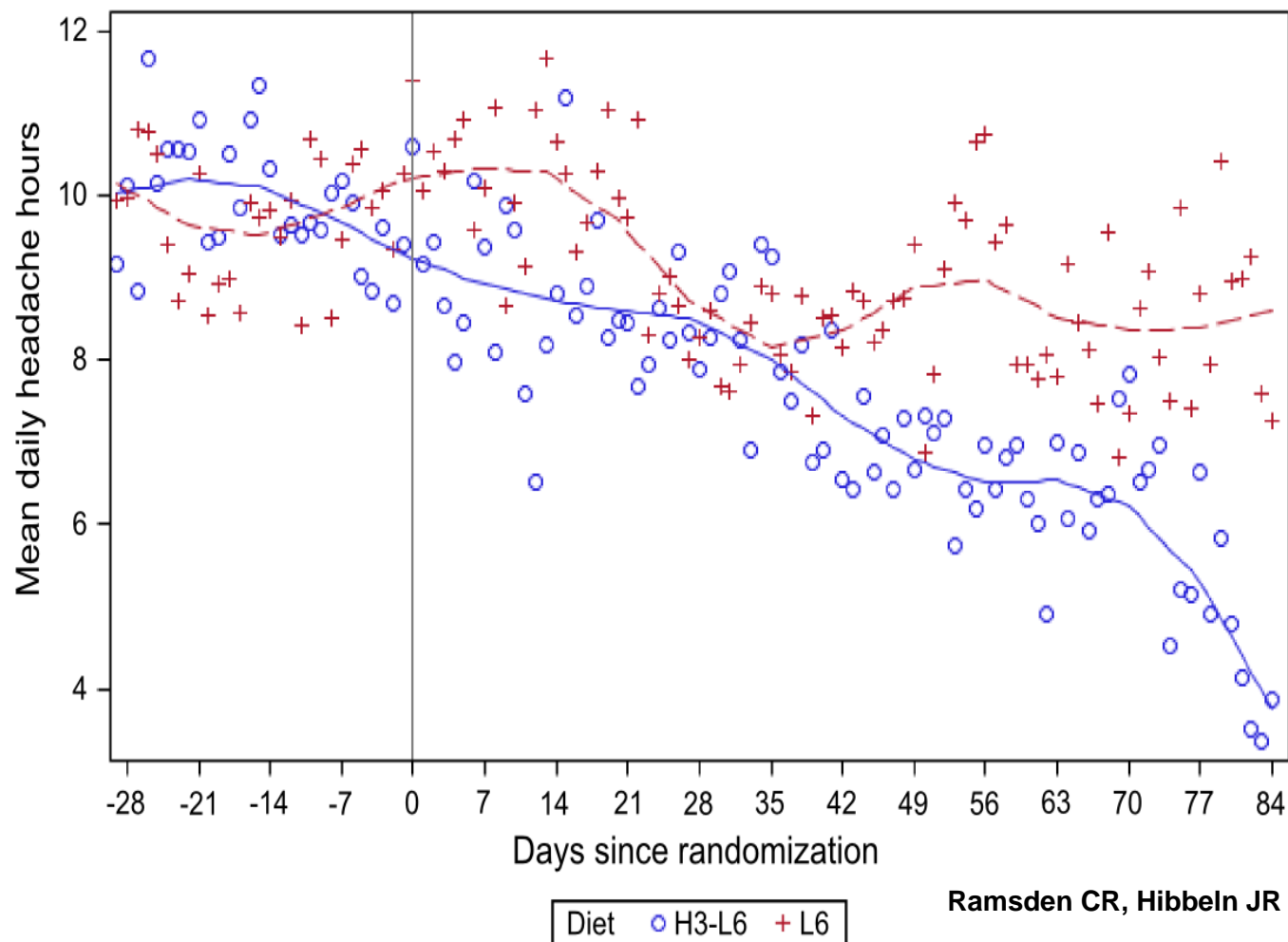


Patients continued usual headache care throughout trial

## Dietary essential fats reduce severe headache pain



## The H3-L6 intervention reduces hours of daily headaches compared to n-6 LA lowering alone



# Consult a Dietician?



Hi Doc,  
I heard that changing  
my diet can improve  
my mental health.  
  
Can you help?



Great idea!  
But, I'm not an expert  
on diet or nutrition.  
  
Let me consult a  
dietician.



Great idea!  
  
But, I don't have any guidance  
from anyone as to what  
improves mental health  
or how to advise these clients.

# *What diet for mental health?*

## **The Mediterranean Dietary Pattern**

***Fish 2-3 times per week***  
***Olive oil, not vegetable oils***

**Avoid processed carbohydrates**

**More fruits and vegetables**

**Less red meat?**

**No fried foods**

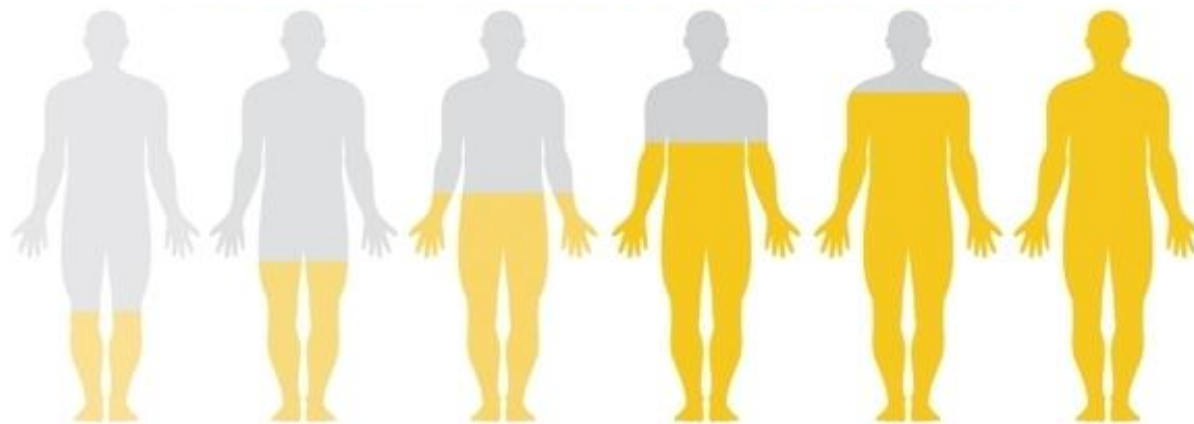


# Linoleic acid is 2-3% of energy in traditional Mediterranean diets

“One common feature of Mediterranean diets was the use of olive oil as the principle fat, “

“Given a requirement of **~2-3 % of energy**, the amount of linoleic acid in olive oil would alone provide sufficient intake, if olive oil constituted 25% of energy.”

# Eat less n-6 LA to help raise body n-3 HUFA



**n-3 % in HUFA**

**17%**

US MILITARY  
ACTIVE DUTY

**20%**

TAKE  
URGENT  
ACTION

**30%**

TAKE  
REMEDIAL  
ACTION

**40%**

ACTION  
BENEFICIAL

**50%**

HEALTHY  
OMEGA-3  
LEVEL

**60%**

ADJUST  
FOR  
OPTIMAL

**70%**

OPTIMAL  
OMEGA-3  
LEVEL

**Omega-3 Index**

**2**

**3**

**6**

**9**

**12**

**15**

**18**

**Soy**



**8 en%**

**n-6 LA**

**+**

**n-3 HUFA**



**50 mg/d**  
**50 mg/d**



**250 mg/d**  
**250 mg/d**



**750 mg/d**  
**750 mg/d**



**2,000 mg/d**  
**2,000 mg/d**

**Olive**



**3 en%**

**n-6 LA**

**+**

**n-3 HUFA**



# Miracles of Jesus in Galilee



NAZARETH

CANA

MT. TABOR

"...And six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them."  
(Matthew 17: 1-3)

"... And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up... But he said: Truly I tell you that no prophet is accepted in his home territory"  
(Luke 4: 16, 24)

"...And when the director of the feast tasted the water which had become wine."  
(John 2: 6-11)

"...Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John... And he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him."  
(Matthew 3: 13-16)

MAGDALA

"...And walking by the Sea of Galilee... casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen."  
(Matthew 4: 18)

"...And when they got into the boat, the wind stopped... And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Genesaret."  
(Matthew 14: 32-34)

"...He went up on the mountain... And opening His mouth he began to teach them."  
(Matthew 5: 1-12)

MOUNT OF BEATITUDES

TABGHA

CAPERNAUM

Chorazin

"...He got into a boat in the sea and sat down... And he was teaching them many things."  
(Mark 4: 1-2)

"...And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you will find a catch." They cast therefore, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish."  
(John 21: 6)

"...Go to the sea, and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a stater. Take that and give it to them for you and Me."  
(Matthew 17: 27)

"He came to them, walking on the sea."  
(Matthew 14: 24-33)

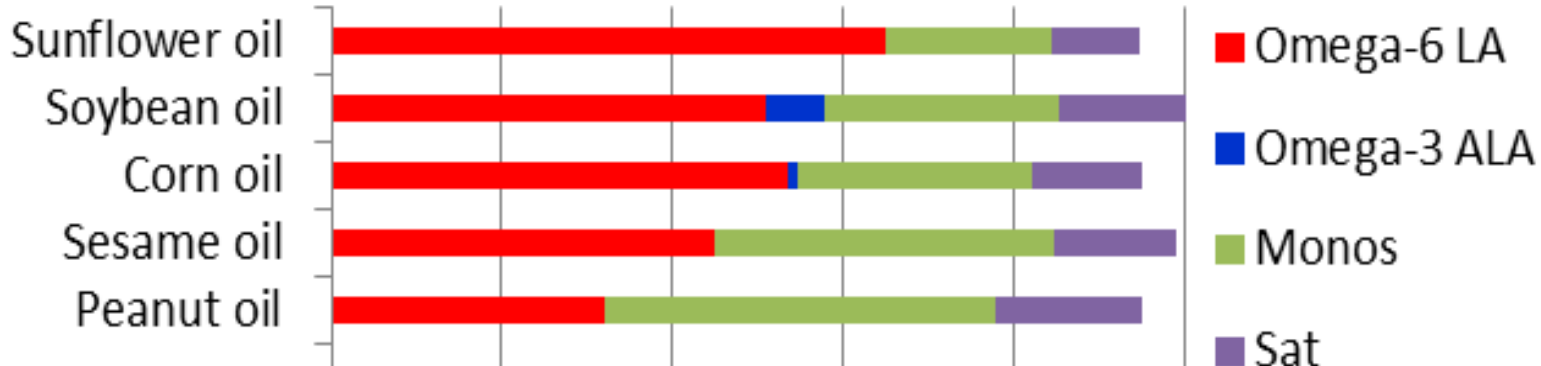
"At that time Jesus went on the Sabbath through the grain fields, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the

He took the five loaves and the four fish



# Nix the omega-6

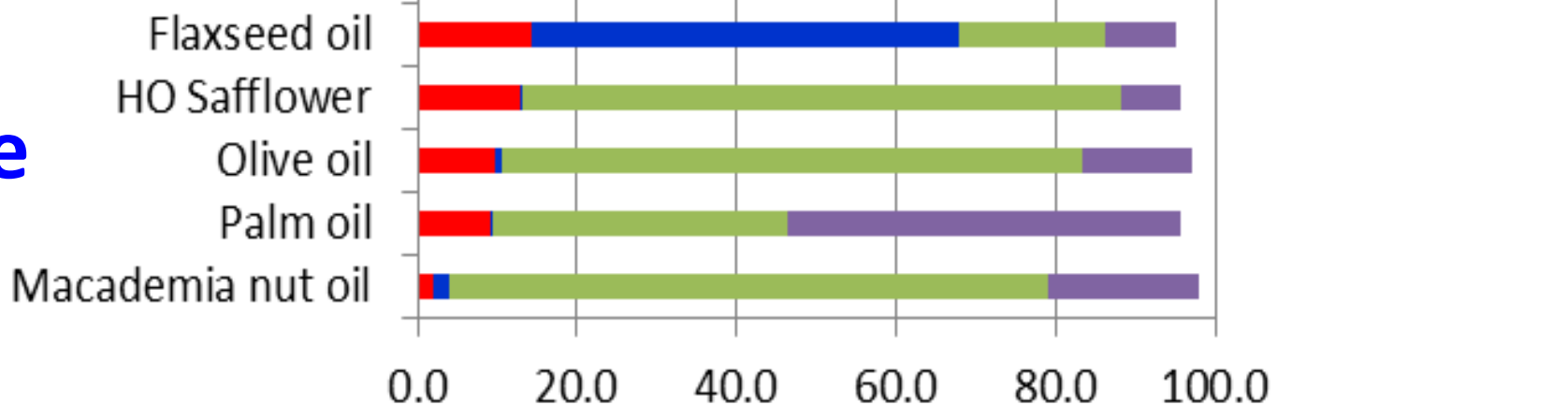
**Avoid**



**Better**



**Eat these**



# Quick fix

**The USDA 100 most frequently consumed foods for Americans have a combined average score of -6**

**Eliminating these 10 non-Mediterranean foods will bring the remaining 90 foods down to a combined average score of -3**

## **The ten most negative key foods for Americans**

Soybean oil	-50
Mayonnaise	-46
Tub margarine	-39
Microwave popcorn	-37
“Italian salad” dressing	-35
Potato chips	-29
Stick Margarine	-28
Vegetable shortening	-28
Peanut butter	-24
Tortilla chip snacks	-24

# The Brain Food Scale (BFS)

Given the high burden of disability due to mental disorders and the clear role that food choice can play in mitigating mental health risk, **a scale to rank foods most likely to support brain health was developed.**

Specific nutrients such as vitamin B12, long-chained omega-3 fatty acids, and iron are frequently deficient in mental health patients.

Scales of nutrient density, antioxidant capacity, and “power house” fruits and vegetables have ranked foods before, but no current scale **based on specific brain essential nutrients** (BEN) has been developed to our knowledge.

Several BEN are only found in meat, seafood, eggs, and dairy, which are generally excluded from lists of “superfoods” and rankings of nutrient density.

The objective of the current study was to determine which plant and animal based foods contain the highest nutrient density of brain essential nutrients.

Top 20 Brain Foods: Animals	
	BFS
Oysters	51%
Clams	32%
Beef Spleen	31%
Chicken Liver	28%
Mussels	26%
Crab	24%
Poultry Giblets	23%
Octopus	22%
Fish Eggs (Caviar)	21%
Beef Kidney	20%
Seal	19%
Caribou	18%
Cuttlefish	18%
Whale	17%
Bluefin Tuna	17%
Rainbow Trout (wild)	17%
Bluefish	17%
Elk	16%
Smelts	16%
Herring	15%

Top 20 Brain Foods: Plants	
	BFS
Mustard Greens	74%
Spinach	69%
Turnip Greens	61%
Green Bell Pepper	60%
Swiss Chard	54%
Red Cabbage	50%
Kohlrabi	48%
Cauliflower	46%
Red Bell Pepper	45%
Collard Greens	44%
Broccoli	43%
Acerola	40%
Scotch Kale	40%
Lemon	38%
Strawberry	38%
Brussels Sprouts	37%
Pummelo	36%
Asparagus	33%
Papaya	32%
Dandelion Greens	31%

**BFS \*BrainFood Score, Mean % daily value of brain essential nutrients per 100 calories**



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## Omega Foods Apps plus Tools

### Omega Foods Apps plus Tools Inform Your Food Choices

**Apps with Omega 3-6 Balance Scores** – Apps help you find foods with more positive Scores that will increase the omega-3 in your tissue HUFA . When you know the Score, it helps you eat less food with a big negative Score (that will increase the omega-6). Plan to NIX6 and EAT3.

**Finger-tip blood-spot test** – This health risk assessment biomarker tells your current balance of HUFA and informs .you how much change you need to make to meet your personal wellness goals.

**NEW, Free Software to Plan Meals** – **Omega Meals** is a new interactive personal computer program that replaces KIM-2 (Keep It Managed). It uses Omega 3-6 Balance Scores to let you see a food's impact. **Omega Meals** manages EFA contents of over 9,000 food servings, fitting them to each person's taste, lifestyle and risk aversion. Download for either a Mac or Windows computer.

***“Unless we prioritize brain nutrition,  
we will become a race of morons.  
The future health and intelligence of  
humanity is at stake, and it’s the most  
serious threat of our times”  
- 1972 -***



**Prof. Michael Crawford. PhD, FRSB, FRCPath,**

Order of the Rising Sun, 2015, Tokyo, Japan.

Chevreur Medal, 2015, Paris, France.

Alexander Leaf Distinguished Scientist Award for  
Lifetime Achievement. ISSFAL, 2016

**Thank you**

# ***2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans***

- **Strong evidence** ... has shown that **eating patterns that include seafood** are associated with **reduced risk of CVD**,
- Moderate evidence indicates that **these eating patterns** are associated with **reduced risk of obesity**.
- Emerging evidence also suggests that relationships may exist between **eating patterns** and some **neurocognitive disorders** and congenital anomalies
- **Omega-3 (n-3)** fatty acids are a type of polyunsaturated fats found in **seafood**, such as salmon, trout, herring, tuna and mackerel and in flax seeds and walnuts. EPA and DHA are long chain n-3 fatty acids found in seafood.

# ***2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans***

- Average intake of **total protein foods** is close to recommendations,
- But, **average seafood intake is below recommendations** for all age-sex groups.
- Shifts are needed within the protein foods group to **increase seafood intake**.
- Seafood as the protein foods choice in meals twice per week **in place of** meat, poultry, or eggs.

