The Cellular Stability Hypothesis: Role of Essential Fatty Acid C15:0 in Supporting Our Healthspan & Longevity

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Learning objectives:

- 1. Understand ferroptosis and the implications of this newly discovered type of cell death on aging and chronic diseases.
- 2. Describe C15:0 (pentadecanoic acid), why it meets the criteria of being an essential fatty acid, its mechanisms of action relevant to metabolic, heart and liver health.
- 3. Understand C15:0's evolutionary role in supporting mammalian longevity, and how the Cellular Stability Hypothesis explains how C15:0 can extend longevity in individuals.
- 4. Describe Cellular Fragility Syndrome (a nutritional C15:0 deficiency syndrome), its pathophysiology, relevant diagnostics, and how it accelerates aging & onset/progression of metabolic, liver and cardiovascular diseases.
- 5. Understand why nutritional C15:0 deficiencies have been increasing, how to test for low/healthy/optimal levels, and how to fix them.

Our health is heading in the wrong direction.

Aging-associated diseases are increasing in prevalence among younger people.



A new type of cell death has emerged.

It's called ferroptosis

- Apoptosis Necrosis Autophagy
- **Ferroptosis**





Ferroptosis: An Iron-Dependent Form of Nonapoptotic Cell Death

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SUMMARY

activated in specific pathological states. The onco- pathological circumstances. genic RAS-selective lethal small molecule erastin triggers a unique iron-dependent form of nonapoptable call death that we tarm formatenia. Percentagia

roptosis (Bergsbaken et al., 2009; Christofferson and Yuan, 2010; Wang et al., 2009). We hypothesized that additional Nonapoptotic forms of cell death may facilitate regulated forms of nonapoptotic cell death likely remain to be the selective elimination of some tumor cells or be discovered that mediate cell death in other developmental or

The RAS family of small GTPases (HRAS, NRAS, and KRAS) are mutated in ~30% of all cancers (Vigil et al., 2010). Finding compounds that are selectively lethal to RAS mutant tumor cell-





10,000+ papers on ferroptosis since 2012

2024

The 101 on ferroptosis.

A nonapoptotic form of cell death



- Accelerated aging Earlier onset & more aggressive chronic conditions
- ✓ Type 2 diabetes
 ✓ Cardiovascular disease
 ✓ NAFLD/NASH

Our lifespans are decreasing.

This trend is most pronounced in the United States



Age-related conditions were rising in dolphins, too.

Dolphins & humans are susceptible to similar chronic conditions

- NAFLD & NASH
- Dyslipidemia
- Insulin resistance
- Metabolic syndrome ${}^{\bullet}$
- Dysmetabolic iron overload syndrome
- Chronic inflammation
- Anemia
- Alzheimer's disease



Venn-Watson et al. 2012, 2013, 2015, 2020

A common denominator.

Low dietary & circulating C15:0 (pentadecanoic acid)

People with lower C15:0 are more likely to have or to develop

- Type 2 diabetes
- Cardiovascular disease
 - Coronary heart disease
 - Heart failure
- NAFLD/NASH
- Certain cancer types
- Anemia



The first essential fatty acid to be discovered in 90+ years.

Our bodies require adequate C15:0 to maintain physiological health



pentadecanoic acid

C15:0 (pentadecanoic acid)

- Dietary odd-chain saturated fatty acid
- Stable fatty acid with no double bonds
- Resistant to lipid peroxidation
- Strengthens cell membranes

Venn-Watson et al. 2020

C15:0 reverses ferroptosis.

Effectively stops all core components



✓ Stabilizes cell membranes
 ✓ Lowers lipid peroxidation
 ✓ Stops iron deposition
 ✓ Repairs mitochondria
 ✓ Lowers ROS

Venn-Watson et al. 2020, 2024

C15:0 has multiple mechanisms to enhance health & longevity.

Pleiotropic activities with broad effects

AMPK activator PPARα/δ activator mTOR inhibitor Image: Constraint of the second s

Venn-Watson et al. 2020, 2023, Fu et al. 2021, Bishop et al. 2023, Ediweera et al. 2021, To et al. 2020, To et al. 2022¹¹



C15:0 has clinical efficacy that improves health.

Including double-blinded and controlled clinical trials

Alleviated anemia

Lower liver enzymes

Lower cholesterol



Lower glucose

Alleviated liver iron deposition

Less liver fibrosis



Venn-Watson et al. 2020,2023, To et al. 2020, Wei et al. 2023, Chooi et al. 2024, Schwimmer et al. 2024¹²



Lower liver enzymes

Lower LDL-cholesterol

Improved gut microbiome

C15:0 is the first essential fatty acid to be discovered in over 90 years.

Venn-Watson et al. 2020

<u>3x more cellular benefits than pure omega-3 (EPA).</u>

Broad efficacy across 12 human cell systems mimicking various diseases

BioMAP System	Health Systems	Omega-3 (EPA)	C15:0 (FA15)
Total clinically relevant benefits		10	36
4H	Immune, gut	\checkmark	\checkmark
LPS	Heart, joint, metabolism	\checkmark	\checkmark
SAg	Immune, joint, skin, gut, RB	Cs 🗸	\checkmark
ВТ	Immune, lung	\checkmark	\checkmark
3C	Heart, immune		\checkmark
HDF3CGF	Liver, joints		\checkmark
MyoF	Liver, lung		\checkmark
BE3C	Lung		\checkmark
CASM3C	Immune, heart		\checkmark
MPHG	Heart, joint, immune		-

36+ cellular benefits



Venn-Watson et al. 2022 14

Better than leading longevity enhancing molecules.

Dose-dependent activities that surpassed rapamycin, metformin & acarbose





Venn-Watson & Schork 2023

C15:0 targets six hallmarks of aging.

Slows aging at the cellular level

<u>Slows cellular senescence</u> Inhibits mTOR Strengthens cells by 80%

Repairs mitochondria Lowers ROS by45%

Stops inflammaging Lowers 18+ proinflammatory cytokines



Venn-Watson et al. 2020,2023; To et al. 2022, Fu et al. 2021, Bishop et al. 2023, Liu et al. 2023, Chooi et al. 2024

Restores cellular signaling Activates AMPK, AKT, and PPAR α/δ

Slows DNA methylation & biological aging

Replenishes gut microbiome Increases growth of core *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*

The Cell Membrane Pacemaker Theory of Aging.

The greater the cell membrane stability, the longer <u>a species</u>' longevity





Hulbert 2005 17

The Cellular Stability Hypothesis.

The greater the cell membrane stability, the longer an individual's longevity

<u>≤ 0.2% C15:0</u> Nutritional deficiency Accelerated aging



> 0.2%-0.4% C15:0

Nutritionally replete Normal aging



> 0.4%-0.64% C15:0 Optimal Slower aging



Venn-Watson 2024 18

Our C15:0 levels have been declining.

Decreased intake of whole fat dairy products has resulted in declining C15:0 levels



Our C15:0 levels have been declining.

Industry changes and aging are contributing to declining C15:0 levels, too



C15:0 Deficiency = Cellular Fragility Syndrome.

The first nutritional deficiency syndrome to be discovered in 75 years



Venn-Watson et al. 2024

<u>drome</u>. ed in 75 vears

Insulin resistance Hyperglycemia Dyslipidemia NAFLD⇒ NASH Chronic inflammation

Heart disease



Neurodegenerative disease

Cellular Fragility Syndrome.

Nutritional C15:0 deficiency diagnostic tests

≤ 0.2% C15:0 Low C15:0 RBC levels

Diagnostic Tests



Fragile RBCs

Elevated RDW

Elevated Reticulocytes Elevated osmotic fragility

+/- Low hemoglobin



ferritin

Iron overload

Hyperferritinemia

g <u>nostic Tests</u>	General indices of NAFLD/NASH, insulin resistance, T2D & CVD
	Elevated glucose Elevated cholesterol, TGs
Ferroptosis High lipid peroxidation products (TBARS) + high	Elevated liver enzymes High IL-6, TNFa, MCP-1

Venn-Watson et al. 2024

This is fixable.

Most people need 100 to 200 mg C15:0 per day to not be deficient.

Venn-Watson et al. 2020, 2024

C15:0 Reverses Cellular Fragility Syndrome.

Replenishing healthy C15:0 levels restores long-term health

> 0.2% circulating C15:0
Cellular Stability



RBC membranes

restored, resulting normalized hemoglobin & RDW



Iron deposition stopped, resulting in lower liver enzymes +/- lower ferritin Ferroptosis stopped

Venn-Watson et al. 2024

<u>ome</u>. health

Healthy liver Lower glucose Lower TG Lower liver enzymes

Healthy hearts Lower LDL-C, IL-6, TNFα, and MCP-1

Improved cognition

Optimizing C15:0 for longevity.

0.4% to 0.64% proposed as optimal for heart health & longevity



Why not just eat more dairy fat?

Dairy fat does not consistently show benefits & individual active ingredients can *lose* efficacy when mixed in dairy fat.





Less bioavailable triacylglyceride form

> 40% proinflammatory fats

Highly variable C15:0 content based on breed, season, feed & dairy food

Mansson 2008, Haus et al. 2016, Thorning et al. 2017⁶

Optimizing nature to extend healthy aging & longevity. Restoring global health and advancing longevity with pure C15:0



Venn-Watson et al. 2020, 2022, 2023; Chooi et al. 2024

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