

# **The Cellular Stability Hypothesis:**

Role of Essential Fatty Acid C15:0 in Supporting Our Healthspan & Longevity

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Presentation to the Homeopathic Board of Nevada and the American  
Osteopathic Society of Integrative Medicine

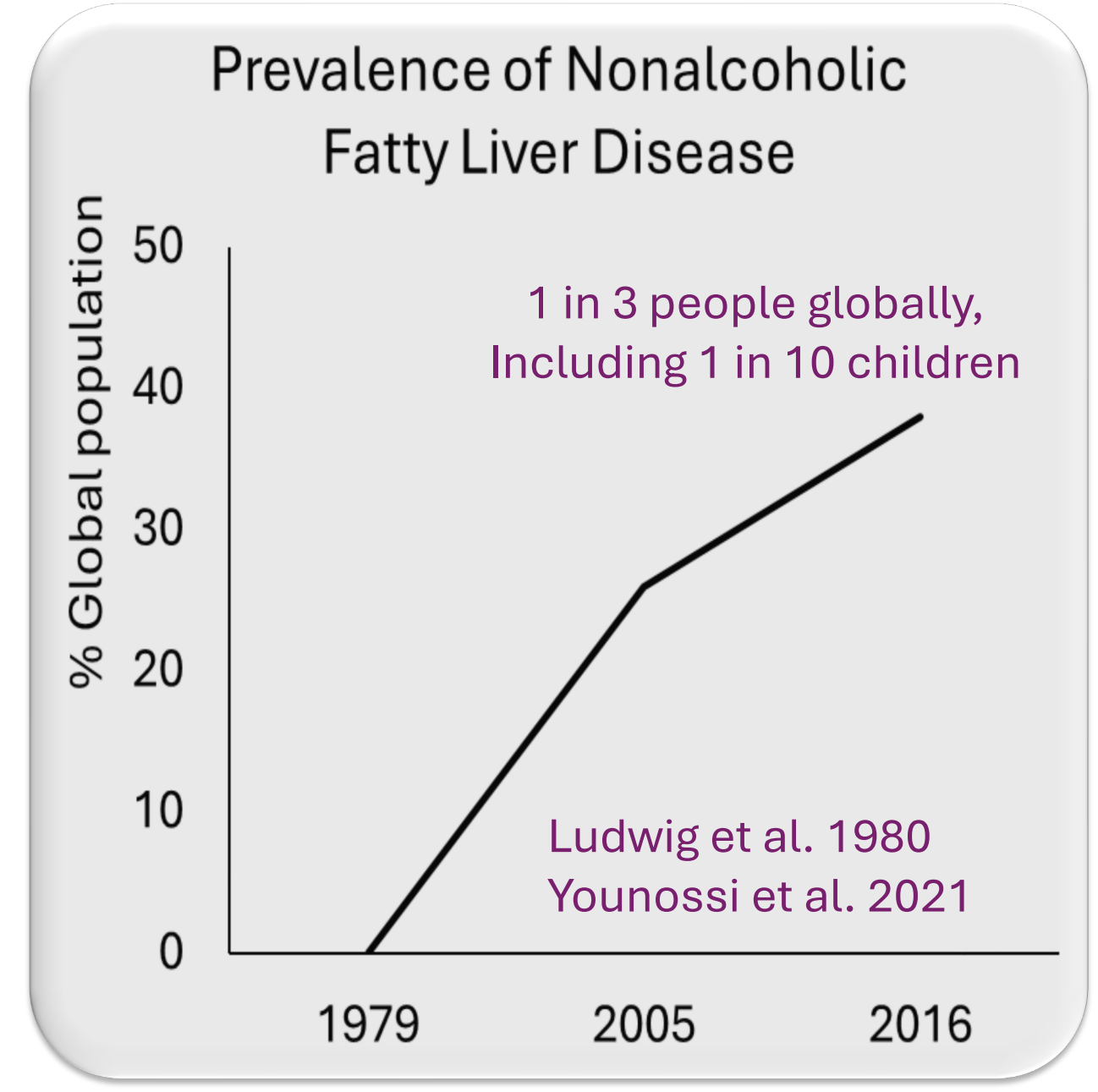
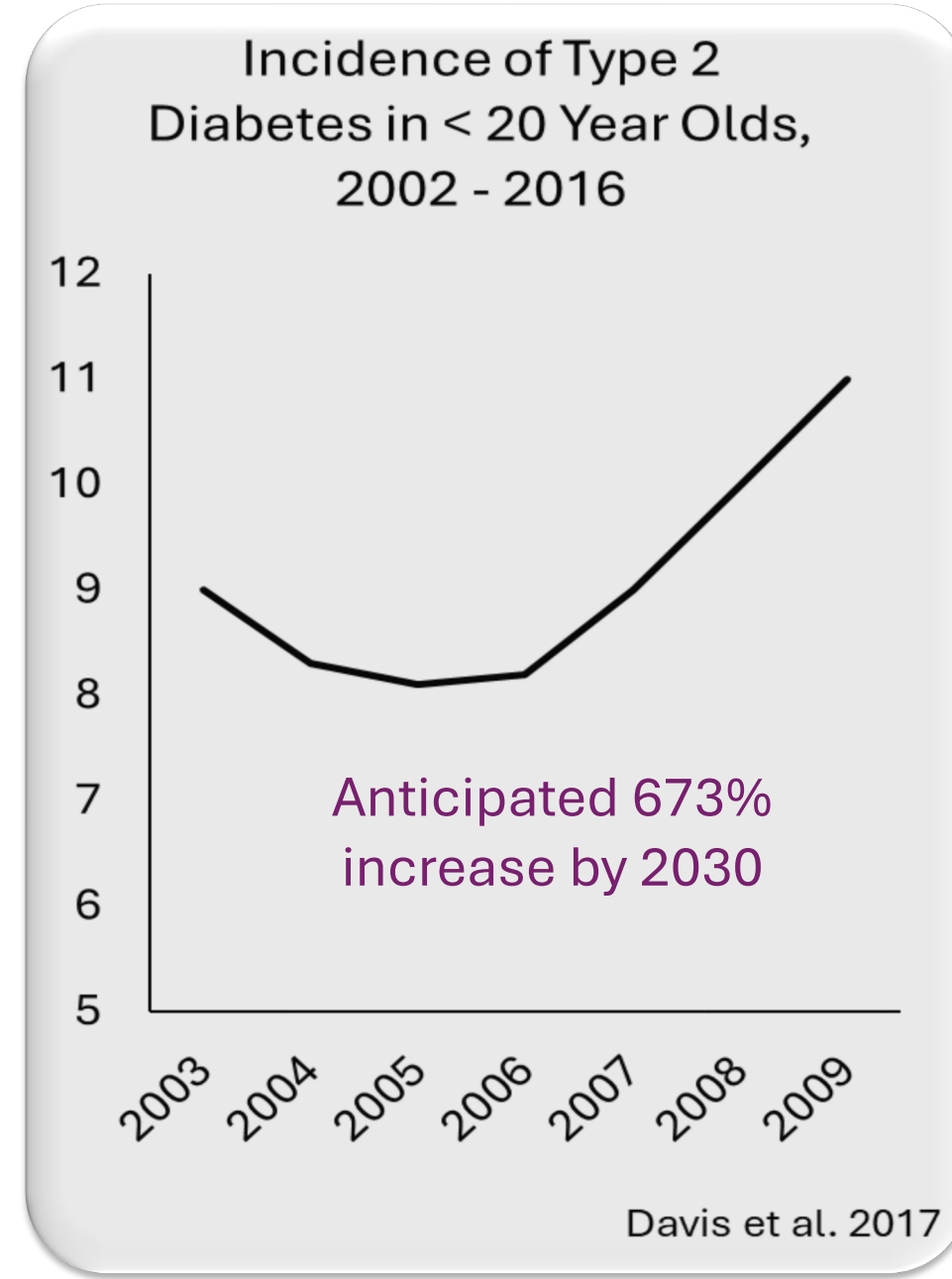
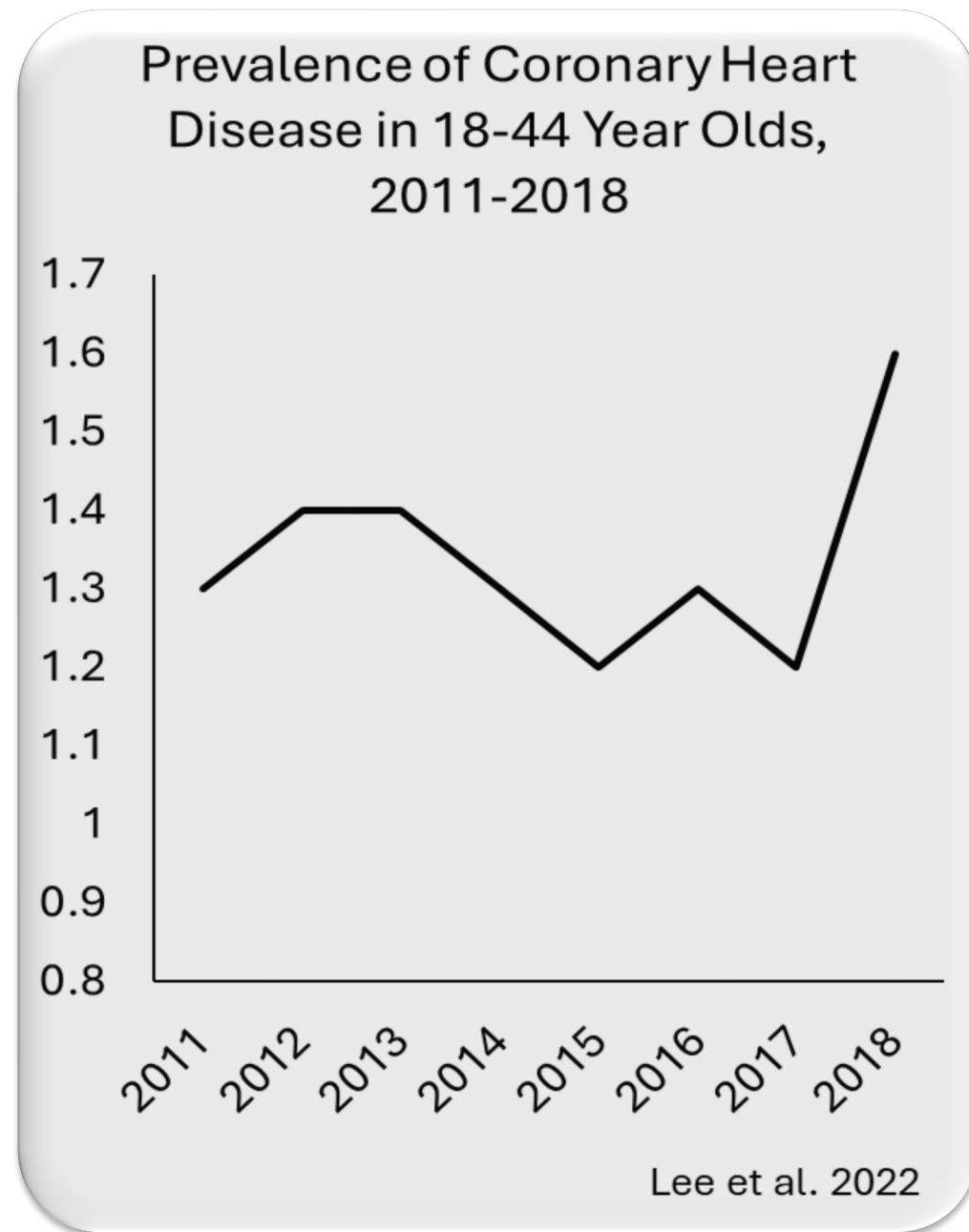
July 16, 2024

# 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.

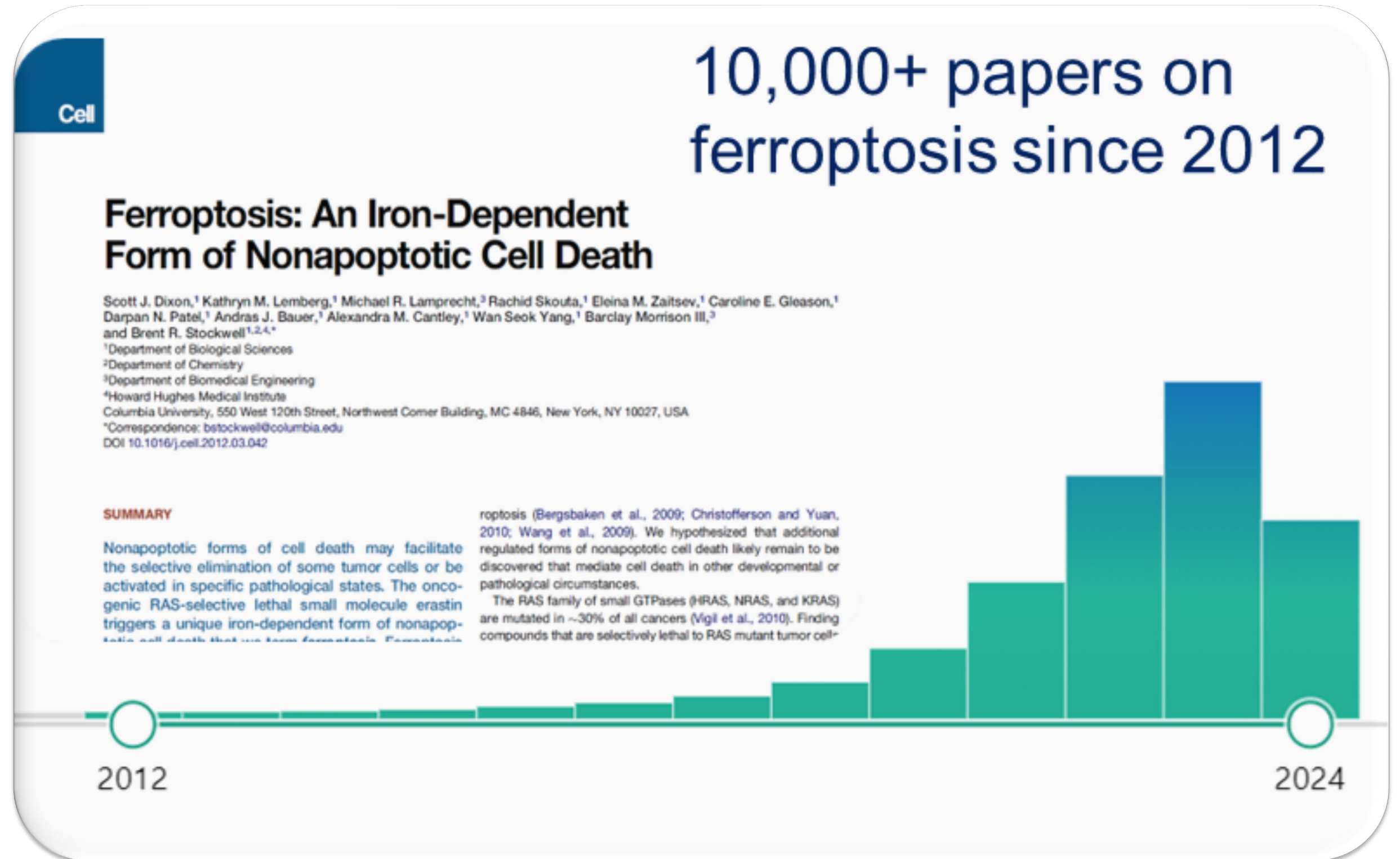
Aging-associated diseases are increasing in prevalence among younger people.



# A new type of cell death has emerged.

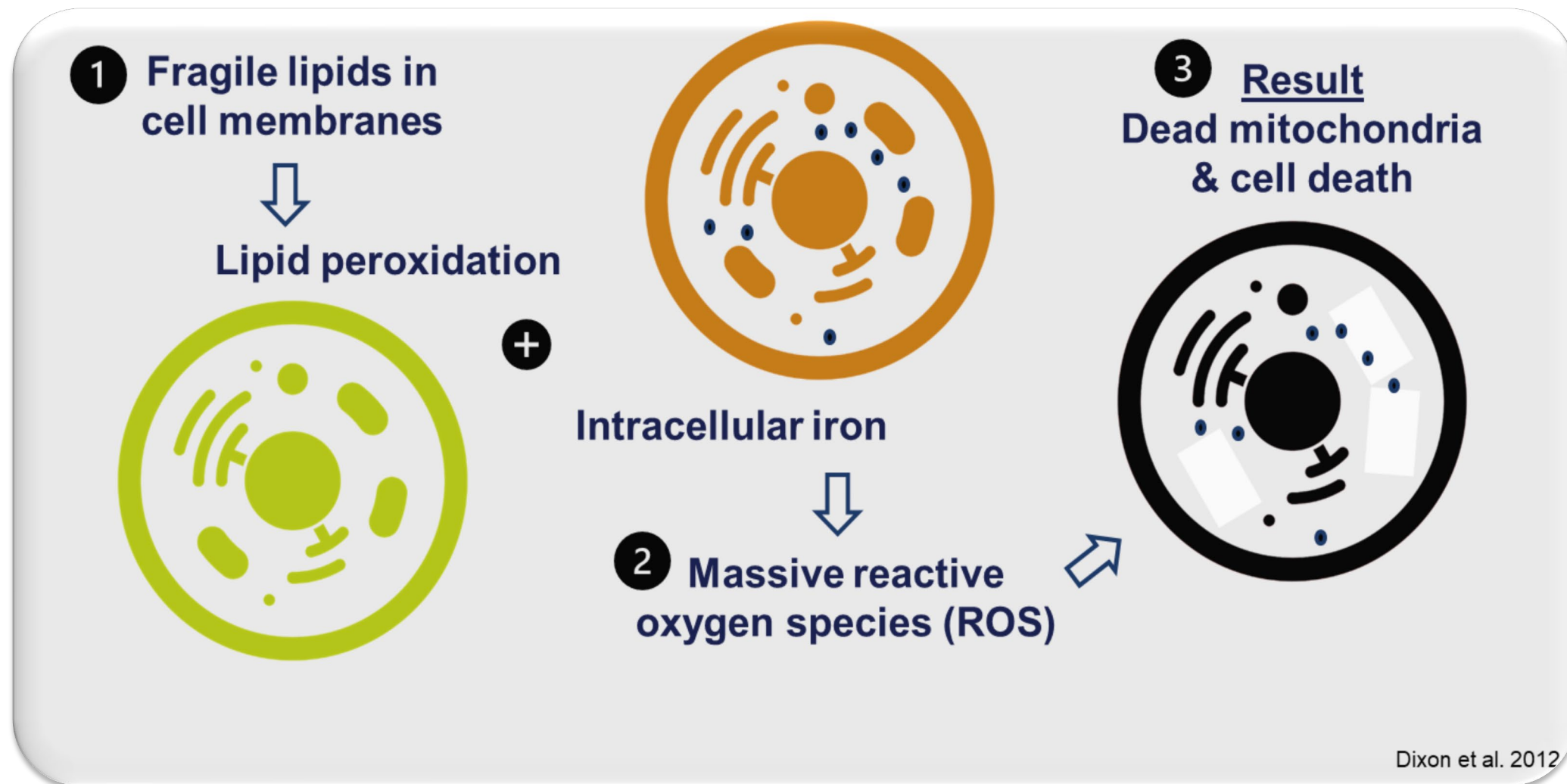
It's called ferroptosis

- Apoptosis
- Necrosis
- Autophagy
- Ferroptosis**



# 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

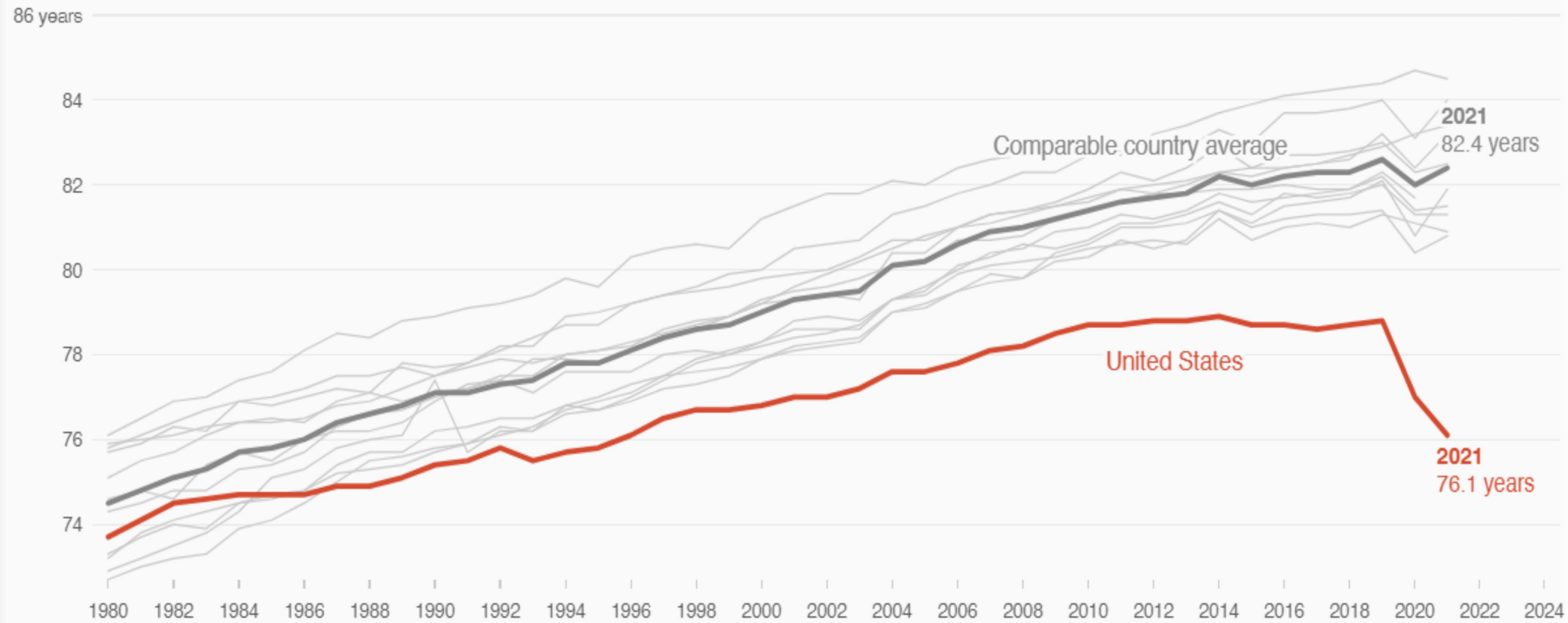


# Our lifespans are decreasing.

This trend is most pronounced in the United States

Life expectancy continues to decline in the U.S. as it rebounds in other countries

Life expectancy around the world decreased in 2020 due to COVID-19. Most peer countries rebounded by 2021, while the U.S. continued to decline.



Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

Credit: Ashley Ahn/NPR

# Age-related conditions were rising in dolphins, too.

Dolphins & humans are susceptible to similar chronic conditions

- NAFLD & NASH
- Dyslipidemia
- Insulin resistance
- Metabolic syndrome
- Dysmetabolic iron overload syndrome
- Chronic inflammation
- Anemia
- Alzheimer's disease

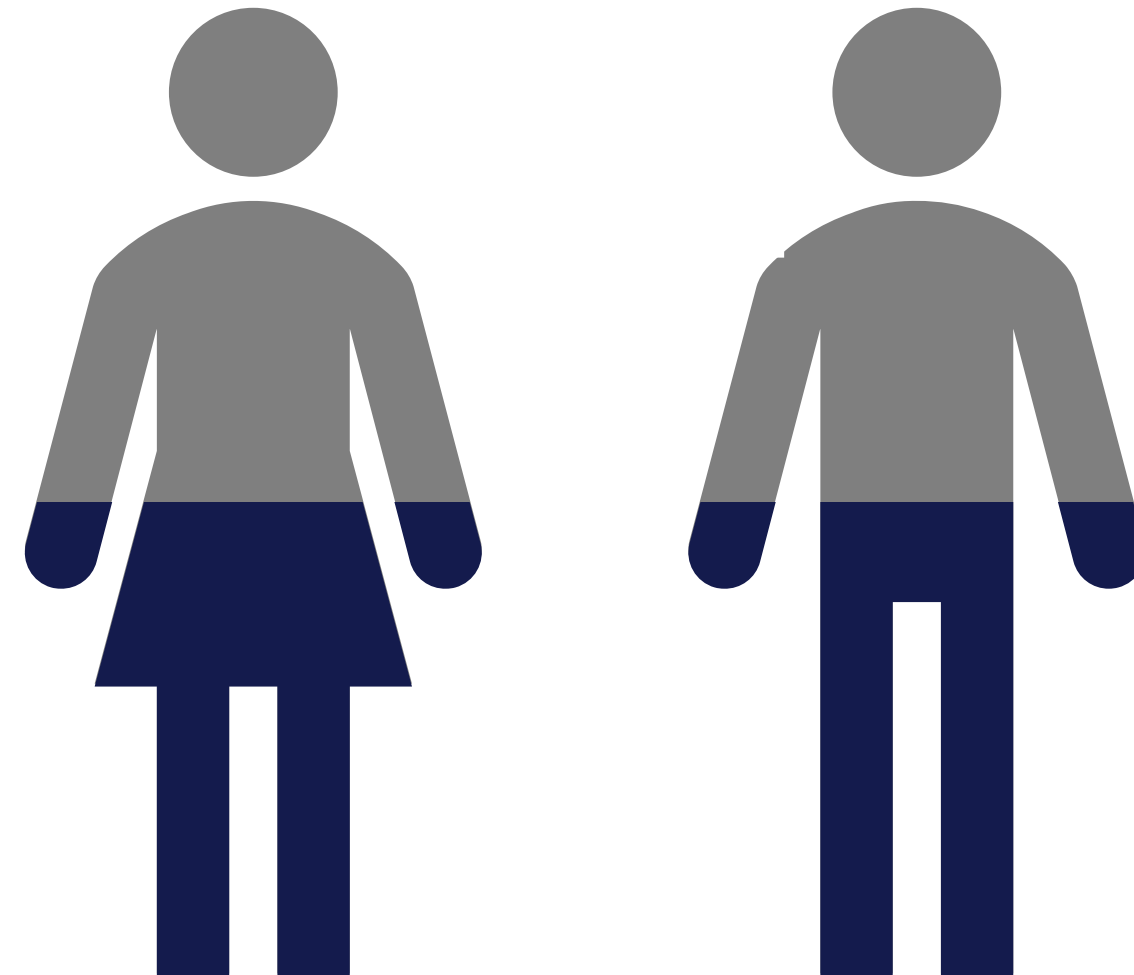


# A common denominator.

Low dietary & circulating C15:0 (pentadecanoic acid)

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

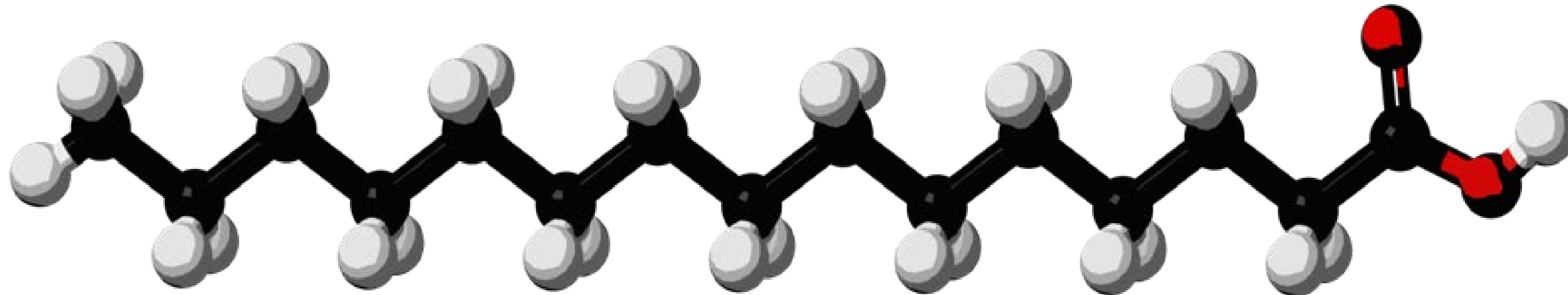
- Type 2 diabetes
- Cardiovascular disease
  - Coronary heart disease
  - Heart failure
- NAFLD/NASH
- Certain cancer types
- Anemia





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

Our bodies require adequate C15:0 to maintain physiological health



pentadecanoic acid

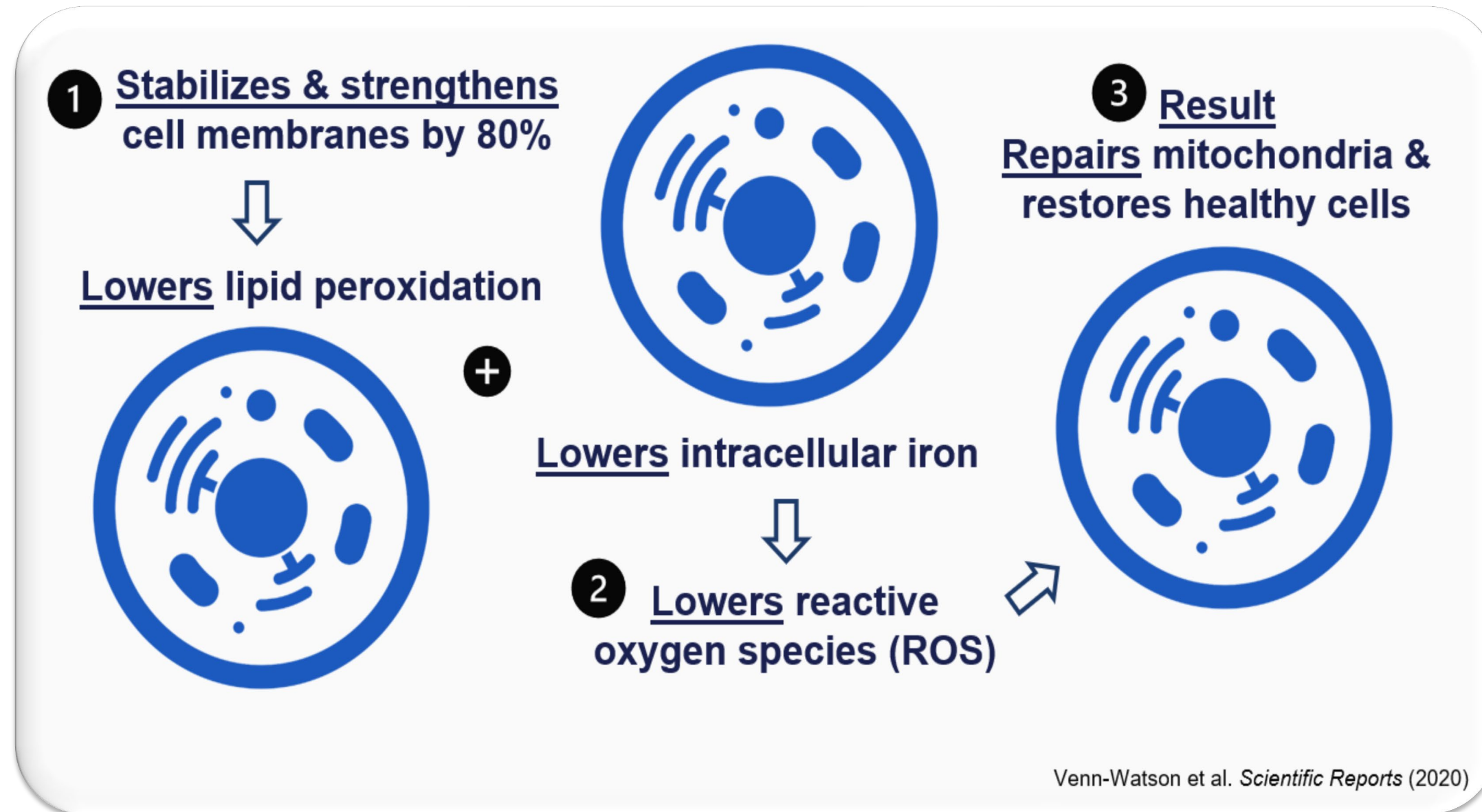
## **C15:0 (pentadecanoic acid)**

- 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

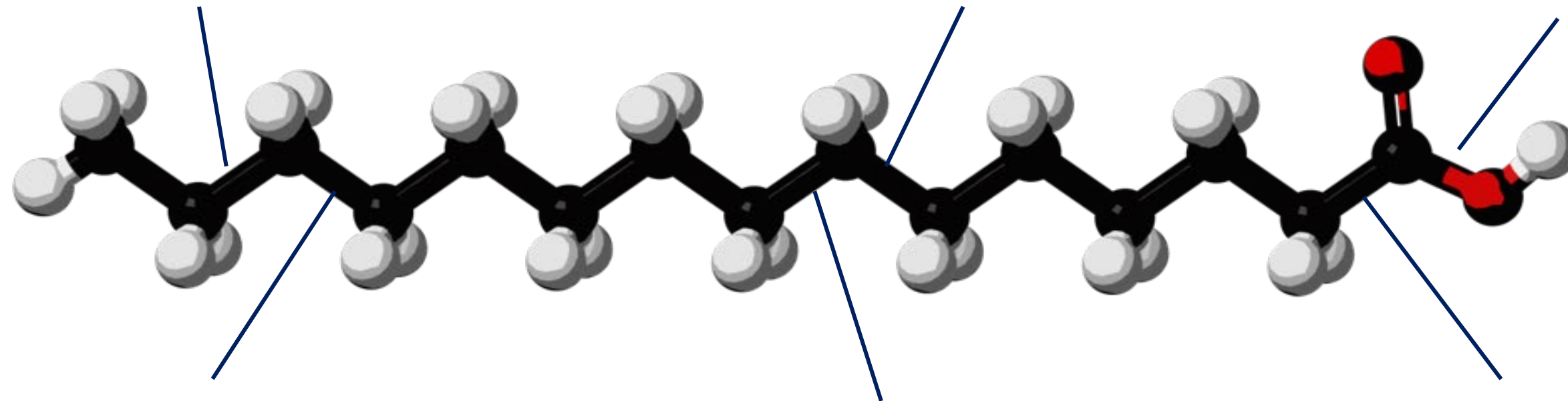
# C15:0 has multiple mechanisms to enhance health & longevity.

Pleiotropic activities with broad effects

**AMPK activator**

**PPAR $\alpha$ / $\delta$  activator**

**mTOR inhibitor**



**AKT activator**

**HDAC6 inhibitor**

**JAK-STAT inhibitor**

Anti-inflammatory

Antioxidant

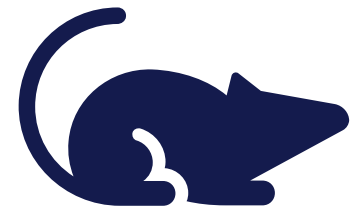
Antifibrotic

Anticancer

Antimicrobial

# C15:0 has clinical efficacy that improves health.

Including double-blinded and controlled clinical trials



Alleviated anemia

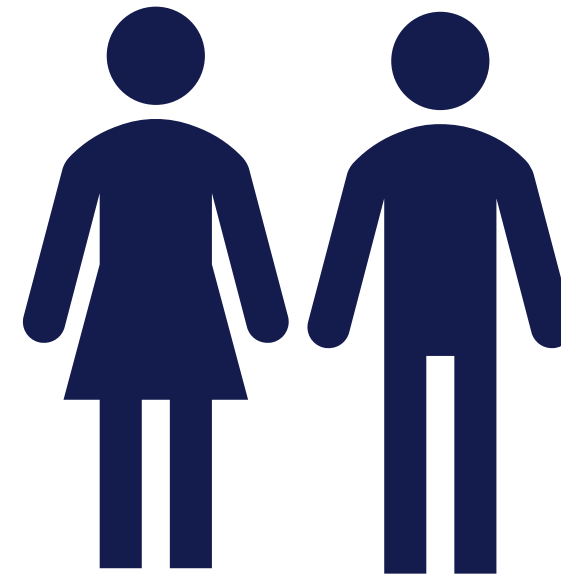
Lower liver enzymes

Lower cholesterol

Lower glucose

Alleviated liver iron deposition

Less liver fibrosis



Higher hemoglobin

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

# 3x more cellular benefits than pure omega-3 (EPA).

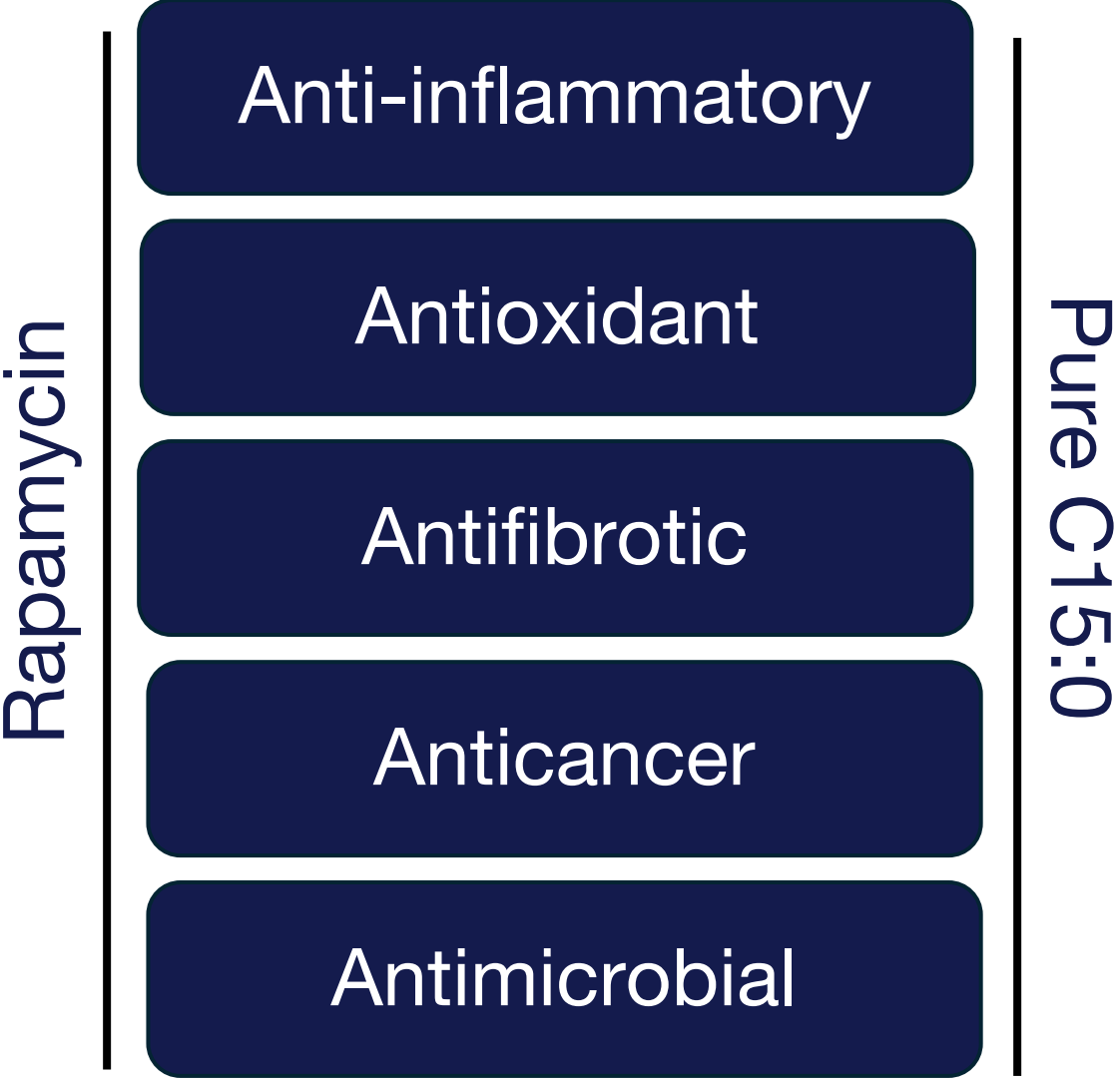
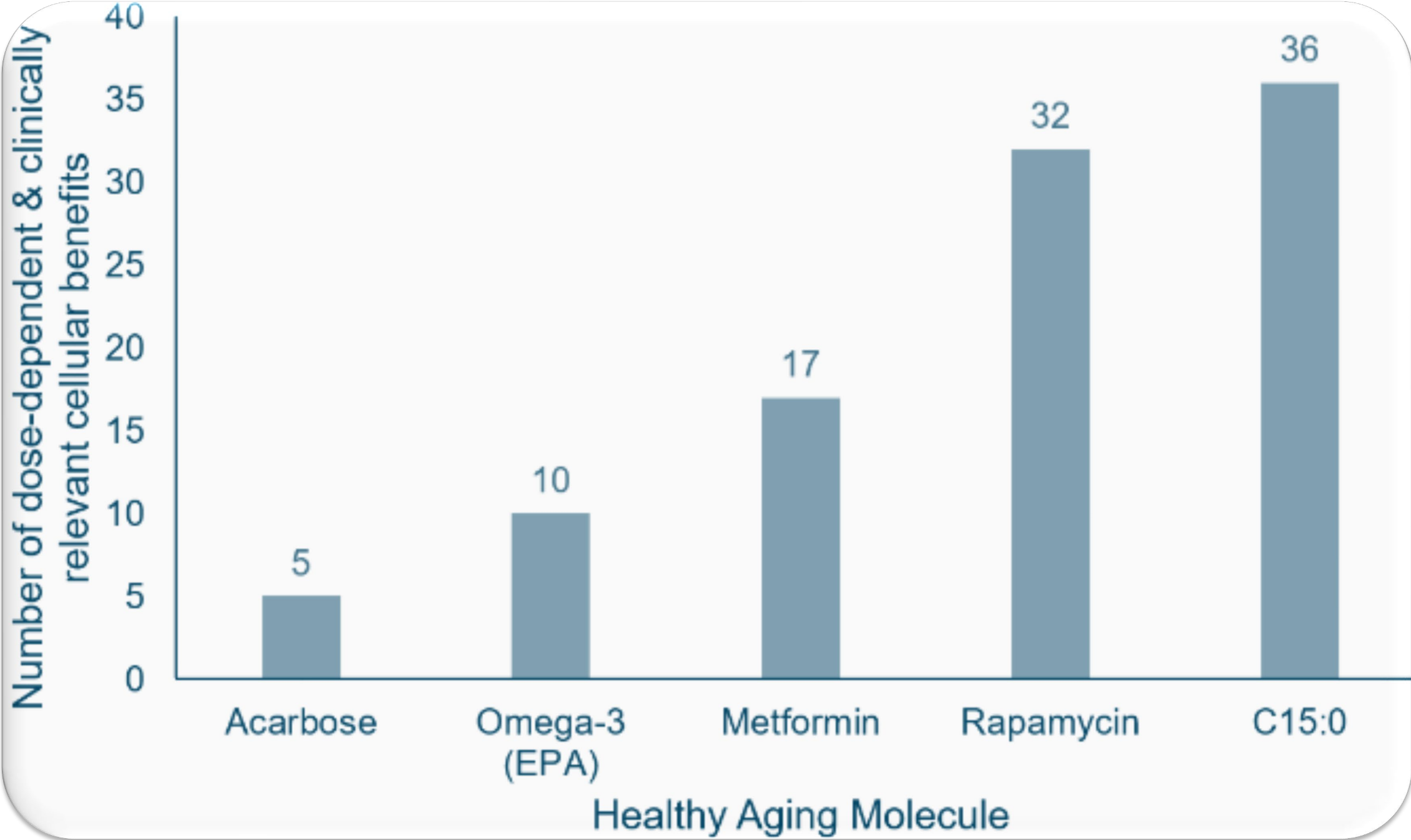
Broad efficacy across 12 human cell systems mimicking various diseases

BioMAP System	Health Systems	Omega-3 (EPA)	C15:0 (FA15)
Total clinically relevant benefits		10	36
4H	Immune, gut	✓	✓
LPS	Heart, joint, metabolism	✓	✓
SAG	Immune, joint, skin, gut, RBCs	✓	✓
BT	Immune, lung	✓	✓
3C	Heart, immune		✓
HDF3CGF	Liver, joints		✓
MyoF	Liver, lung		✓
BE3C	Lung		✓
CASM3C	Immune, heart		✓
MPHG	Heart, joint, immune		✓

36+ cellular benefits

# 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

## Slows cellular senescence

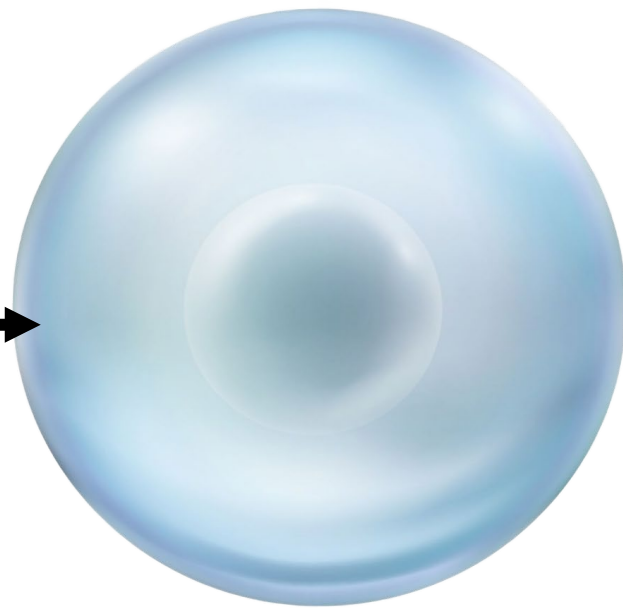
Inhibits mTOR  
Strengthens cells by 80%

## Repairs mitochondria

Lowers ROS by 45%

## Stops inflammaging

Lowers 18+ proinflammatory cytokines



## Restores cellular signaling

Activates AMPK, AKT, and PPAR $\alpha/\delta$

## Slows epigenetic alterations

Slows DNA methylation & biological aging

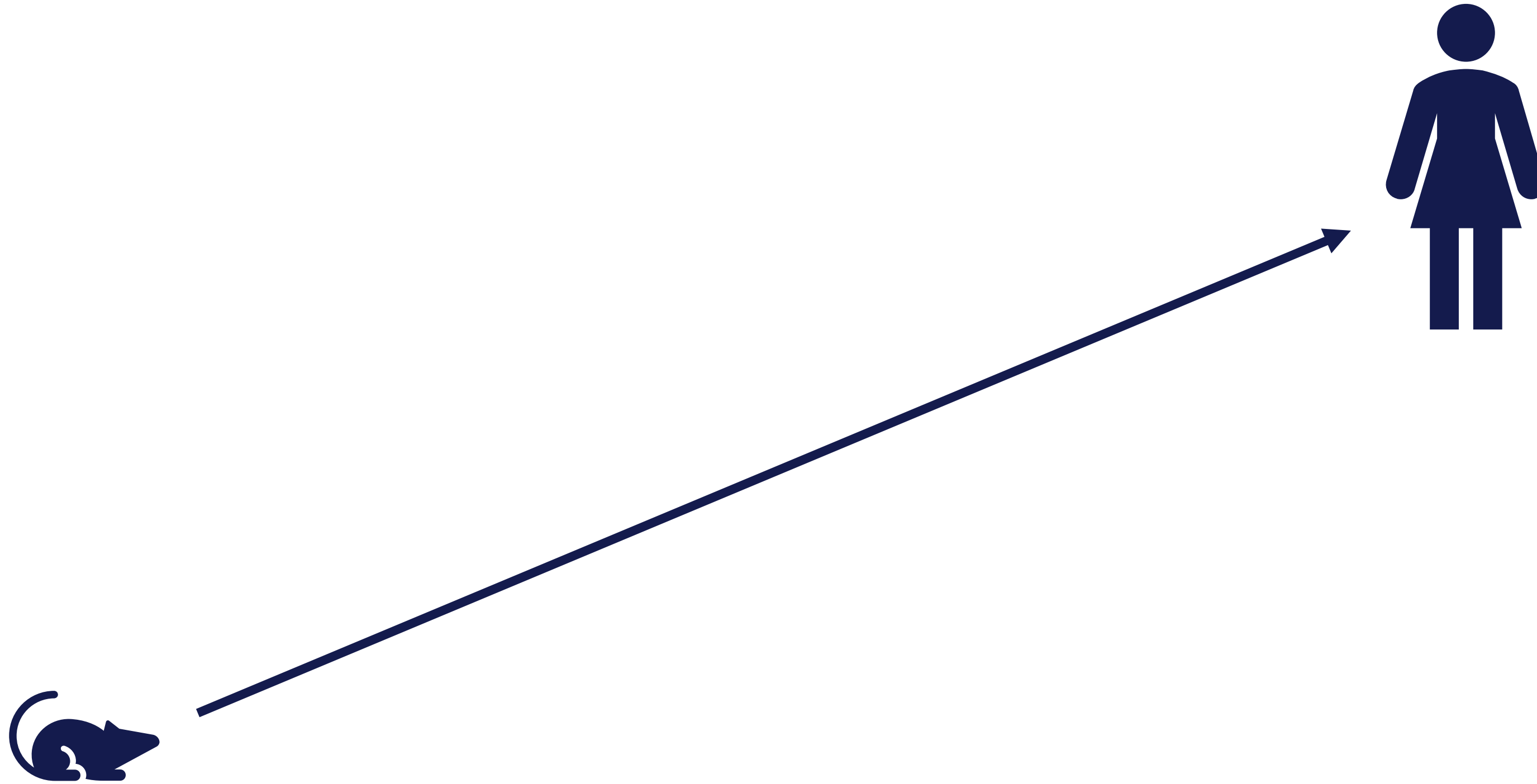
## Replenishes gut microbiome

Increases growth of core *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*



# The Cell Membrane Pacemaker Theory of Aging.

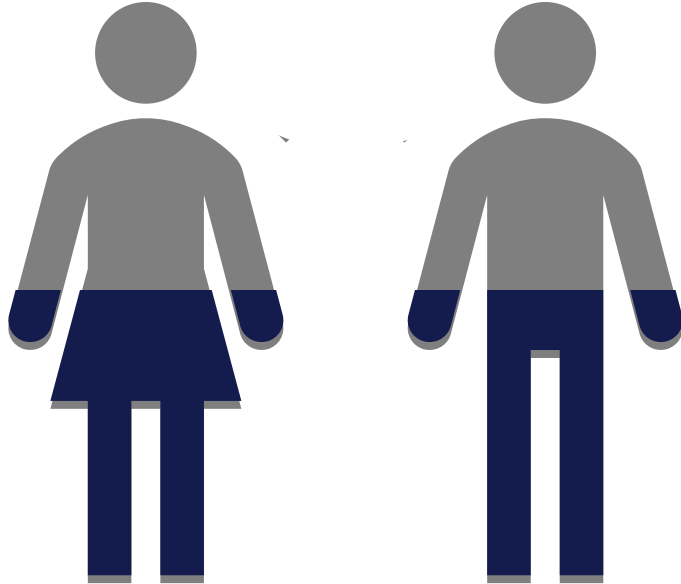
The greater the cell membrane stability, the longer a species' longevity



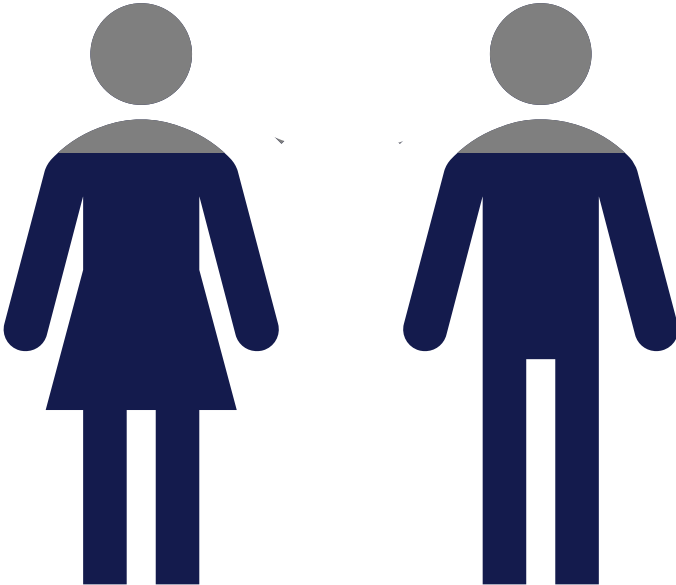
# The Cellular Stability Hypothesis.

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

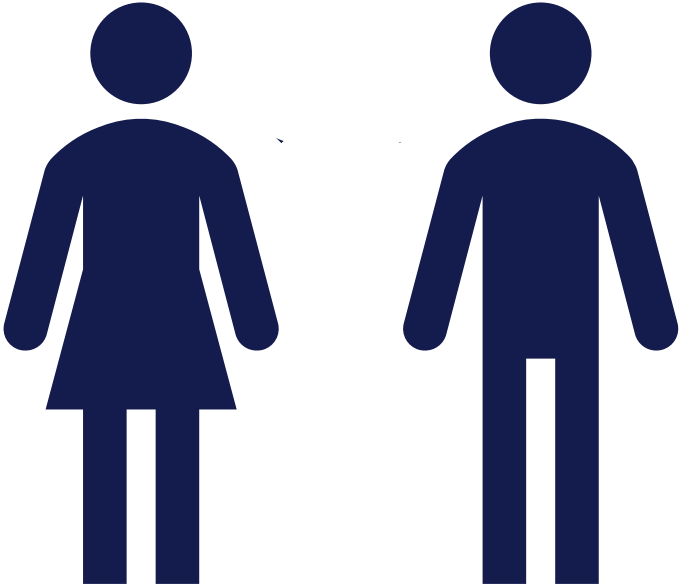
≤ 0.2% C15:0  
Nutritional deficiency  
Accelerated aging



> 0.2%-0.4% C15:0  
Nutritionally replete  
Normal aging

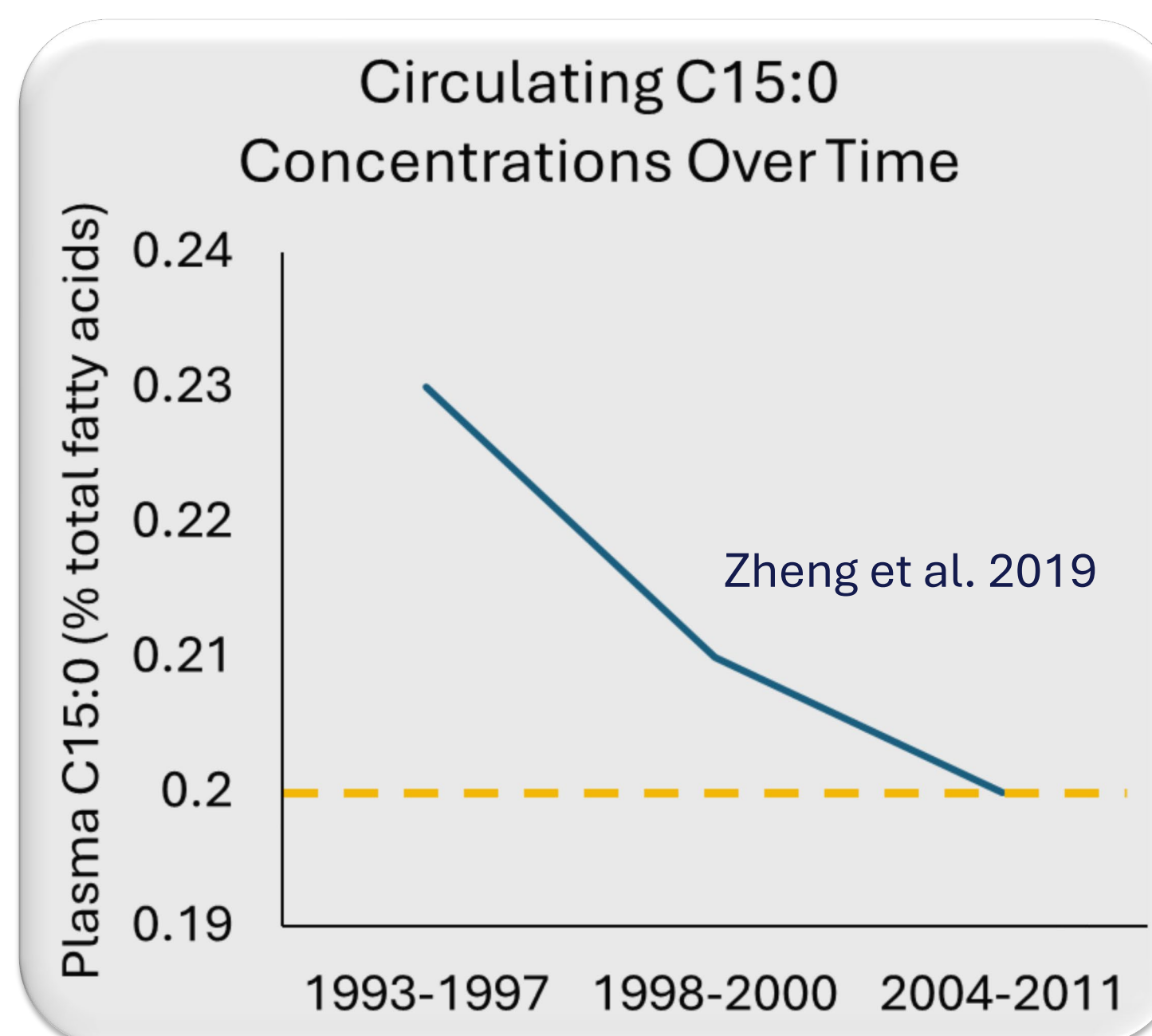
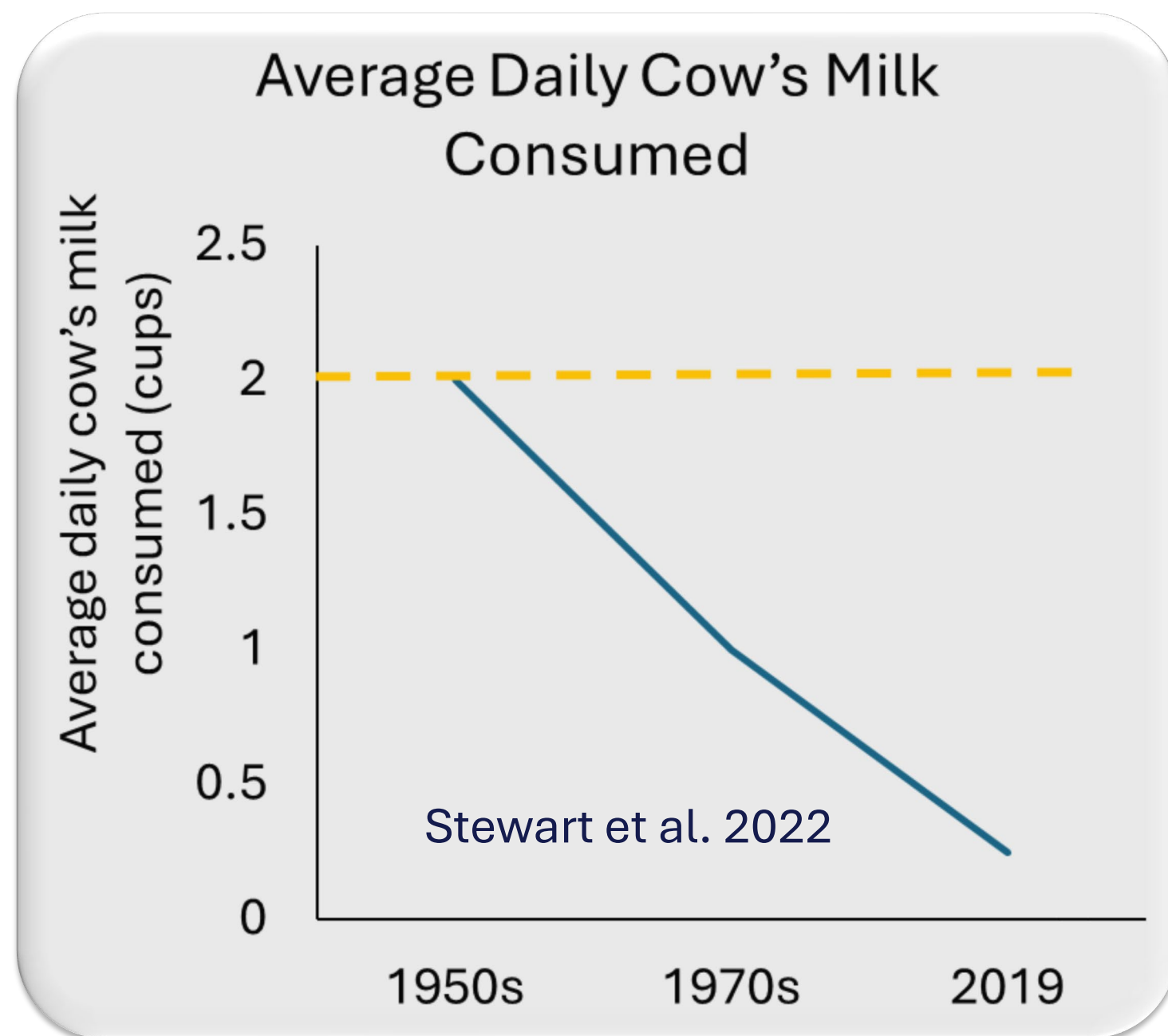


> 0.4%-0.64% C15:0  
Optimal  
Slower aging



# Our C15:0 levels have been declining.

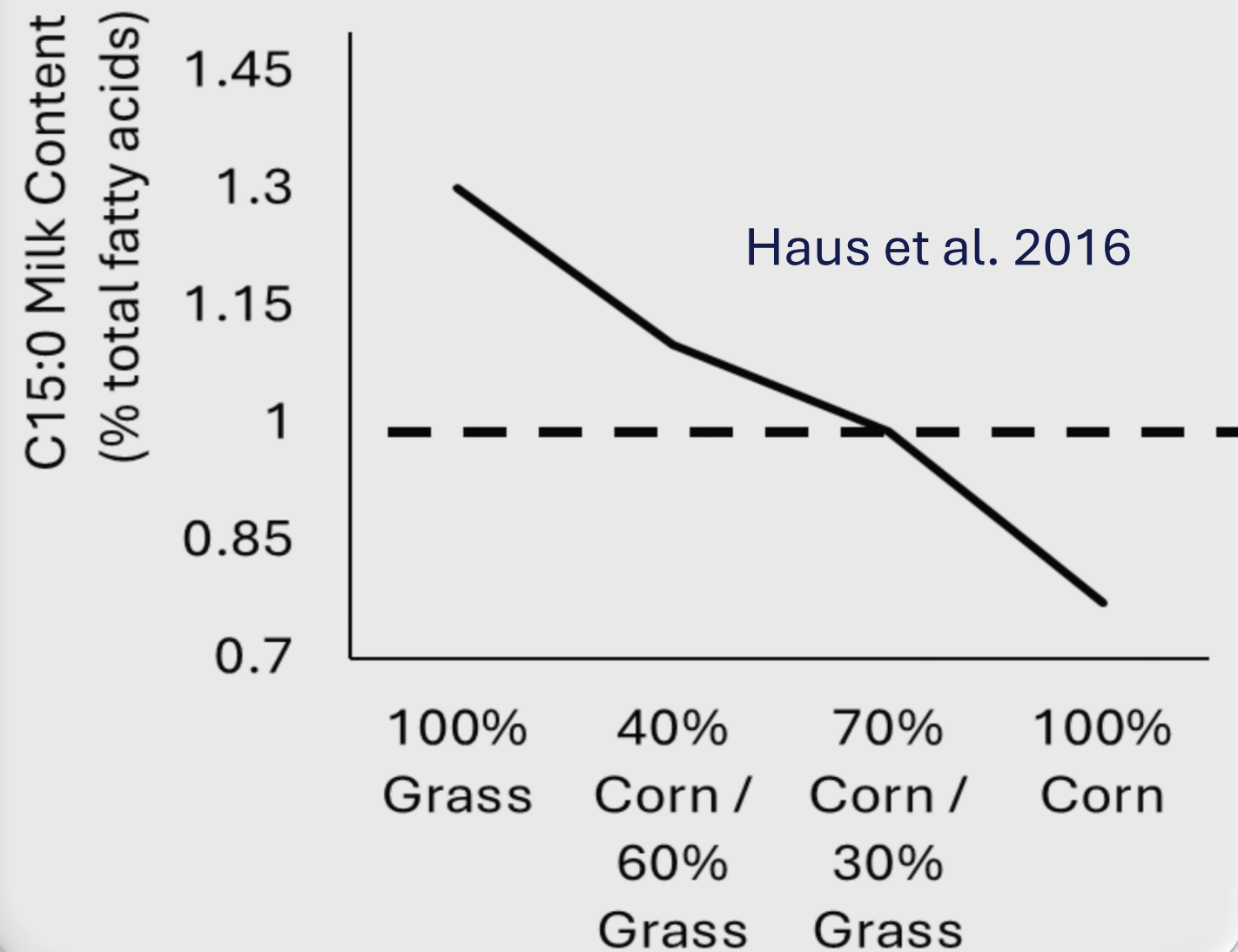
Decreased intake of whole fat dairy products has resulted in declining C15:0 levels



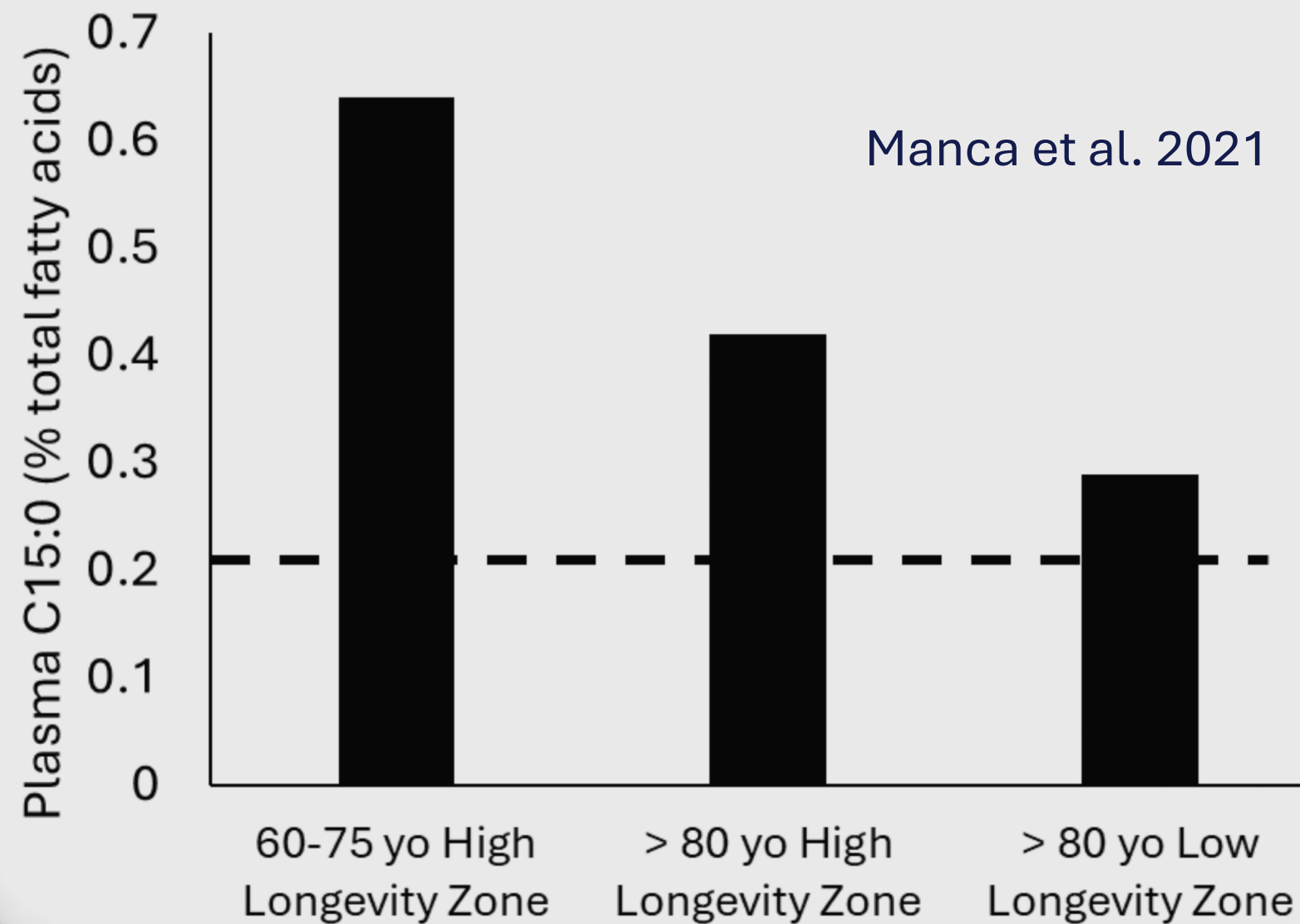
# Our C15:0 levels have been declining.

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

C15:0 Content in Whole Cow's Milk Based on Grass vs. Corn Feed



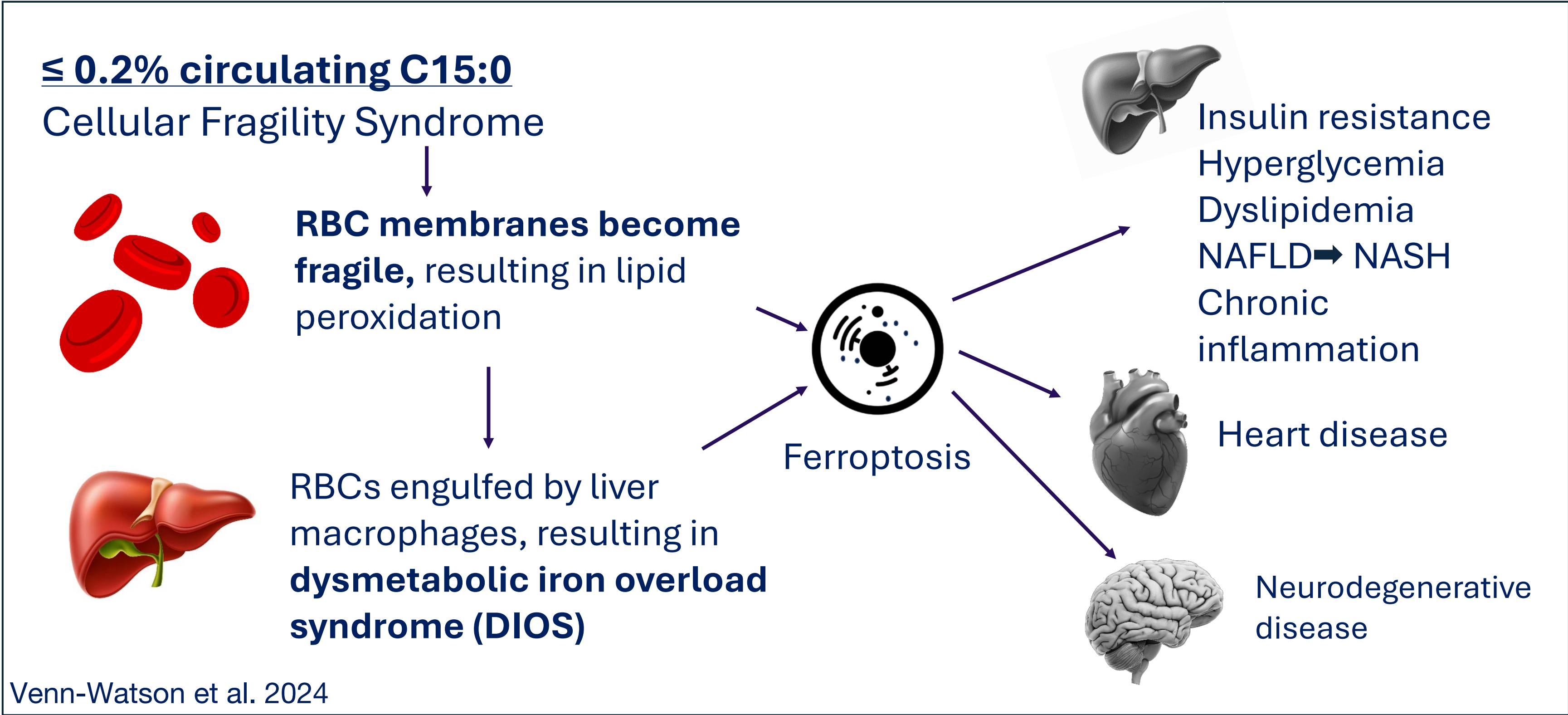
Circulating C15:0 Levels by Age and Longevity Zone





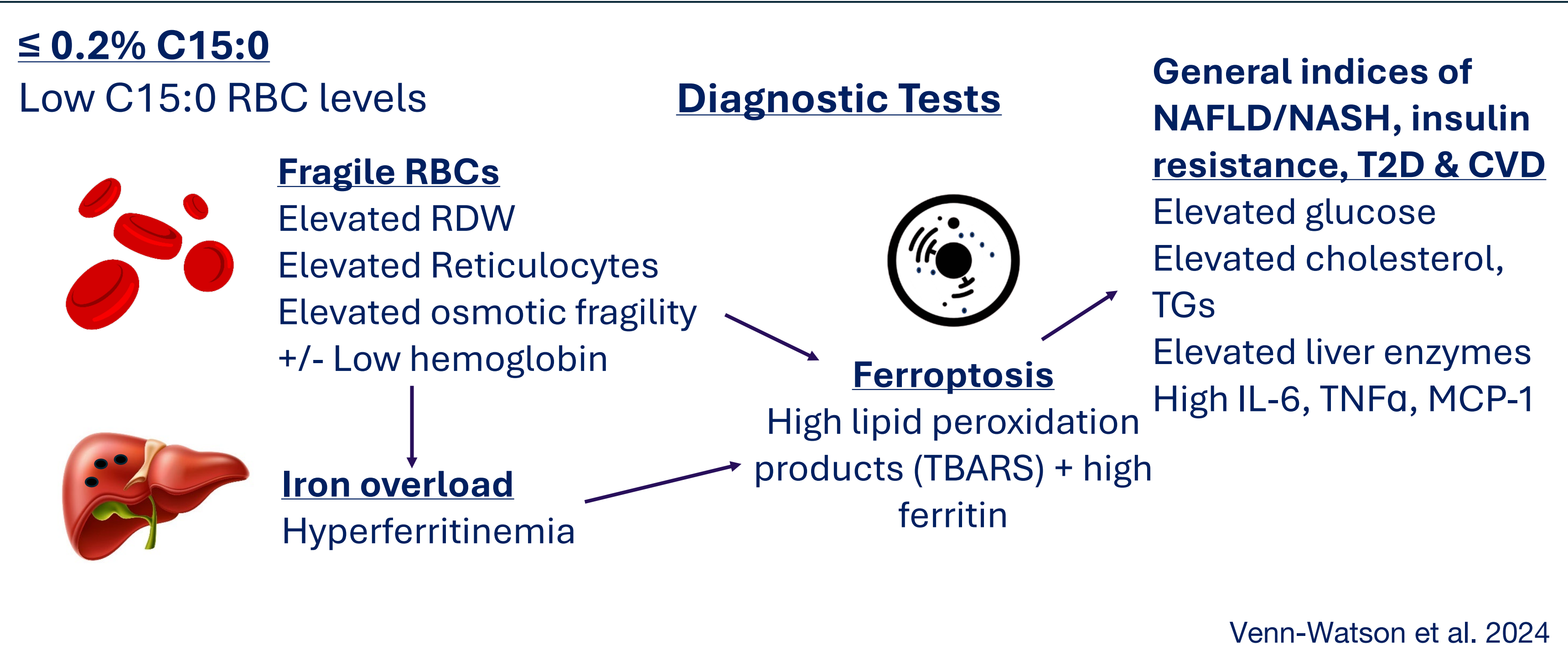
# C15:0 Deficiency = Cellular Fragility Syndrome.

The first nutritional deficiency syndrome to be discovered in 75 years



# Cellular Fragility Syndrome.

Nutritional C15:0 deficiency diagnostic tests



**This is fixable.**

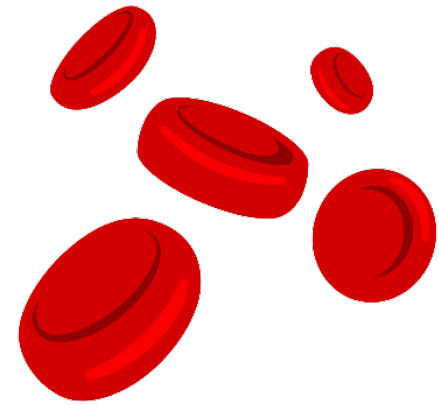
*Most people need 100 to 200 mg  
C15:0 per day to not be deficient.*

# C15:0 Reverses Cellular Fragility Syndrome.

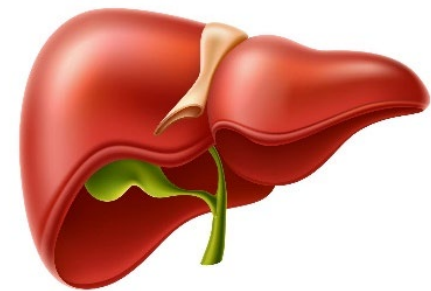
Replenishing healthy C15:0 levels restores long-term health

> 0.2% circulating C15:0

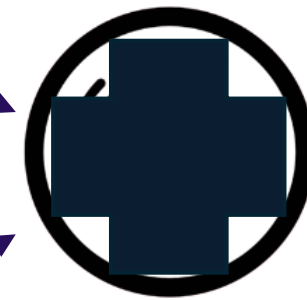
Cellular Stability



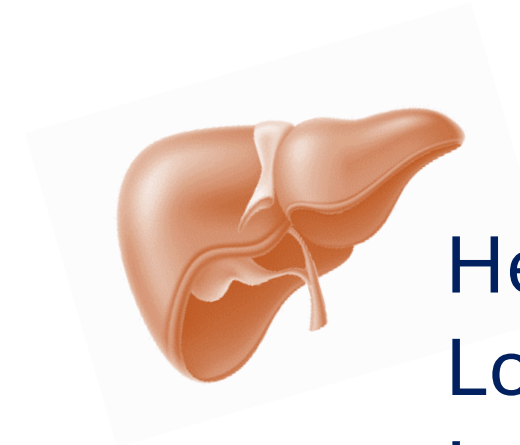
**RBC membranes restored**, resulting normalized hemoglobin & RDW



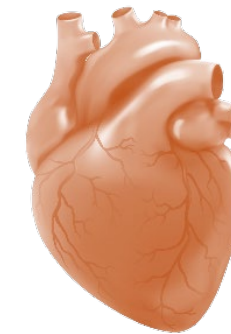
Iron deposition stopped, resulting in **lower liver enzymes +/- lower ferritin**



Ferroptosis stopped



Healthy liver  
Lower glucose  
Lower TG  
Lower liver enzymes



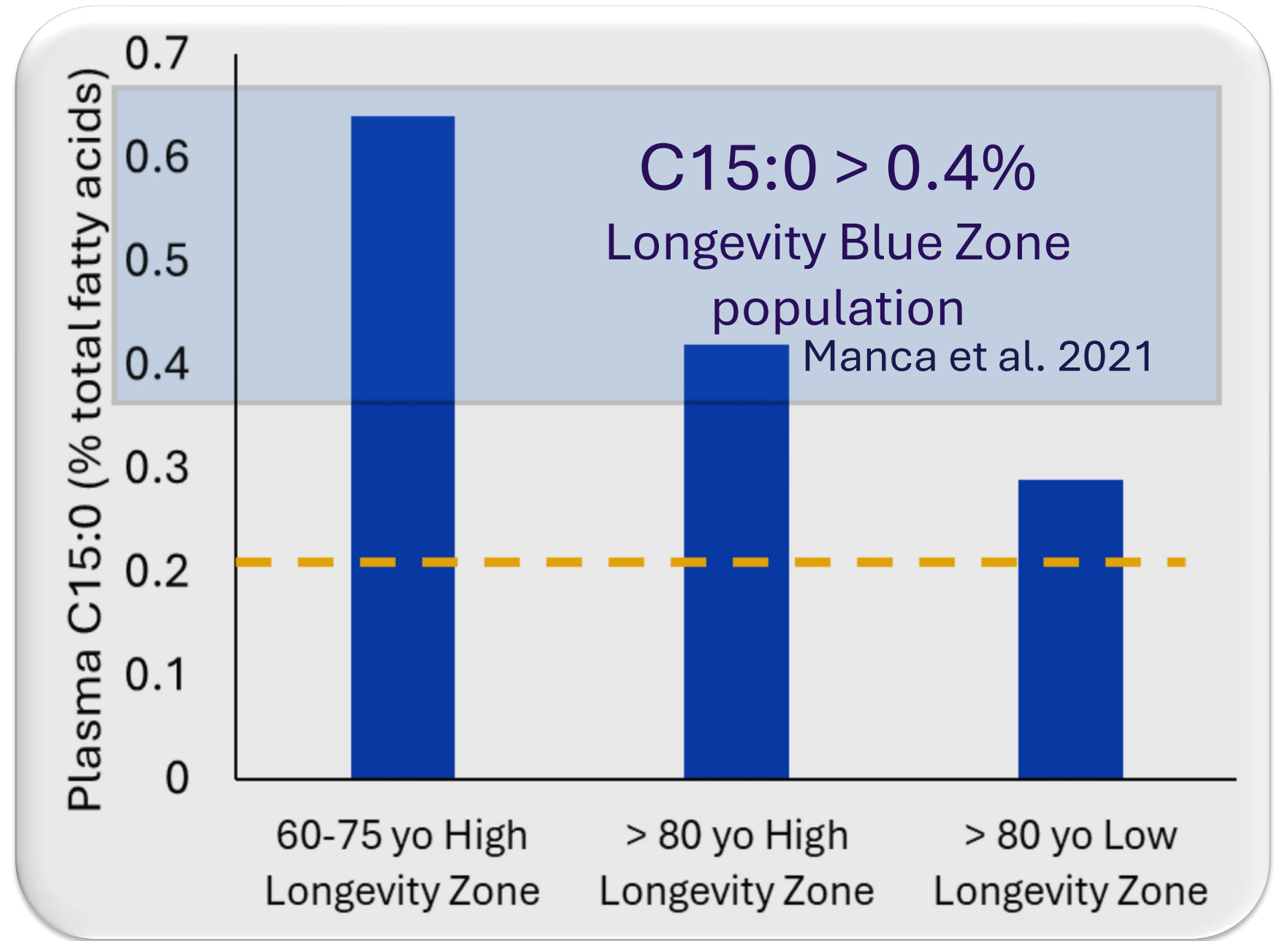
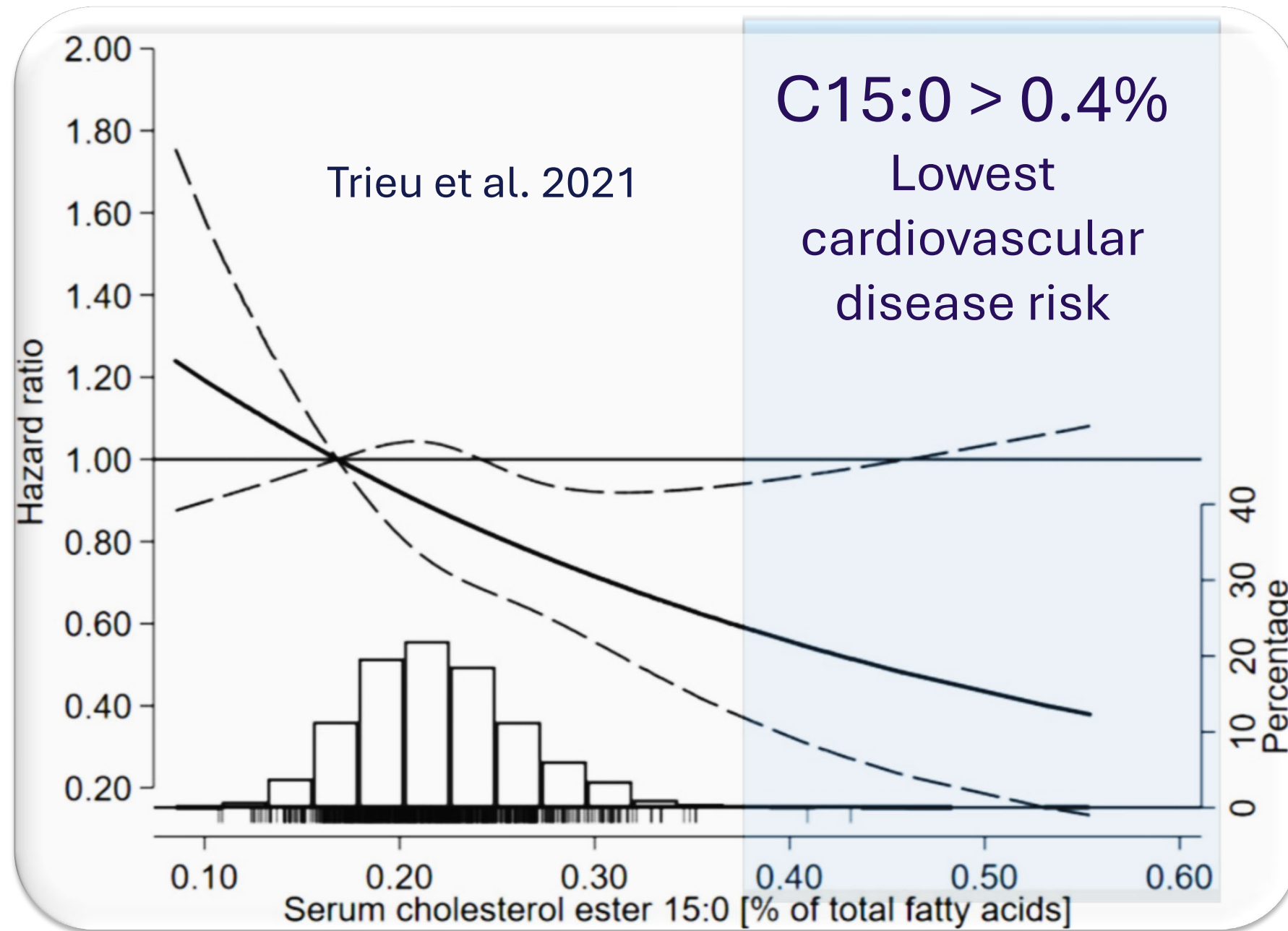
Healthy hearts  
Lower LDL-C, IL-6, TNF $\alpha$ , and MCP-1



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.



**Only 1% C15:0**

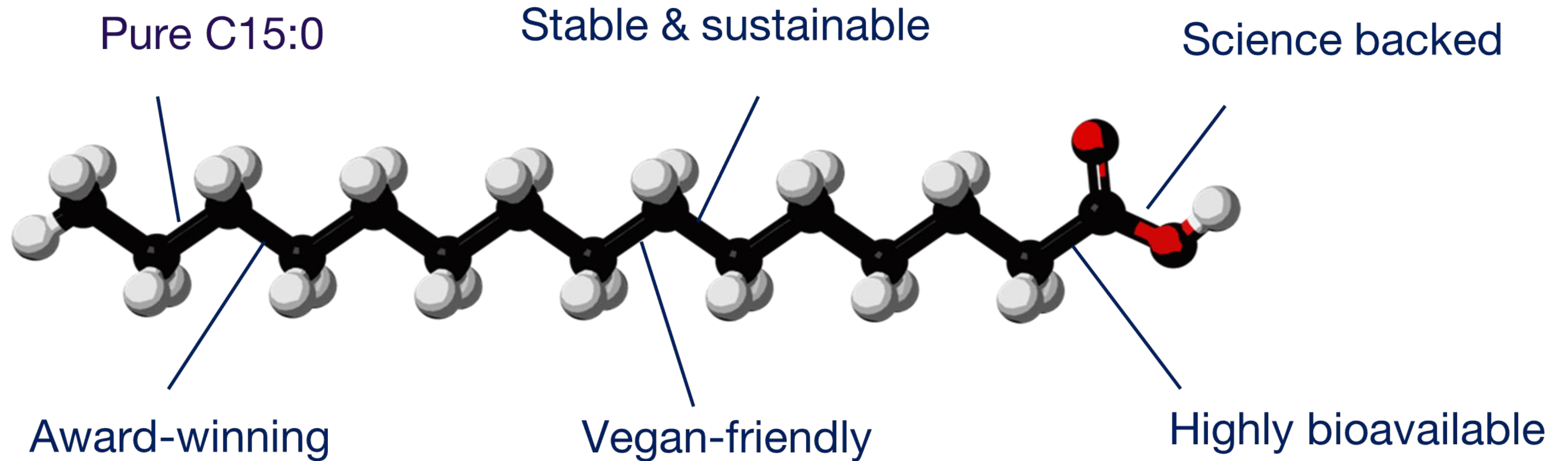
Less bioavailable  
triacylglyceride form

**> 40% proinflammatory fats**

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

# 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

NUTRITIONAL OUTLOOK  
***BEST OF THE  
INDUSTRY: BEST  
INGREDIENT SUPPLIER  
2021***

NUTRAINGREDIENTS  
***INGREDIENT OF THE  
YEAR: HEALTHY AGING  
2024 FINALIST***

FAST COMPANY  
***WORLD CHANGING  
IDEA: WELLNESS  
2022, 2024***

MINDFUL AWARD  
***OVERALL SUPPLEMENT  
OF THE YEAR  
2024***

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