

# Exploring Wellness Strategies in Mental Health

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#### **Learning Objectives**

# Review the immune system and understand how it affects physical and mental health

#### Share wellness tips to improve physical and mental health

#### Explore ways to practice wellness





# Inflammation: Effects on Physical and Mental Health

## Role of the Immune System Has Changed Over Time

#### Hunter-gatherer period

- High death rate
- Stressors
  - Predators
  - Infection and Sickness
  - Conflict with other humans
- Immunity
  - Wound healing
  - Fighting infection

Miller and Raison. Nat Rev Immunol. 2016;16:22-34.



# Role of the Immune System Has Changed Over Time

#### Hunter-gatherer period

- High death rate
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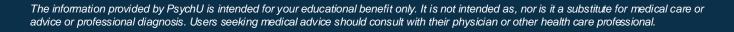
#### • Immunity

- Wound healing
- Fighting infection

#### Modern life

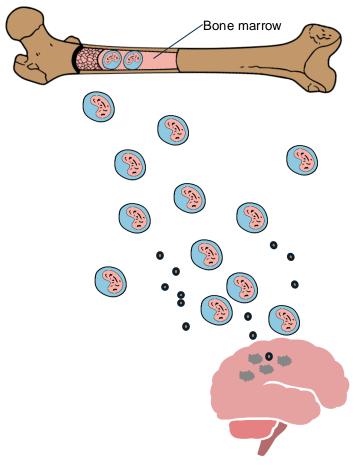
- Low death rate
- Stressors
  - Environmental
  - Medical illness
  - Social
- Immunity
  - High inflammation
  - Higher rates of immune system disorders

Miller and Raison. Nat Rev Immunol. 2016;16:22-34.





### **Stress Activates the Immune System**



Stress causes the immune system to release cells that fight off infections

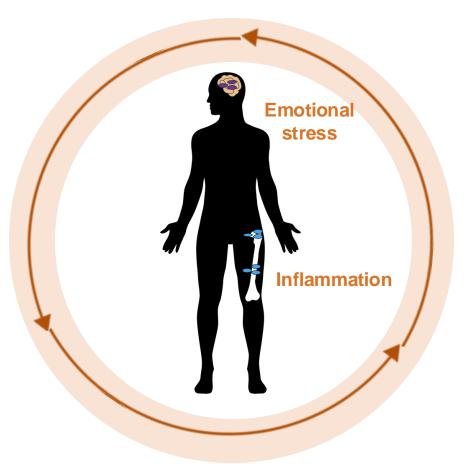
These cells release chemicals that cause inflammation to fight off infection

This may cause inflammation in the brain

Miller AH, et al. Nat Rev Immunol. 2016;16(1):22-34.



#### **Stress Can Activate the Immune System**



Emotional stress can activate immune responses throughout the body

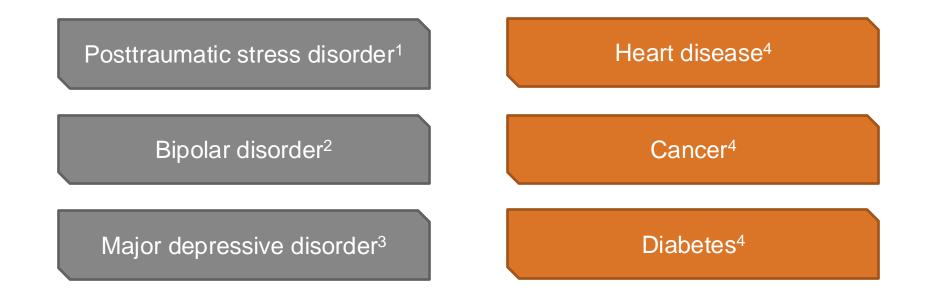
The greater a person's inflammatory response to stress, the more likely he/she is to develop depression over the next few months

Miller et al. Nat Rev Immunol. 2016;16:22-34.



## Mild Inflammation May Have Lasting Effects

If mild inflammation lasts for a long period of time, it may increase the risk of mental and physical disorders



1. Eraly et al. JAMA Psychiatry. 2014;71:423-431. 2. Najjar et al. J Neuroinflammation. 2013;10:43. 3. Lindqvist. Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2017;76:197-205. 4. Puzianowska-Kuźnicka et al. Immun Ageing. 2016;13:21.





# Targeting Inflammation With Wellness

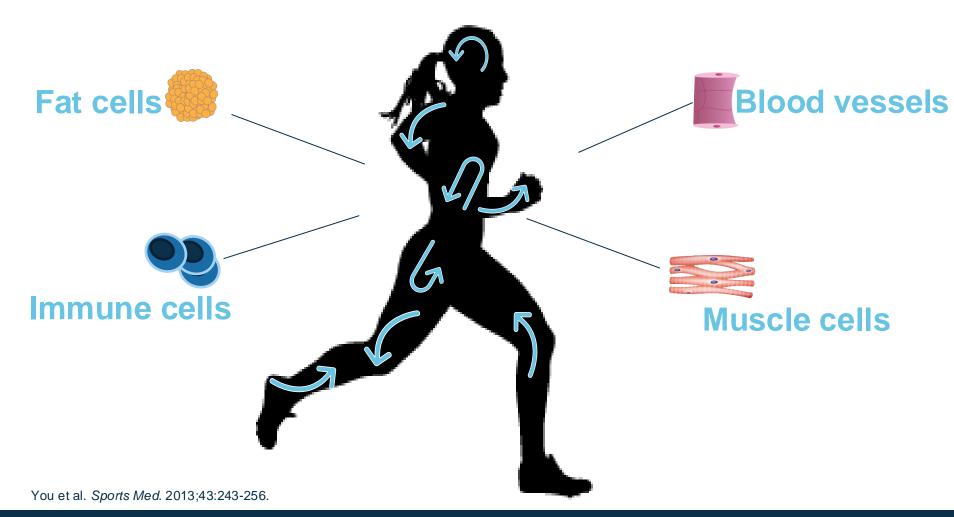
#### **Targets to Improve Wellness**



1. Lacey et al. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*. 2014;50:85-94. 2. You et al. *Sports Med*. 2013;43:243-256. 3. Rosenkranz et al. *Brain Behav Immun*. 2013;27:174-184. 4. Depner et al. *Curr Diab Rep*. 2014;14:507. 5. Fardet and Boirie. *Nutr Rev*. 2014;72:741-762.



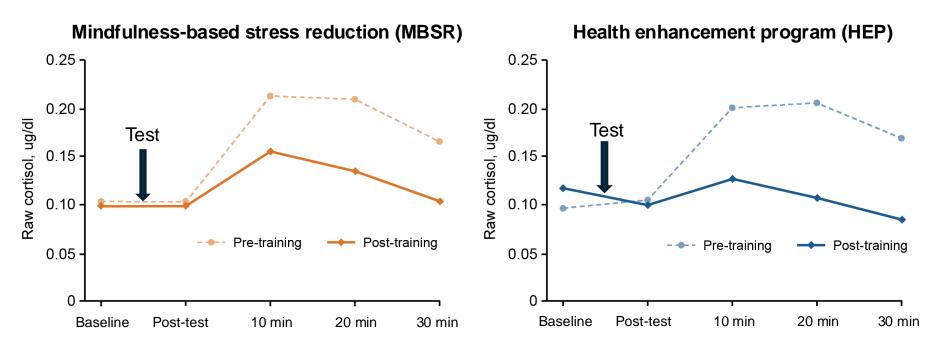
# **Exercise Can Reduce Inflammation in Differe** Ways





## Mindfulness Training May Decrease Inflammation Caused by Social Stress

Mindfulness training reduced stress hormone release



The group that was trained in mindfulness had lower levels of inflammation after a stressful experience compared to the HEP group

HEP, health enhancement program; MBSR, mindfulness-based stress reduction.

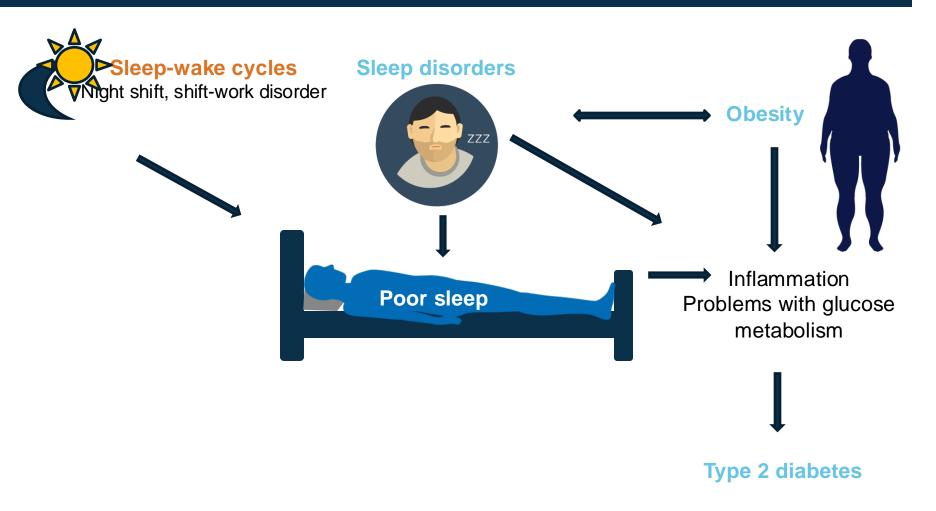
Rosenkranz et al. Brain Behav Immun. 2013;27:174-184.

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Mindfulness

# Sleep Is Connected to Inflammation and other conditions



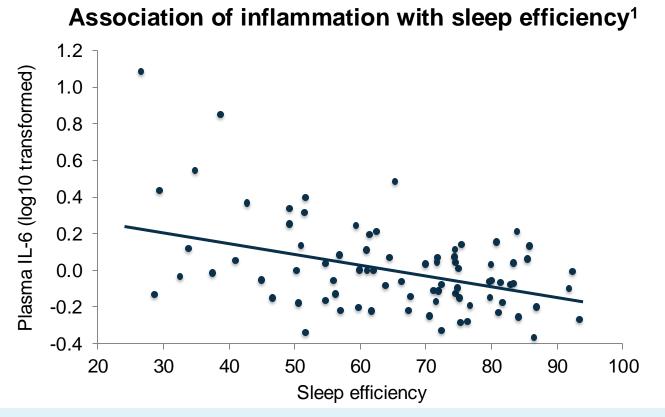
Depner et al. Curr Diab Rep. 2014;14:507.

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Sleep

## **Sleep Problems Are Associated** With Increases in Inflammation



In a meta-analysis of 72 studies (N >50,000), worse sleep problems were associated with more inflammation<sup>2</sup>

IL-6, interleukin 6.

1. Friedman et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2005;102:18757-18762. 2. Irwin et al. Biol Psychiatry. 2016;80:40-52.

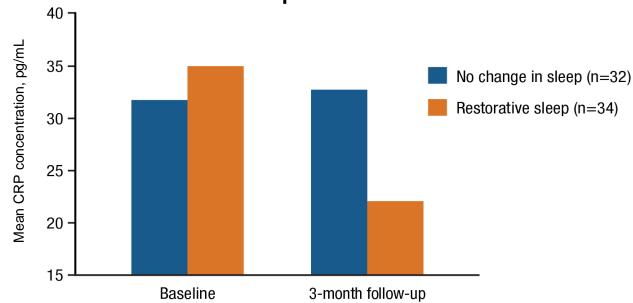
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Sleep

# Sleep Problems Affect Inflammation and Quality of Life

In a study of United States military personnel (N=66), participants with sleep improvements had lower levels of inflammation compared to those whose sleep did not improve



- Participants with improved sleep also reported:
  - Reductions in fatigue and depressive symptoms
  - Increases in emotional well-being, social functioning, and physical functioning

CRP, C-reactive protein.

Heinzelmann et al. Sleep Med. 2014;1565-1570.

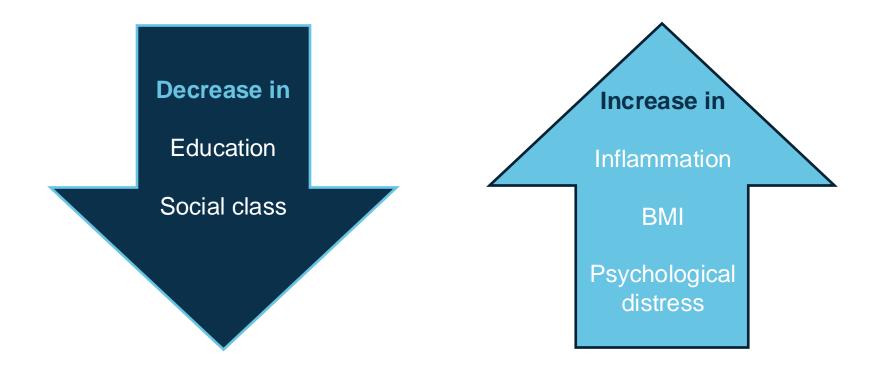
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Sleep

## Childhood Social Isolation May Lead to High Inflammation in Adulthood

Negative consequences of early social isolation may be seen in adulthood<sup>†</sup>



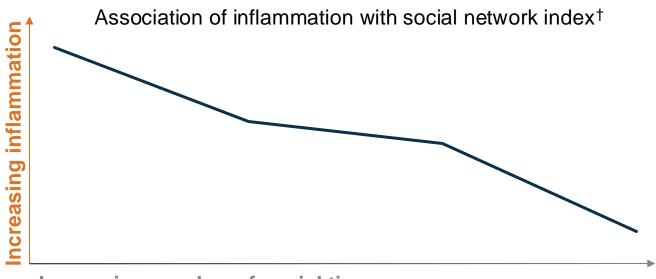
BMI, body mass index. Lacey et al. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*. 2014;50:85-94.



# Low Social Network Ties Are Linked With Higher Inflammation

Socialization

In a national survey of 1,075 American adults with a history of cancer,\* those with lower social ties had higher levels of inflammation



Increasing number of social ties

\*National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey III (1988-1994). <sup>†</sup>Social network index score based on marital status, frequency of social interactions, religious attendance, and membership in social organizations.

Yang et al. Biodemography Soc Biol. 2014;60:21-37.



#### Nutritior **Diet May Be Linked To Certain Illnesses** Foods may affect certain illnesses in different ways 70 (eg, heart disease, cancer, obesity, mental illness)\* 60 References reporting an association 50 % with inflammatory diseases, 40 30 20 10 0 Milk Wine Fruits and Whole grains Dairy Red/ Fish Sweetened vegetables products beverages Processed meat Harmful association

Protective association

Neutral association

\*Based on an assessment of pooled/meta-analyses and systematic reviews (N=304) published between 1950 and 2013. Fardet and Boirie. Nutr Rev. 2014;72:741-762.



## **Certain Diets May Focus on Foods** With Anti-inflammatory Effects

For example, Mediterranean-based diets promote fresh foods, discourage sweets and processed foods, and may positively affect physical and mental health\*

#### Fruits and Vegetables

Green leafy vegetables, ≥6 servings per week Other vegetables, ≥1 serving per day Berries, ≥2 servings per week Beans, >3 meals per week

Oils and Cheese Olive oil as the primary oil used Fast fried foods, <1 time per week Butter or margarine, <1 tablespoon per day Cheese, <1 serving per week MIND diet recommendations

#### Protein

Fish (not fried), ≥1 meal per week Poultry (not fried), ≥2 meals per week Red meats, <4 meals per week Nuts, ≥5 servings per week

#### **Carbohydrates**

Whole grains, ≥3 servings per day Pastries/sweets, <5 servings per week Wine, 1 glass per day

MIND, Mediterranean-DASH diet intervention for neurodegenerative delay; DASH, dietary approach to systolic hypertension Morris et al. *Alzheimers Dement.* 2015;1:1015-1022.

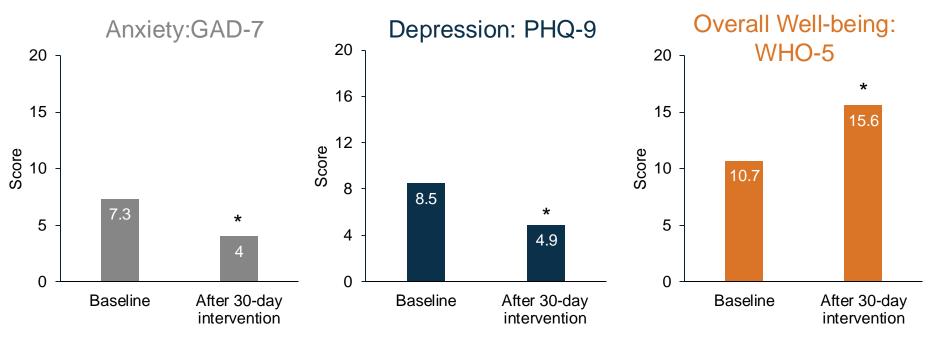
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Nutritio



#### Adults (N=36) who followed the WILD-5 wellness plan for 30 days demonstrated significant improvement in anxiety, depression, and overall well-being



\*P<0.01 vs baseline score.

WILD-5, Wellness Interventions to meet Life's Demands; GAD-7, Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item; PHQ-9, Patient Health Questionaire-9; WHO-5, World Health Organization Wellbeing Index.

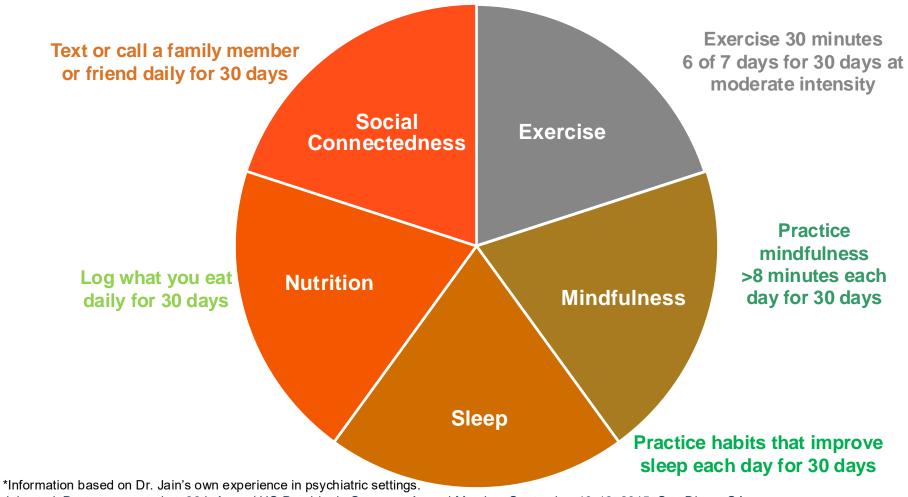
Jain et al. Poster presented at: 28th Annual US Psychiatric Congress Annual Meeting; September 10-13, 2015; San Diego, CA.





# Suggestions for Practicing Wellness

# Simple Suggestions for Practicing Wellness\*



Jain et al. Poster presented at: 28th Annual US Psychiatric Congress Annual Meeting; September 10-13, 2015; San Diego, CA.





Inflammation may have lasting effects on physical and mental health

Exercise, mindfulness, sleep, nutrition, and social connectedness may decrease inflammation

Exercise, mindfulness, improving sleep, nutrition, and socialization, may positively affect both physical and mental health

