MENTAL HEALTH, PRECISION NUTRITION, & LIFESTYLE MEDICINE:

Translating Evidence to Clinical Practice



Bridging the Gap Between Research & Clinical Care in Nutritional Psychiatry

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What Is Nutritional Psychiatry?

- Nutritional psychiatry offers clinical guidelines based on nutrition science and evidence-based research for the
- use of whole foods and nutrients to improve mental wellbeing.

Uma Naidoo MD



FOOD & DRIVE

Feed Your Head: Foods That Target Depression and Anxiety

Based on mounting research, doctors are prescribing nutrient-rich foods as a recipe for better mental health. With the help of high-profile chefs, they're doing it deliciously, too



What Nutritional Psychiatry Is **Not:**

"It's not about
10 mg of Prozac or
10 blueberries..."—WSJ

Food and nutrients do not replace medication & other therapies but rather *work in synergy* and offer *broader options* to improve mental wellbeing.

Uma Naidoo MD



There is a public health crisis: Bad *Diet is the #1 cause of poor health in the US and Worldwide*



Number of Deaths Related to the 17 Leading Risk Factors in the United States, 2016



The State of US Health, 1990-2016 Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors JAMA. 2018;319(14):1444

GUT-BRAIN CONNECTION





Gastrointestinal microbiota have been implicated in several neurobiological pathways related to mental illness Modulation of BDNF

Serotonin neurotransmission Immune function

HPA axis-mediated stress response

Gut-Brain Connection and Mental Health

- Dysbiosis and inflammation of the gut have been linked to causing several mental illnesses including anxiety and depression.
- Studies have also shown that probiotics were effective in lowering anxiety and depressive symptoms, similar to traditional prescription medications.

1. Neufeld KM et al. Neurogastroent Motil. 2011;23:264, e119.

2. Benton D et al. *Eur J Clin Nutr.* 2007;61:355-361. 3. Steenbergen L et al. *Brain Behav Immun.* 2015;48:258-264.

5: Lyte M: Bioessays. 2011;33:574-581.

4. Schmidt K et al. Psychopharmacology (Berl). 2015;232:1793-1801



Inflammation and Gut Microbiome in Depression





Peirce JM et al. J Neurosci Res. 2019;97(10):1223-1241. Felger JC: Handb Exp Pharmacol. 2019;250:255-286.



Nutritional Psychiatry Lessons Learned From The Pandemic

The pandemic taught us that we have *little to no* nutritional resiliency

88% of Americans have some element(s) of poor metabolic health¹

Preexisting conditions led to higher death rates and poorer outcomes

Survivors may be struggling with brain fog, fatigue, and a higher incidence of new mental

health diagnoses

1. Cefalu WT et al. Cell Metabolism. 2021;33(3):473-478.

Metabolic Diseases Are on the Rise



Connecting the Dots Between Metabolic Health and Mental Health



The Ongoing Impact of the Pandemic on Nutritional Status

Processed food sales • Stress eating • Angst & stress Children's vaccine worry Booster worry • Return to the office • Hybrid school & work Abuse increased Increased drugs and alcohol • Zoom fatigue • Zoom dysmorphia Social media • Coronasomnia Uncertainty & fear persists

serious mental illness face an increased risk of having

Individuals living with

chronic medical conditions

Scott KM et al. Association of Mental Disorders With Subsequent Chronic Physical Conditions: World Mental Health Surveys From 17 Countries. JAMA Psychiatry. 2016 Feb;73(2):150-8. doi: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2015.2688.

PMID: 26719969; PMCID: PMC5333921.

post-Traumatic Stres

amononezes sandrome

Panic Disord

J-9VISS920

PJOSIO BUILET

Autism Spectrum Disorde

Attention-Deficit/Hyp

Schizoaffective

Disord

Dissociative Disorders

Seasonal Aff

Bipolar D

Major Dej

Borderline Personali

During late June, 40% of U.S. adults reported struggling with mental health or substance use

STARTED OR INCREASED SUBSTANCE USE 13%

SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED SUICIDE

*Based on a survey of U.5. adults aged ≥18 years during June 24-30, 2020 [†]In the 30 days prior to survey

For stress and coping strategies: bit.ly/dailylifecoping

CDC.GOV

bit.ly/MMWR81320

2020 Statistics

MMWR

11%

Bidirectional Associations

Between COVID-19 and Psychiatric Disorders

Neurologic and Psychiatric

Outcomes in COVID-19

Survivors

https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(20)30462-4/fulltext#seccestitle10 Taquet M et al. Lancet Psychiatry. 2021;8(2):130-140.



2022 Statistics



Check for updates

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Risks of mental health outcomes in people with covid-19: cohort study

Yan Xie,^{1,2,3} Evan Xu,¹ Ziyad Al-Aly^{1,3,4,5,6}

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE

To estimate the risks of incident mental health disorders in survivors of the acute phase of covid-19.

DESIGN

Cohort study.

SETTING

US Department of Veterans Affairs.

to 1.43); 13.29 (11.71 to 14.92) per 1000 people at one year), and use of antidepressants (1.55 (1.50 to 1.60); 21.59 (19.63 to 23.60) per 1000 people at one year) and benzodiazepines (1.65 (1.58 to 1.72); 10.46 (9.37 to 11.61) per 1000 people at one year). The risk of incident opioid prescriptions also increased (1.76 (1.71 to 1.81); 35.90 (33.61 to 38.25) per 1000 people at one year), opioid use disorders (1.34 (1.21 to 1.48); 0.96 (0.59 to 1.37) per 1000 people at one



Nutritional Targets = Food & Nutrients



Nutritional Targets

Prebiotic foods: garlic, leeks, onions, jicama
Fermented foods: kimchi, sauerkraut

Fiber: vegetables, berries, beans, nuts, seeds
Clean proteins

• Healthy fats: avocado, extra-virgin olive oil

• Spices and herbs

Omega-3 fatty acids: wild sockeye salmon, sardines, walnuts, chia

• Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory

Step 1: Clean up How We Are Eating Limit: Fast foods Processed & ultra processed Trans fats Added sugars **Refined** grains Cereals **Processed meats** Sugar-sweetened beverages Unhealthy oils **Sweeteners** Junk foods (gluten-free/fat-free/lactose-

free/low-calorie/sugar-free)

Nutritional Psychiatry Nuances

OHOH

Overlooked: Nutrient-Dense & Fiber-Rich Nutrients



Fermented Foods



Targeting Anxiety & Mood











Non Seafood sources: Flax seeds • Chia seeds Basil seeds • Sea vegetables Algae • Supplements

Spices and Herbs: Role in Anxiety & Depression

BS



Food insecurity

Food desserts

Hunger Community collaboration

Community

Resources

Social Worker Case Manager Peer Workers Community Nurse

Government

Programs



"There is joy in food, and eating should be enjoyed ... " —Uma Naidoo MD





DR. UMA NAIDOO, MD THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON FOOD

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

"When it comes to cooking and eating to improve mental health, nobody does it better than Dr. Naidoo." -WILLIAM W. LI, MD, author of *Eat to Beat Disease*

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON FOOD

AN INDISPENSABLE GUIDE TO THE SURPRISING FOODS THAT FIGHT



Nutritional Psychiatrist, Harvard Medical School

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