


**Exclusive Webinar Presentation**

# Applying Nutrigenomics in Clinical Practice: THE NUTS AND BOLTS

Earn  
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CPEU



Presented by Sheila Dean, DSc, RDN, LDN, CCN, CDE, IFMCP on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 from 2:00-3:00pm ET  
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## Disclosure

- Co-founder of the Integrative and Functional Nutrition Academy™
- IFNA™ is an Accredited Provider of CPEUs by the CDR
- IFNA™ offers the IFNCP™, Integrative and Functional Nutrition Certified Practitioner Advanced Practice Credential

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## 3 key objectives:

1. To define what nutritional genomics is generally about to the extent that we understand at this time
2. To identify how our unique genes affect our nutritional needs
3. To identify how food affects the way these unique genes of ours express themselves

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## Human Genome Project

- An international research effort begun in the 1980s to map and sequence about 30,000 genes found in the human species and then finally completed in 2003, two years ahead of schedule.
- The outcome?




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## A Deepened Understanding Of:

- Genomics – the study of genes and their function
- Epigenetics – how environment controls gene activity
  - **Nutritional genomics – how nutrients affect gene expression**
  - Pharmacogenomics – how drugs affect gene expression




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## Nutritional Genomics or “Nutrigenomics”:

- Using nutrients (and other natural factors) to serve as “dietary signals” to modify gene expression, the making of proteins, and metabolic function.

Simply put:  
**Gene x Nutrient**  
*interactions*




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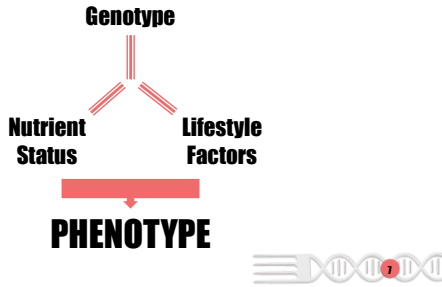
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### Gene ~ Environment Interaction

The interplay between genetic inheritance and the environment is a major factor that determines propensity towards disease or health.




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### NutriGenomics

Diet is the most important environmental factor influencing expression of genetic information because of the constant exposure to food.



JADA, April 2005 pg 589-596.




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### TIME Magazine

January 18, 2010

“It is these epigenetic marks that tell your genes to switch on or off, to speak loudly or whisper.”




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### Chromosomes, histones and methyl groups

- Chromosomes → histones that act as spools around which the DNA winds → “epigenetic marks”/methyl groups on the CpG island → gene silencing
- The CpG sites or CG sites are regions of DNA where a cytosine nucleotide occurs next to a guanine nucleotide in the linear sequence of bases along its length.




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### The Nutrigenomic Paradigm

**GENOME: The Story of the Most Astonishing Scientific Adventure of Our Time – The Attempt to Map All the Genes in the Human Body**

“Genes in and of themselves do not create disease. Only when they are plunged into a harmful environment unique to the individual do they create the outcome of disease”.




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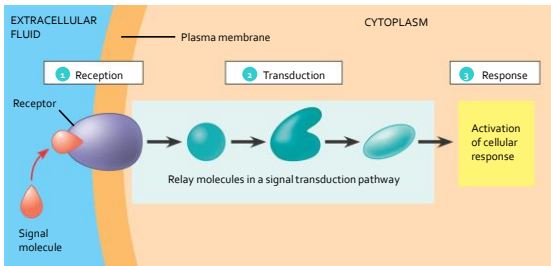
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### Cell Communication—How it Works

- Overview of cell signaling



Used with permission: Biology 11<sup>th</sup> ed, Pearson




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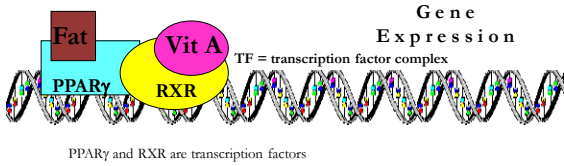
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### Gene X Environment



### Outcome

Used with permission Ruth Debusk, PhD, RD




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### Stressed Foods – Are We Eating More Than We Think?

“Obese livestock and unusual fat profiles in farmed fish, meat and eggs may reflect stress phenotypes. Consumers of stressed foods may sense those signals and assume the stressed phenotype. This maladaptive process may promote obesity toward caloric accumulation in the context of energy abundance. Regional tissue accumulation of fat may indicate local tissue stress. Atherosclerosis may result from stress signals that induce sympathetic bias and regional fat accumulation in vessel adventitia. Medications such as neuroleptics and foods such as diet drinks may generate illegitimate signals by mimicking molecules used for energy management...”

Yan AJ, et. al. Med Hypotheses. 2006; 67 (1):36-60




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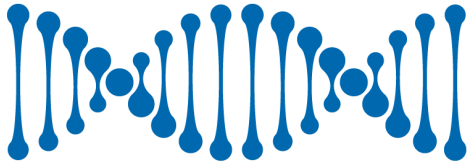
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### Nutrition and Epigenetics

Miki Tokunaga, Teru Takahashi, Ram B. Singh, Fabien De Maester, Douglas W. Wilson  
Mol Epigenet 2013; 1:70-77




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NutriGenomic Profile: Genes and Diet	
APOE2	Lower Carbohydrate, Alcohol
APOE3	Lower caloric, Soluble fiber, Alcohol for women (neutral for men)
APOE4	Low Fat, No Cholesterol, Soluble Fiber Alcohol for women, No Alcohol for men
CETP	Alcohol Mediterranean Diet (Low sat. fat; high olive oil, fish, and fiber)
AGT	Low Salt Diet
MTHFR	5-methyl THF; Folate, B2, B12, B6
VDR	Vitamin D
COL1A1	Calcium- higher dose with more frequent dosing
IL1- $\beta$	Fish Oils, HCl, Nettle Leaf
IL-6	Fish Oils, Siberian Ginseng, Zinc, NAC, Vitamin E, CLA, beta-sitosterol for acutes DHEA (other steroids, E, P, and T)
TNF- $\alpha$	Fish Oils, Nettle Leaf, NAC, Green Tea



CYP1A1	Avoid grilled and well-cooked foods Eat Brassica and Allium Foods Use only DIM (no IC3) Resveratrol – Red Wine Do Not Smoke
CYP1B1	Avoid grilled and well-cooked foods Eat Brassica and Allium Foods Fish Oils IC3 or DIM Resveratrol – Red Wine DHEA
GNB3	Increased risk of metabolic syndrome and obesity
COMT	Adequate B6, B12, folate, magnesium, and methionine to prevent elevated homocysteine Antioxidants to prevent oxidation of pro-carcinogenic 4-OHestrogens
GSTM1	Antioxidants Greatest benefit from Brassica, Allium, or Apiaceous vegetables depending on genotype and gender
GSTP1	Antioxidants
SOD2	Antioxidants
SELE	Decrease NF- $\kappa$ B activation via vitamins E & C, NAC, milk thistle, green tea



#### How Dietary Polyphenols Interfere with Oxidative Stress-triggered Signaling

- Oxidative stress induces inflammation by triggering  $\rightarrow$  NF- $\kappa$ B activation (a major proinflammatory cytokine) which affects a wide variety of cellular signaling processes leading to generation of inflammatory mediators such as the expression of pro-inflammatory genes such as:
  - IL-1 $\beta$
  - IL-8
  - TNF $\alpha$
- On the flip side, to counter the effects of oxidative stress, the cells are also going to express  $\rightarrow$  protective antioxidant genes such as MnSOD (Mn super oxide dismutase).
- Polyphenols and flavonoids inhibit pro-inflammatory gene expression by:
  - downregulating proinflammatory cytokines such as NF- $\kappa$ B and "silencing" these genes via histone deacetylation so the DNA condenses and does not allow expression of the gene.
  - expression of antioxidant genes are upregulated.

Rahman I, Biswas SK, Kishore PA. Regulation of inflammation and redox signaling by dietary polyphenols. *Biochem Pharmacol*. 2006;72:1439-1452.





### Standard American Diet = SAD

- Refined sugar
- Refined flour
- Preservatives
- Additives
- Pesticides
- Hormones
- Trans fats
- Animal protein
- Caffeine
- Alcohol
- Artificial chemicals/sweeteners/fats




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### Genetic "Language"

- The genetic code is specified by the four nucleotide "letters":
  - A (adenine),
  - C (cytosine),
  - T (thymine),
  - G (guanine).
- What happens when a single nucleotide, such as an A, replaces one of the other three nucleotide letters: C, G, or T ???




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### Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)

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ATGGTAAGCCTGAGCTGACTT
ATGGTAAACCTGAGTTGACTT
      ↑           ↑
      SNP       SNP
  
```

- A SNP (aka *gene variant*) that is caused by a change in a single nucleotide.
- Any protein can have a SNP! – important!!




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### Single Nucleotides Polymorphisms - SNPs

- Single base mutation in DNA
- Most simple form of genetic polymorphism
- SNPs occur in greater than 1% of the population. We all have millions (about 3) of SNPs!
- There are 15 million locations where SNPs can occur/occur 0.5-10 per every 1000 base pairs
- SNPs are associated with almost all diseases.

Source: DeBash, R. Genetics: The Nutrition Connection, 2003




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### Diet → Genes → Metabolism → Function

**Key Points:**

- Everyone has the same genes in slightly different versions, called “gene variants” or “SNPs”.
- It’s these variations that distinguish one person from another.
- Different variations (gene variants) lead to different metabolism and function between individuals (+,-,N) due to different nutrient requirements and effects on gene variants.




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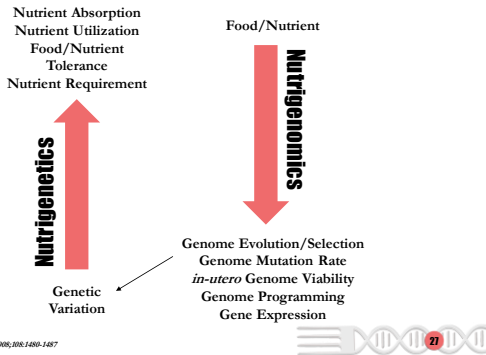
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### Nutrigenetics vs. Nutrigenomics



Source, P et al. JADA, 2008;108:1480-1487

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## **MTHFR** **An Example Of A Common SNP**

3 possible outcomes:

- /- Normal or "wild-type"
- /+ Heterozygous for the SNP
- +/+ Homozygous for the SNP



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## **The 5 Major Methylation Pathway Cycles**



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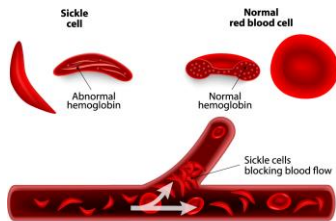
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## **Variations Within Variations**

MTHFR -low penetrance, high frequency variation

Sickle Cell Anemia – high penetrance, low frequency



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**Ruth Debusk, Ph.D, R.D.**

*It's Not Just Your Genes. BKDR Publications, 2006.*

“Even if you carry gene variants that mark you as being susceptible to a complex disease, the variants alone won't make you ill. They do increase the risk that a disease will develop in the presence of certain behaviors...”



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**Methylation SNPs**



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**CBS – Cystathionine Beta-Synthase**

- CBS initiates the trans-sulfuration pathway, converting homocysteine in to cystathionine and its downstream metabolites.
- One of the most important methyl cycle defects
- C699T snp upregulates CBS 10-fold
- Excess Ammonia production
- Excess Sulfite/Sulfate production



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Reference: Pradosa et al, 2006

## Diseases Related to Poor Folate Metabolism

- Spina bifida and other NTDs
- Depression, Anxiety, OCD
- Alzheimer's
- Cognitive Decline
- Heart Disease and Stroke
  - Elevated homocysteine
- Cancer
- Poor detoxification



## MTHFR Research

*American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*  
Vol. 88, No. 5, 1413-1418, November 2008

### ORIGINAL RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

- Risk of colorectal cancer associated with the C677T polymorphism in 5,10-methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase in Portuguese methylated
- Catarina Susana Fidalgo and M...
- Background involves methylated colorect
- Objecti genetic p (methylen tetrahydrofolate reductase), MTHFR (methionine synthase), and C1420T SHMT (serine hydroxymethyltransferase) with the intake of methyl-donor nutrients in CRC risk.

**“High intake of folate (>406.7 µg/d) was associated with a significantly lower risk of CRC.. homozygous participants for the C677T MTHFR variant (TT) showed a 3.0-fold increased risk of CRC..”**

- **Design:** Patients with CRC ( $n = 196$ ) and healthy controls ( $n = 200$ ) matched for age and sex were evaluated for intake of methyl-donor nutrients and the 3 polymorphisms.
- **Results:** Except for folate intake, which was significantly lower in patients ( $P = 0.02$ ), no differences were observed in the dietary intake of other methyl-donor nutrients between groups. High intake of folate (>406.7 µg/d) was associated with a significantly lower risk of CRC (odds ratio: 0.67; 95% CI: 0.45, 0.99). The A2756G MTR polymorphism was not associated with the risk of developing CRC. In contrast, homozygosity for the C677T MTHFR variant (TT) showed a 3.0-fold increased risk of CRC.
- **Conclusion:** These results show an association between the C677T MTHFR variant and different folate intakes on risk of CRC.



## Contribution of the MTHFR gene to the causal pathway for depression, anxiety and cognitive impairment in later life.

### Neurobiol Aging

Almeida OP, Flicker L, Lautenschlager NT, Leedman P, Vasikaran S, van Boekxmeer FM. 2005 Feb;26(2):251-7.

**“Subjects with the TT genotype have higher homocysteine levels and may be particularly prone to experiencing depression as a result of high plasma Hcy and dysfunction of methylation metabolic pathways critical to the synthesis of noradrenaline and serotonin.”**

PMID: 15582752 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



### The 677 C/T MTHFR polymorphism is associated with essential hypertension, coronary artery disease, and higher homocysteine levels.

*Arch Med Res. 2008 Jan;39(1):125-30. Epub 2007 Oct 15.  
Iltan N, Kavakcı M, Kaman D, Iltan N, Oğuz Y.*

“The TT genotype of the 677C/T MTHFR polymorphism is associated with EH and CAD. In addition, TT genotypes had higher plasma Hcy levels in CAD patients compared with CC and CT genotypes.”



### Agouti Mice

*Randy Jirtle, 2000  
Duke University*



With no more than a change in diet, laboratory agouti mice were prompted to give birth to young that differed markedly in appearance and disease susceptibility.



### Mexican Pima Indians: Now & Then



A series of horizontal lines for taking notes, corresponding to the three main sections of the page.

## “Thrifty Gene” Theory – The Survival Advantage

- Those who have “thrifty genes” can survive in conditions of famine and scarcity because their genes allow them to build up fat during times of “feasting” or times of plenty so as to avoid starvation during famine.
- With a shift to the SAD diet, food has become abundant year round. So the same genes that saved our ancestors from starvation now put us at a disadvantage because they are exposed to “too much of too little”. That is too many calories of very little nutritional quality.




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## Diseases Related to Poor Folate Metabolism

- Spina bifida and other NTDs
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- Alzheimer’s
- Cognitive Decline
- Heart Disease and Stroke
  - Elevated homocysteine
- Cancer
- Poor detoxification




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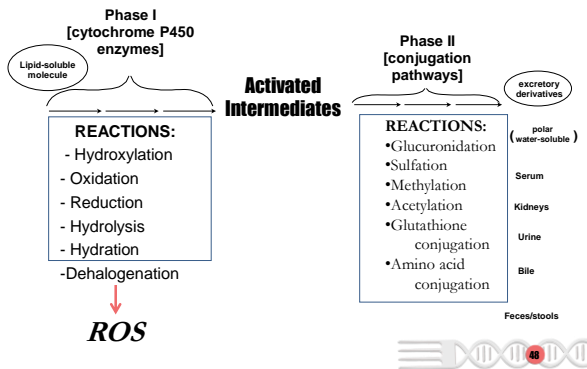
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## Reactions Involved in Detoxification Pathways




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### Glutathione s-transferase

Result	Gene	Location	Affects
Present	GST M1	1p13.3	Liver/Kidney
- -	GST P1	I105V	Brain/Skin
- +	GST P1	A114V	Brain/Skin

**Key:**

- - Neither chromosome carries the genetic variation - "wild type"
- + - One chromosome (of two) carries the genetic variation – Heterozygous positive
- + + Both chromosomes carry the genetic variation – Homozygous positive




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### SOD – Superoxide Dismutase

Result	Gene	SNP Location	Affects
- -	SOD1	G39A	Cytosol
- -	SOD1	A4V	Cytosol
+ -	SOD2	A16V	Mitochondria

**Key:**

- - Neither chromosome carries the genetic variation - "wild type"
- + - One chromosome (of two) carries the genetic variation – Heterozygous positive
- + + Both chromosomes carry the genetic variation – Homozygous positive




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### 4<sup>th</sup> Leading Cause Of Death Is...

- According to article by JAMA an estimated 2,216,000 (1,721,000 to 2,711,000) hospitalized patients had serious adverse drug reactions (ADRs) and 106,000 (76,000 to 137,000) had fatal ADRs, *making these reactions between the fourth and sixth leading cause of death.*
- Today that statistic is being quoted as closer to the third leading cause of death.
- This means that patients that received the correct doses of the correct drugs administered by the proper health care professional still had so many ADR's that it is a leading cause of DEATH!



Source: JAMA. April 15, 1998;279(15):1200-5

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## WHY Is This Happening?

- “**Any factor** that alters pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamics could be responsible for adverse drug events.”
  - Gladson. Pharmacology for Physical Therapists, pg 47
- What does this mean?
- Biochemical Individuality and Genetic Uniqueness




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## Glutathione S-transferase M1, P1, T1

Gene	What Does the Gene Do?	Genetic Variation Detected	Do You Have the Variation?	What Does This Mean For You?
<b>GSTM1</b>	The GSTM1 gene is involved in the second phase of detoxification, helping to remove toxins from the body through sweat and urine.	Deletion (Del)	Yes  Your Result: (deleted)	Detoxification: You do not have a working copy of the GSTM1 gene, which means that you may have reduced detoxification capacity.
<b>GSTP1</b>	The GSTP1 gene is another gene involved in the second phase of detoxification.	Ile105Val  Other names for this variation: 313 A>G, R41695	No  Your Result: (A,A)	Detoxification: You do not have SNP at position 313 of the GSTP1 gene- no gene specific recommendations required
		Ala114Val Other names for this variation: 341 C>T, rs1138272	No  Your Result: (G,G)	Detoxification: You do not have a SNP at position 341 of the GSTP1 gene- no gene specific recommendations required.
<b>GSTT1</b>	The GSTT1 gene is also involved in the second phase of detoxification	Deletion (Del)	Yes  Your Result: (Deleted)	Detoxification: You do not have a working copy of the GSTT1 gene, which means that you may have reduced detoxification capacity.




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## How Do You Evaluate/Interpret This? Look At The Big Picture!




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### Who? When? What? Why? The Patients Story!

- Pattern analysis
- Looking at nutrigenetic trends
- Patient diagnosis
- Family history
- Clinical symptoms
- Traditional blood work
- Urine chemistries
- Functional labs
- Readiness to change
- Financial resources




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### Health benefits of fruit and vegetables are from additive and synergistic combinations of phytochemicals

Rai Hai Lin

“Regular consumption of fruit and vegetables is associated with reduced risks of cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, Alzheimer disease, cataracts, and some of the functional declines associated with aging.... We propose that the additive and synergistic effects of phytochemicals in fruit and vegetables are responsible for their potent antioxidant and anticancer activities, and that the benefit of a diet rich in fruit and vegetables is attributed to the complex mixture of phytochemicals present in whole foods.”




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### Patient comes to see you...

- 61 y.o. happily married female
- 2 adult children, professionals and 2 grandchildren
- Attorney, definitely Type A
- Diffuse family hx of CA, no clear pattern or type
- Overweight, BMI 29
- hsCRP ↑
- Most parameters WNL but on high side of normal:
  - Cholesterol, LDL, slightly low HDL
  - BG
  - BP
- Rx: HRT, zolpidem prn and tagamet prn
- Short on time
- Eats out regularly for lunch and dinner
- Diet high in fat and glycemic load, low in fiber
- Likes fruits and vegetables but doesn't take time to prepare
- Drinks socially
- Exercises occasionally/inconsistent
- HER GOALS:
  - Make changes to reduce risk of developing cancer, increase energy, weight loss




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### Nutrigenetic Analysis

Antioxidant Defense

SOD2	-	-
SOD3	+	-

Detoxification, Phase I

CYP1A1	+	+
CYP1A2	+	-

Methylation

MTHFR	+	-
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Detoxification, Phase II

GSTM1	+	+
GSTP1	-	-

- = Usual + = Variant




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### Nutrigenetic Analysis

Cancer Risk Factor	Gene	SNPs	Genotype
Detoxification, Phase I	CYP1A1	2453 A>G	GG
	CYP1A2	-163 A>C	AC
Detoxification, Phase II	GSTM1	Ins/Del	Del/Del
	GSTP1	313 A>G	AA
Antioxidation	SOD2	-28 C>T	CC
	SOD3	670 C>G	CG
Methylation	MTHFR	677 C>T	CT




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### What Would Your Advice To This Patient Be?




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### Basic Nutrition Support

- Diet primarily plant-based (organic)
- Low to moderate fat (high fat yields lipid peroxides)
- Lean protein, minimum well-cooked/grilled meats
- Whole grain foods/methylated B vitamin supplements
- Antioxidant-rich foods/supplements
- Mineral-rich foods/supplements
- Thiol/sulfur-rich foods
- Probiotics for healthy gut microflora of appropriate mix
- High fiber: soluble and insoluble
- Omega-3 fats (high quality)
- Calorie and carb controlled




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### Basic Nutrition Support (cont.)

- Maximize Phase II activity
- 2 major approaches:
  - ↑ intake of polyphenols, especially flavonoids
  - ↑ intake of glucosinolates
    - Whole foods such as cruciferous vegetables
    - Functional foods such as Brocco Sprouts and Brassica teas




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### Best Food Choices

<b>Antioxidants</b>	Fruit/vegetable-rich foods
<b>B2, B3, B6, B12, folate</b>	Whole grains, oranges/juice, dark green leafy vegetables, dried beans and peas
<b>Cruciferous/thiol rich vegetables</b>	Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, watercress
<b>Fiber</b>	Dried beans/peas, fruits, vegetables, oats, barley, brown rice, whole grains
<b>Flavonoid-rich</b>	Red/purple/black fruits/juice, tomatoes, green/black teas, red wine, garlic, onions
<b>Mineral-rich</b>	Nuts, whole grains, green leafy vegetables
<b>Omega-3 fats</b>	Cold-water oily fish, ground flax, omega-3 enriched eggs, certain oils




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### Putting It All Together...

- **Diet**
  - Calorie-controlled, low glycemic load
  - Organic, plant-based whole food diet
  - Lots of polyphenol-rich fruits, vegetables, soy
  - Work on incorporating cruciferous/allium veggies to ↑ phase II and support estrogen metabolism
  - Reduce/eliminate caffeine, smoked/chargrilled protein, nitrites
  - Probiotics and prebiotics
  - Increase omega-3s to reduce inflammation
  - Consider dietary supplements to support various strategic targets
- **Lifestyle**
  - Reduce weight to desirable level (esp. inflammation)
  - Incorporate regular physical activity
  - Manage stress—numerous suggestions here, including making time for friends, down time just for her
  - Avoid tobacco, exhaust fumes
  - Toxin-free cleaning products, ↓ volatile organics




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### Some Of The Labs/Companies That Offer Nutrigenetic Testing

- Those I've worked with:
  - Genova Diagnostics – gdx.net
  - Berkeley Heart Panel → Quest Labs
  - Gene SNP → Market America
  - 23andMe → National Genomics, Lab Corp, available DTC. No longer offers health related genetic reports; only uninterpreted raw genetic data and ancestry- related genetic reports.
    - 23andMe Gene app still available <https://livewello.com/23andme>
  - DNAnalysis
  - Genoma International
  - Nutrigenomix




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### So What We See Is That Nutrigenetic Testing:

- Can explain/confirm patient diagnosis, symptomology, and other data (ie labs) that you already have. It's just one tool in your toolkit
- Identifies the patients "weakest links"
- Can be used as a "behavioral tool" to help with patient compliance
- Can be very useful in the prevention of ADR's and many useful drug applications (i.e. chemo)
- Key NGX panels include:
  - Methylation
  - Detoxigenomic
  - Cardiovascular




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## Take Home Message

- ✓It's not about any one SNP or single magic food
- ✓Nutrigenetic testing is just one piece of the patients story to help you build a more solid nutrition care plan
- ✓Aim for pattern recognition and trend analysis
- ✓Avoid determinant statements about the influence of gene variants on disease outcome.

Image credit: Regina Brigellus-Flohe, Wiley-VCH




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## Other resources and training for the 21<sup>st</sup> century Integrative Practitioner

- Dietitians in Integrative and Functional Medicine Certificate of Online Training
  - [www.integrativerd.org](http://www.integrativerd.org)
- Integrative and Functional Nutrition Academy Advanced Practice Credential - IFNCP™
  - [www.IFNAcademy.com](http://www.IFNAcademy.com)




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- Other web based references:
- [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome)
  - [cdc.gov/genomics](http://cdc.gov/genomics)




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It's not just your genes,  
it's what you bathe them in over a lifetime!

Image credit with permission: Ruth DeBosk, PhD, RD



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**More questions?  
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2. Click "Take Course" on the webinar description page.
3. Select "Start/Resume Course" to complete and submit the evaluation.
4. Download and print your certificate.



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