## Dietary and Environmental Carcinogens – What to Avoid?

### The Breast Cancer Education Association Annual Conference St. Paul, Minnesota October 6, 2018

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Comprehensive Cancer Center designated by the National Cancer Institute

## A lot of research focuses on agents that can cause



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#### Paracelsus



## **Drug Safety**

"Alle Dinge sind Gift und nichts ist ohne Gift; allein die Dosis macht, dass ein Ding kein Gift ist." ( "All things are poison and nothing is without poison; only the dose makes a thing not a poison."

Paracelsus 1493-1541

Paracelsus (born Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim Swiss physician, alchemist

### **Outline of Presentation**

- Introduction to research in the Turesky Laboratory at the University of Minnesota
- The World Health Organization (IARC)
- ➤ What is DNA and a mutation?
- Chemicals in the environment and diet that may cause cancer
  - Contraceptives, tobacco, alcohol, meat, chemicals in packaging materials (multiple sites including mammary gland)
  - Alcohol (liver, colon, mammary gland)
  - Cigarettes (lung, esophagus, liver, pancreas, colon, mammary gland)
  - Traditional herbal medicines (kidney, bladder, liver)
  - UV light, excessive sun exposure (skin cancer)
  - Cooked meats and cooking fumes (lung, colon, pancreas, prostate, mammary gland)
- Lifestyle factors
  - Physical exercise
  - Obesity (multiple cancers)

### Turesky Lab: identifying hazardous chemicals in the environment and diet



Chemical exposures are thought to contribute to cancer in humans

## Diet and cancer: many cancers are caused by lifestyle factors, not genetics



L.N. Kolonel and L.R. Wilkens, *Migrant Studies, ch. 11* in: Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, D. Schottenfeld and J.F. Fraumeni, Jr., eds, 2006

### **Dietary & Environmental Exposures**





**Processed meat** 

**Grilled meat** 



Bacon



Air pollution



Car exhaust



Drugs



Alcohol





**Plastic food** containers



bottles



Pesticides



Food packaging





Hair









Urine

Blood

Saliva

**Biospecimens** 

**Finger nails** 

**Breast milk** 



**Biopsy tissue** 

# How we measure chemicals and biomarkers in human studies?



A mass spectrometer measures the molecular weight of chemical like a scale measures our body weight

# What is the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)?

- > 1969: IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans
- Leading experts in fundamental research and epidemiologists review the impact of chemicals and lifestyle factors on health risk for IARC
- IARC Monograph Vol 114: Red and Processed Meats: 22 experts from 10 countries – evaluated over 800 studies

#### **International Agency for Research on Cancer**



## What is DNA?

- Biochemical information storage and retrieval system (a cell's hard drive)
- Contains only 4 different components (A, C, G, and T) linked in two anti-parallel strands.
- DNA encodes for the information to produce our cells and our body



# How do mutations and cancer occur and what is chemical carcinogenesis ?



Chemicals in the environment or diet "latch-on" to DNA and induce a mutation when the cell divides

Mutations that occur to genes that are tumor suppressor proteins (enzymes) are particularly bad!



### **Cancer Incidence and Mortality in the United States\***

#### New Cancer Cases per Year



\*Estimated numbers from the American Cancer Society, Inc., 2008.

### **Causes and risk factors of breast cancer**



### **Alcoholic Beverages and Cancer Risk**

- Alcohol (ethanol) is a risk factor for oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, liver, colon and breast cancer
- The European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) study reported that 10% of all cancers in men could be attributed to alcohol consumption

**Alcohol** 



Jance

## Relative risk for breast cancer with alcohol consumption



Pooled analysis of data from 53 studies that included 58,515 women with breast cancer (adjusted by study, age, parity, age at first birth and tobacco smoking)

IARC MONOGRAPHS VOLUME 96



# Estrogen and progestogens are required for normal development and function of multiple tissues



Estrogen also can promote breast cancer development mostly via activation of growth factor pathways that prompt cells to divide

### **Alcohol and Cancer Risk: The Good and the Bad**

- Ancient Egyptian Papyri and Sumerian tablets dating back to 2200 BC detail the medicinal role of wine, making it the world's oldest documented man-made medicine
- Moderate consumption of some alcoholic beverages, red wine in particular, may have beneficial effects, which contains a chemical called resveratrol that may be "anticarcinogenic"
- Moderate wine drinking can improve the balance of lowdensity lipoprotein (LDL or "bad" cholesterol) to highdensity lipoprotein (HDL "good" cholesterol), which may clean up or remove LDL from blocking arteries
- Social interactions, relaxation, release of anxiety and stress – can be impacted by consumption of alcoholic beverages
- Binge drinking is not beneficial !!!



### **Packaging Materials and Breast Cancer Risk**



- Bisphenol A, can increase cell proliferation and increase risk of breast cancer
- > The risk is controversial because high levels of exposure are needed to induce the effect !!

### Chemicals in plastics, such as Bisphenol A, can increase cell proliferation and increase risk of breast cancer – but the data is controversial!!

- The U.S. EPA established a reference dose (RfD) for humans at 50 µg BPA/kg body weight (BW) per day based on a 1000-fold reduction of the lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL) in rodent studies.
- The daily human intake of BPA is less than 1 µg per kg body weight per day, rendering the RfD to be considered safe to humans
- Other studies suggest biological effects of Bisphenol A may occur at lower concentrations, or that there is a critical time window of exposure where bisphenol exerts toxic effects

### **Avoiding Exposures to Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals**

- Don't cook foods in plastic containers or use roasting/steaming bags
- Use glass, porcelain, enamel-covered metal, or stainless steel pots, pans, and containers for hot foods and beverages
- Plastics with recycling symbol 2, 4, and 5 are generally considered OK to use. Plastics with recycling symbol 7 are OK
- ➢ Recycling symbol 1 is also OK to use.

Avoid bottles labeled 3 or 7 (PVC and PC) as they exude toxic chemicals able to penetrate your food and drinks, and lengthy exposure can even result in severe health problems.



Bottles made of polyethylene (2 and 4) and polypropylene (5 and PP) are suitable for multiple uses. They're relatively safe if you only store cold water in them and regularly disinfect them.

	L2 HDPE	23 PVC	LDPE	<u>دهم</u> ۹۳	<u>کم</u> PS	OTHER
polyethylene terephthalate soft drink bottles, mineral water, fruite juice container, cooking oil	high-density polyethylene milk jugs, cleaning agents, laundry detergents, bleaching agents, shampoo bottles, washing and shower soaps	polyvinyl chloride trays for sweets, fruit, plastic packing (bubble foil) and food foils to wrap the foodstuff	low-density polyethylene crushed bottles, shopping bags, highly- resistant sacks and most of the wrappings	polypropylene furniture, consumers, luggage, toys as well as bumpers, lining and external borders of the cars	polystyrene toys, hard packing, refrigerator trays, cosmetic bags, costume jewellery, CD cases, vending cups	other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass

### How could obesity lead to breast cancer

Research has identified three main ways



the main ideas being studied. More research is needed to understand this in more detail.



### **Mechanisms of breast carcinogenesis**

DNA damage and mutations

#### **Inherited Mutations**

- About 12% of women in will develop breast cancer during their lives.
- About 72% of women who inherit a harmful BRCA1 mutation and about 69% of women who inherit harmful BRCA2 mutation will develop breast cancer
- Ashkenazi Jewish harbor BRCA1 (8-10%) and BRCA2 (1%); White (non-Ashkenazi Jewish) harbor BRCA1 (2-3%) and BRCA2 (2%)



### How to reduce chemical exposures linked to breast cancer

- Limiting exposure to fumes from gasoline
- Limiting exposure to exhaust from diesel and other fuel combustion, such as from vehicles or generators
- Use electric instead of gas-powered lawn mowers
- Use a ventilation fan to remove fumes when cooking; reduce consumption of charred or burned food
- > Avoid stain-resistant rugs, fabrics and furniture
- > Use a solid carbon block drinking water filter
- Avoid drinking plastic bottled water and consuming foods from metal cans with plastic liners













Other Life-style Factors and Chemical Exposures the Contribute to Cancer Risk

- Cigarettes (lung, esophagus, liver, pancreas, colon, mammary gland)
- Traditional herbal medicines (kidney, bladder, liver)
- UV light, excessive sun exposure (skin cancer)
- Cooked meats and cooking fumes (lung, colon, pancreas, prostate, mammary gland)

### **Cigarette smoke and cancer risk**

### **CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN CIGARETTE SMOKE**

THIS GRAPHIC OFFERS A SUMMARY OF A SELECTION OF HAZARDOUS COMPOUNDS IN CIGARETTE SMOKE & THEIR EFFECTS



This graphic is shared under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives licence.



Some Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicines Cause Cancer, Others Effect Enzymes in Our Bodies and Efficacy of Prescribed Drugs

### Science Translational Medicine









#### Drugs affected:

- > Cyclosporin
- Antidepressants
- Birth control pills
- Indinavir (HIV)
- Irinotecan (Cancer)
- Warfarin (anticoagulant)

Some traditional Chinese herbal medicines cause cancer of the kidney, bladder, and liver

### Some Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicines Cause Cancer

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#### China to roll back regulations for traditional medicine despite safety concerns

Scientists fear plans to abandon clinical trials of centuries-old remedies will put people at

risk.

#### David Cyranoski

29 November 2017



The Chinese government is promoting traditional Chinese medicines as an alternative to expensive Western drugs.

### nature International weekly journal of science

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## Screen uncovers hidden ingredients of Chinese medicine

Genetic audit reveals that some traditional remedies contain endangered animals and toxic plants.

#### Ewen Callaway

12 April 2012

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Chinese herbal medicines contain ingredients derived from endangered animals, toxic plants and livestock, a genetic audit has discovered. Few of these ingredients were listed on the packaging.

"<u>There's absolutely no honesty in the labelling of these products</u>. What they declare is completely at odds with what's in there," says Mike Bunce, a geneticist at Murdoch University near Perth, Australia, who led the study. The results are published today in *PLoS Genetics*<sup>1</sup>.

### Radiation

 Ultraviolet (UV-B light 280-320 nm) from the sun can increase the risk of squamous carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma and malignant melanoma of the skin.



 Ionizing X-rays in high dosage & gamma rays, alpha- and beta-particles and radiation from thermonuclear devices.



# Irradiation and DNA Damage: indoor tanning and UV radiation link



Deanne Lazovich, University of Minnesota



(a) lonizing radiation



(b) Non-ionizing radiation

### The SPF (Sun Protection Factor) Sunscreen



The SPF (Sun Protection Factor) scale is not linear:

SPF 15 blocks 93% of UVB rays

SPF 30 blocks 97% of UVB rays

SPF 50 blocks 98% of UVB rays

Or:

SPF 15 (93% protection) allows 7 out of 100 photons through

SPF 30 (97% protection) allows 3 out of 100 photons through

SPF 75 or SPF 100, do not offer significantly greater protection than SPF 30

http://www.badgerbalm.com/s-30-what-is-spf-sunscreen-sun-protection-factor.aspx

# Meat consumption risk of colorectal, prostate and pancreatic cancer

"The Working Group of IARC classified consumption of **processed meat** as **'carcinogenic to humans' (Group 1)** 

<u>Red meat</u> as 'probably carcinogenic to humans' (Group 2A) ...after considering substantial epidemiological data and strong mechanistic evidence"

"Consumption of processed meat was also positively associated with gastric cancer and red meat was also positively associated with pancreatic and with prostate cancer"







IARC Monographs. 26 Oct 2015

### What is red and processed meat?

Red meat: unprocessed mammalian muscle meat, e.g. beef, veal, pork, lamb, horse or goat meat—including minced or frozen meat.



Processed meat: Meat that has been transformed through salting, curing, fermentation, smoking or other processes to enhance flavor or improve preservation (e.g. bacon, sausage, hot dogs, lunch meats)



Bouvard, et al, Lancet, 2015

## Anatomy of a Hot Dog

What's in a hot dog, and why does it pose health risks?



- Nitrates and Nitrites produce carcinogenic N-nitroso compounds. They also cause the hardening of arteries and may increase risk of diabetes.
- Heme Iron is related to the formation of Nnitroso compounds that may lead to colorectal cancer.
- Heterocyclic Aromatic Amines (HAAs) are carcinogens formed by cooking and grilling at high temperatures.
- Saturated Fat and Cholesterol lead to LDL deposits in arteries, causing narrowing and blockage which can result in heart attacks or strokes.
- **Salt** is linked to both high blood pressure and stomach cancer.
- Trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO) is a chemical that increases the risk of heart disease.

# Reasons to avoid processed meats



### Eating processed meat

- increases risk for colorectal cancer
- Increases risk for heart disease
- Increases risk for type 2 diabetes

https://www.pcrm.org/health/health-topics/anatomy-of-a-hot-dog

# Heterocyclic Aromatic Amines (HAAs) genotoxic chemicals formed in well done cooked meats

- More than 20 HAAs are formed in well-done cooked meats and poultry
- Some HHAs arise in tobacco smoke
- HAAs are multisite carcinogens in rodents
- HAAs are Group 2A or 2B carcinogens
- HAAs induce mutations in rodents
- HAAs induce colorectal, pancreatic and mammary cancers in rodents



# Well-done cooked red meats linked to colon and prostate cancer

# Well-done red meat linked to aggressive prostate cancer

Well-done red meat linked to aggressive prostate cancer

By Amanda Gardner, Health.com (1) Updated 5:03 PM ET, Wed November 23, 2011



"This is another piece of evidence for the notion that ... grilled meat, contains carcinogens," Ronald D. Ennis says.

- What chemical/s contained in red meat is/are responsible for DNA damages of human colon and prostate?
- Looking for biomarkers to understand the chemical agents that contribute to DNA damage of the prostate
- Develop strategies for cancer prevention

## $NH_2$ N-CH MelQx **I**O PhIF

### **PhIP and human cancer**

- PhIP is formed in well-done cooked red meats
  - 1/4 of prostate cancer patients have their DNA damaged by PhIP
  - We can measure PhIP in human hair
  - Comparing increased levels of PhIP with <u>VERY AGGRESSIVE prostate cancer</u>

Hair from Prostate cancer patients

NH<sub>2</sub>



- Can a snip of hair and a simple test change a man's treatment plan?
- Can early aggressive treatment directed by this biomarker screen SAVE LIVES?

# Hair as a Biomarker for the Exposure of PhIP from Cooked Meat



Le Marchand, et al., Carcinogenesis, 2016

### **PhIP in Hair of Prostate Cancer Patients**



Do PhIP hair levels correlate to DNA damage? Tumor aggressiveness?

### Yvorne, Switzerland: The Wine Chateau Maison Blanche, Suisse Bernese Mountain Dog, Chateau Chillon in Montreux







### Biomonitor Trige Transition Heterocyclic



### Public Concern and Controversy about the Safety of Pet Foods

Home > Lifestyle

Poison in jerky treats from China is fatal to some pets; FDA asks pet owners and vets for help

Article by: SUE MANNING , Associated Press | Updated: October 24, 2013 - 4:59 PM



#### http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/229046281.html

### **Blogs on Dog Food and Cancer Risk**

Home » Blog » Dog Food: Is There A Cancer Risk?

Dog Food: Is There A Cancer Risk?

by DEMIAN DRESSLER, DVM



- > Does a dog's diet contribute to **cancer** ?
- High temperature cooking of meat or fish produces heterocyclic aromatic amines.
- Do dogs eat food that has been exposed to high temperatures? Yes!
- Acrylamide is also formed at high temperature cooking.

https://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2013/0 5/27/cooked-meat-carcinogens.aspx



### Scientist Accidentally Discovers a Possible Culprit in the Growing Incidence



#### Dr. Becker Interviews Dr. Turesky

#### https://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2013/ 05/27/cooked-meat-carcinogens.aspx

#### Story at-a-glance

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**Previous Article** 

» Dr. Becker interviews Dr. Robert Turesky, a research scientist for the Division of Environmental Health Sciences at the New York State Department of Health, on his study of hair analysis to detect the presence of specific carcinogens in cooked meat.

Next Article

- » As a test, Dr. Turesky analyzed the fur of his own dogs and much to his surprise, discovered the presence of one of the carcinogens he is researching. Since his dogs don't eat grilled steaks or burgers, it seemed clear they were being exposed through their own processed pet food diet.
- » Dr. Becker discovered that including Dr. Turesky's published study, there appear to be

### How much meat can I eat?



## has determined that eating processed



### **Bacon's Cancer Risk**

How much bacon you have to eat to raise your risk of colorectal cancer

Strips of bacon (per day)

## Smoking a pack of cigarettes for 40 years increases your risk of developing lung cancer by ~30-fold



### **Safe Cooking and Handling of Barbeque Grills**





- Avoid exposure to the smoke generated from cooked meats as they can contain mutagens and potential carcinogens
- Don't over-cook meat!! Avoid eating welldone, charred meat
- Flip meat samples often and use marinades to minimize formation of carcinogens
- Use gloves when removing charred residues on grilled surface - burnt residues may contain carcinogens too!

Not everything we eat or drink is going to kill us!

There are many beneficial foods – some are anti-carcinogenic

### **Preventive (Anti-carcinogenic) Foods**





## Summary

- The diet contains essential nutrients for health and sustenance. There are many beneficial chemicals in food that can protect against DNA damage and may decrease cancer risk
- Minimize alcohol intake: AIRC recommends about the equivalent of one beer or glass of wine per day.
- AICR recommends <u>not more than 18 ounces of red meat per week</u> (about 3 "Quarter Pounders" from MacDonalds).
- Some types of foods and methods of cooking can produce hazardous chemicals.
  <u>Don't eat burnt meat!</u>
- Use common sense! Eat a <u>varied diet</u> containing fish, poultry, soy, eggs, and limiting quantities of meats. There are many foods that protect against DNA damage and cancer.
- There are no "magic bullets". We can minimize exposures to hazardous chemicals in the diet. Enjoy life and enjoy eating. Everything in moderation.

### Don't smoke!

## Take Home Messages

- Environmental and lifestyle-factors can induce DNA damage.
- Environmental and lifestyle-factors can induce cancer.
- In some cases an association is clear, but in most cases it is not.
- There are many beneficial foods and beverages that may protect against cancer.
- Understanding these associations is crucial to identify opportunities for intervention and for prevention!

### **Ten Recommendation for cancer prevention**



http://www.aicr.org/reduce-your-cancerrisk/recommendations-for-cancer-prevention/



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**Byeong-Hwa Yun** Ph. D.



Jingshu Guo Ph. D.



Madjda Bellamri Ph. D.

### **Acknowledgements**

- Turesky Lab
- Masonic Cancer Center's Analytical Biochemistry Shared Resource
- Dr. Chris Weight and Dr. Paari Murugan, Departments of Urology and Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, University of Minnesota
- Dr. Badrinath Konety, and Department of Urology Staff, UMinn
- Bionet, UMinn
- Dr. A. Grollman, Dr. T. Rosenquist, Dr. K. Dickman, Stony Brook Univ., NY
- Dr. L. Le Marchand, Dr. L. Wilkens, Dr. K. White, Univ. Hawaii
- Dr. G. Scelo, IARC, Lyon , France
- The Patients!!

Haoging Chen

Ph. D.

Funding: National Insitutes of Health R01CA122320, R01ES019564, R01CA6220367 R01CA134700, R33CA186795 Cancer Center Support grant CA077598



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Feifei Sun







**Bob Carlson** 

Makenzie Phillsbury

Xun Ming



**Yingchun Zhao** Ph. D.