

# Nutrition in geriatrics – a look at the ESPEN guidelines



***Tommy Cederholm, MD, PhD***

**Professor**

**Clinical Nutrition & Metabolism, Uppsala University**

**Senior Consultant**

**Theme Ageing, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm  
Sweden**

**Previous ESPEN officer**



# Key-messages

- **Malnutrition** in old persons are often combined with
  - **sarcopenia** and
  - **frailty**
- New diagnostic criteria according to **GLIM** combines
  - Weight loss, low BMI, muscle mass↓
  - Reduced food intake, inflammatory disease
- **ESPEN guideline** on nutrition and hydration in geriatrics
  - 82 recommendations based on 337 papers: SR and RCTs
  - Grades of recommendation (A, B, 0, GPP (good practice point))
    - 15 Grade A recommendations, >50% "expert agreement"
  - Strength of consensus; >90% in most recommendations

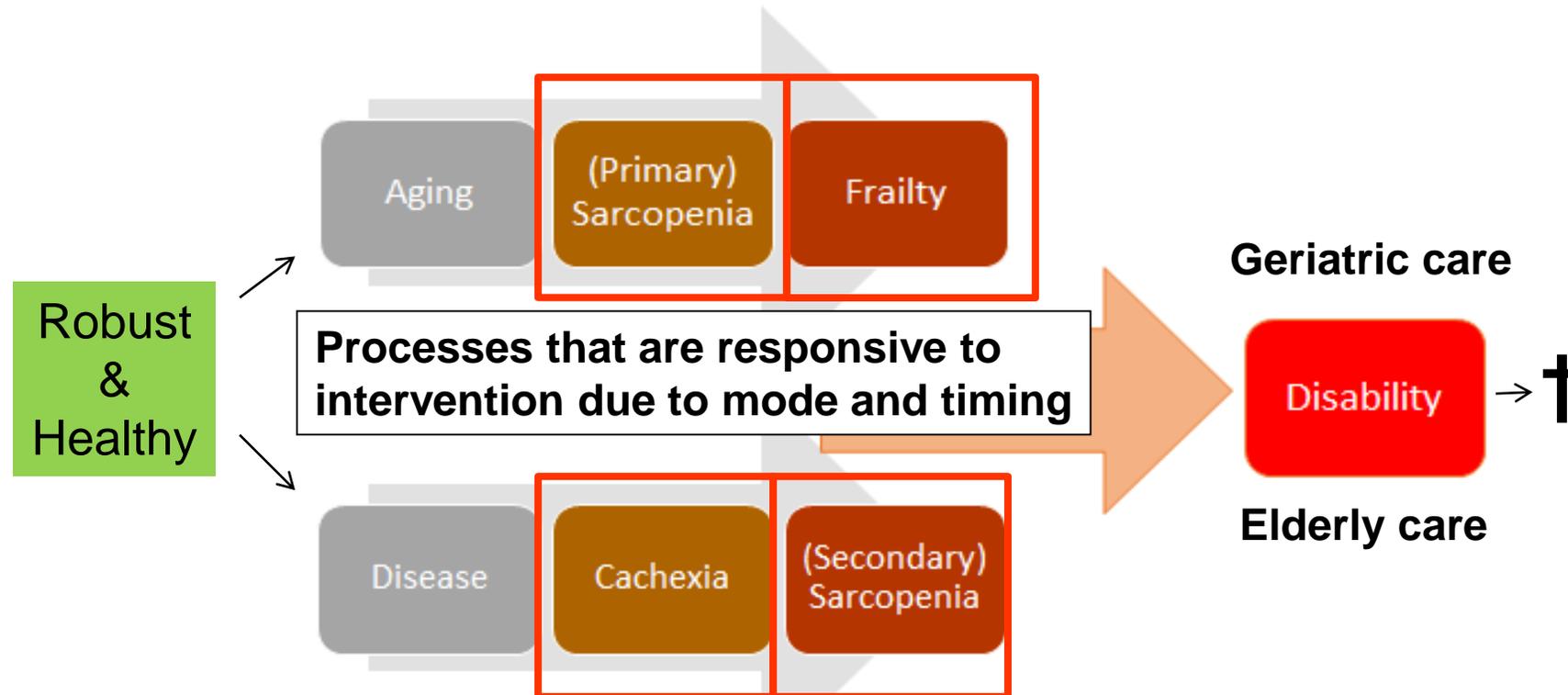
# ESPEN guideline on clinical nutrition and hydration in geriatrics



## 82 recommendations - based on 337 papers, multi-stage Delphi process, voting among ESPEN membership

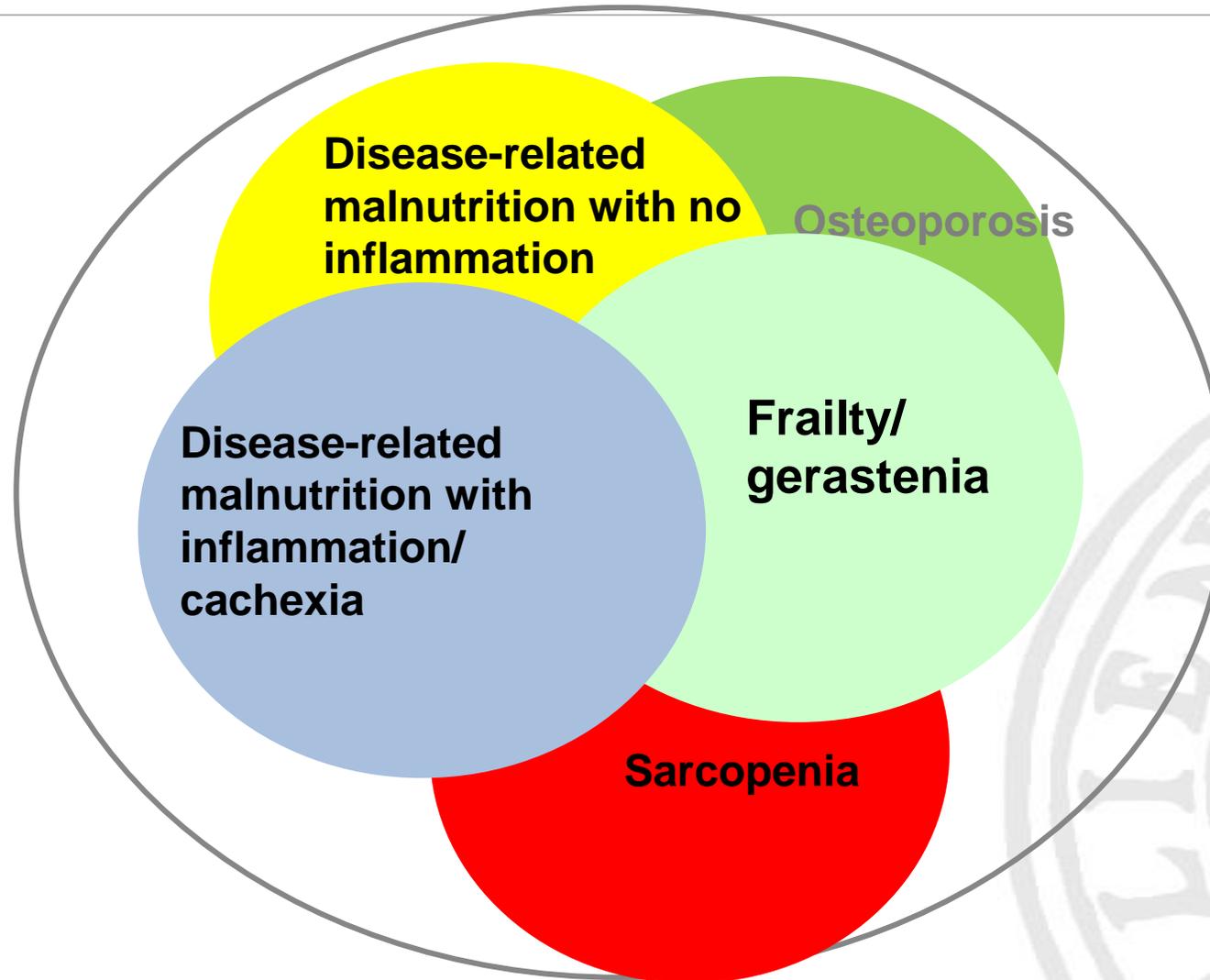
- **Basics – general principles (11 rec.)**
  - Screen routinely followed by systematic assessment
  - Individualize; 30 kcal/kg bw/d, 1 g protein/kg bw/d
- **Malnutrition (31 rec.)**
  - If ONS; provide >400 kcal and 30 g protein/d – Grade A
- **Specific diseases (18 rec.)**
  - Hip fracture: Provide older patients with ONS postop
- **Hydration (22 rec.)**
  - Women: 1.6 L drinks/d
  - Men: 2 L drinks/d

# Ageing & disease → disability & †



**Malnutrition, sarcopenia and frailty are risk factors for disability and death**

# Overlapping catabolic conditions related to reduced function at old age



# Shared etiologies of malnutrition, sarcopenia and physical frailty

## Inflammation

ageing, disease, dysbiosis

## Inactivity/bed rest

## Nutritional deficiencies

“anorexia of aging”, protein RDI too low

## Hormonopause

testosteron↓, estrogen↓, DHEA↓, GH↓, IGF-I↓

## Insulin resistance

relative obesity, inflammation

## Apoptosis↑

Caspase activation, mitochondria DNA mutations

## Motor-unit losses (~50% between 25 and 75 y)

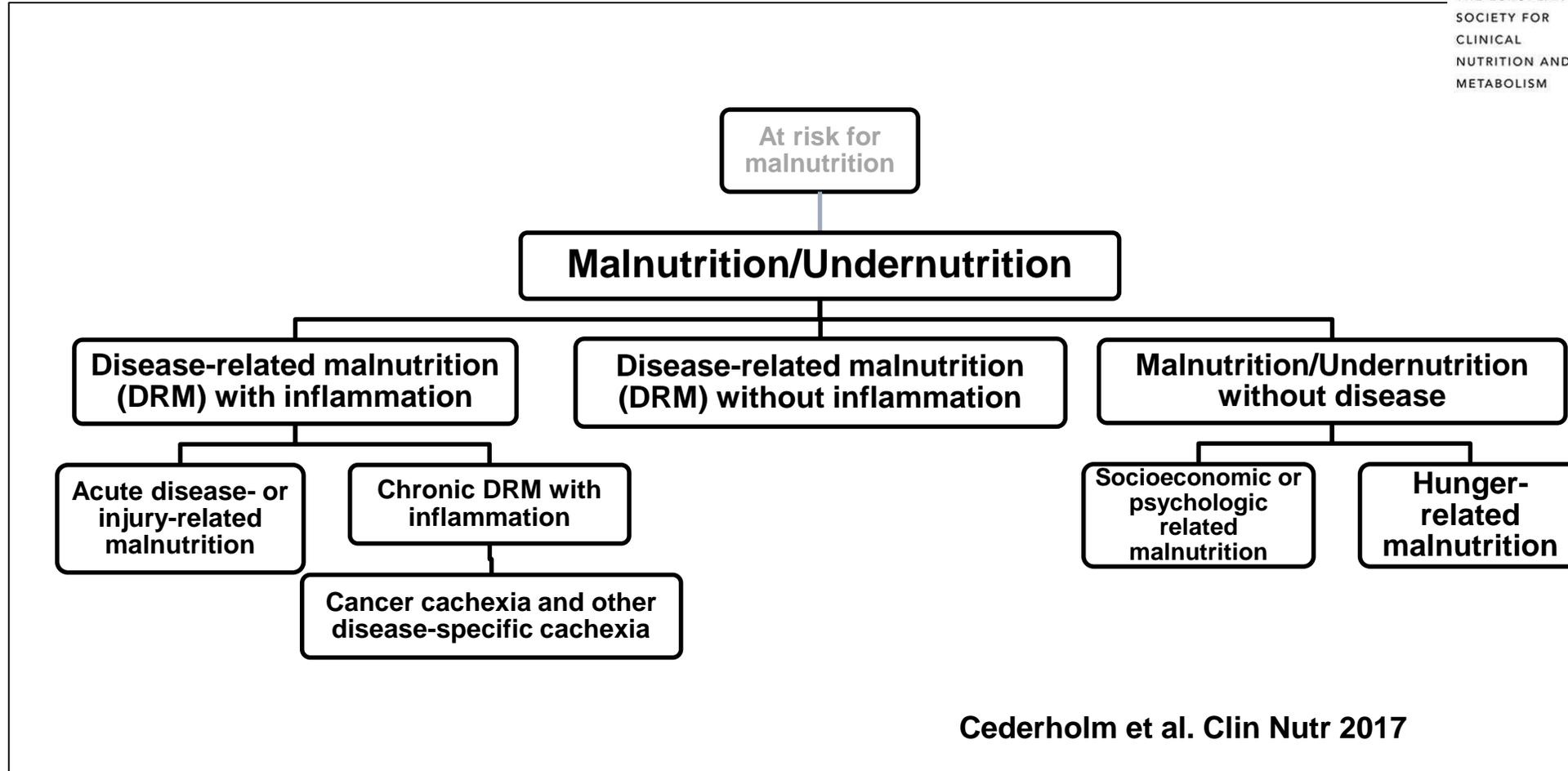
neuro-muscular synaptic damage

## Microbiota/Dysbiosis

“Leaky gut”

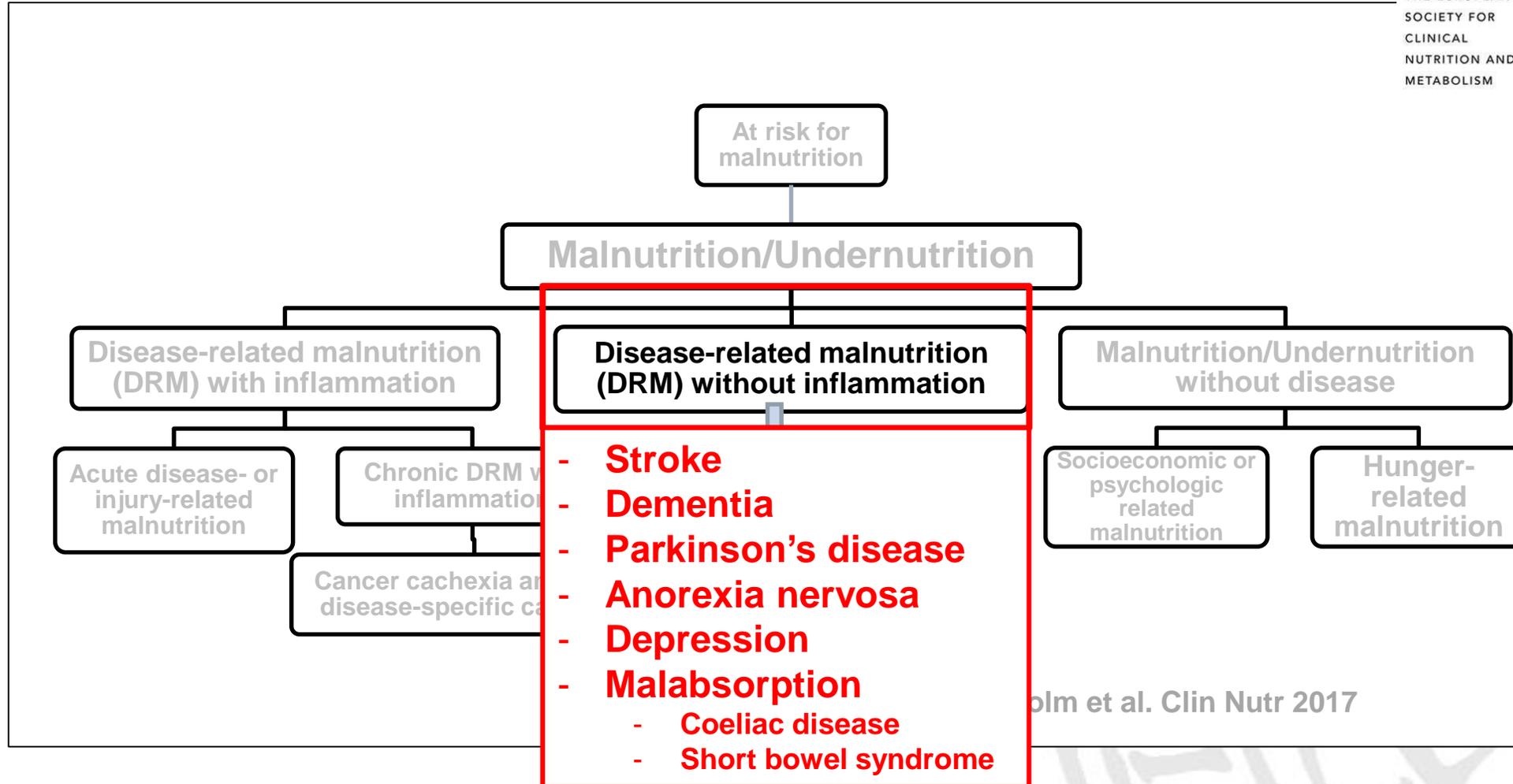


# Malnutrition diagnosis scheme



Cederholm et al. Clin Nutr 2017

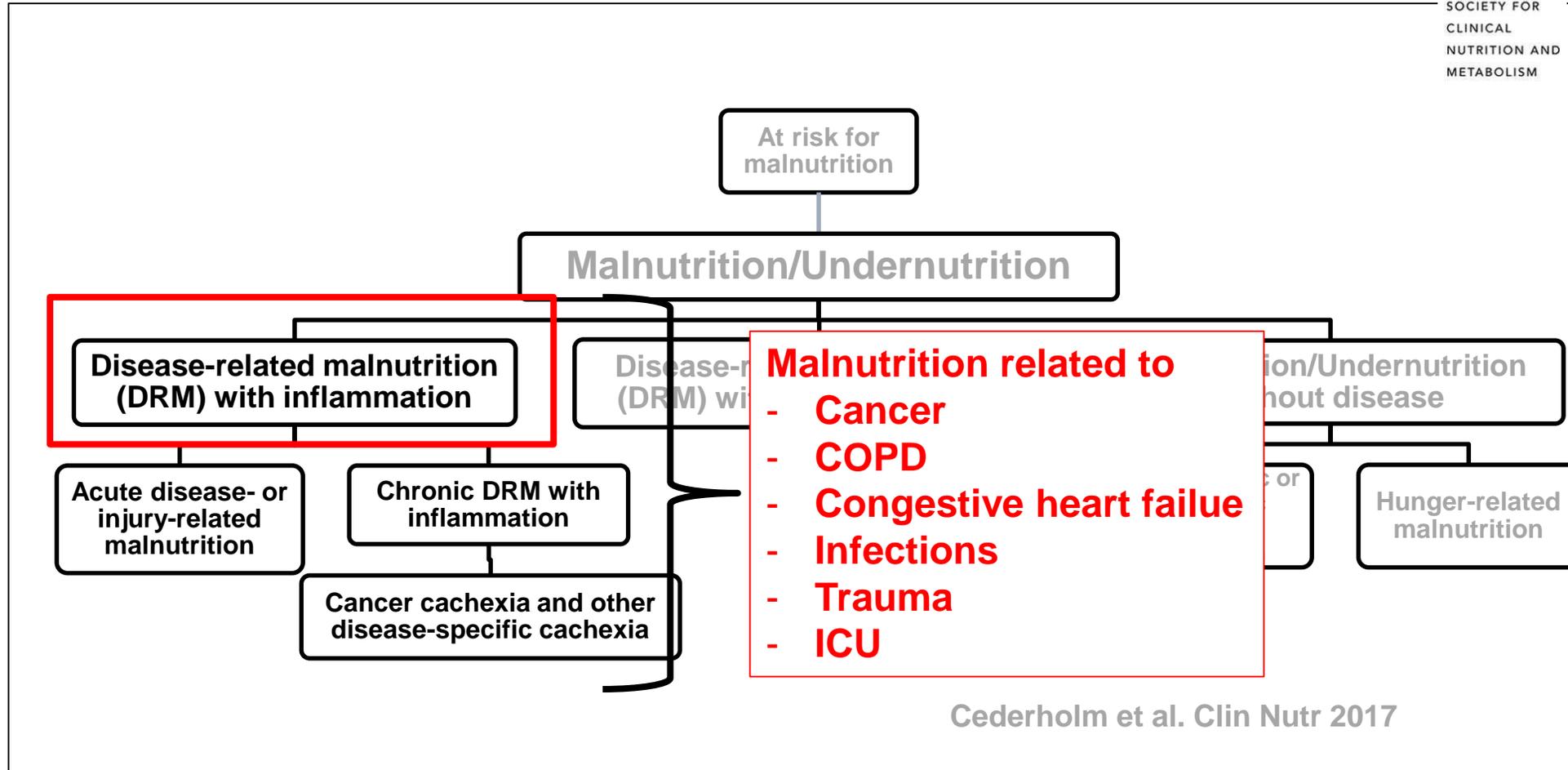
# Malnutrition without inflammation



Polm et al. Clin Nutr 2017

# ESPEN Guidelines on Definitions and Terminology

## Malnutrition with inflammation



Cederholm et al. Clin Nutr 2017

## Efforts in the search for the optimal malnutrition diagnosis tool for global acceptance



- **Subjective Global Assessment (SGA) 1987**
- **Patient-Generated (PG)-SGA 1995**
- **Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA) 1999**
- **Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool (MUST) 2000**
- **MNA-Short Form (MNA-SF) 2001**
- **Nutritional Risk Screening-2002 (NRS-2002) 2002**
- **Cachexia (by Evans) 2008**
- **Protein Energy Wasting (kidney) 2008**
- **ESPEN 2010**
- **Cancer cachexia (by Fearon) 2011**
- **AND/ASPEN 2012**
- **ESPEN 2015**

# Global Leadership Initiative on Malnutrition A GLIM Pathway to Consensus 2016-2018

## ESPEN, ASPEN, FELANPE, PENSA

- **Modified Delphi process**
- **GLIM face-to-face meetings**

CNW/Austin Jan 2016

ESPEN/Copenhagen Sept 2016

CNW/Orlando Feb 2017

ESPEN/The Hague Sept 2017

ASPEN/Las Vegas Jan 2018

ESPEN/Madrid Sept 2018



Jensen. JPEN 2016  
Jensen & Cederholm. JPEN 2017  
Cederholm & Jensen. Clin Nutr 2017





# Survey of criteria used in existing tools

	NRS-2002	MNA-SF	MUST	ESPEN 2015	ASPEN/ AND 2012	SGA	Evans 2008	Fearon 2011
<b><i>Etiology</i></b>								
Reduced food intake	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
Severe disease /Inflammation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b><i>Symptoms</i></b>								
Anorexia		Y				Y	Y	Y
Weakness		Y				Y	Y	
<b><i>Signs/Phenotype</i></b>								
Weight loss	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Body mass index	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
Lean/fat free /muscle mass		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fat mass					Y	Y		
Fluid retention					Y	Y		
Muscle function; e.g. grip strength					Y		Y	



# GLIM consensus criteria decided

	NRS- 2002	MNA- SF	MUST	ESPEN 2015	ASPEN/ AND 2012	SGA	Evans 2008	Fearon 2011
<b><i>Etiologic criteria</i></b>								
Reduced food intake	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
Severe disease /Inflammation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b><i>Phenotypic criteria</i></b>								
Weight loss	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Body mass index	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
Lean/fat free /muscle mass		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y





ELSEVIER

# The GLIM criteria co-published in Clin Nutr, JPEN and JCSM 2018

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Clinical Nutrition

journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/clnu>



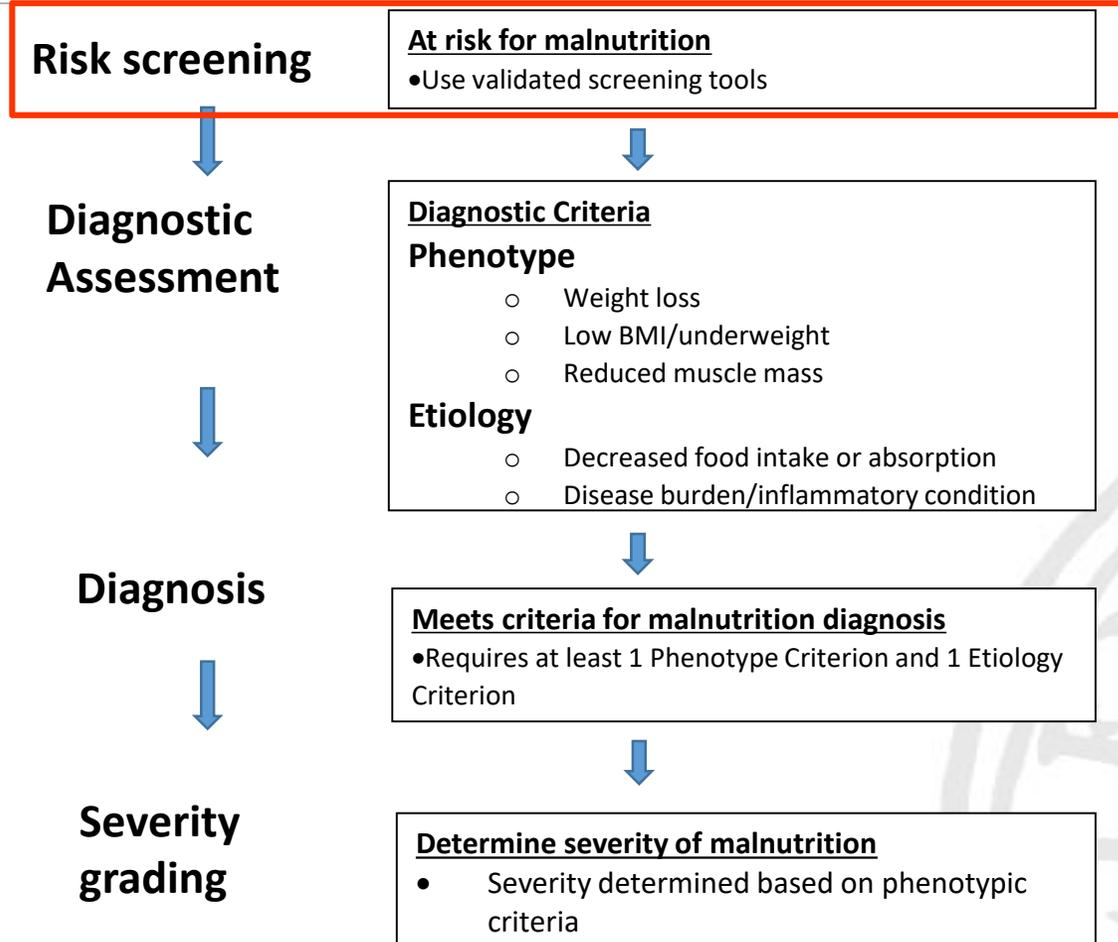
ESPEN Endorsed Recommendation

GLIM criteria for the diagnosis of malnutrition – A consensus report  
from the global clinical nutrition community<sup>☆</sup>

T. Cederholm <sup>a, b, \*, 1</sup>, G.L. Jensen <sup>c, 1</sup>, M.I.T.D. Correia <sup>d</sup>, M.C. Gonzalez <sup>e</sup>, R. Fukushima <sup>f</sup>,  
T. Higashiguchi <sup>g</sup>, G. Baptista <sup>h</sup>, R. Barazzoni <sup>i</sup>, R. Blaauw <sup>j</sup>, A. Coats <sup>k, 1</sup>, A. Crivelli <sup>m</sup>,  
D.C. Evans <sup>n</sup>, L. Gramlich <sup>o</sup>, V. Fuchs-Tarlovsky <sup>p</sup>, H. Keller <sup>q</sup>, L. Lido <sup>r</sup>, A. Malone <sup>s, t</sup>,  
K.M. Mogensen <sup>u</sup>, J.E. Morley <sup>v</sup>, M. Muscaritoli <sup>w</sup>, I. Nyulasi <sup>x</sup>, M. Pirlich <sup>y</sup>, V. Pisprasert <sup>z</sup>,  
M.A.E. de van der Schueren <sup>aa, ab</sup>, S. Siltharm <sup>ac</sup>, P. Singer <sup>ad, ae</sup>, K. Tappenden <sup>af</sup>,  
N. Velasco <sup>ag</sup>, D. Waitzberg <sup>ah</sup>, P. Yamwong <sup>ai</sup>, J. Yu <sup>aj</sup>, A. Van Gossum <sup>ak, 2</sup>, C. Compher <sup>al, 2</sup>,  
GLIM Core Leadership Committee, GLIM Working Group<sup>3</sup>



# The GLIM procedure for the diagnosis of malnutrition



# The GLIM concept of malnutrition

Diagnosis of malnutrition requires at least

- 1 Phenotypic criterion and
- 1 Etiologic criterion

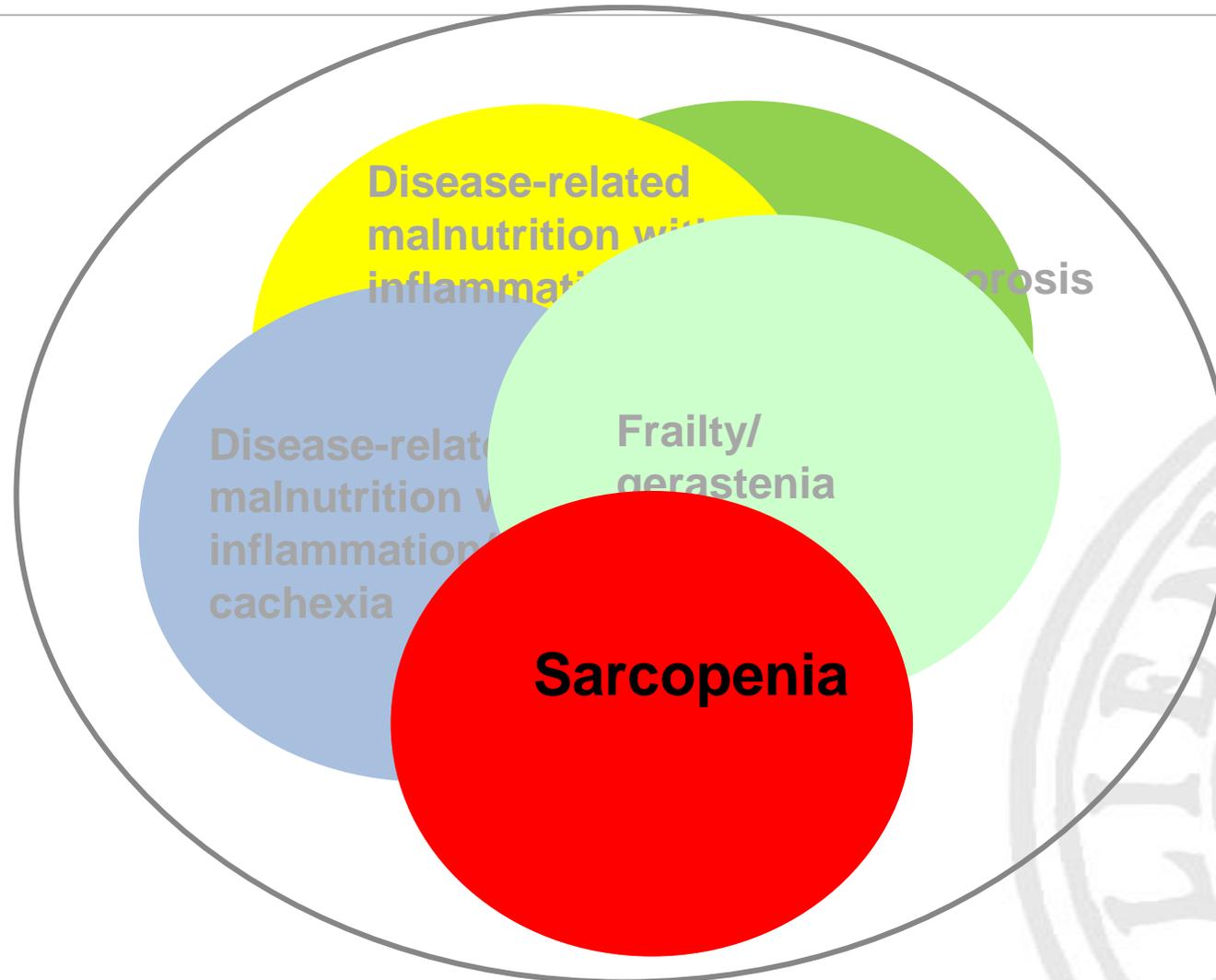
Phenotypic Criteria			Etiologic Criteria	
<i>Weight loss (%)</i>	<i>Low BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>Reduced muscle mass</i>	<i>Decreased food intake or malabsorption</i>	<i>Inflammation</i>
>5% within past 6 months or >10% beyond 6 months	<20 if <70 years or <22 if >70 years  Asia: <18.5 if <70 yrs or <20 if >70 years	By validated body composition measuring techniques (see EWGSOP2)	<50% of ER >1 week, or any reduction for >2 weeks, or any chronic gastrointestinal malabsorption	Acute disease/injury or chronic disease-related inflammation

# Severity grading by phenotype

## Stage 1 (moderate) and Stage 2 (severe) malnutrition

	Phenotypic Criteria		
	Weight loss (%)	Low body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Reduced muscle mass
<b>Stage 1 Moderate Malnutrition</b> (Requires 1 phenotypic criterion that meets this grade)	5-10% within the past 6 mo, or 10-20% beyond 6 mo	<20 if <70 yr, <22 if ≥70 yr	Mild to moderate deficit (per validated assessment methods)
<b>Stage 2 Severe Malnutrition</b> (Requires 1 phenotypic criterion that meets this grade)	>10% within the past 6 mo, or >20% beyond 6 mo	<18.5 if <70 yr, <20 if ≥70 yr	Severe deficit (per validated assessment methods)

# Overlapping catabolic conditions related to reduced function at old age



# Sarcopenia/muscle failure – still an emerging concept

- "Muscle loss steals the freedom of the old,"  
Irvin Rosenberg 1989
- **By ICD-10-CM code M62.84 (2016) sarcopenia is defined as a disease**

- Muscle mass decrease by
  - 30-50% from 20 to 80 y
  - 1-2%/y after 50 y
- Selective typ II fibre atrophy
- Muscle strength ↓ by
  - 15%/10 years between 50 and 70 y
  - 30%/10 years >70

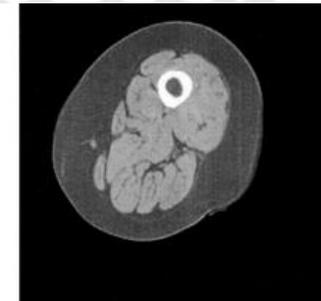
## Sarcopenia is a syndrome

- progressive loss of muscle strength and mass
- risk of adverse outcomes

Cruz-Jentoft et al. Age Aging 2010/2018



Young, active



Old, sedentary

# Diagnostic criteria for sarcopenia/muscle failure



## Impaired muscle strength

- Grip strength (kg): 20/16 (w), 30/27 (m) = **Probable sarcopenia**
- Chair rise: 5 sit-to-stands in >15 sec

+

## Low muscle mass

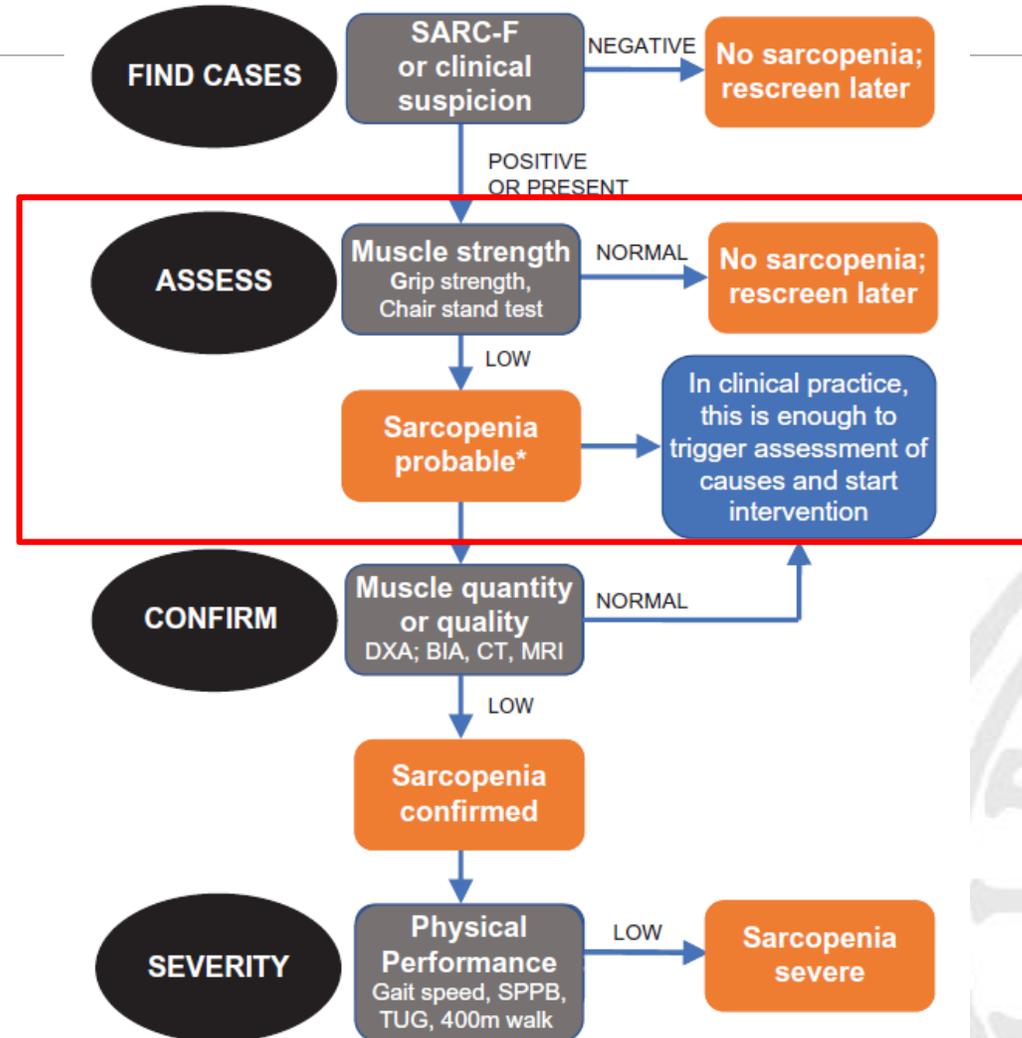
- App. skeletal mass index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>): <5.5 (w), <7 (m) = **Sarcopenia**
- Fat free mass index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>): 15 (w), 17 (m)

+

## Reduced muscle function

- gait speed <0.8 m/s = **Severe sarcopenia**

# The EWGSOP2 algorithm for case-finding



# Measuring muscle strength, function and mass in clinical practice?

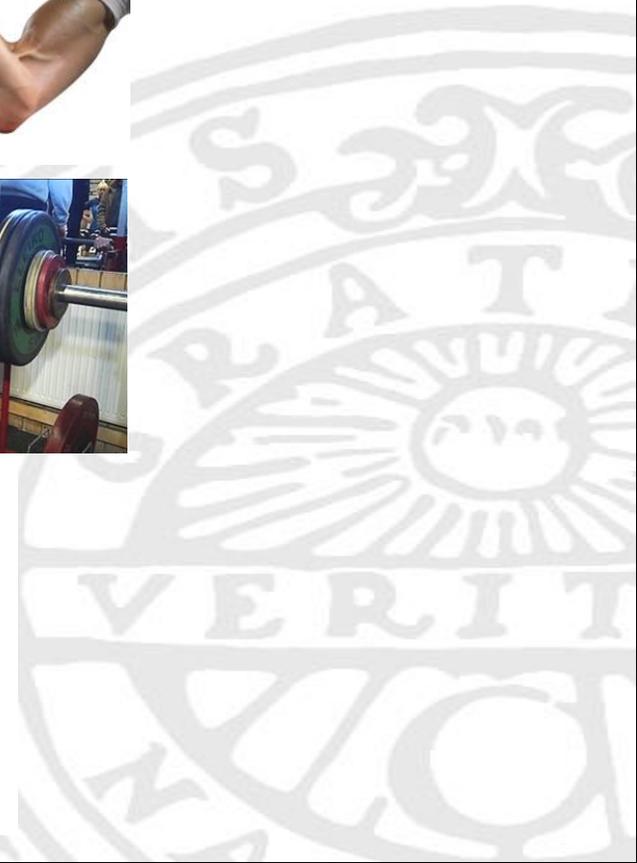
- **Hand grip**
  - Jamar Handdynamometer
  - Martin Vigorimeter?
- **Chair rising**
  - Time for 5 stand-ups
  - No. in 30 sec
- **Stair climb test**
- **Walking speed**
  - 4-10 m
  - Timed-up-go
- **DEXA**
- **Bioelectric Impedance Analysis (BIA)**
- **Anthropometry**
- **CT?, MRI?, US?**



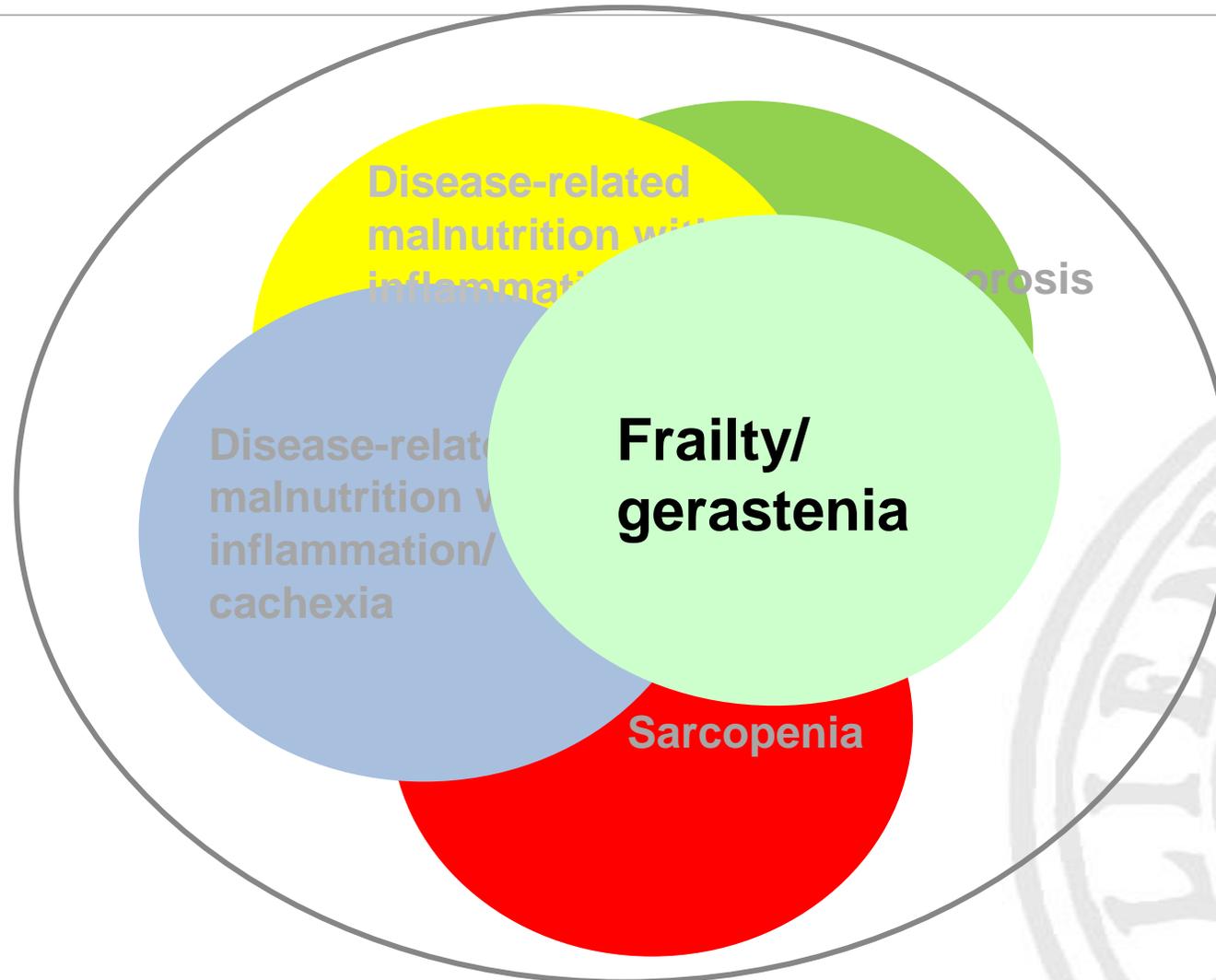
# The role of muscle



- ~40% of body weight
- 50-75% of body protein
- **Mobility**
- **Strength**
- **Amino acid pool**
- **Glucose regulation**
- **Energy metabolism**
- **Endocrine functions**
- ....



# Overlapping catabolic conditions related to reduced function at old age



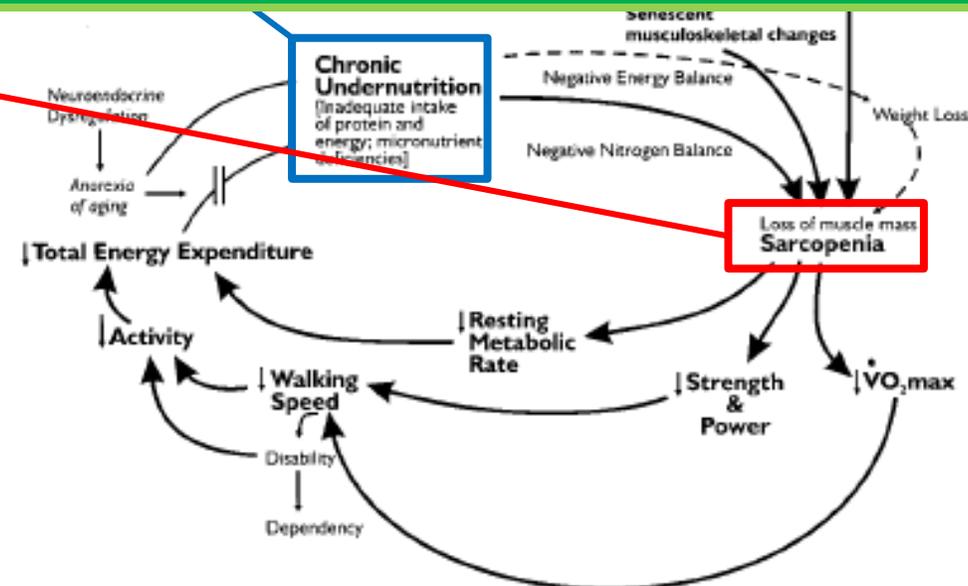
# Q: What is frailty?

Frailty is a state of vulnerability and reduced intrinsic capacity that affects older adults' ability to cope with adverse events (WHO).

Linda Fried's criteria (2001)

- Weight loss
- Weakness
- Exhaustion
- Slowness
- Low physical activity

**R: A combination of malnutrition and sarcopenia**



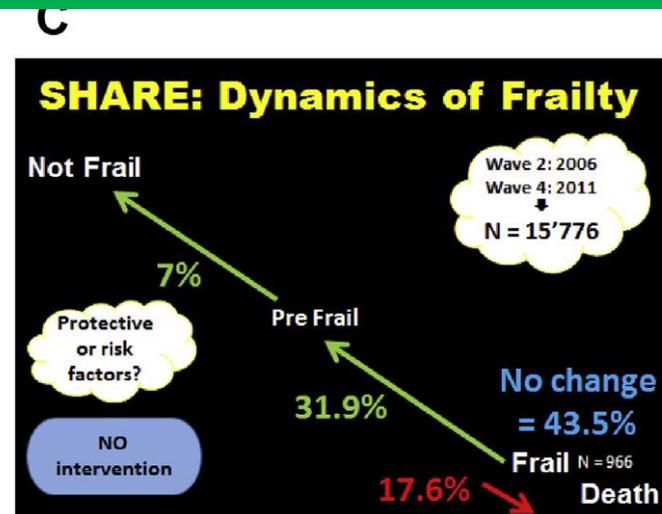
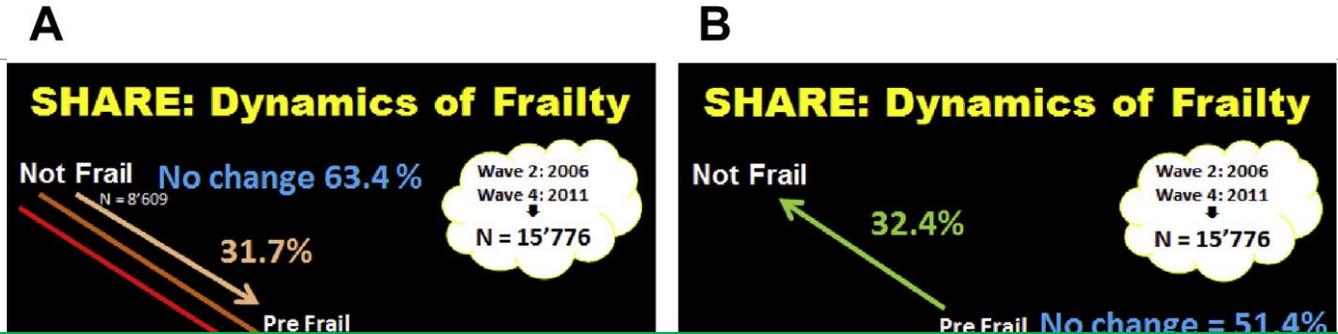
Fried L et al. Frailty in older adults: evidence for a phenotype. J Gerontol 2001

# Frailty is reversible – The SHARE Study

The SHARE Study:

**Nutrition and exercise are the major treatment options for age-related catabolic conditions**

- A: Not Frail
- B: Pre Frail
- C. Frail (40% improved)



# Treatment options for malnutrition, sarcopenia and physical frailty



## ✓ Nutrition

- Regular food
- **Oral supplementation**
- Energy enriched
- **Protein enriched**
  - **Essential amino acids**
- **Vitamin D**
- **Essential fatty acids**
- **Dietary patterns**
- **Enteral nutrition**
- Nasogastric tube
- PEG
- **Parenteral nutrition**



- ✓ Anabolic treatment
  - BCAA, **leucin**, HMB
  - GH, Nandrolon,
  - SARMs

## ✓ Reduce catabolism

- Myostatin inhibitors - decoy receptors
- Ghrelin agonists - anamorelin
- Megesterol acetate
- Proteasome inhibitors
- ACE inhibitors

## ✓ Immuno modulation

- **n-3 and n-6 fatty acids**
- Arginine, glutamine
- Anti-oxidants

- ✓ **Physical activity**  
**Resistance training**



# ESPEN guideline on clinical nutrition and hydration in geriatrics

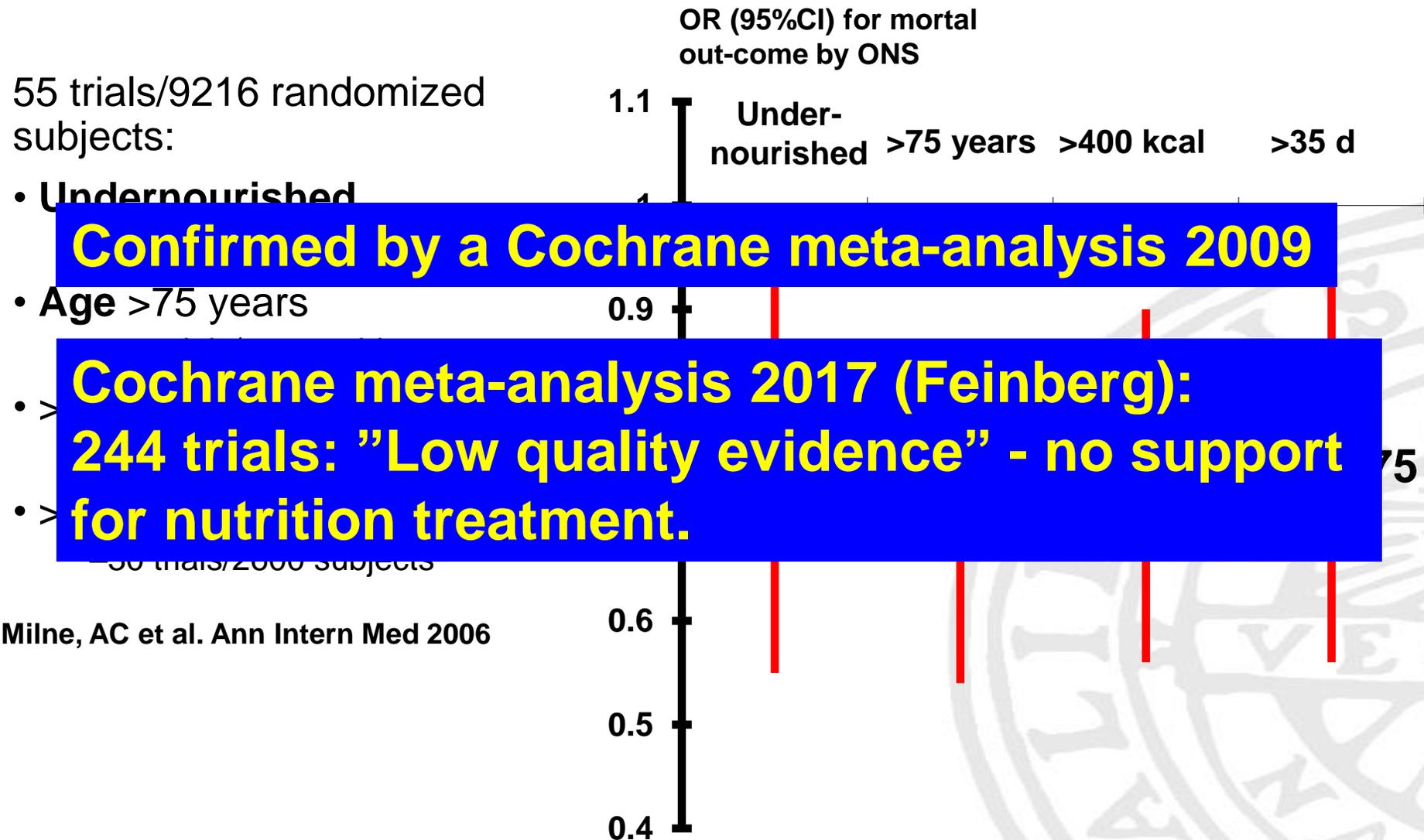


## 48 recommendations on nutritional therapy

- Education, counselling by dietician
- Mealtime assistance, home-like environment, share mealtime
- Fortified food, snacks, finger-food, texture modification
- ONS: 400 kcal/d, 30 g prot/d; >1 month
- EN: start without delay, <4 w by NG tube, >4 w PEG
- Combine with physical activity
- Hip fracture: Always offer ONS (NOT overnight EN)
- Delirium (prevention), depression, pressure ulcer (healing),
- Obesity: Avoid weight loss if not indicated, if WL also PA
- Diabetes mellitus: Avoid restrictive diets.



# Oral supplementation in older people – Meta-analysis on mortality by subgroup



# Energy and protein supplement in hospitalized patients – The Nourish Study

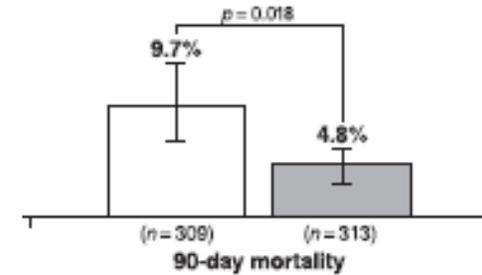


- 652 hospitalized patients, >65 y
- Heart failure, COPD, Pneumonia, ...
- Malnourished - many likely also sarcopenic
- 350 kcal, 20 g prot, 160 IU D-vitamin, 1.5 g HMB x2/placebo
- 90 days

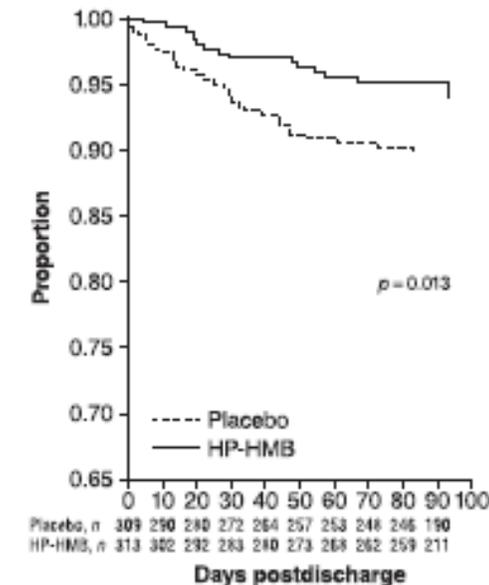
## Conclusion:

Mortality down by half after three months of ONS treatment; from ~10% till ~5%

Deutz et al. Clin Nutr 2016



D. Kaplan-Meier Survival Curve: Mortality



# Individualised nutritional support to medical in-patients: The EFFORT Trial



2088 malnourished in-patients; >50% >75 y  
Infection, cancer, CVD,...

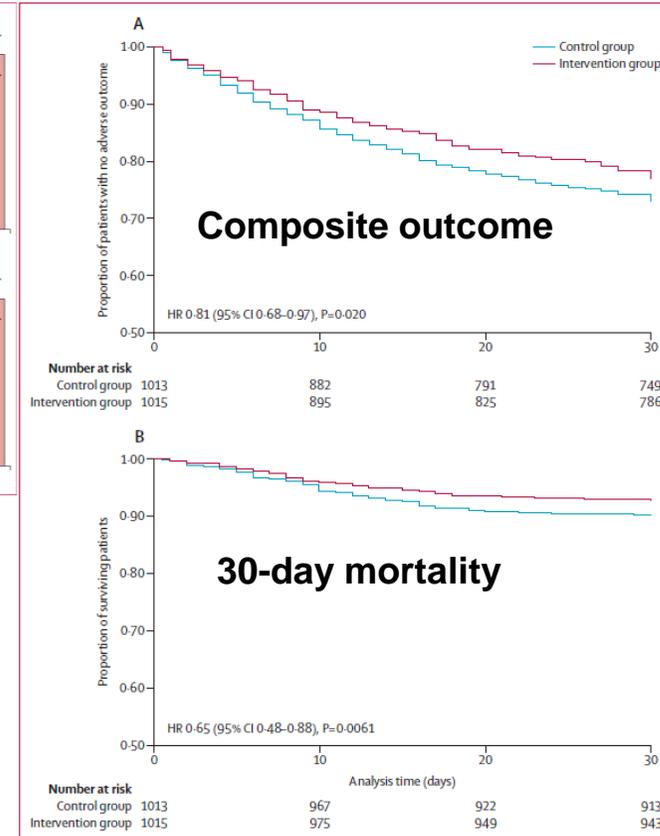
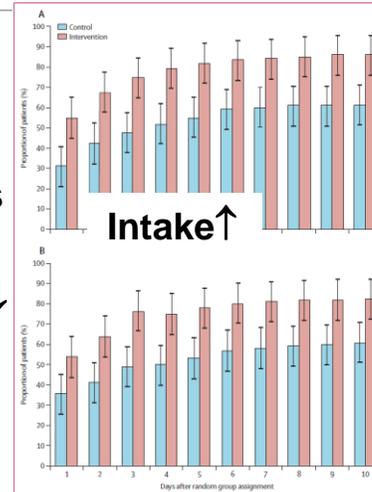
RCT: Pragmatic, individualised care plans  
by dietitians vs. standard

Outcome: Composite  $\uparrow$ , re-adm, function  $\downarrow$   
by Barthel over 30 days

## Conclusion

Dietitian defined nutritional care plans to older in-medical patients improved the composite 30-day clinical outcome; i.e.,

- **Mortality**  $\downarrow$
- **Readmissions**  $\downarrow$
- **Functionality**  $\uparrow$



# Individualised nutritional support to medical in-patients: The EFFORT Trial

2088 malnourished in-patients; >50% >75 y  
Infection, cancer, CVD,...

RCT: Pragmatic, individualised care plans

by  
O  
by

**Systematic review on multidisciplinary intervention.**

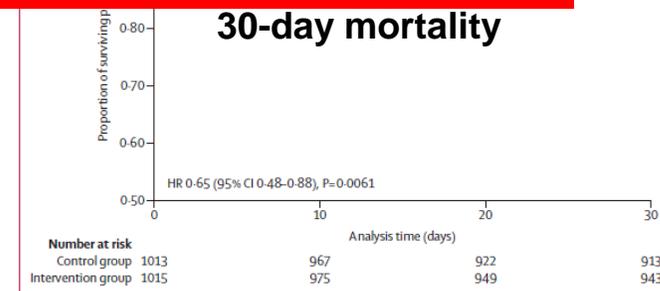
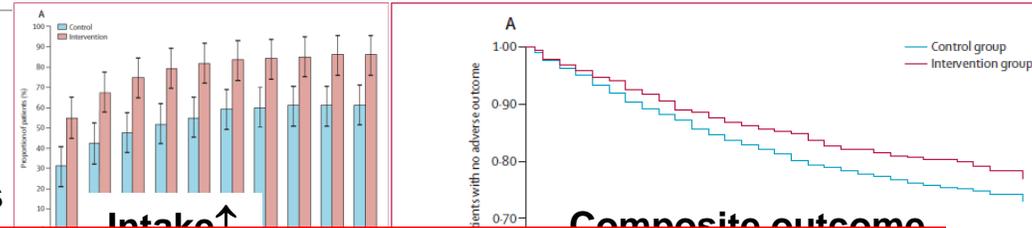
**5 studies, 600 patients**

**Improved QoL ( $p < 0.01$ ), improved survival? ( $p = 0.10$ )**

Rasmussen et al. Clin Nutr ESPEN 2018

Dietitian defined nutritional care plans to older in-medical patients improved the composite 30-day clinical outcome; i.e.,

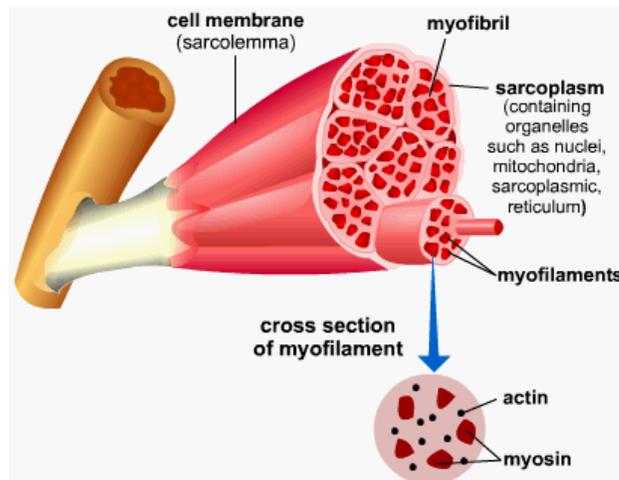
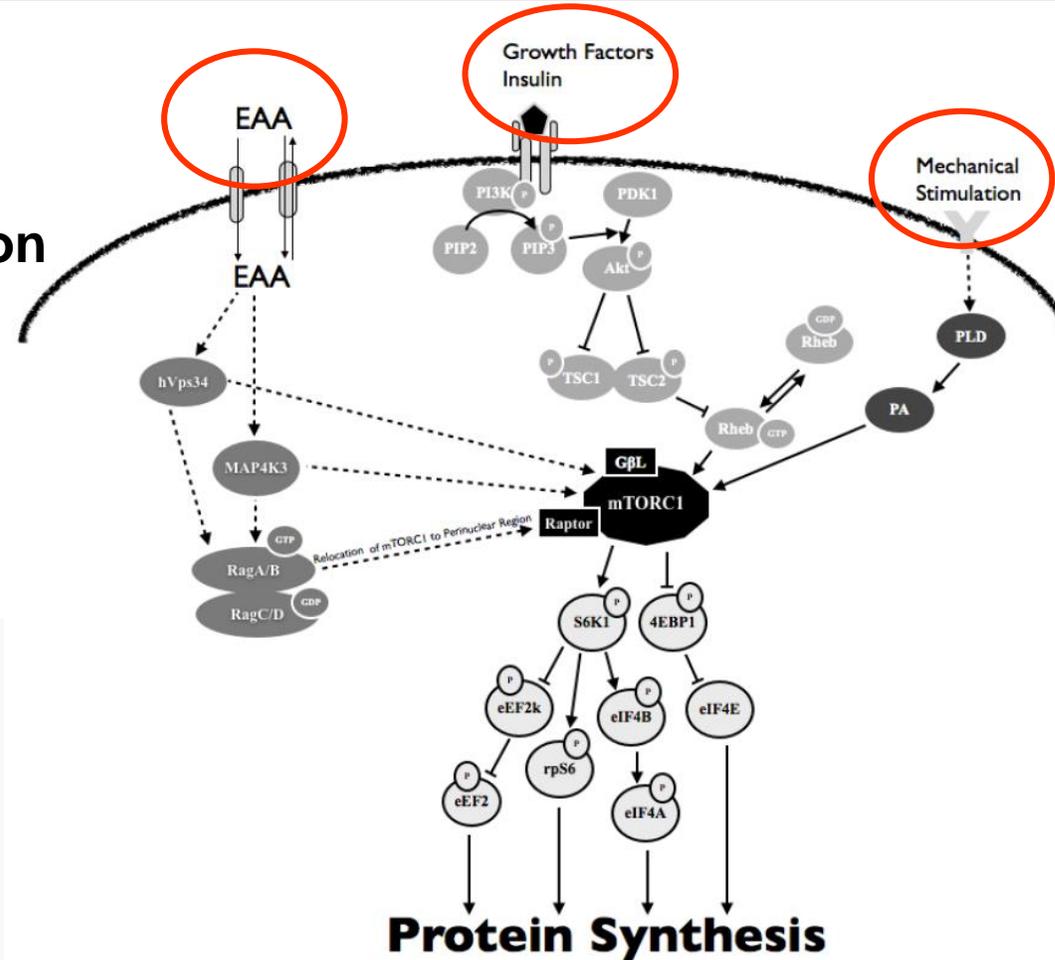
- **Mortality** ↓
- **Readmissions** ↓
- **Functionality** ↑



Schuetz et al. Lancet 2019

# How to generate protein synthesis?

- mTOR activation
  - Amino acids
  - Mechanical stimulation
  - Anabolic hormones
- Transcription
- Translation



# Protein intake and mobility limitation in the Health ABC Study



1998 ♀/♂, 70-79 y com-dw

- 6-year follow-up
- Tertiles of protein intake (FFQ)
- Limited walking (400 m) or stair climbing (10 steps)
- 1/3 developed mobility lim

T1 – <0.7 g/kg bw/d

T2 – 0.7-1.0 g/kg bw/d

T3 – >1 g/kg bw/d

T1 vs T3: HR 1.89 (CI 1.41-2.44)

T2 vs T3: HR 1.49 (CI 1.20-1.84)

to develop mobility limitation  
when compared to >1 g prot/kg  
bw/d

**Conclusion:**  
**Protein intake >1 g/kg  
bw/d reduces 6-y risk of  
mobility limitation**

# Protein + leucin + vitamin D to *sarcopenic non-malnourished* older adults: The Provide Study



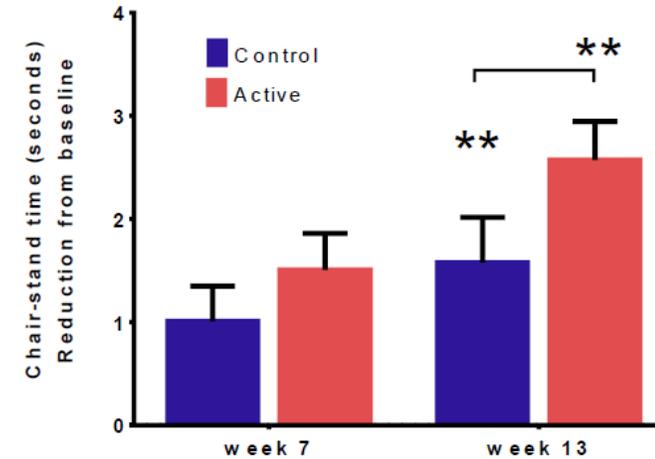
- 380 >65 y, 77±1 y, sarcopenic, non-malnourished,
- RCT for 13 weeks
- 40 g prot, 3 g leucin, 1600 IU vit D, 300 kcal vs. isocaloric placebo
- Primary outcomes: SPPB, HGS,
- Secondary outcomes: Chair-stand, DXA

## Conclusion:

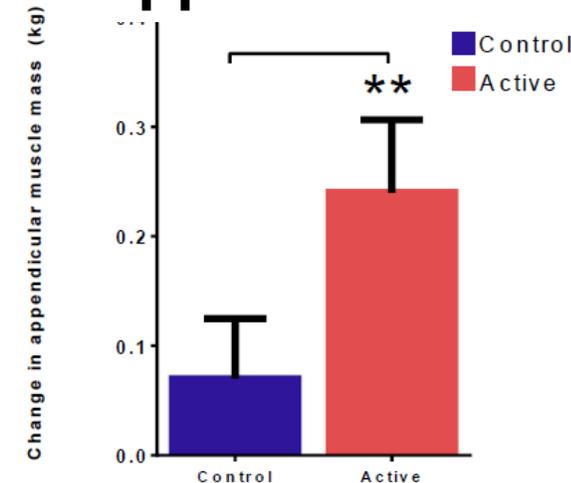
- **Faster 5 times chair stand**
- **Gains in appendicular muscle mass**

Bauer et al. JAMDA 2015

## Chair-stand



## App muscle mass



# Older Person Exercise and Nutrition Study: The OPEN Study



100 NH res, >75 y (mean 86 y), BMI<30

RCT: 12 weeks

Intervention:

- Sit-to-stand x4/d
- Protein drink x2/d

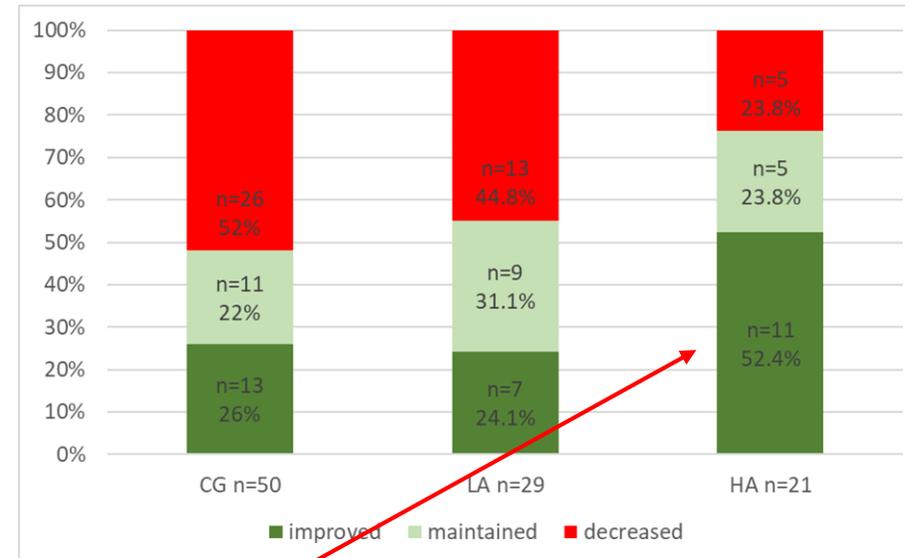
Control: Usual care

Outcome:

- Chair-rise 30 sec
- Gait speed
- Balance, ADL, etc

## Conclusions

High adherence to sit-to-stand exercise + ONS improved chair-rise capacity and gait speed in old nursing home residents





## **Other nutrients**

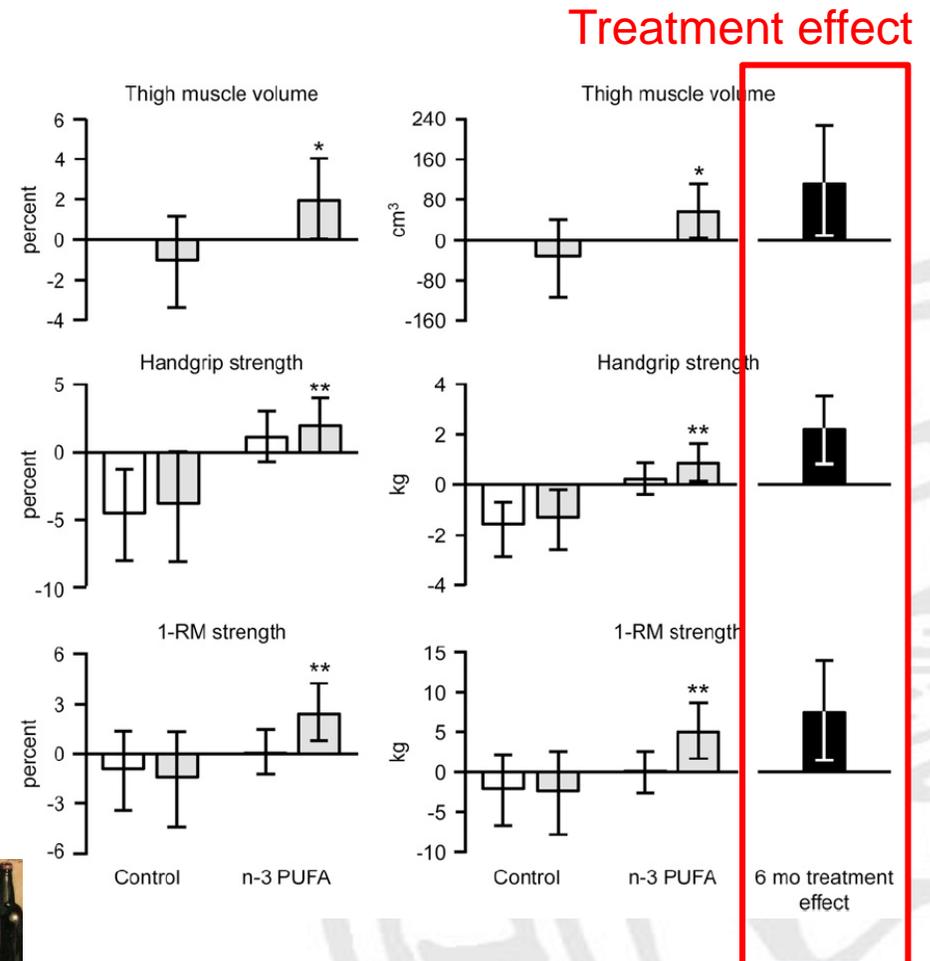
- **Fat quality?**
- **Vitamin D?**
- **Healthy - Mediterranean like diet?**

# N-3 fatty acids may improve muscle mass and function in healthy old adults



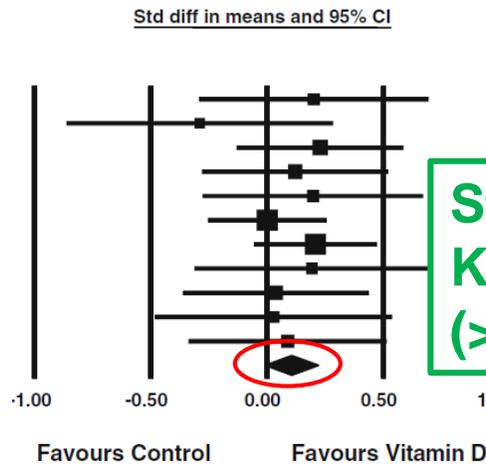
- 60 healthy, 60-85 y
- 6 months RCT,
  - N-3 fatty acids – 3.3 g/d
  - Linoleic acid (C)
- Outcome;
  - Thigh volume,
  - Grip strength,
  - 1-RM strength

**Conclusion:**  
6-mo treatment with n-3 FA increased muscle mass and improved muscle strength in healthy old adults



# Vitamin D supplementation and muscle – 3 meta-analyses 2011-2017

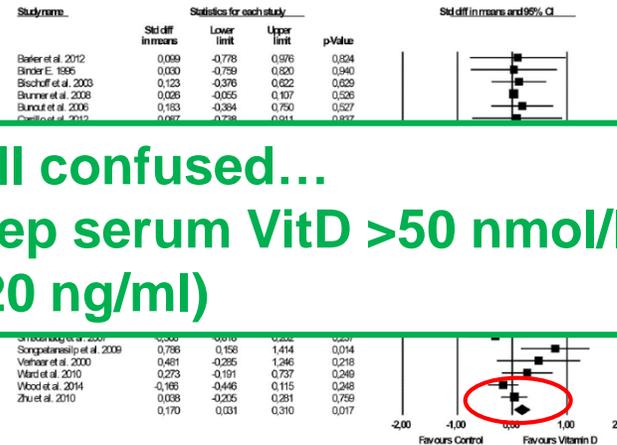
**Meta-analysis: 17 RCT**  
• Quadriceps strength



**Results: Overall no effect, but in 2 studies w. Vit D <25 nmol/l Vit D suppl. resulted in improved leg strength**

Stockton et al. Osteopor Int 2011

**Meta-analysis: 30 RCT**  
• Stand. Mean Diff of various strength tests

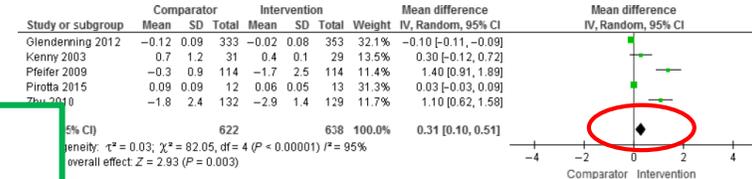


**Still confused...  
Keep serum VitD >50 nmol/l (>20 ng/ml)**

**Results: A small significant effect on global muscle strength, but no effects on muscle mass or power**

Beaudart et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 2014

**Meta-analysis: 15 RCT**  
• Hand grip strength  
• Timed up and go (TUG)



**Results: No effect on HGS, and indications of deteriorated TUG**

Rosendahl-Riise et al. JHND 2017



# High adherence to a Mediterranean-like diet is associated with reduced risk of frailty – prospective studies

690 com-dw adults >65y (inChianti Study), Italy

- FFQ (EPIC), MDS low/med/high adherence
- 6-year follow-up
- High adherence associated with reduced risk of frailty

1815 comm-dw old adults (>60y), Spain

- FFQ; MEDAS and MDS/tertiles

21% frailty at baseline, 19% frailty at follow-up, same frail acc.

1104 70 y old Swedish men (ULSAM)

369 alive 16 years later; 75% were independent

Factors related to "Independent ageing":

- Mediterranean-like diet; OR 2.69 (CI 1.14-6.8)
- Never-smoking; OR 2.20 (CI 1.05-4.60)
- Obesity; OR 0.37 (CI 0.17-0.80)

Franzon K et al. JAGS 2017

Frailty and its components

MDS score

Feeling of exhaustion

Low

Medium

High

Low physical activity

Low

Medium

High

Poor muscle strength

Low

Medium

High

Low walking speed

Low

Medium

High

Frailty

Low

Medium

High

	1.00	1.00
Low	0.60 (0.34, 1.06)	0.71 (0.42, 1.21)
Medium	0.26 (0.11, 0.59)	0.30 (0.14, 0.66)

Talegawkar et al. J Nutr 2012;142:2161-6

0.48 (95%CI reduced risk, to MDS T1.

Tertile 3 P Trend

OR (95% CI)

34

0.58 (0.37-0.91)\* 0.43 (0.27-0.67)† <.001

0.55 (0.35-0.85)\* 0.48 (0.30-0.77)† .002

Leon-Munoz et al. JAMDA 2014;15:899-903

# Treatment of malnutrition, sarcopenia and frailty/gerastenia in old adults



## Screen for malnutrition/sarcopenia

- Diagnosis of malnutrition acc. to GLIM criteria

## Nutrition therapy

- Energy intake (incl. supplementation)
  - 30 kcal/kg bw/d - individualize
- Protein and amino acid intake (incl. supplementation)
  - Target 1.0-1.5 g/kg bw/d - individualize
- Other nutrients
  - Vitamin D supplementation
    - Target serum concentration to exceed 50 nmol/l
  - Essential fatty acids supplementation – n-3,
- Healthy food patterns – basic food intake
  - Traditional Mediterranean, Traditional Asian

**Thanks!**

## Exercise

Combine nutritional therapy with physical activity  
Add resistance training (3 t/w) to the regular daily aerobic activities

