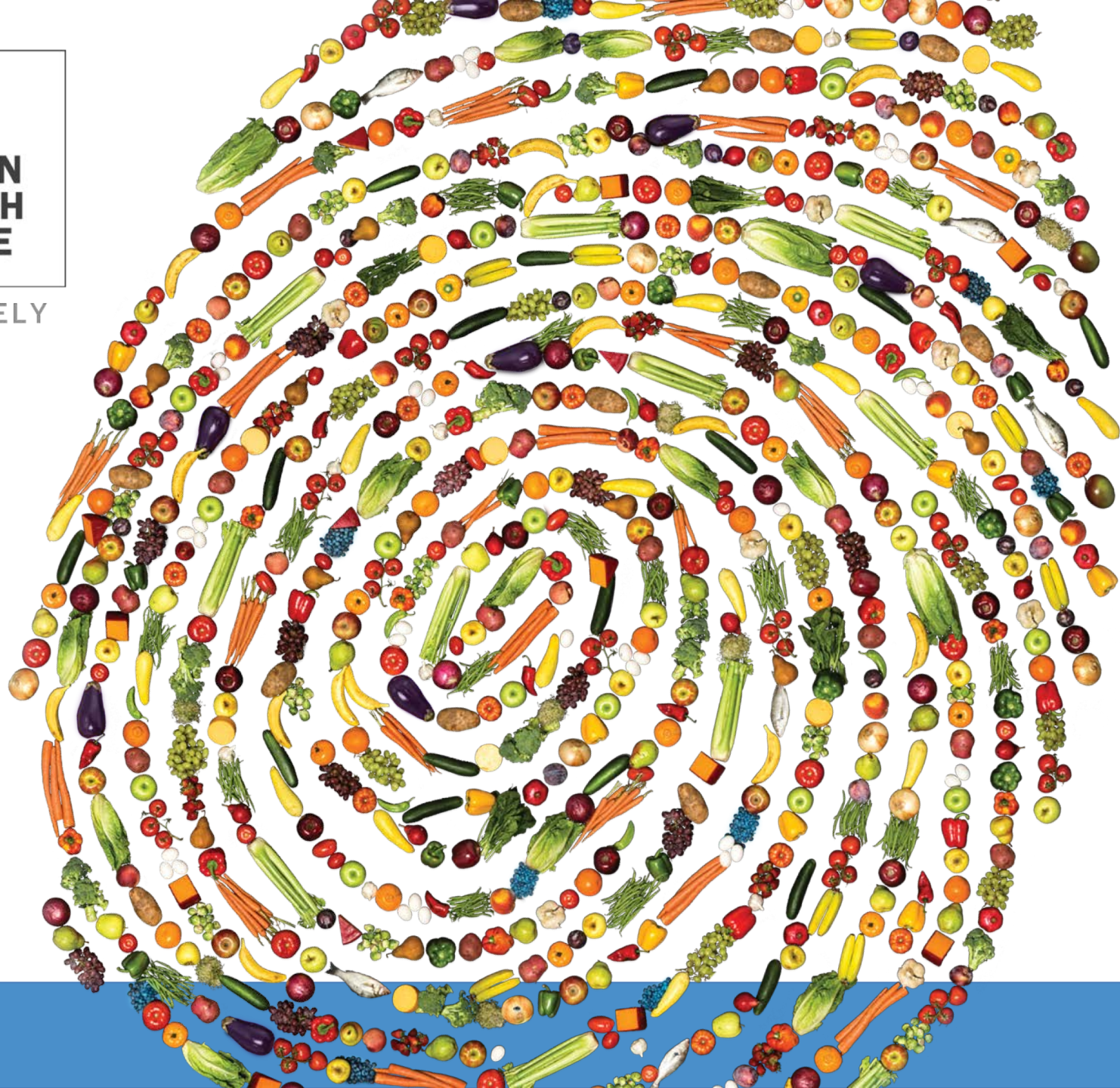


THE UNIVERSITY of  
NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

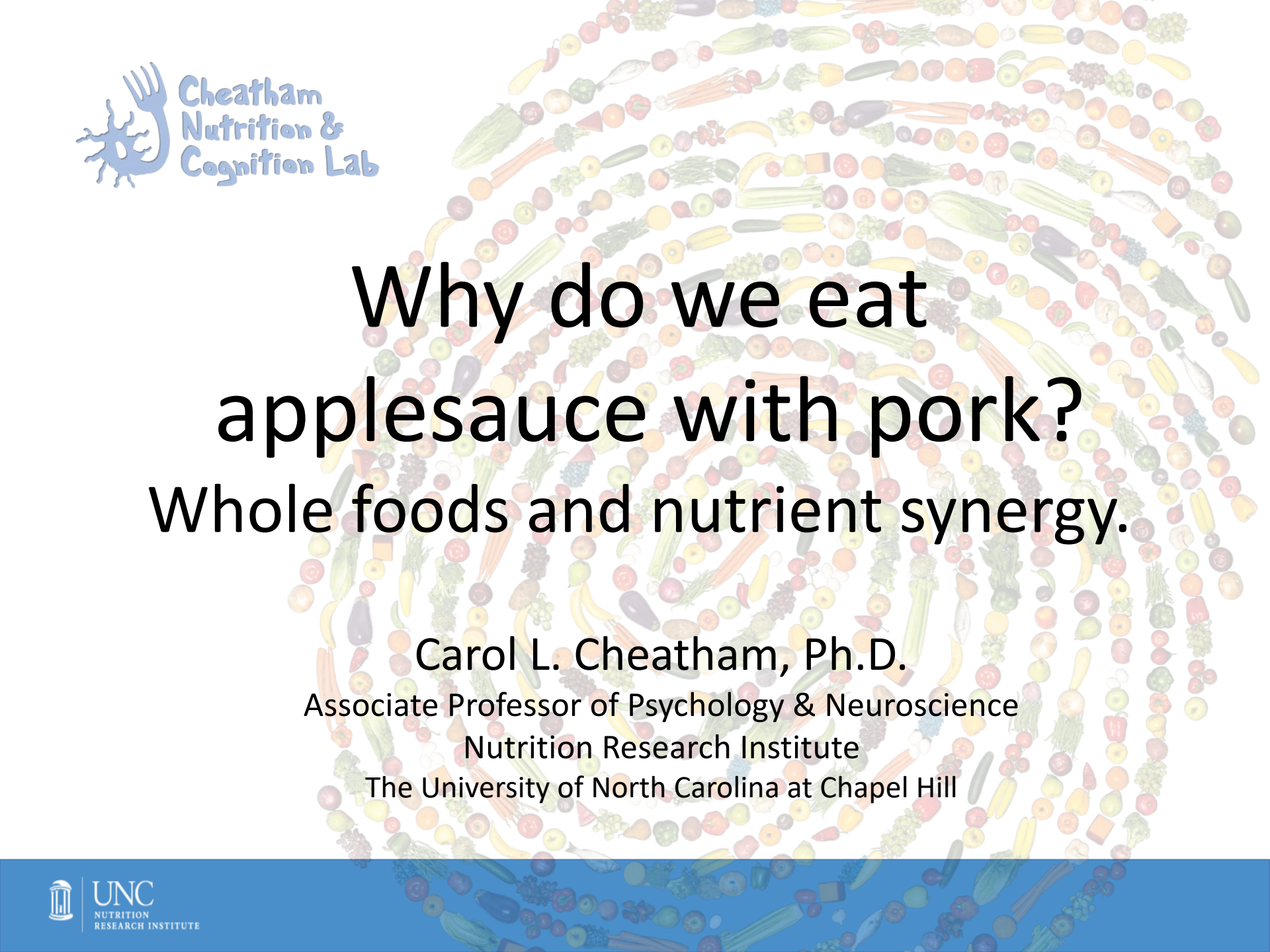
# NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

EAT UNIQUELY



UNC  
NUTRITION  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



The background of the slide is a dense, circular collage of various fruits and vegetables, including apples, bananas, carrots, and leafy greens, arranged in a spiral pattern.

# Why do we eat applesauce with pork? Whole foods and nutrient synergy.

Carol L. Cheatham, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience

Nutrition Research Institute

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



# Cheatham Nutrition & Cognition Laboratory



- Developmental cognitive neuroscientist (developmental psychologist)
- Studying how nutrition affects cognition



- From preconception to birth to old age – nutrition is central to brain function.



# Outline

- Food pairings – why do we eat certain foods together?
- Vitamin pairings – eat this with that for better nutritive value.
- Whole foods – why do certain nutrients always occur together?

# Bacon with Collards?







# Meat & Potatoes

- Mom: Balanced diet
- CLC: Because meat grows in Wyo
- Internet: bad to eat carbs with meat (e.g., [althealthworks.com](http://althealthworks.com))
- Science: potato fiber with red meat may be good for the colon (Paturi et al., 2012)



# Bacon with Collards

- Most common answer - “because it tastes good.”
- CLC: because the fat breaks down the fibrous leaves so you can eat them.
- Chefs: it is the salt in the ham hocks or bacon that tenderizes the leaves.
- Science – stay tuned

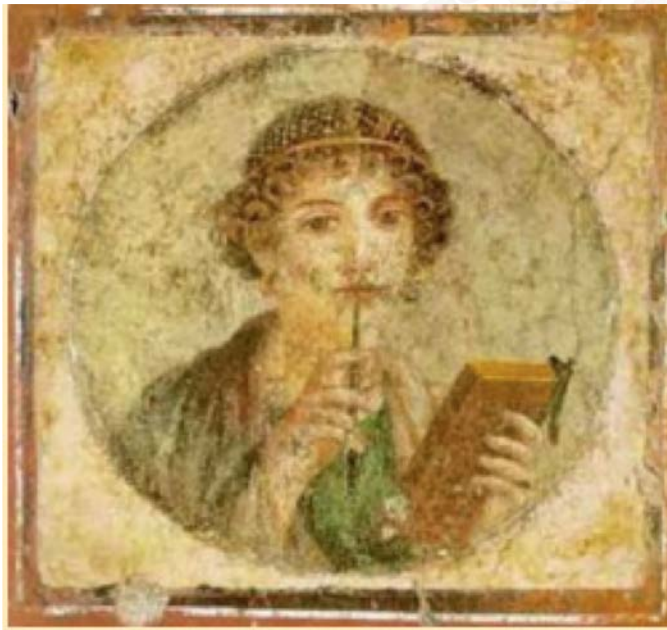
# Mint with Lamb

- BFF: to hide the taste of the lamb
- Bible: Israelites the eve of Exodus
- QE1: passed a law
  - to increase wool exports
- Chefs: lamb is fatty, acid cuts the fat



# Apples with Pork

- Historical – 1st known reference



Marcus Apicius  
in Ancient Rome  
(42 B.C.-37 A.D.)  
wrote down a recipe  
for diced pork  
with apples.

# Apples with Pork

- Folklore: apples kill trichinosis
- Chefs: sweet compliments savory; tartness cuts the fat
- Logistics: apples and pork harvested at the same time
- MIL: helps with digestion



# Apples with Pork

- The science:
  - Apples do not kill salmonella on pork, but olive extract and cinnamon oil do. (Chen et al., 2013)
  - Apple-derived fiber cuts the fat in meat by 30% (Choi et al., 2016)
  - Apples prevent carcinogens from forming in overcooked meat (Sabally et al., 2016)
    - Pork is usually overcooked out of fear of trichinosis

# Cheese with Wine

- “Many of the world's most beloved food combinations pair an astringent food, which causes the mouth to pucker up, with a fatty food, which makes the mouth feel slippery.”

<https://www.livescience.com/23786-food-pairings-wine-cheese.html>



# Cheese with Wine



Science – eating lycopene (e.g., red wine)  
with a fatty food results in  
4.4X higher lycopene absorption into the body.

# Food Pairings Recap



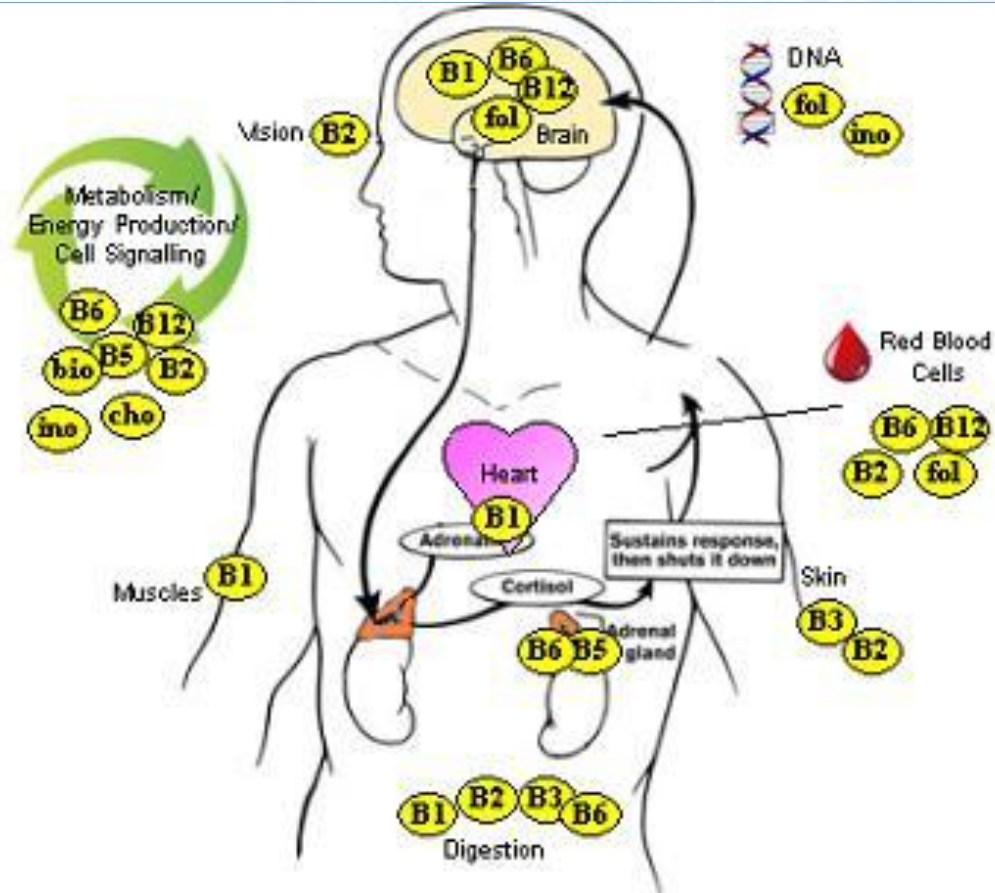


# Vitamin D & Minerals

- Calcium, phosphorus, and magnesium
- Most useful when small quantities of the minerals are present.
- Unprotected sunshine = Vitamin D

# B Vitamins

- B
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- Sad r



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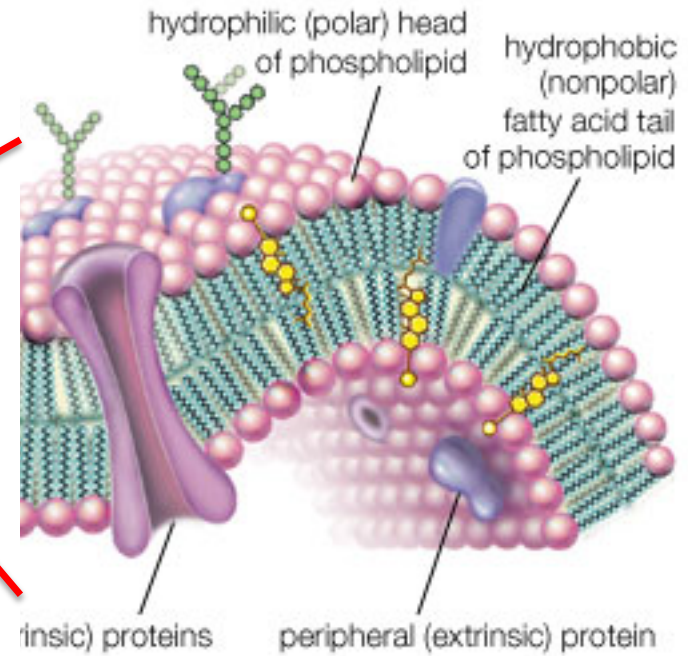
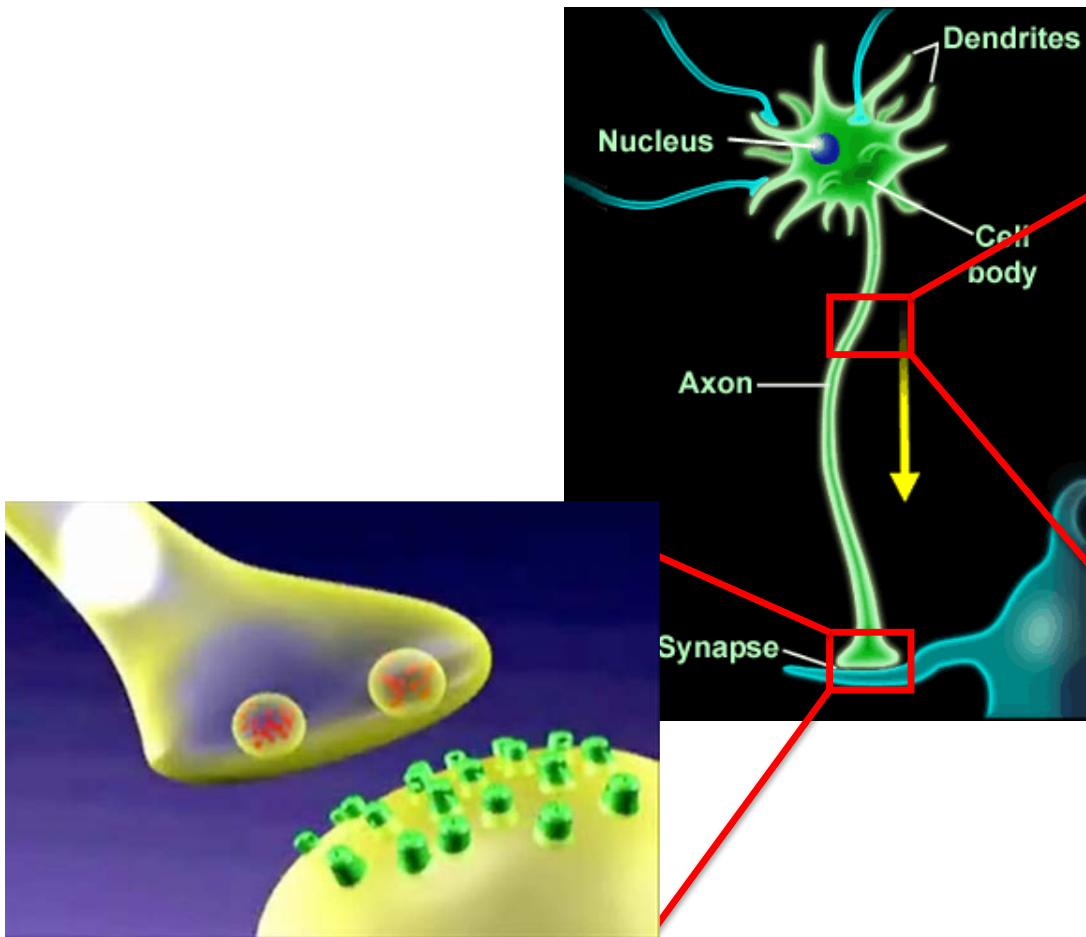


# Fatty Acids & Antioxidants

- All cells in body contain fatty acids
- Fatty acids in the brain support cognition
- Fatty acids are stored in the liver.
- Transport requires choline.
- Oxidation is a problem.



# DHA & Phospholipids (Choline)



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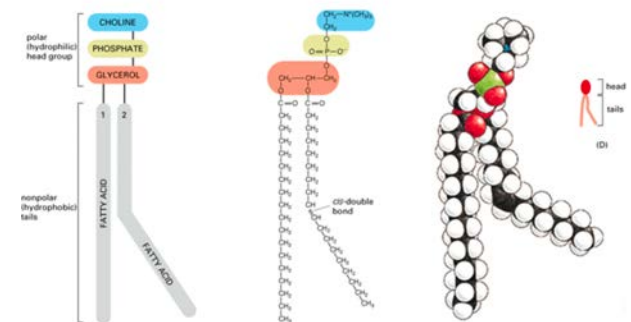
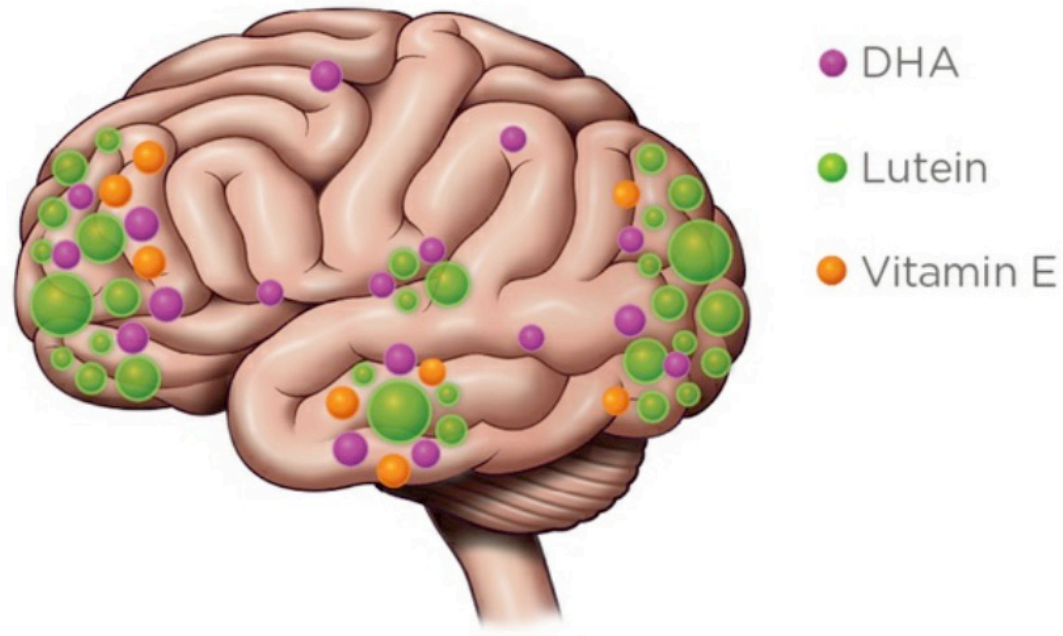


Figure 10-2 The parts of a phospholipid molecule.

# Co-localization of Nutrients



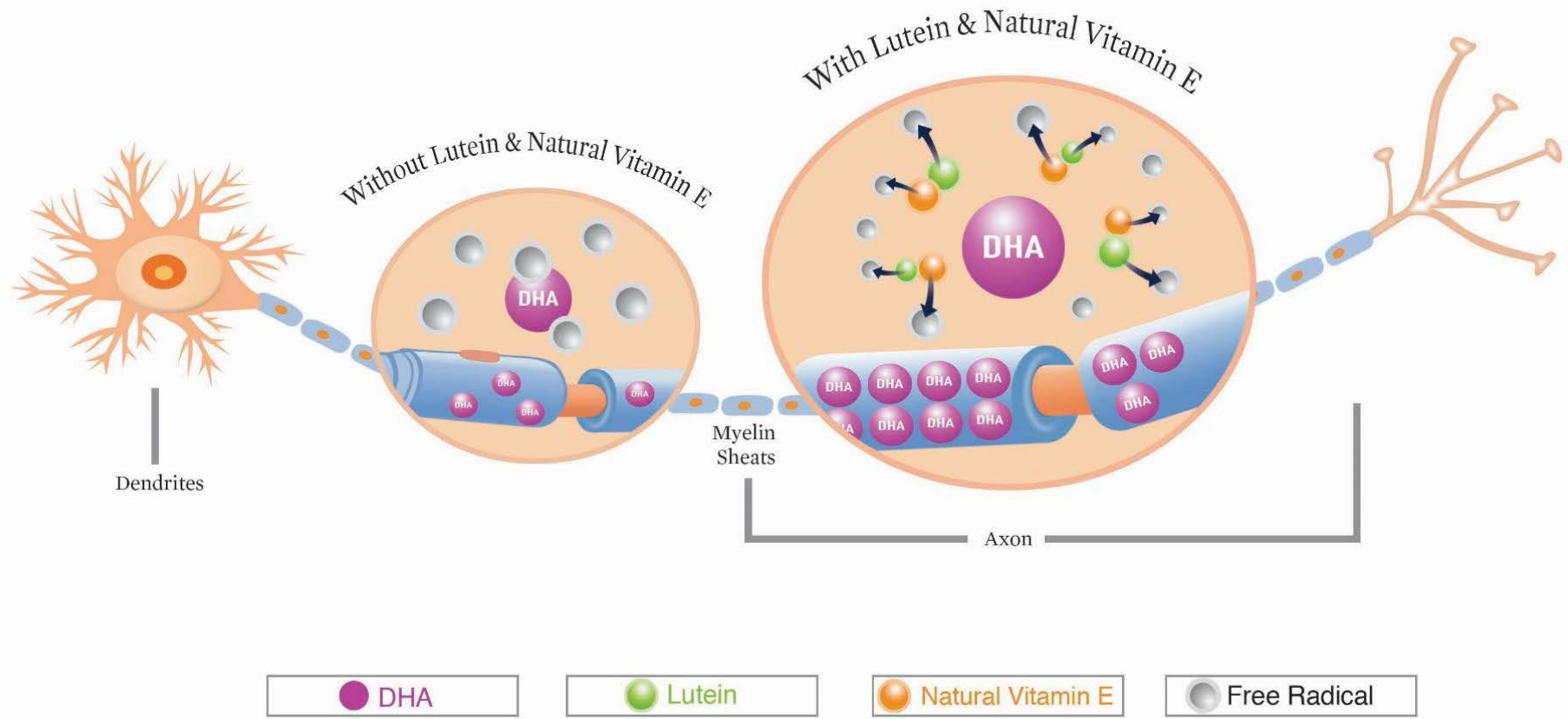
\* In primate models.

1. Johnson EJ, Mohn ES. Preferential accumulation of lutein, alpha-tocopherol and docosahexaenoic acid in subcellular membranes of primate brain. Abstract 2014. 2. Lieblein-Boff J, Kuchan M, Jensen S, Johnson E. The naturally occurring alpha-tocopherol stereoisomer of vitamin E is predominant in infant brain. Abstract 2013. 3. Wassall SR, et al. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta Biomembranes*. 2009;1788:24-32. 4. Vishwanathan R, et al. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr*. 2014. [Epub ahead of print]. 5. Subczynski WK, Wisniewska A, Widomska J. Location of macular xanthophylls in the most vulnerable regions of photoreceptor outer-segment membranes. *Arch Biochem Biophys*. 2010;504:61-66.

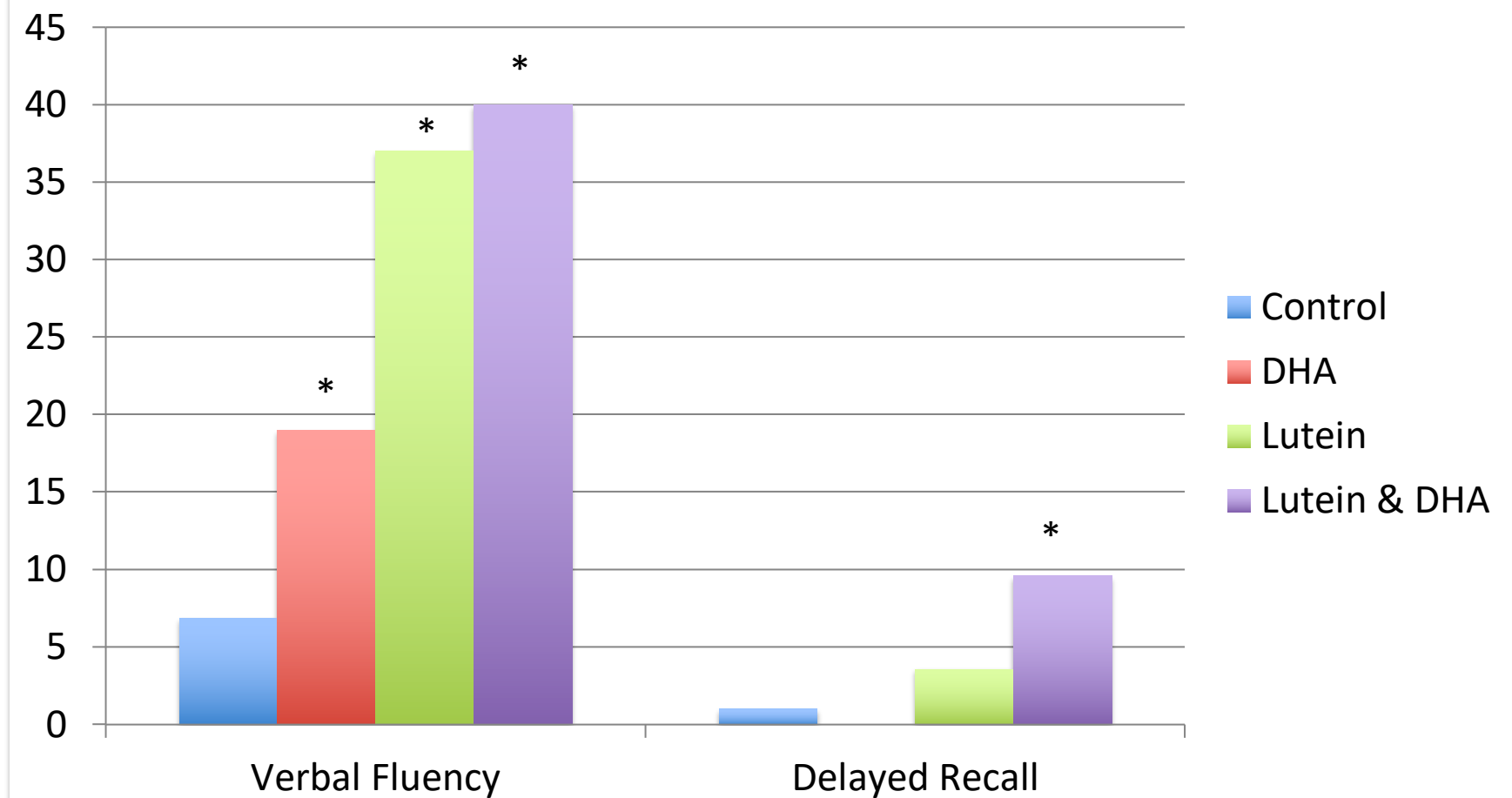




# Lutein and Natural Vitamin E Help Reduce DHA Oxidation



# Lutein & DHA Supplementation





# How Do I Know What to Eat?

- Taking good notes or read the next issue of Soundbites
  - Subscribe here:  
<https://www.uncnri.org/index.php/soundbites/>
- Instinct and taste
- Eat a variety of whole foods

# Why Whole Foods?





# Why Whole Foods?



## Vitamin C? OR

Amounts per 1 cup, sliced (165g)

### Calorie Information

Amounts Per Selected Serving		%DV
Calories	107 (448 kJ)	5%
From Carbohydrate	101 (423 kJ)	
From Fat	3.7 (15.5 kJ)	
From Protein	2.8 (11.7 kJ)	
From Alcohol	0.0 (0.0 kJ)	

### Carbohydrates

Amounts Per Selected Serving		%DV
Total Carbohydrate	28.1 g	9%
Dietary Fiber	3.0 g	12%
Starch	~	
Sugars	24.4 g	

### Fats & Fatty Acids

Amounts Per Selected Serving		%DV
Total Fat	0.4 g	1%
Saturated Fat	0.1 g	1%
Monounsaturated Fat	0.2 g	
Polyunsaturated Fat	0.1 g	
Total trans fatty acids	~	
Total trans-monoenoic fatty acids	~	
Total trans-polyenoic fatty acids	~	
Total Omega-3 fatty acids	61.1 mg	
Total Omega-6 fatty acids	23.1 mg	

[Learn more about these fatty acids and their equivalent names](#)

### Other

Amounts Per Selected Serving		%DV
Alcohol	0.0 g	
Water	135 g	
Ash	0.8 g	
Caffeine	0.0 mg	
Theobromine	0.0 mg	

### Protein & Amino Acids

Amounts Per Selected Serving		%DV
Protein	0.8 g	2%

[More details](#)

### Vitamins

Amounts Per Selected Serving		%DV
Vitamin A	1262 IU	25%
Vitamin C	45.7 mg	76%
Vitamin D	~	~
Vitamin E (Alpha Tocopherol)	1.8 mg	9%
Vitamin K	6.9 mcg	9%
Thiamin	0.1 mg	6%
Riboflavin	0.1 mg	6%
Niacin	1.0 mg	5%
Vitamin B6	0.2 mg	11%
Folate	23.1 mcg	6%
Vitamin B12	0.0 mcg	0%
Pantothenic Acid	0.3 mg	3%
Choline	12.5 mg	
Betaine	~	

[More details](#)

### Minerals

Amounts Per Selected Serving		%DV
Calcium	16.5 mg	2%
Iron	0.2 mg	1%
Magnesium	14.8 mg	4%
Phosphorus	18.2 mg	2%
Potassium	257 mg	7%
Sodium	3.3 mg	0%
Zinc	0.1 mg	0%
Copper	0.2 mg	9%
Manganese	0.0 mg	2%
Selenium	1.0 mcg	1%
Fluoride	~	

### Sterols

Amounts Per Selected Serving		%DV
Cholesterol	0.0 mg	0%
Phytosterols	~	

# Human Milk Nutrients

Vitamin (per 4 oz)	Milk
Niacin (mg)	0.4
Riboflavin (mg)	0.1
B12 (mcg)	0.1
Pantothenic Acid (mg)	0.5
Vitamin A (IU)	522
Thiamin (mg)	0.04
Pyridoxine (mg) aka B6	0.01
Vitamin E (mg)	0.2
Vitamin D (IU)	9.8
Folate (mcg)	18.8
Lutein (mcg)	2.16
Choline (mg)	39.4
Docosahexaenoic Acid (mg)	1.32



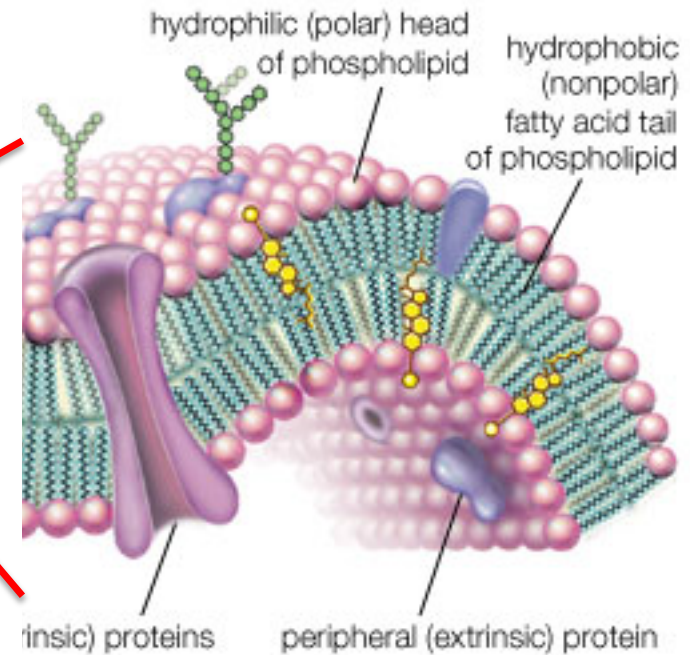
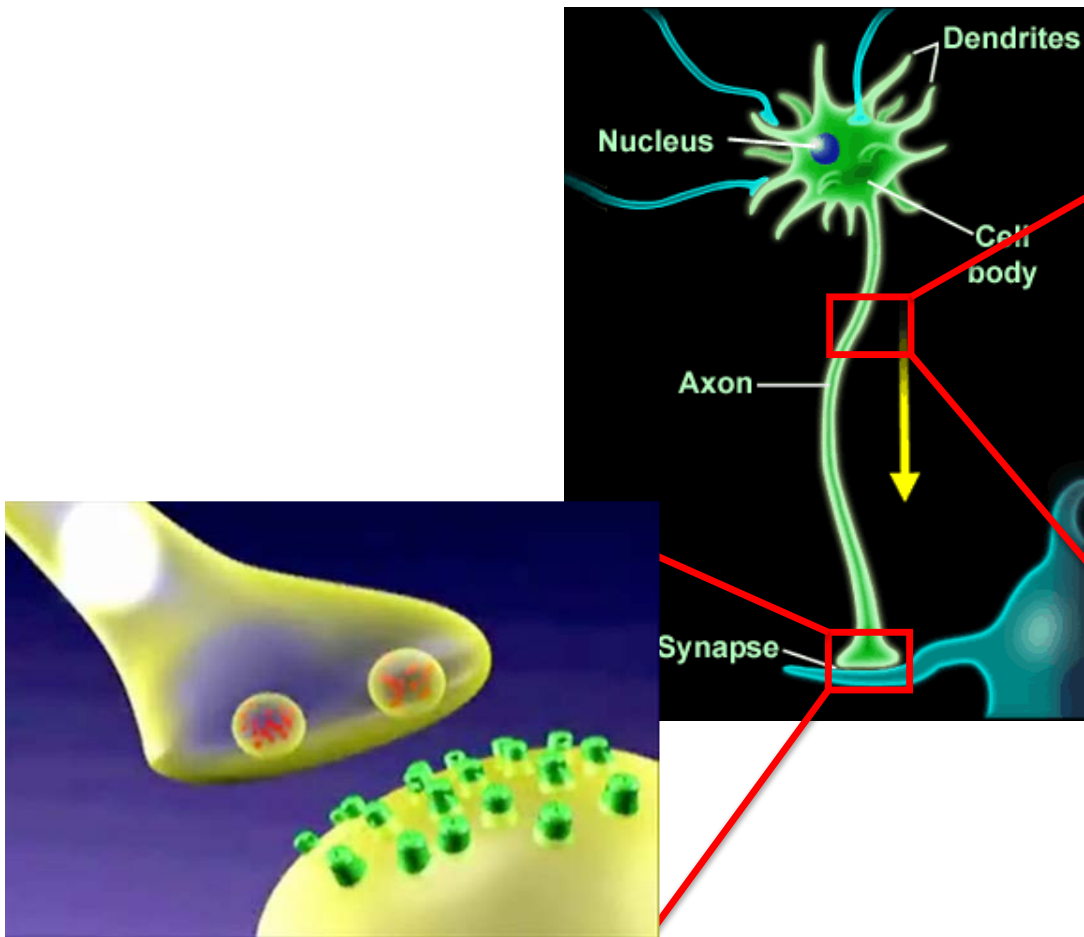
# First Cheatham Lab Participant



# Recognition Memory Oddball Paradigm



# DHA & Phospholipids (Choline)



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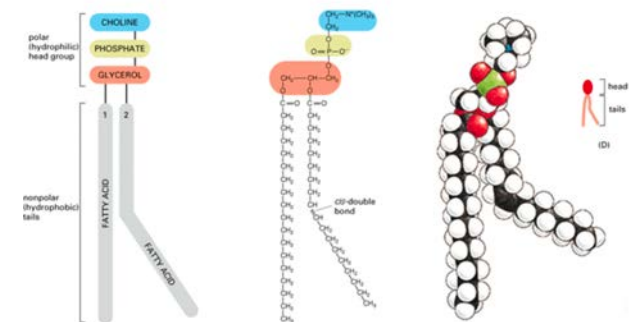


Figure 10-2 The parts of a phospholipid molecule.



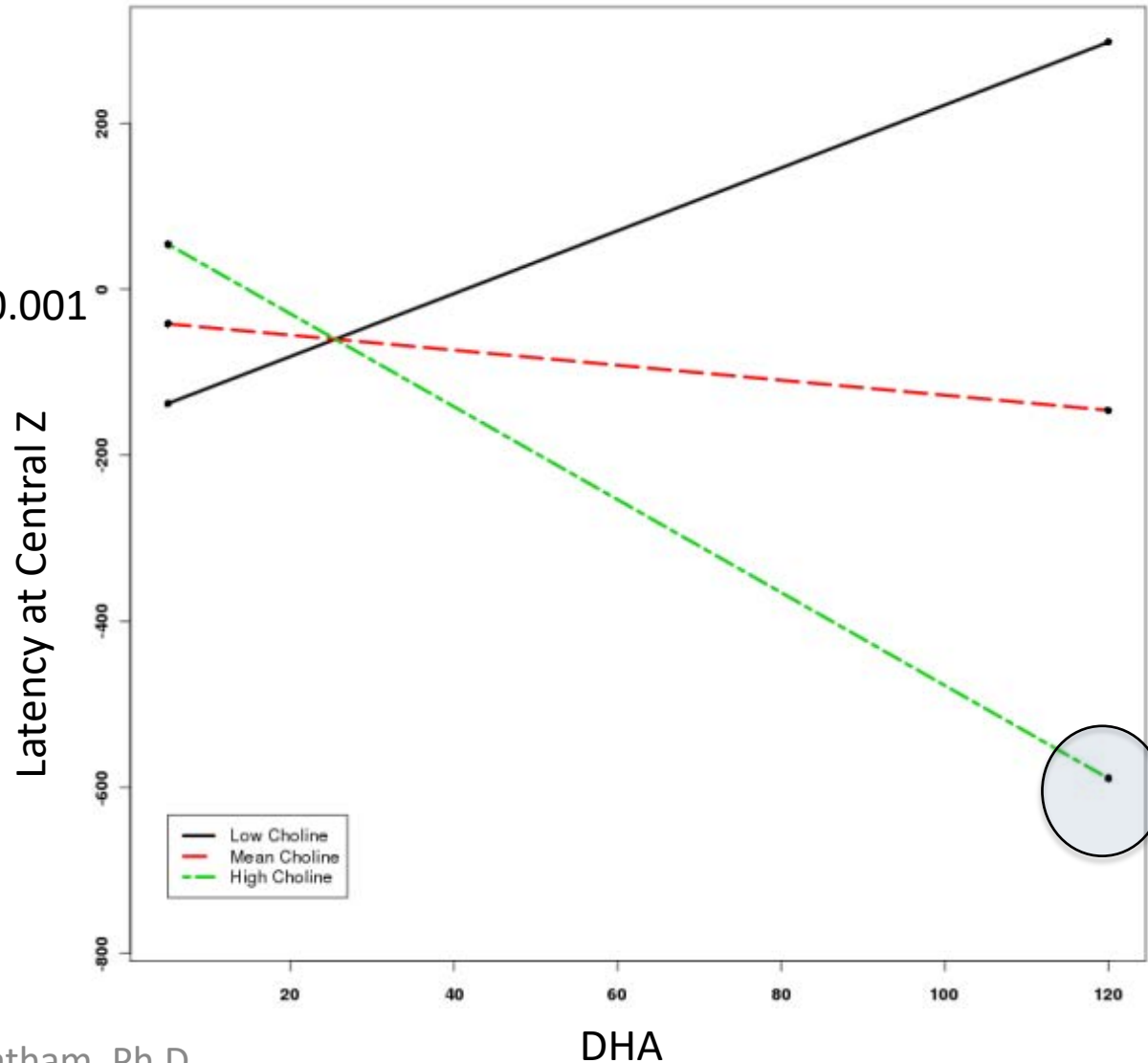
# DHA and Choline – Latency Central

DHA =  $p < 0.01$

Cho =  $p < 0.05$

DHA x Cho =  $p < 0.001$

$R^2 = 0.21$



High DHA,  
High Choline

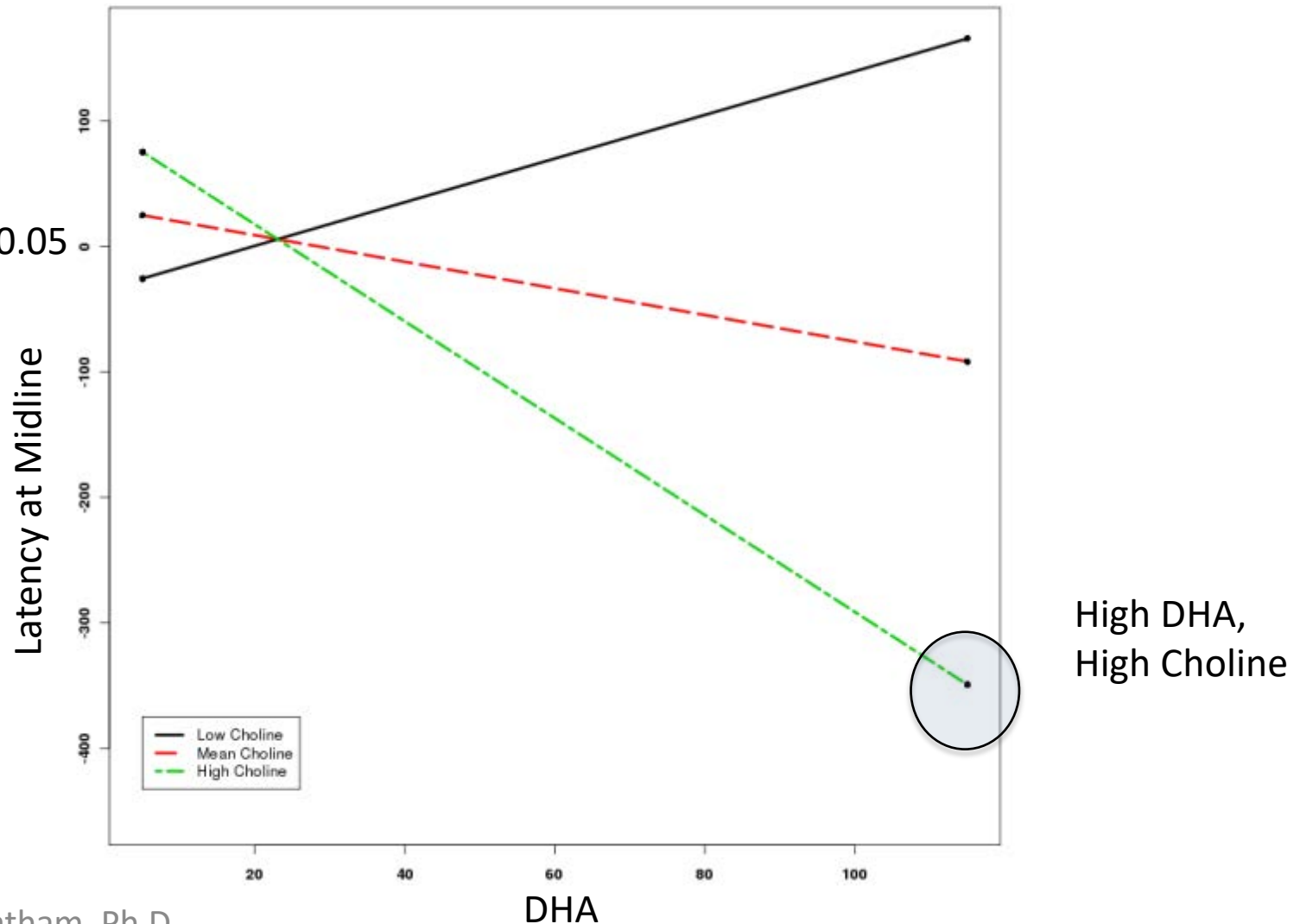
# DHA and Choline – Latency Midline

DHA =  $p < 0.10$

Choline ns

DHA x Cho =  $p < 0.05$

$R^2 = 0.17$



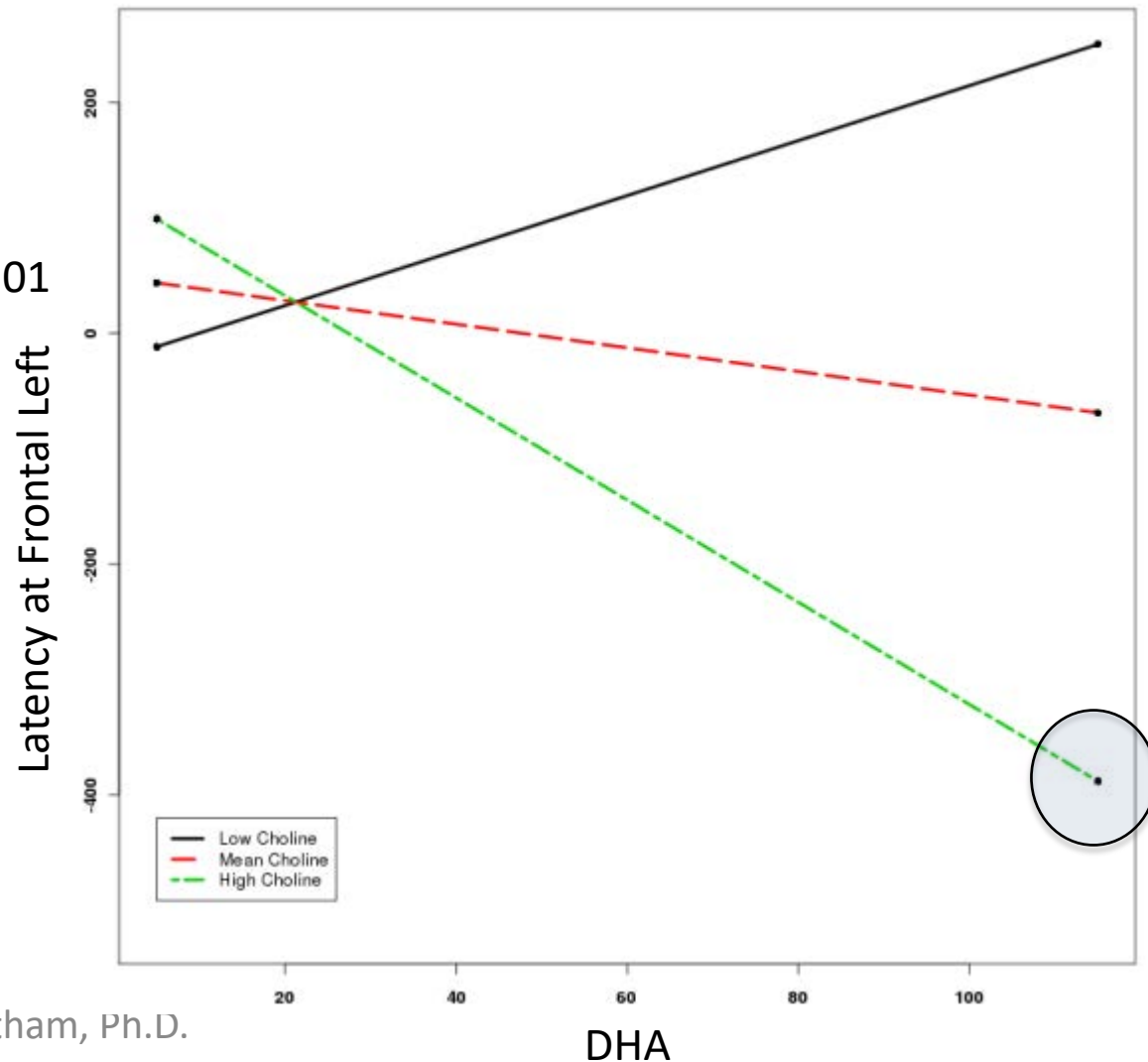
# DHA and Choline – Latency Frontal

DHA =  $p < 0.05$

Cho =  $p < 0.10$

DHA x Cho =  $p < 0.01$

$R^2 = 0.21$



High DHA,  
High Choline



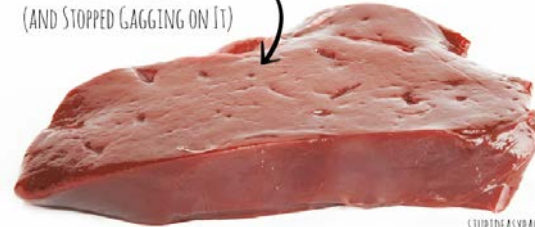
# DHA Relies on Synergy

- DHA needs choline, natural E, and lutein to optimize brain activity.
- How do we know it is important?
- They often appear together in nature in some combination.
- OR in popular food combos!

# Examples of DHA “Team”



How I Learned to  
Eat Liver  
(AND STOPPED GAGGING ON IT)





# Back to Collards...

- Traber et al. 2015





# In sum...



# Thank you.

- All families that participate in research around the world
  - Stevie Ray Wunder
  - Patricia J. Bauer, Ph.D.
  - Megan R. Gunnar, Ph.D.
  - Michael K. Georgieff, M.D., Ph.D.
  - Charles A. Nelson, Ph.D.
  - Sandra Wiebe, Ph.D.
  - Steven Zeisel, M.D., Ph.D.
  - J. Steven Reznick, Ph.D.
  - A myriad of undergrads and grad students
  - Funding agencies: NSF, NIH, CNBD, URC, CNRU, NRI, Pfizer, Wyeth (Nestle)



The Cheatham Nutrition & Cognition Team