Food as medicine

Coletta Meyer, MS, MCHES[®], CWPC Mandy Katz, MS, RD, CSP, LDN

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Today's presenters



Coletta Meyer, MS, MCHES[®], CWPC Manager, Health & Wellness | GEHA



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Agenda

- Defining food as medicine
- Tips for:
 - shopping
 - eating
 - living

"Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food."

-Hippocrates





Food as medicine philosophy

A philosophy where food and nutrition aids individuals through interventions that support health and wellness.



Food as preventive medicine to encourage health and well-being

Food as medicine to improve nutrition security

Food as medicine in disease management and treatment



Food as medicine to promote food safety

https://www.eatrightfoundation.org/foundation/resources/food-as-medicine/food-as-medicine-opportunity-in-food-retail-form







Today's goals



Prevent nutritional deficiencies



Improve gut health to boost immunity

Keep your heart and brain healthy



Prevent long-term inflammation



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Prevent, slow down or reverse diseases impacted by food





Balanced eating with MyPlate

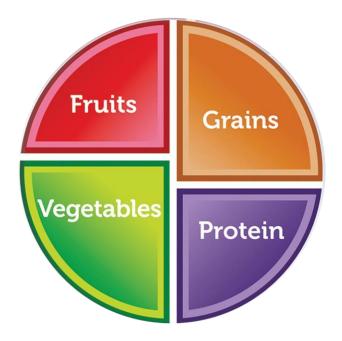
Macro nutrient distribution

- Protein for healing
- Carbohydrates for energy
- Fats for nutrient absorption

Better portion control

- Weight management
- Glucose control

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Balanced eating with MyPlate strategies

Eat a rainbow of produce

Color = antioxidants

Switch up grains and starches

Opt for whole grains

Power up the protein

Feel full faster

Plate variety means variety in your vitamins/nutrients

Choose food first

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Produce you'll want to pick

- USDA: eat the rainbow and focus on orange, red and dark green foods
- MIND diet: berries and dark leafy greens
- Fresh, frozen or canned





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Grains & starches you have to get

- Whole grains: wheat, oats, pasta, barley, farro, polenta and couscous
- Starches: beans, legumes, rice and potatoes











Protein for powerful healing

- Lean meats and seafood
- Eggs and low-fat dairy
- Plant-based soy, pean, nut and seed proteins
- The DRI is 0.36 grams of protein per pound (0.8 grams per kg) of body weight





Proactively seek probiotics

Microbiome

Gut-brain axis

Probiotics help with

- Immunity for prevention
- Producing vitamins
- Serotonin for mood
- Millions of types of bacteria
 - Every gut is different

Choose food first











Probiotic shopping list

- Dairy aisle
 - Yogurt (regular or plant based)
 - Kefir (drinkable or yogurt style)
 - Cottage cheese
 - Single serve cheese

Produce section

- Sauerkraut
- Kimchi
- Tempeh (fermented soybeans)
- Center store
 - Snacks and drinks









Fill up on fiber

- Soluble fiber
 - Lowers glucose levels
 - Lowers blood cholesterol
 - Reduces inflammation
 - Is a prebiotic for probiotics
 - Promotes fullness
- Insoluble fiber
 - Keeps the system moving along
- Aim for 20 to 30 grams of fiber daily









Fresh, frozen and canned





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Fiber-filled grains and proteins

- Choose beans and legumes, whole grains, nuts and seeds
- Opt for dried or canned beans
- Look for premade grains when you want to try something new
- Read the Nutrition Facts panel
 - Goal: 5gm per serving or 20% DV
- Nuts and seed are high in fiber and calories

Nutrition Facts About 8 servings per container Serving size 1/2 cup (57g)Amount per serving Calories 230 % Daily Value* Total fat 8g 10% Saturated Fat 1g 4% Trans Fat Og Cholesterol Omg 0% Sodium 3mg 0% Total Carbohydrate 35g 13% Dietary Fiber 7g 23% Total Sugars 7g Includes Og Added Sugars 0% Protein 6g *The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food constitutes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice

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Slow down on sodium

- Salt is salt
- Health impacts
 - High blood pressure
 - Inflammation
 - Gut bacteria
- How much is enough?
 - 2300mg Dietary Guidelines
 - 1500mg American Heart Association
- Low sodium food solutions





Himalayan salt







Choose low-sodium foods

Foods high in sodium

- At home: processed snacks, meals and treats
- On the go: almost everything
- Read the Nutrition Facts panel
 - %DV: 5% is low, 20% is high
- Salt substitutes
- Monosodium glutamate (MSG) or Ajinomoto



Amount Per	Serving		
	:00	Calories f	rom Fat 12
		% D	aily Value
Total Fat	15g		20 9
Saturated	Fat 5g		28 9
Trans Fat	3g		
Cholester	ol 30mg		10 9
Sodium 65	50ma	4	28 9
Total Carl	ohvdra	te 30a	10 9
Dietary Fi			0 9
Sugars 50	0		
Protein 5g			
Frotein 5g			
Vitamin A 5%		• Vi	tamin C 2%
Calcium 15%		• Irc	on 5%
*Percent Daily Your Daily Valu	es may be h eds.	igher or lower	depending or
your calorie nee		ies 2,000	2,500
	Calor Less t	han 65g	80a
Total Fat Sat Fat	Less t Less t		80g 25g







Spice, acid and heat



Spice

- Enhances flavor, aroma and color
- Antioxidants rich, anti-inflammatory, affect glucose, cholesterol, cognition and mood
- Try cloves, rosemary, sage, oregano and cinnamon, plus ginger and turmeric

Acid

- Brightens and bring out flavors
- Try lemon juice or vinegar



Heat

- Intensifies and enhances flavor
- Try fresh/dry pepper and sauces



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Find healthier fats

- Saturated: less desirable
 - Increases LDL cholesterol
 - Limit to 5-6% of intake
- Unsaturated: highly desirable
 - Boosts HDL cholesterol
 - Lowers LDL/triglycerides
 - Supports brain health
 - Provides essential fatty acids
- Identify the swaportunities

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Know your fats

- Total fat = ALL THE FATS
 - Saturated/trans goal <5% DV
- Heart healthy cooking oils
 - Canola, corn, olive, peanut, safflower, soybean and sunflower
 - Avocado, grapeseed and sesame
- Food sources of healthy fats
 - Fish, shellfish, nuts and seeds
 - Avocados and olives



NI1			
Serving S	ize 3 oz. (er Contair		icts
Amount Pe	r Serving		
Calories	200	Calories fi	rom Fat 12
		% D	aily Value
Total Fat	15g		20
Saturate	ed Fat 5g		28
Trans F	at 3g		
Choleste	erol 30mg		10
Sodium (350ma		28
Total Ca	rbohydra	te 30g	10
Dietary	Fiber 0g	, in the second s	0
Sugars	5g		
Protein a	ōg		
Vitamin A 5	0/	• Vit	amin C 2%
Calcium 15			amin C 2%
-			
	lues may be h	ased on a 2,00 igher or lower o	
	Calori	es 2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less th		80g
Sat Fat Cholesterol	Less the		25g
Sodium	Less the	our ocorng	
Total Carbon		300mg	
Dietary Fibe		25g	30g





Seek less added sugars

- Are there healthier sugars?
 - Carbs = sugar
- Health connection
 - Glucose control
 - Triglycerides
 - Inflammation
 - Weight gain
- Identify the swaportunities





Honey or High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS)?







Finding added sugars

- Total sugars = ALL THE SUGARS
- Added sugars are those that do not occur naturally and are added during processing
 - Goal is to limit to 50mg/day
- Biggest sources of added sugars
 - Sugar-sweetened beverages
 - Baked goods
 - Desserts
 - Sweets

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8 servings per container Serving size 2/3 cu	ıp (55g
Amount per serving Calories	230
	aily Value
Total Fat 8g	109
Saturated Fat 1g	59
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol Omg	09
Sodium 160mg	79
Total Carbohydrate 37g	139
Dietary Fiber 4g	149
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	20 %
Protein 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	109
Calcium 260mg	209
Iron 8mg	459
Potassium 240mg	69





Artificial sweeteners

- Non-nutritive = no carbs/energy
 - Does not impact blood sugar
- Sugar alcohol = semi-nutritive
 - Lower in sugar
 - Acts like dietary fiber
 - Found in sweet treats "-ol"
- Are artificial sweeteners safe?
 - Moderation
 - May help with weight loss and glucose control









Food as medicine: a shortcut?



- Nutrigenomics the study of how food influences gene expressions and contributes to either health and longevity or to disease and earlier death
- Still in research phase
- No credible services or programs at this time
- Consult licensed nutrition professionals for personalized help







Food as medicine for wellness, prevention and maintenance

- 1. Balance eating with MyPlate
- 2. Eat a variety of foods
- 3. Proactively seek probiotics
- 4. Fill up on fiber
- 5. Slow down on sodium
- 6. Find healthier fats
- 7. Seek less added sugar









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"Positive health requires a knowledge of man's primary constitution and of the powers of various foods, both those natural to them and those resulting from human skill." - Hippocrates





HEALTH SUMMIT 2022 THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1PM-5PM

Learn about mood boosting foods, snackortunities, & sustainable eating. Participate in mindful mediation, chair yoga, & a plant-forward cook-along. Spend the afternoon or come for one event!



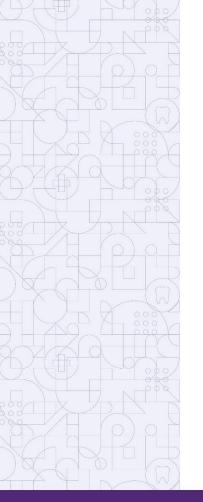


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GEHA nutrition resources for members

Elevate and Elevate Plus plans

- Rally digital health platform
- Real Appeal weight management program
- Learn more at geha.com/Elevate-Rewards

All GEHA benefit plans

- Healthy recipes, health and wellness articles
- Visit geha.com/Blog

GEHA website for benefit information geha.com







Q&A



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Thank you!

At GEHA, we exist to empower our members to be healthy and well. For all of us here at GEHA, that is our singular focus. At times like this, when your path toward health and well-being is potentially at risk, that's when it's most important that we do what it takes to be your trusted partner.

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This is a brief description of the features of Government Employees Health Association, Inc.'s medical plans. Please read the GEHA Federal brochures which are available at <u>geha.com/PlanBrochure</u>. All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations and exclusions set forth in the Federal brochures.

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