



# Webinar: Maintaining Immune Health in the Face of COVID-19 and Future Viruses

Presentation Slides: Janet Lord, FMedSci

#### UNIVERSITYOF BIRMINGHAM





# Taking the Fight to Coronavirus: Exercise and Nutrition

Professor Janet M Lord FMedSci

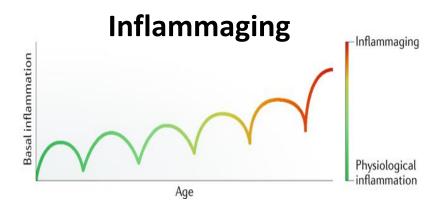
Director of the Institute of Inflammation and Ageing

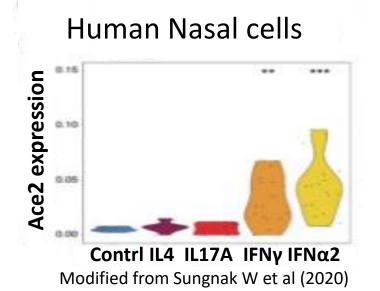
Director of the MRC-Versus Arthritis Centre for Musculoskeletal Ageing Research

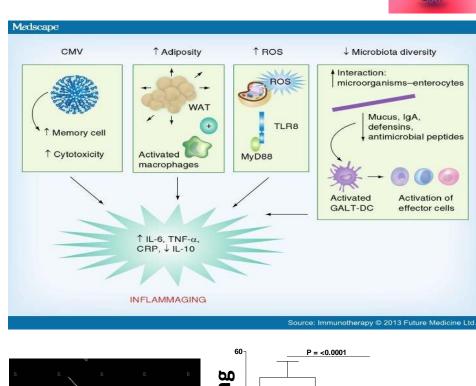


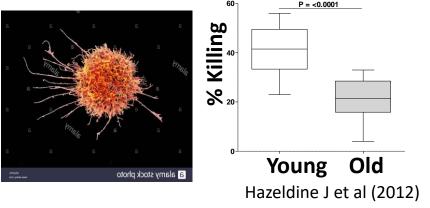
## The Aged Body and COVID-19

















# Skeletal Muscle – A key immune regulator





#### Macrophages



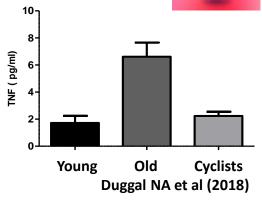
Muscle

releases

**Myokines** 

IL6, IL7, IL15, MNRTL

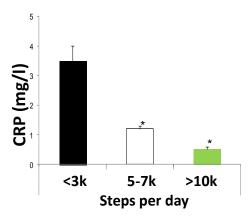
↑IL10 ↑IL-RA ↓TNF



#### **NK** cells



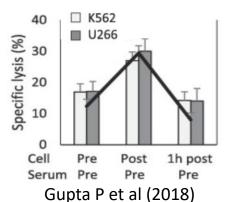
↑ Killing Virus infected cells ↑ Cell numbers



#### **Fat**



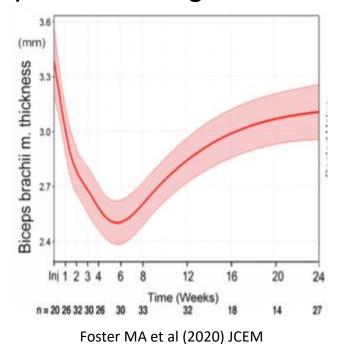
↓ inflammatory macrophages↓Adipokines

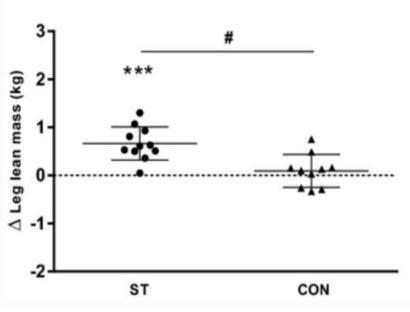


# **Recovery after COVID-19**



- COVID-19 patients experience extreme fatigue, meaning they exercise less.
- Patients can be bed bound for several weeks, losing muscle as a result (1kg of muscle can be lost per week of bed rest).
- Regular exercise, especially resistance exercise, is important to regain muscle and help immune function.

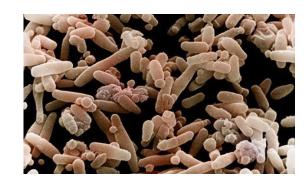




Aas SN et al (2020) Aging Clin Exp Res

# **Nutrition and Immunity**

- The gut microbiome (bacteria) has a major influence on the immune system, including inflammation.
  - Antibiotics often given to Covid19 patients destroy the gut bacteria.
  - Eating a diet high in fruit and vegetables helps to have a healthy gut.
- Vitamin D enhances immune function, and also is important for muscle health.
- Zinc has been shown to reduce infections.
- 4 weeks on a diet low in carbohydrates (the paleo diet) has been shown to reduce inflammation (Gyorkos et al, 2019)



#### Foods rich in zinc



Meats

**Pumpkin Seeds** 

Shellfish