

***Symposium on
Integrating Food and Nutrition into Oncology Care Through
Food is Medicine Interventions***

September 25, 2024

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Joya Chandra, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA

Fang Fang Zhang, Tufts University, USA

Diet, nutrition and cancer prognosis: summary of epidemiological evidence

Kostas Tsilidis, PhD

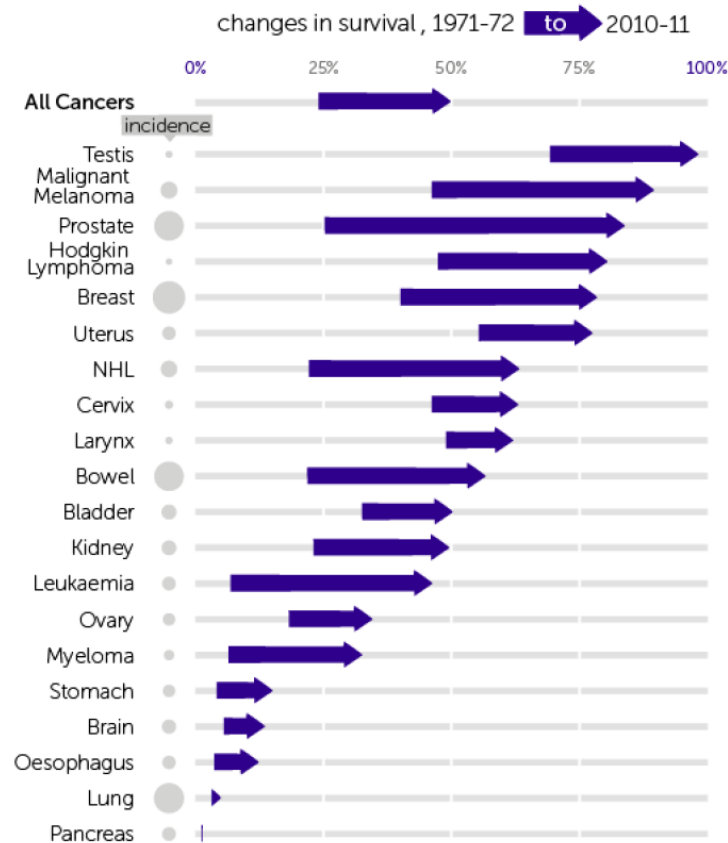
Reader in Cancer Epidemiology, Imperial College London
Joint-Head of WCRF CUP Global team, Imperial College London
Professor of Epidemiology, University of Ioannina

Outline of the talk

- Rationale & cancer survival statistics
- Research results
 - **Body fatness and diet with breast, colorectal and prostate cancer prognosis**
- Methodological approaches
 - **Evidence synthesis in Global Cancer Update Programme (CUP GLOBAL)**
 - **Mendelian randomization**
 - **Observational analyses in EPIC cohort**
- Conclusions, next steps relevant for research and policy

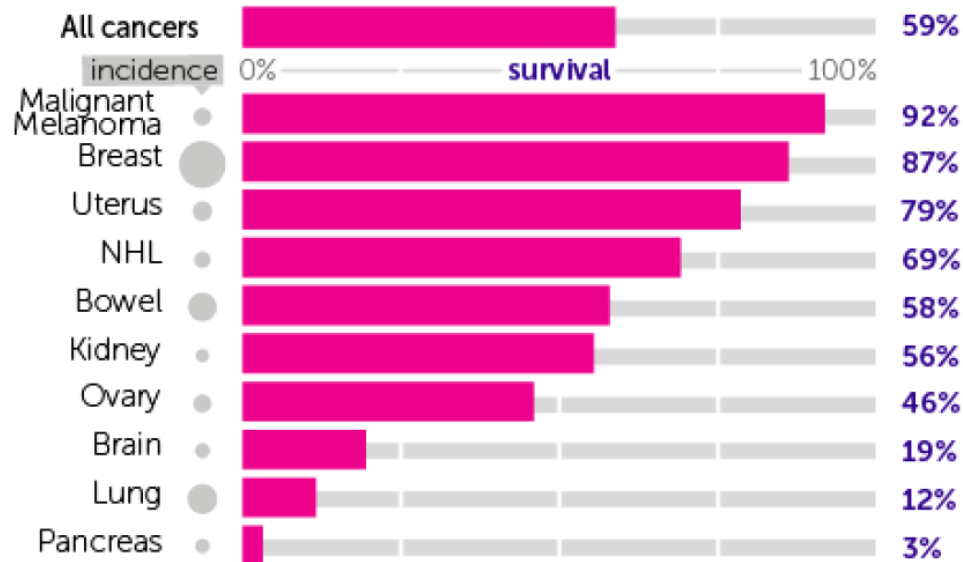
Cancer survival rates are improving

Age-Standardised Ten-Year Net Survival, Selected Cancers, Adults (Aged 15-99), England and Wales, 2010-2011



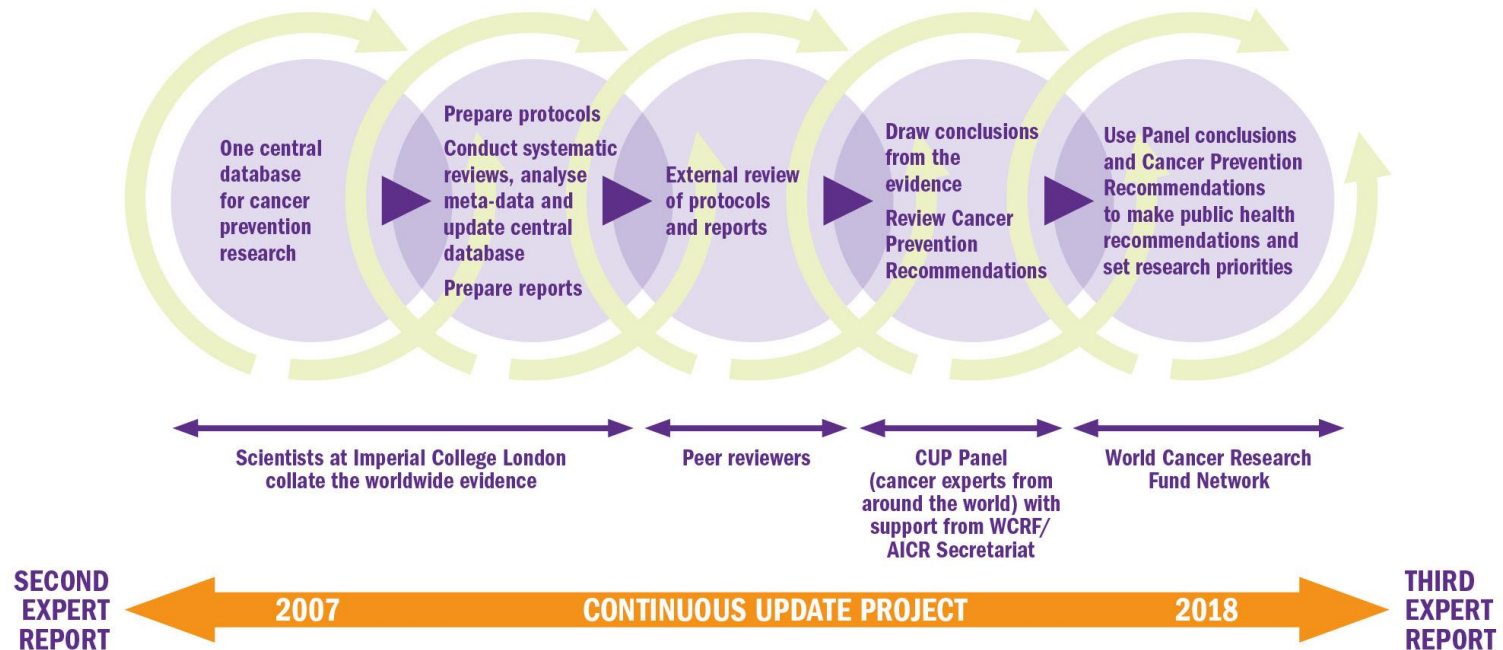
5-year cancer survival rates are generally good

Age-Standardised Five-Year Net Survival, Selected Cancers, Adults (Aged 15-99), England and Wales, 2010-2011



Introduction to the Continuous Update Project (CUP)

- Rigorous, systematic and ongoing programme
- Trusted, authoritative scientific resource
- Provides the most up-to-date information on reducing cancer risk



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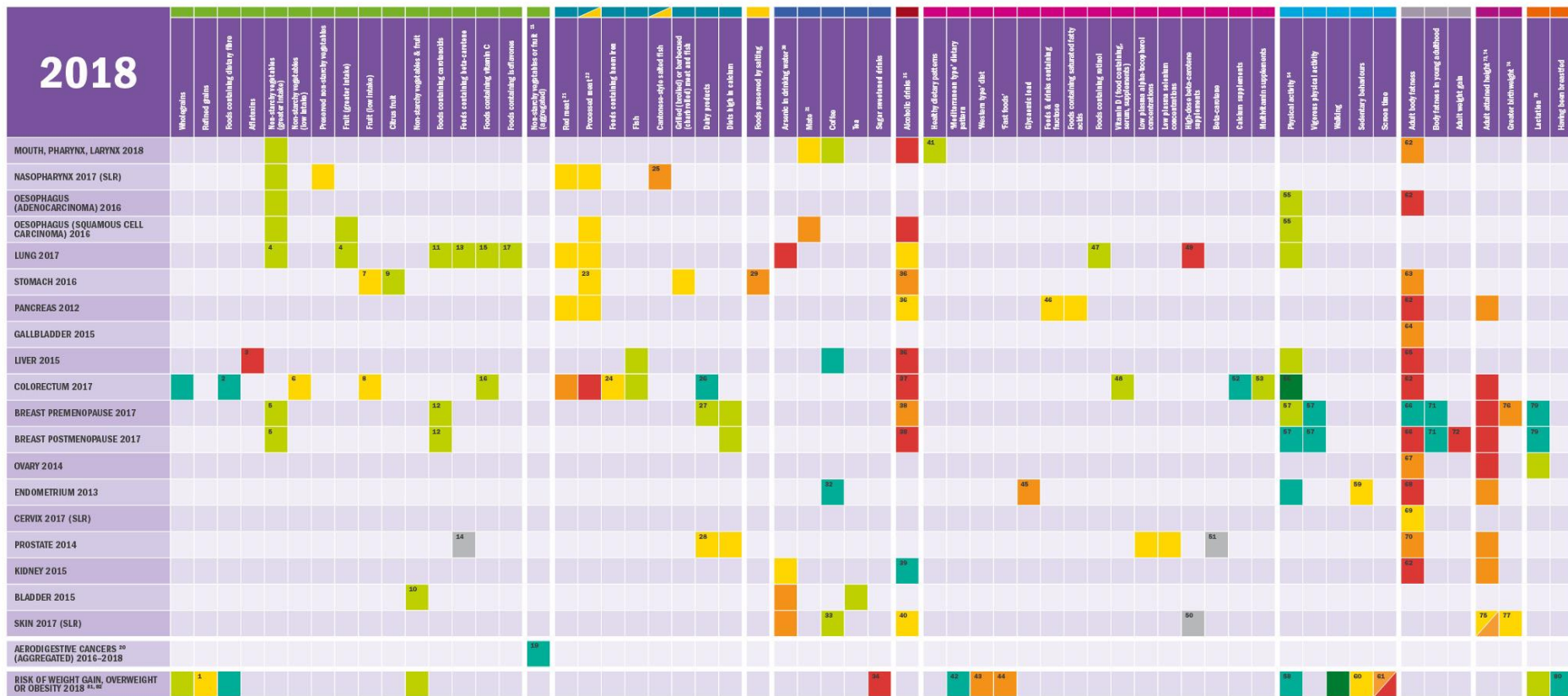
Grading the quality of the evidence

Evidence Matrix		Decreases risk	Increases risk
Strong evidence	Convincing	Basis for Recommendations	
	Probable		
Limited evidence	Limited - suggestive		
	Limited - no conclusion		
Strong evidence	Substantial effect on risk unlikely		

Pre-determined criteria for grading the evidence:

- Quantity, consistency, magnitude and precision of summary estimates
- Existence of a dose-response
- Study design and risk of bias
- Generalizability
- Mechanistic plausibility

Evidence matrix for cancer development



Conclusions Key

 Convincing decreases risk	 Convincing increases risk
 Probable decreases risk	 Probable increases risk
 Limited - suggestive decreases risk	 Limited - suggestive increases risk
 Substantial effect on risk unlikely	

Exposure Group Key

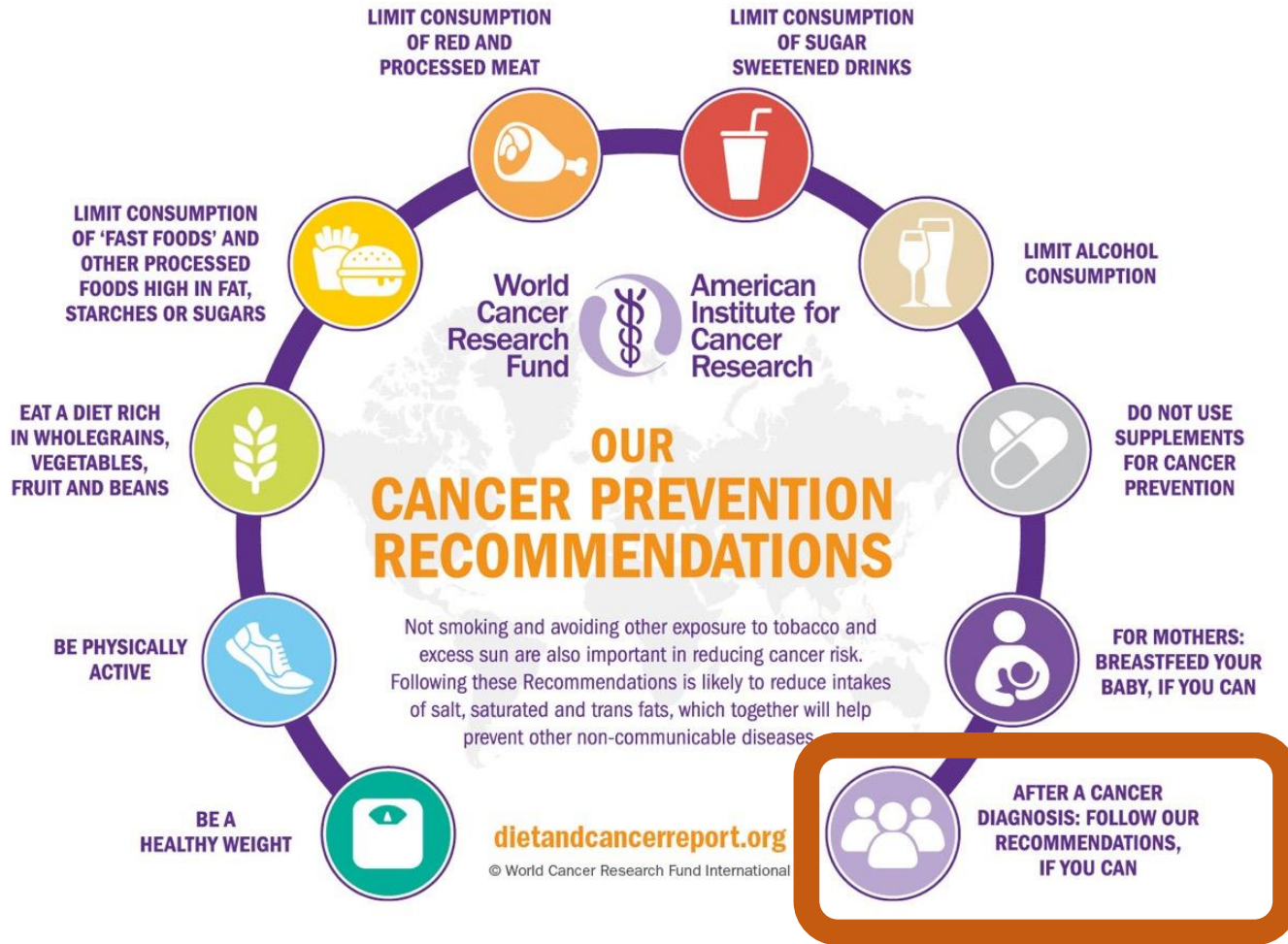
 Wholegrains, vegetables and fruit	 Other dietary exposures
 Meat, fish and dairy products	 Physical activity
 Preservation and processing of foods	 Body fatness and weight gain
 Non-alcoholic drinks	 Height and birthweight
 Alcoholic drinks	 Lactation/having been breastfed

Abbreviation: SLR, systematic literature review.

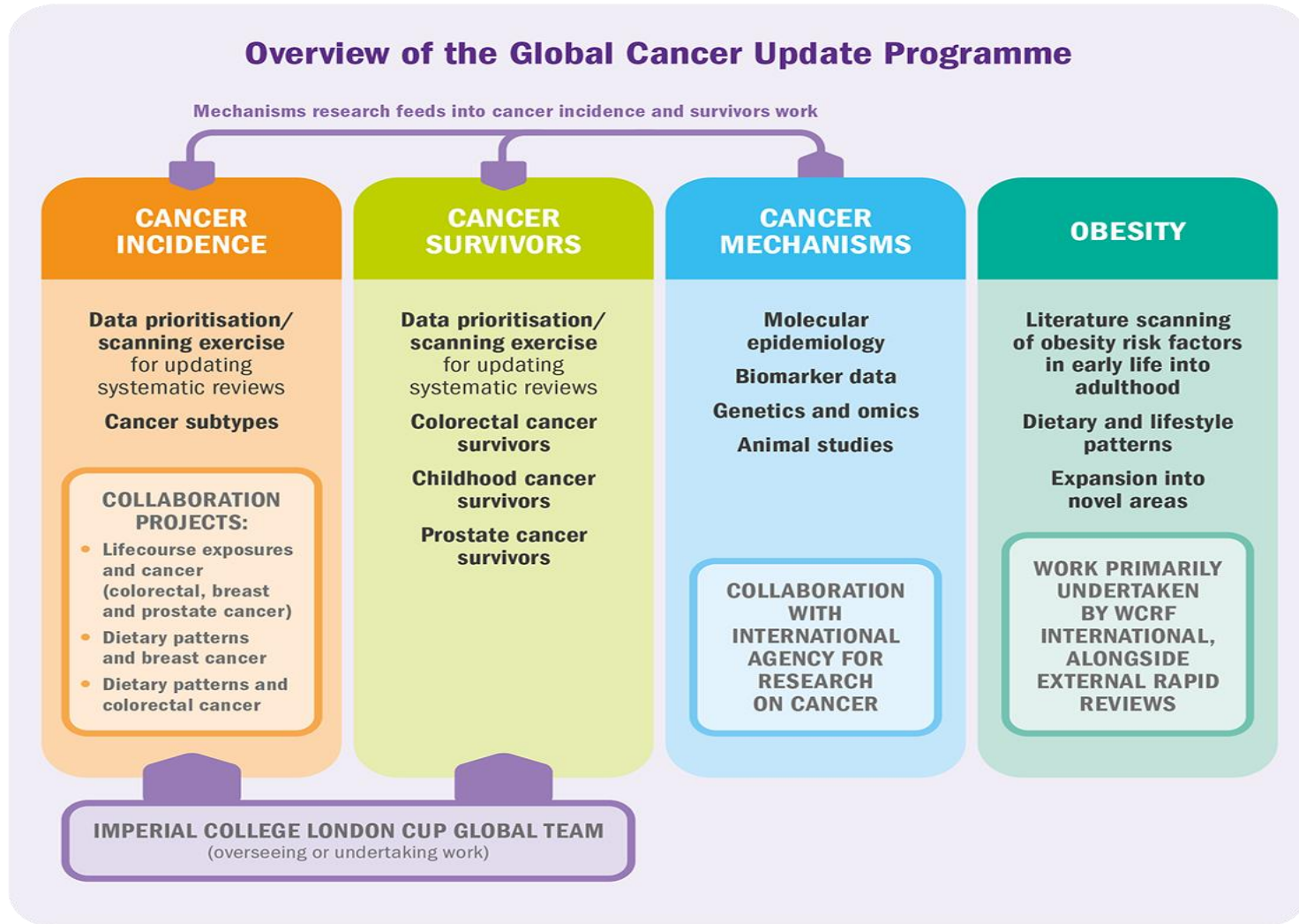
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Cancer prevention recommendations - 2018



Overview of CUP Global



Synthesis of the evidence for post-diagnosis body fatness and diet with **breast cancer** prognosis

Chan DSM, et al. IJC 2023

Cariolou M, et al. IJC 2023

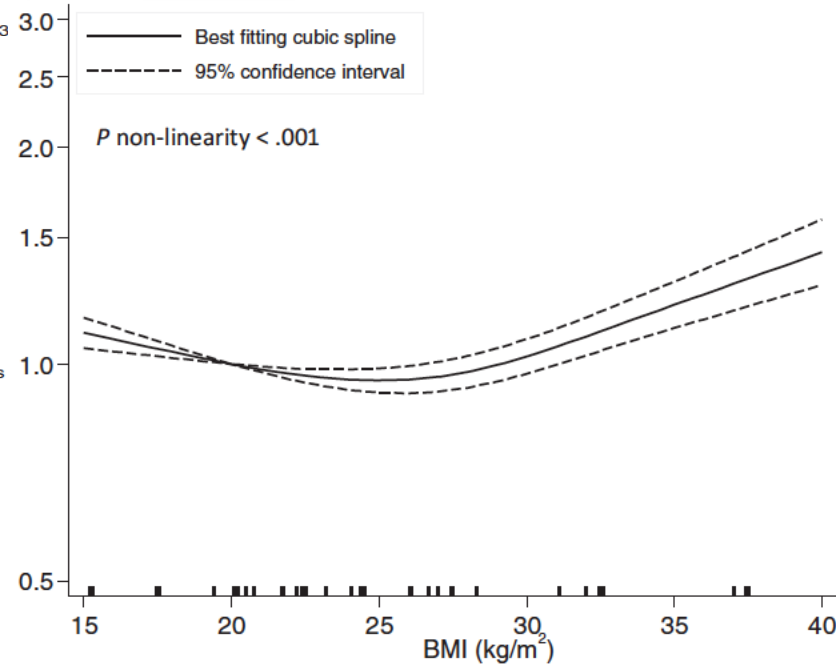
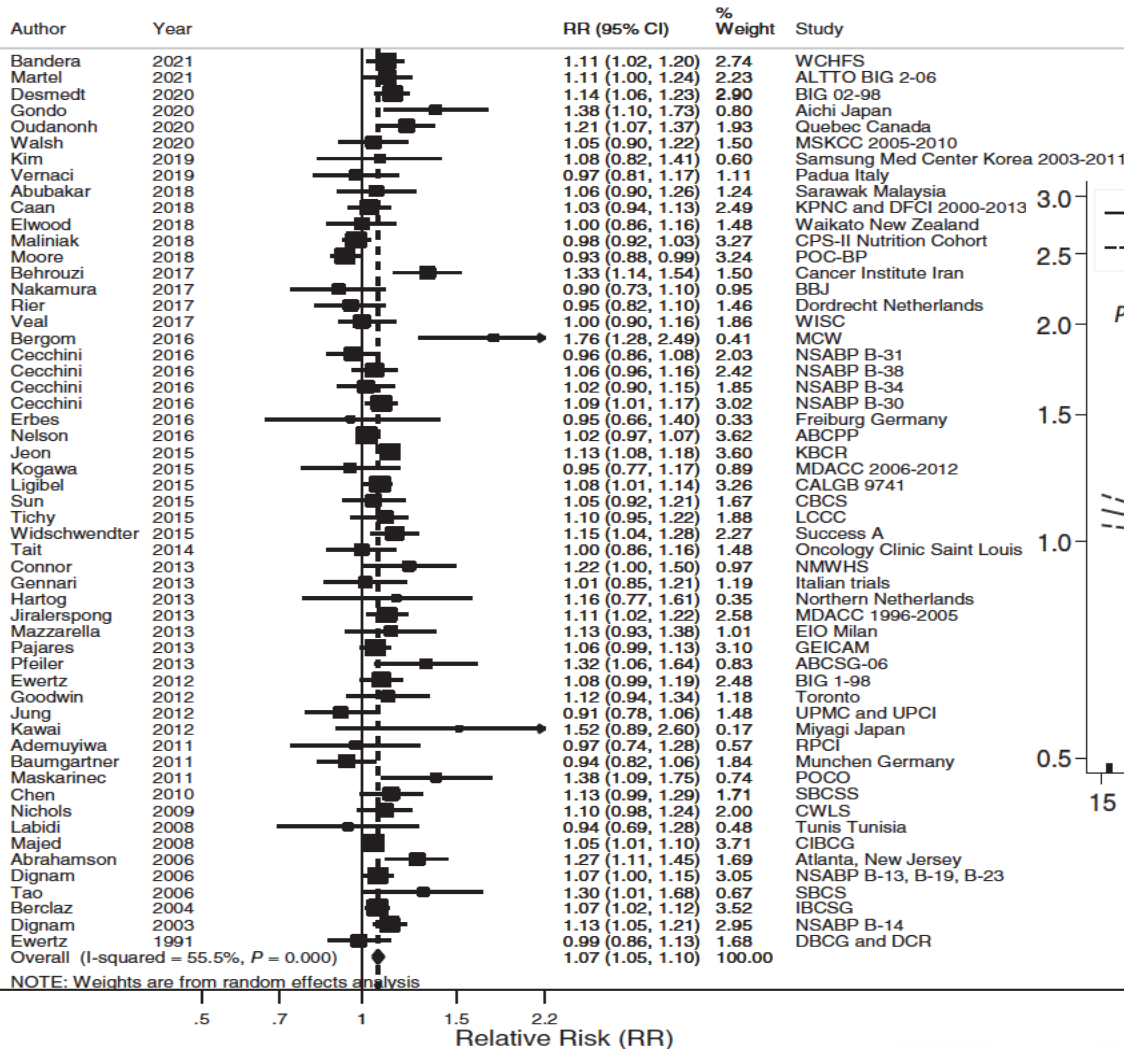
Becerra-Tomas N & Balducci K, et al. IJC 2023

Tsilidis KK, et al. IJC 2023

BMI and all-cause mortality



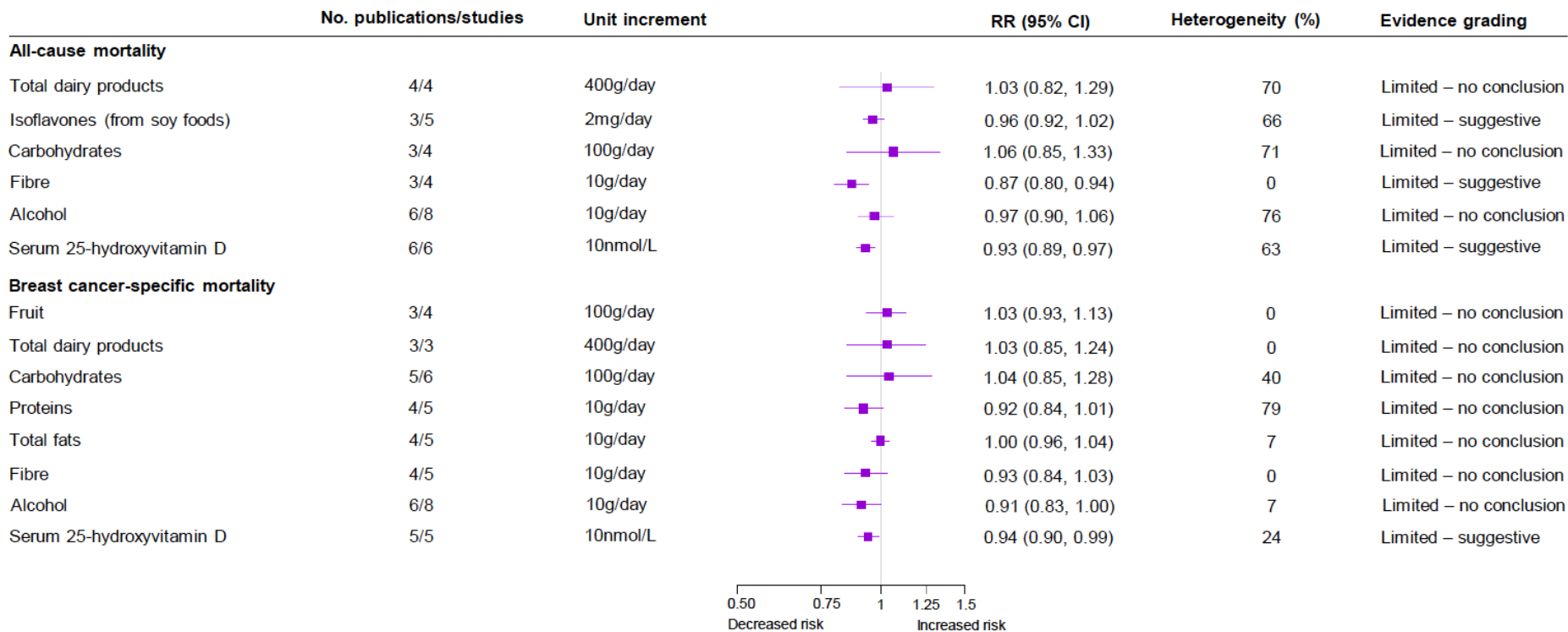
Dr Doris Chan



Dietary factors and breast cancer prognosis

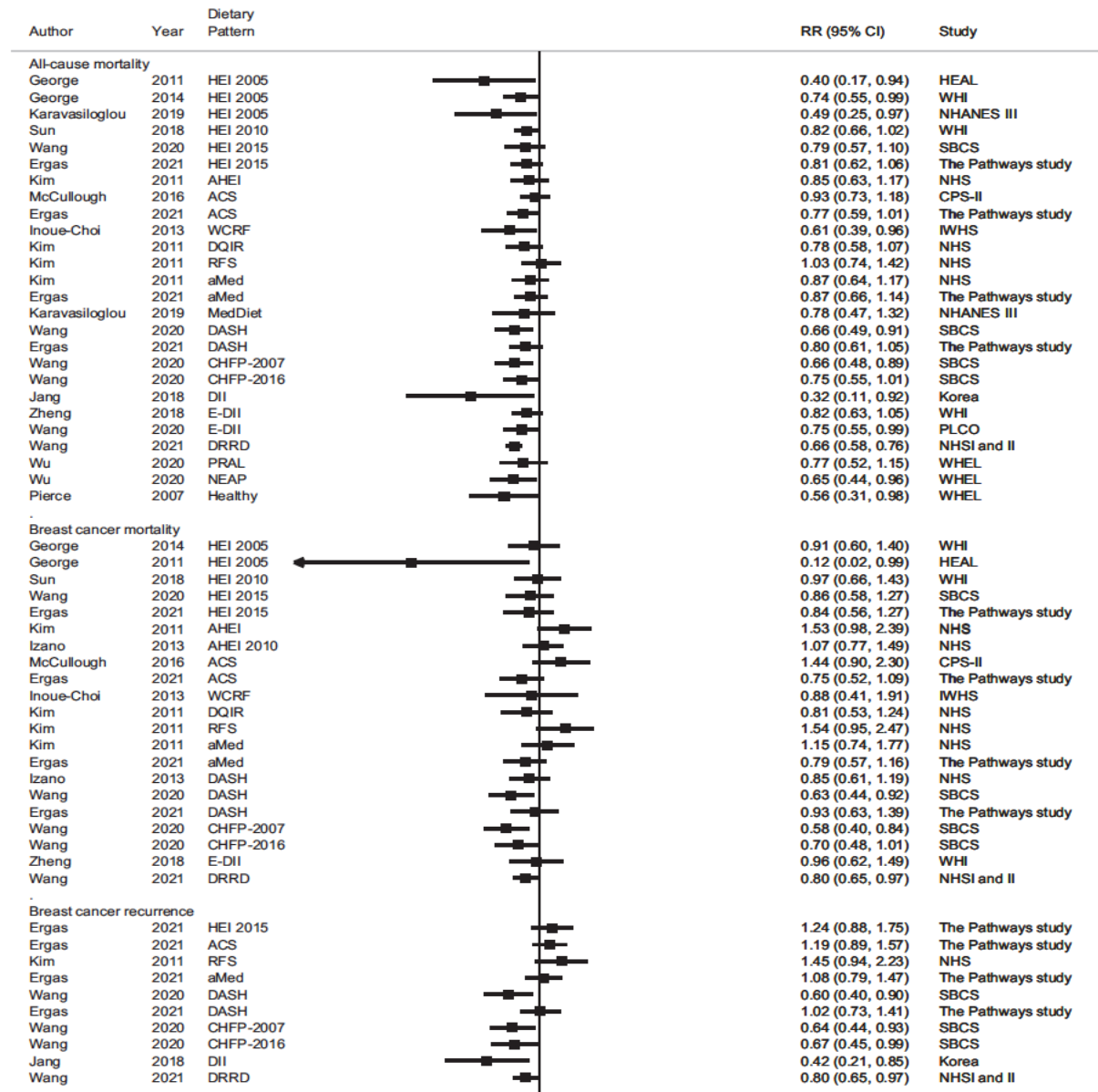


Dr Nerea Becerra-Tomas



For healthy dietary and lifestyle patterns, vegetables, wholegrains, meat, and supplements, few studies were identified, and a meta-analysis was not performed. Evidence was graded as limited-suggestive for pre-defined healthy dietary and lifestyle patterns and lower risk of all-cause and other causes of death, and for soy food intake and lower risk of breast cancer mortality and recurrence. The remaining associations were graded as limited-no conclusion.

Dietary (and lifestyle) patterns and breast cancer prognosis



Synthesis of the evidence for post-diagnosis body fatness and diet with **colorectal cancer** prognosis

Becerra-Tomas N, et al. IJC 2024

Chan DSM, et al. IJC 2024

Markozannes G, et al. IJC 2024

Tsilidis KK, et al. IJC 2024

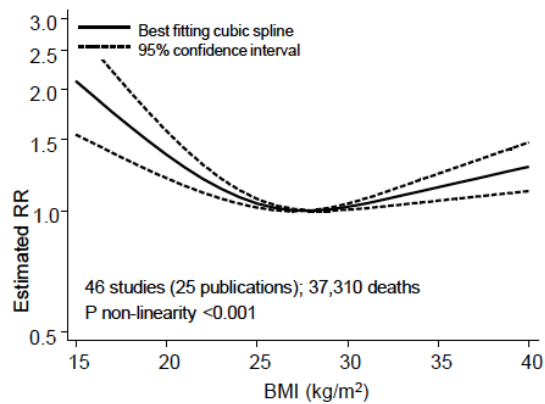
BMI and colorectal cancer prognosis



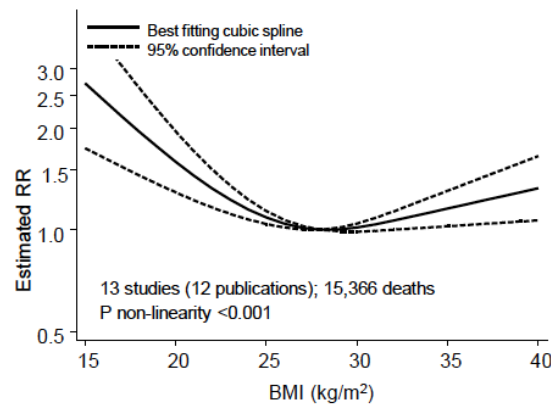
Dr Nerea Becerra-Tomas

Post-diagnosis body mass index (BMI) and colorectal cancer outcomes

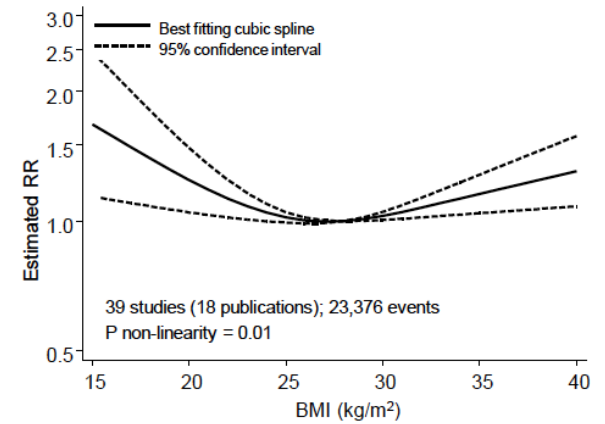
All-cause mortality



Cancer-specific mortality



Recurrence/disease-free survival



The observed reverse J-shaped relationships may be partly contributed by methodological limitations (confounding, selection bias, reverse causation, measurement error and classification of exposures) of the individual studies

Limitations when studying survival in epidemiological studies

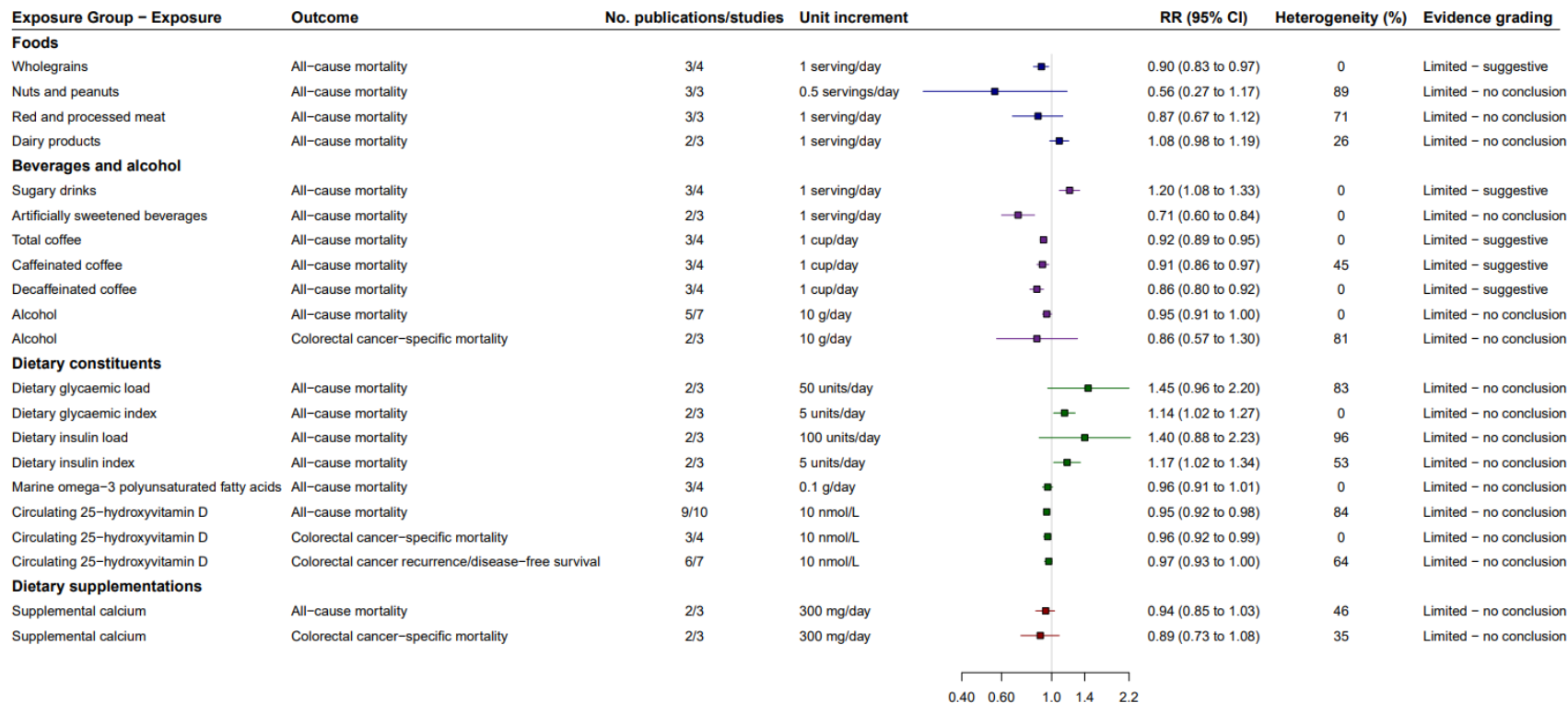
- Timing and frequency of exposure assessment
 - *(Pre-), during and (mixed) post-diagnosis assessment and at a single time point*
- Reverse causation
 - *Lifestyle can change as a consequence of the disease or treatment*
- Survival bias
 - *Cases must survive long enough (likely healthier) to be included in the study*
- Residual confounding
 - *Studies do not always collect data and adjust for important confounders, such as cancer treatment, stage, grade*
- Collider bias
 - *Various factors influence both cancer incidence and survival and disease incidence works as a collider variable*

Tsilidis KK, et al. IJC 2024

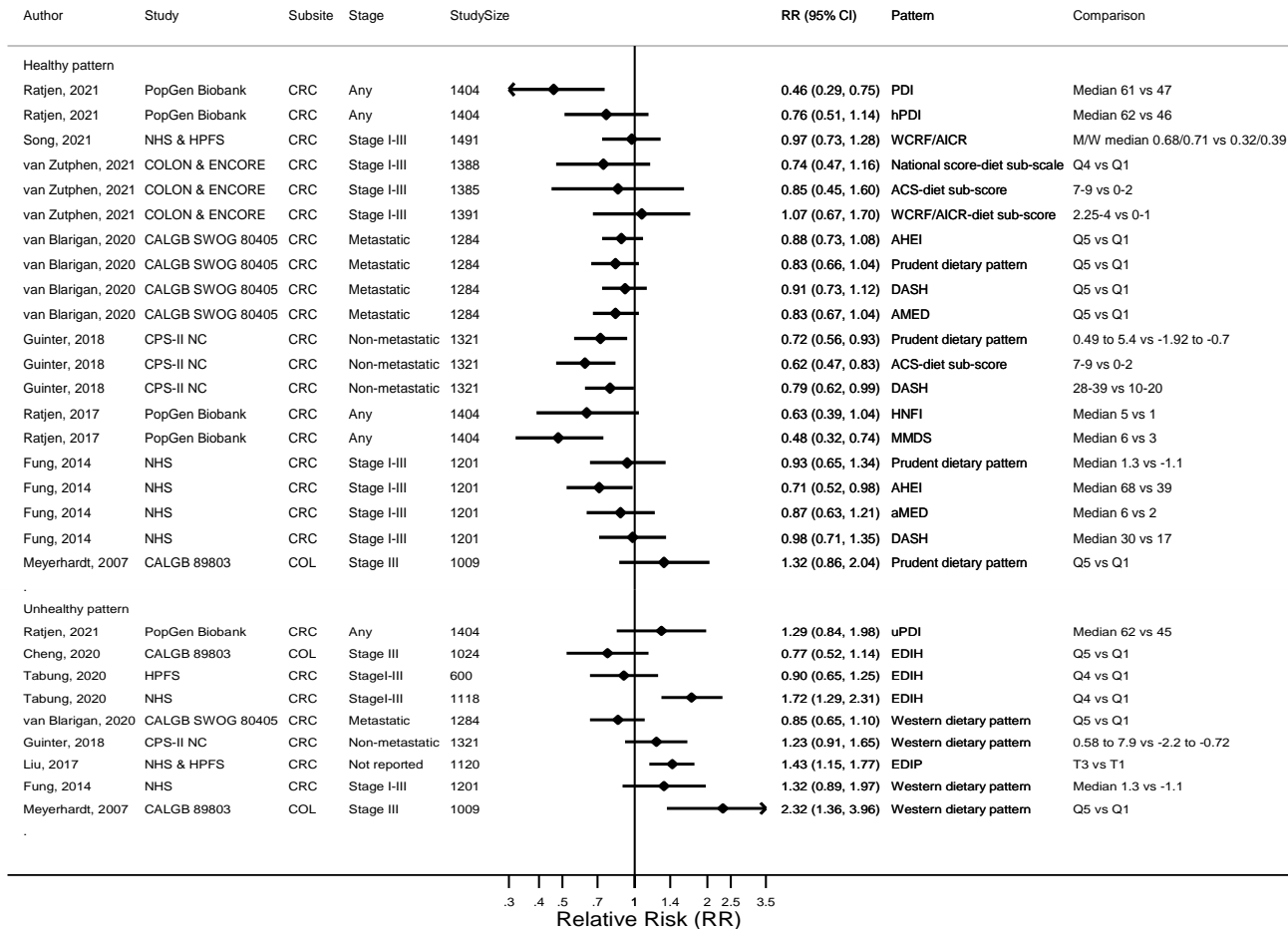
Dietary factors and colorectal cancer prognosis



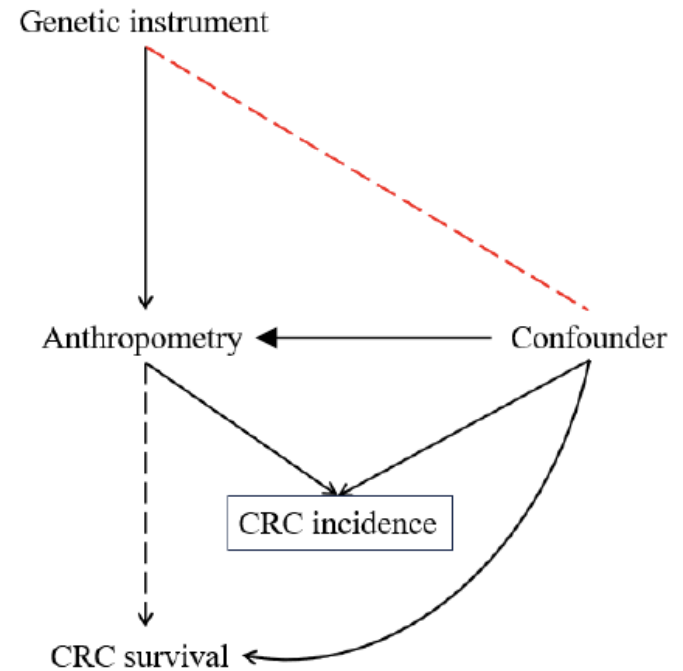
Dr Doris Chan



Dietary patterns and all-cause mortality



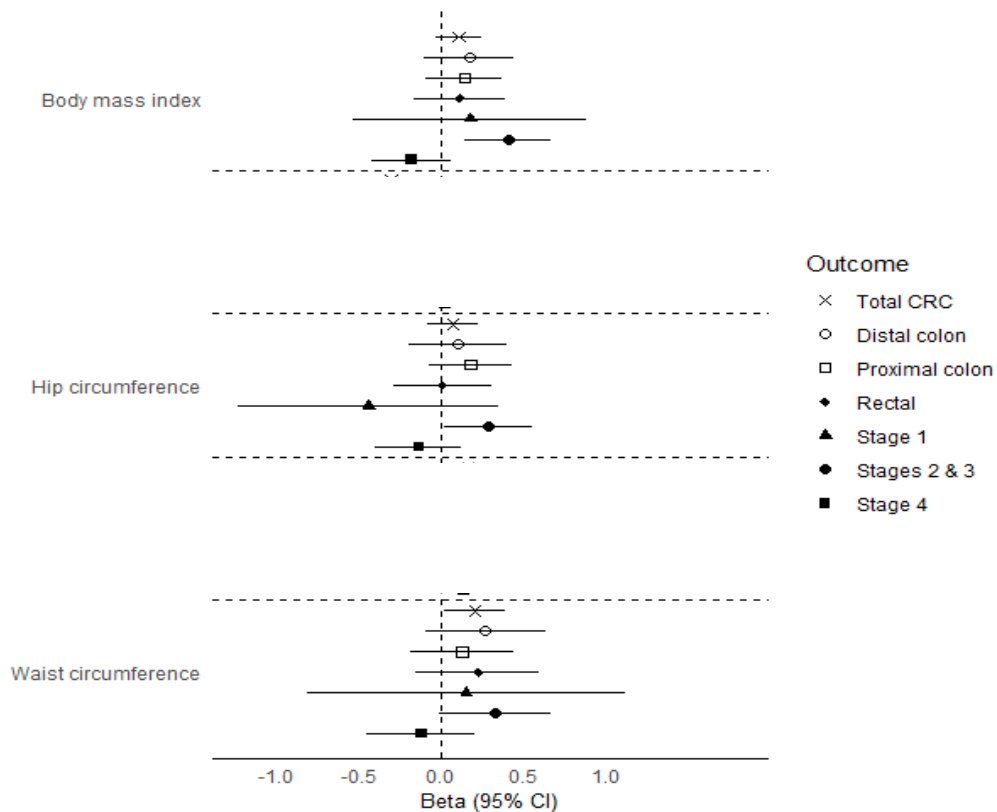
Mendelian randomization of body fatness for colorectal cancer prognosis



Body fatness for colorectal cancer mortality



Afroditi Kanellopoulou



Outcome	Total	Died from the disease
Total CRC	16,964	4,010
Distal colon	6,214	1,433
Proximal colon	4,881	978
Rectal	4,749	1,045
Stage 1	3,338	157
Stages 2-3	6,420	1,209
Stage 4	1,847	1,448

Synthesis of the evidence for post-diagnosis body fatness with **prostate cancer** prognosis

BMI and prostate cancer prognosis



Margarita Cariolou

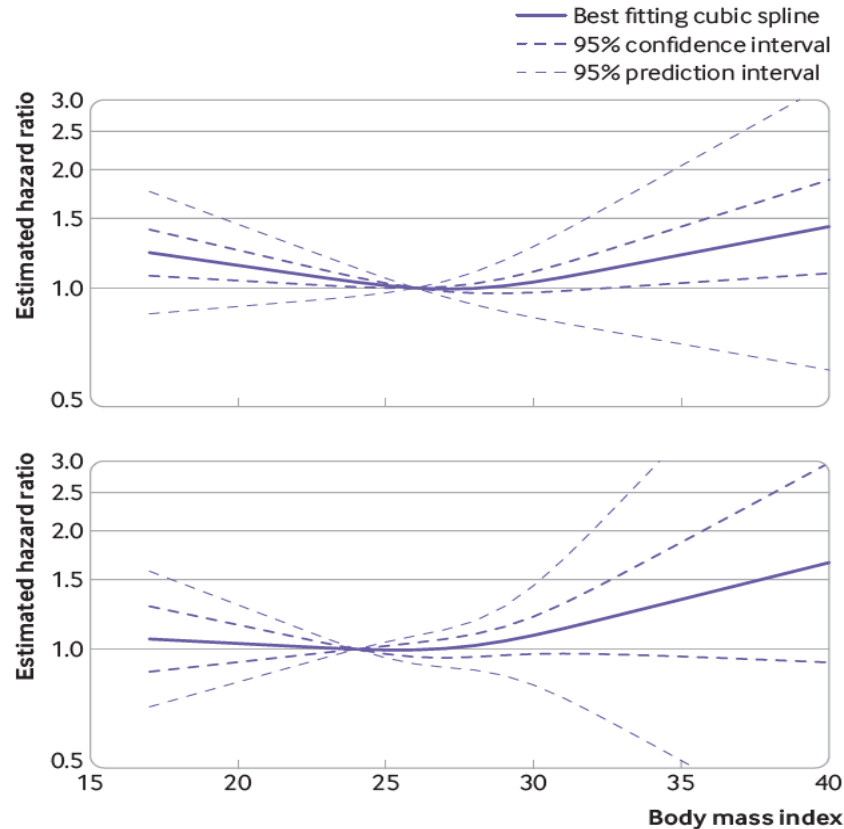


Figure 2 | Non-linear dose-response meta-analysis for the association between body mass index and all cause mortality (top) and between body mass index and mortality specific to prostate cancer (bottom)

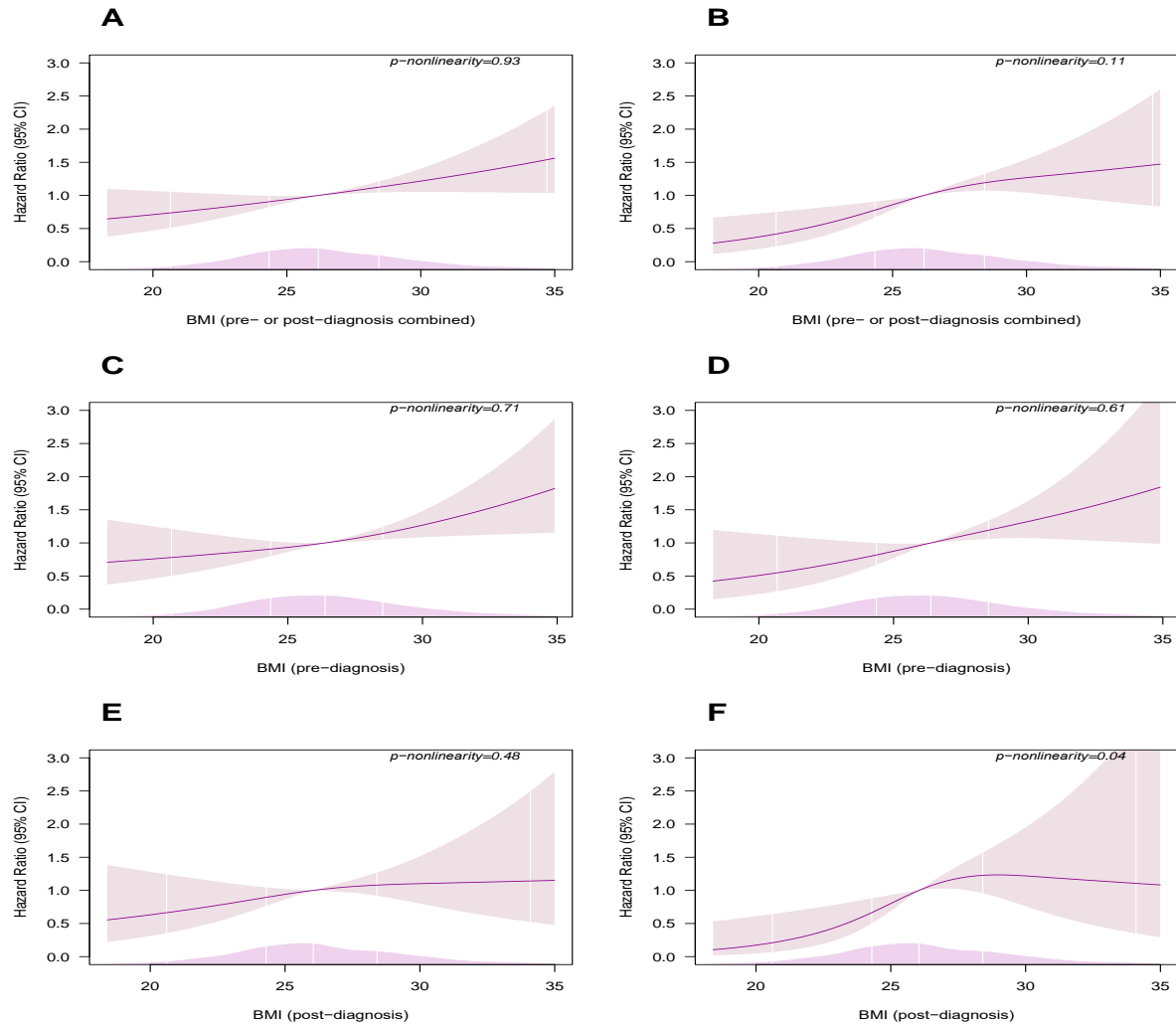
Cariolou M, et al. BMJ Med 2023

Association of body fatness with **prostate cancer** prognosis in the **EPIC cohort**

BMI and all-cause (A) and prostate cancer specific (B) mortality



Margarita Cariolou



Conclusions

- Our results could encourage the development of lifestyle recommendations for cancer patients to avoid obesity, (be physically active), and consume a healthy diet.
- However, evidence was limited in quality and quantity, and not strong enough for WCRF to develop recommendations
- Instead, WCRF developed guidance for people living with and beyond cancer
- Further well-designed intervention and cohort studies are needed to support the development of more specific and targeted lifestyle recommendations for cancer patients.

<https://www.wcrf.org/diet-activity-and-cancer/global-cancer-update-programme/cancer-survivors/>

WCRF policy work to support people living with and beyond cancer

- Inclusion of nutrition (and physical activity) in cancer care
- Creating healthier environments
- Prioritising prevention research
- Addressing health inequalities



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Find out more about our policy work



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Acknowledgements



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