A scenic view of a city waterfront, likely Liverpool, featuring modern architecture and a canal. The text "AKU International Patient Workshop 2024" is overlaid in white on a dark blue background.

# AKU International Patient Workshop 2024



# Housekeeping

Please note, there is no fire drill planned at the hotel today. If the fire alarm sounds, please walk out to the coffee area and take the stairs left of the coffee stations.

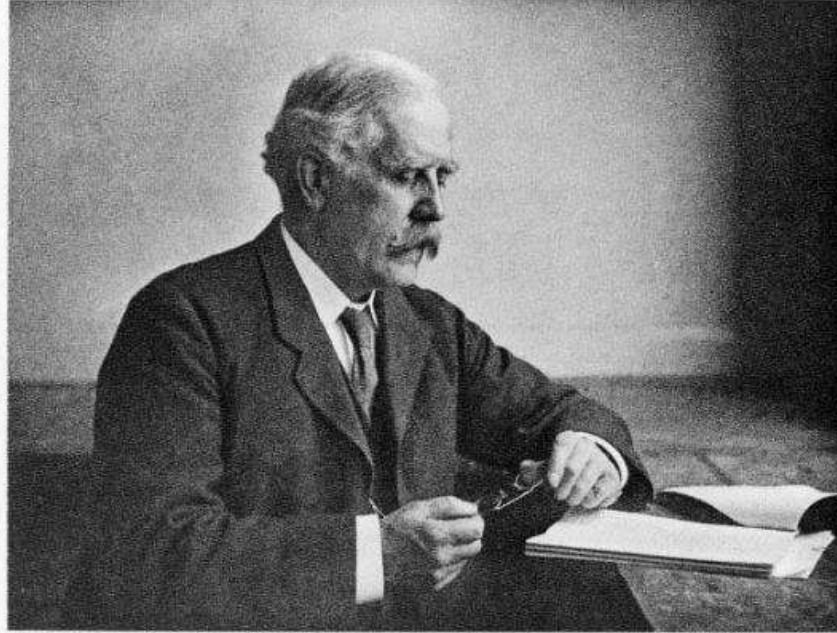
If you would need assistance, please fill out the fire procedure form - we will collect these and give these to the hotel team.

# The International AKU Patient Workshop

Dr Nicolas Sireau,  
Chair & CEO, AKU Society  
[nick@akusociety.org](mailto:nick@akusociety.org)



# 1902: Sir Archibald Garrod



*A. G. Garrod.*

The Croonian Lectures

ON

INBORN ERRORS OF METABOLISM.

*Delivered before the Royal College of Physicians of London  
on June 18th, 23rd, 25th, and 30th, 1908,*

BY ARCHIBALD E. GARROD, M.A., M.D.  
OXON., F.R.C.P. LOND.,

ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN TO, AND LECTURER ON CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY  
AT, ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL; SENIOR PHYSICIAN, HOSPITAL  
FOR SICK CHILDREN, GREAT ORMOND STREET.

LECTURE II.<sup>1</sup>

*Delivered on June 23rd.*

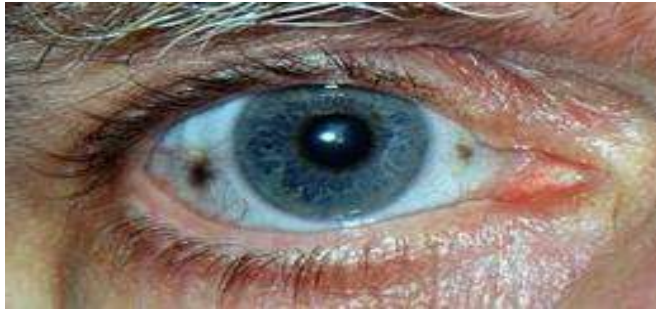
ALKAPTONURIA.

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS,—Of inborn errors of metabolism, alkaptonuria is that of which we know most, and from the study of which most has been learnt. In itself it is a trifling matter, inconvenient rather than harmful, which only attracts attention because an infant stains its clothing, or because an adult fails to effect an insurance of his life. The medical man merely needs to be aware of its existence and to be acquainted with the methods for its recognition in order that he may not mistake it for troubles of graver kinds; but for the chemical physiologist and pathologist it is one of the most interesting of metabolic

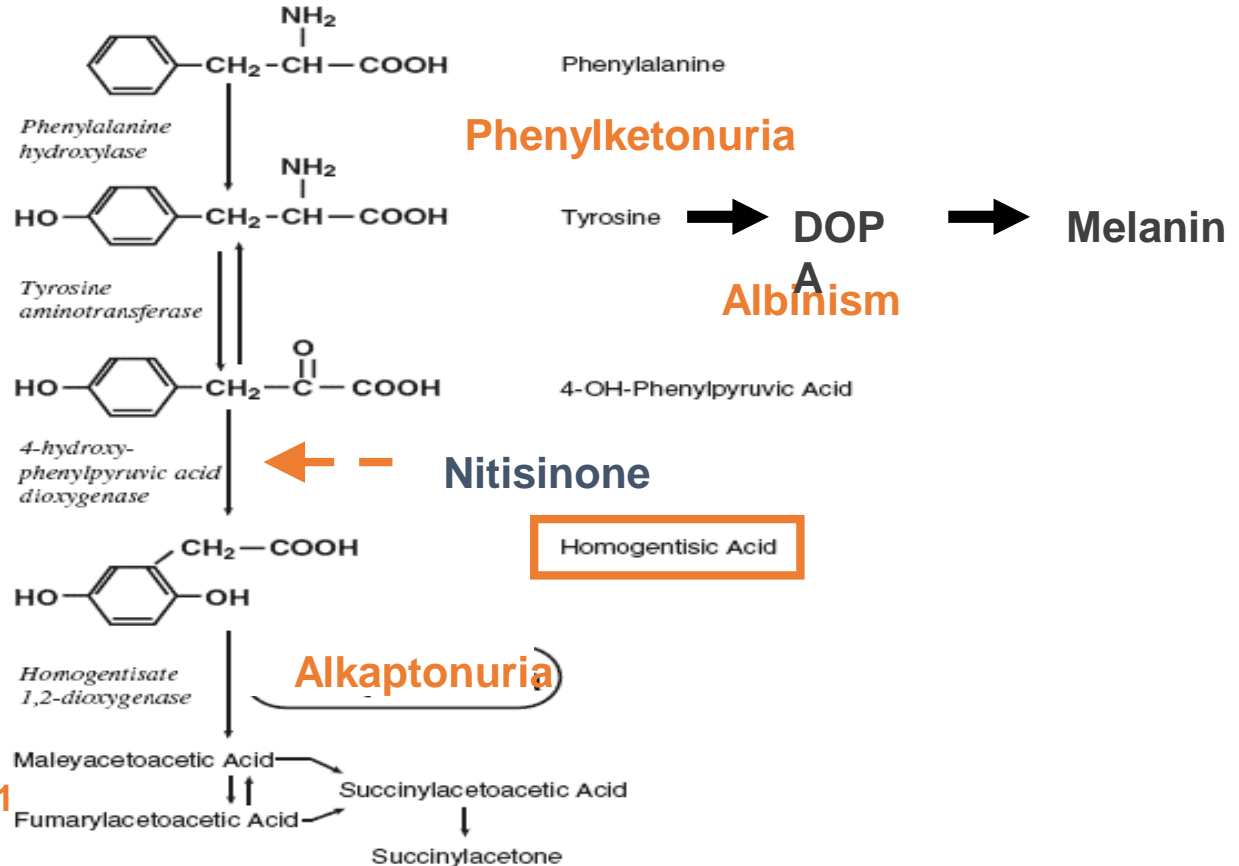
the early years of the nineteenth century was drawn in medical writing: black when passed and such as but it is difficult to suggest an alkaptonuria for some cases: sixteenth and seventeenth century G. A. Scribonius<sup>4</sup> (in 1584) of whom enjoyed good health, continuous that cited by Schenck<sup>5</sup> (in 1606) similar peculiarity and stated life. The most interesting record in the work of Zacutus Lusitanus patient was a boy who passed age of 14 years, was submitted to treatment which had for its aim the his viscera, which was supposed in question by charring and the measures prescribed were cold and watery diet, and drug any obvious effect, and eventually the futile and superfluous their natural course. None of them married, begat a large family, life, always passing urine black

That alkaptonuria is a very question, and many medical men never met with it. Of its occurrence a family and of its mode of spoken at sufficient length in the majority of instances it is present throughout life, but has been seen

# The AKU Tetrad

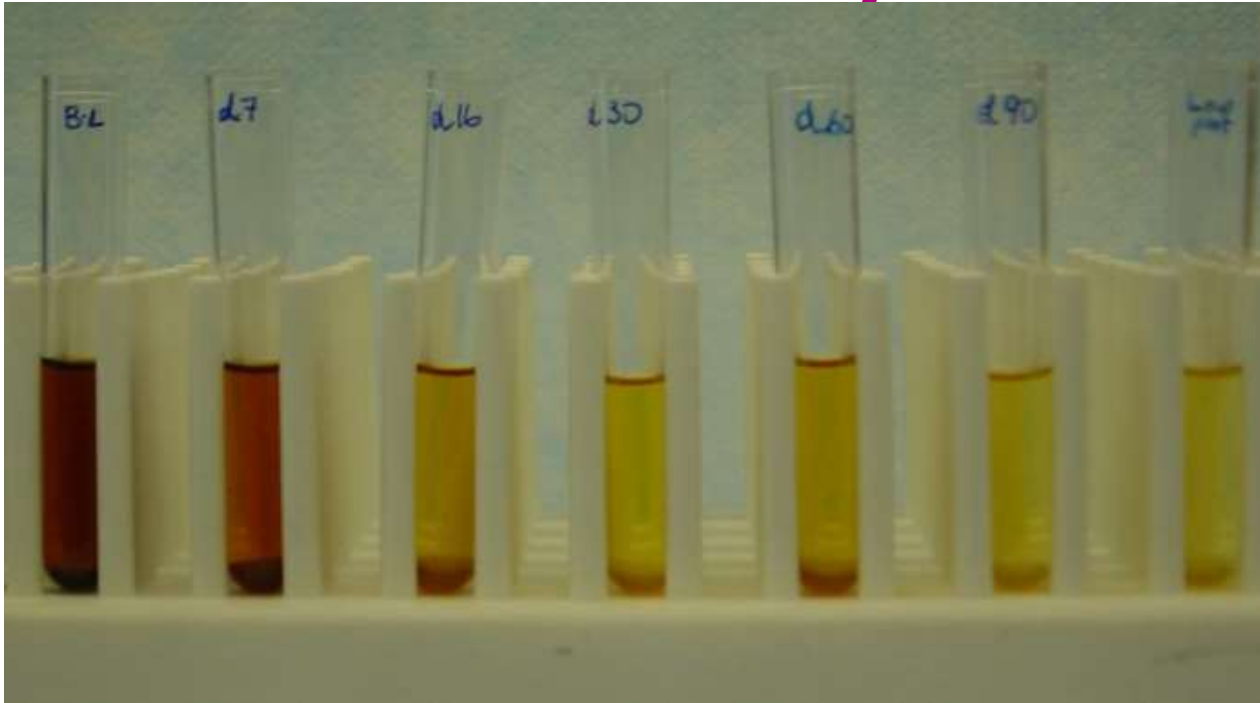


# Metabolic pathway





# Urinary HGA

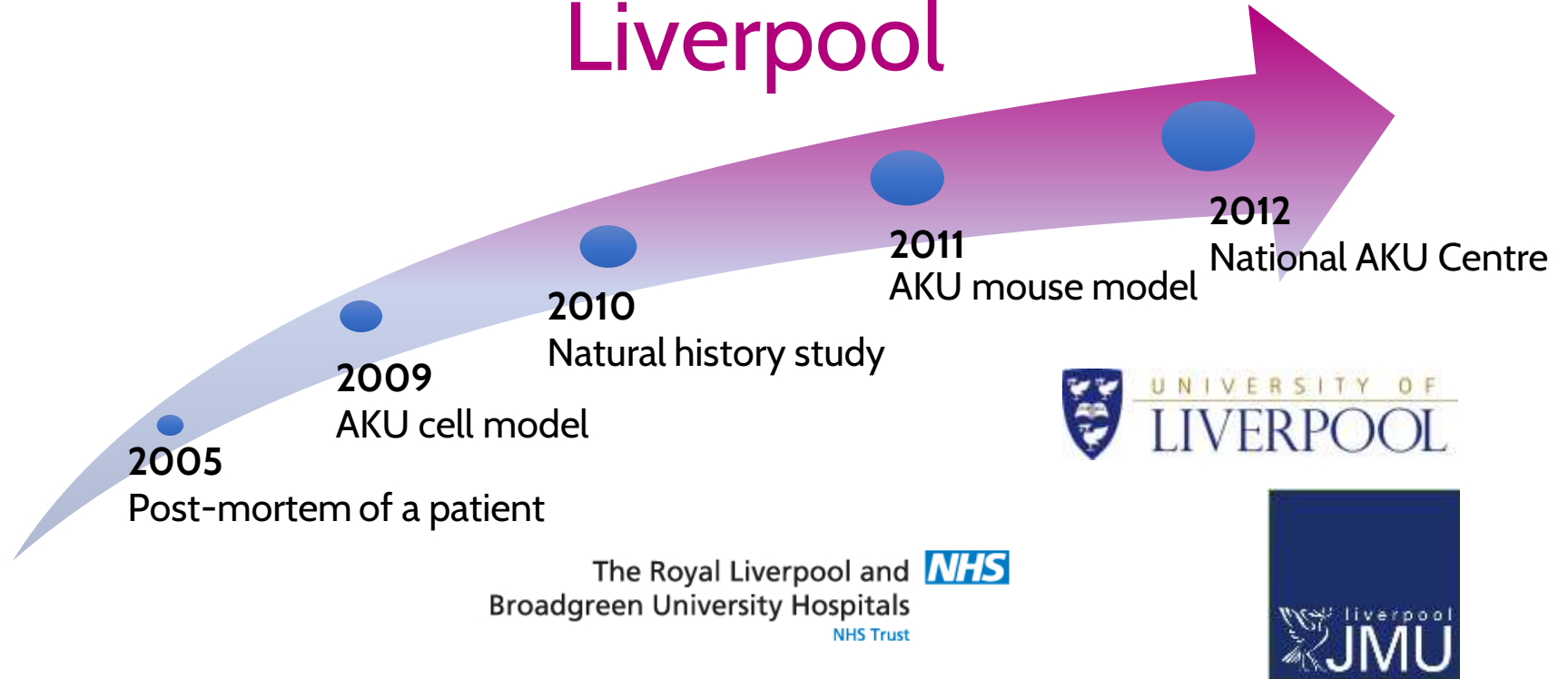




# AKU Mouse Model



# AKU Academic Research In Liverpool



Credit to Prof L Ranganath, Prof Jim Gallagher and Prof Jonathan Jarvis

# 1325 AKU Patients World Wide



# AKU Societies in EU, Asia, Middle East

- ## and North America
- AKU Society UK
  - ALCAP (France)
  - AIMAKU (Italy)
  - AKU Society Germany
  - AKU Society Netherlands
  - AKU Society Jordan
  - AKU Society India
  - AKU Society Slovakia
  - AKU Society North America (USA and Canada)
  - AKU Society Belgium
  - AKU Society Sweden
  - AKU Society Asia

# The National AKU Centre at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital



# The clinical trials





DevelopAKUre

# DevelopAKUre

The Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals  
NHS Trust

Hôpital Necker  
Enfants Malades



## Clinical Sites

## Regulatory & Monitoring



# Consortium



## Patient Support

## Analysis





# Three Studies

Trial Name	Description	Sites
<b>SONIA 1:</b> Suitability of Nitisinone in Alkaptonuria 1	3-month phase II study	UK/Slovakia
<b>SONIA 2:</b> Suitability of Nitisinone in Alkaptonuria 2	4-year phase III	UK/Slovakia/France
<b>SOFIA:</b> Subclinical Ochronosis Features in Alkaptonuria	Cross-sectional study	UK

# Clinical Sites

1

## At Liverpool, UK

The Royal Liverpool University Hospital, UK, is home to the National AKU Centre, and some of the world's leading experts on the disease.  
*Lead clinician – Prof L Ranganath*

2

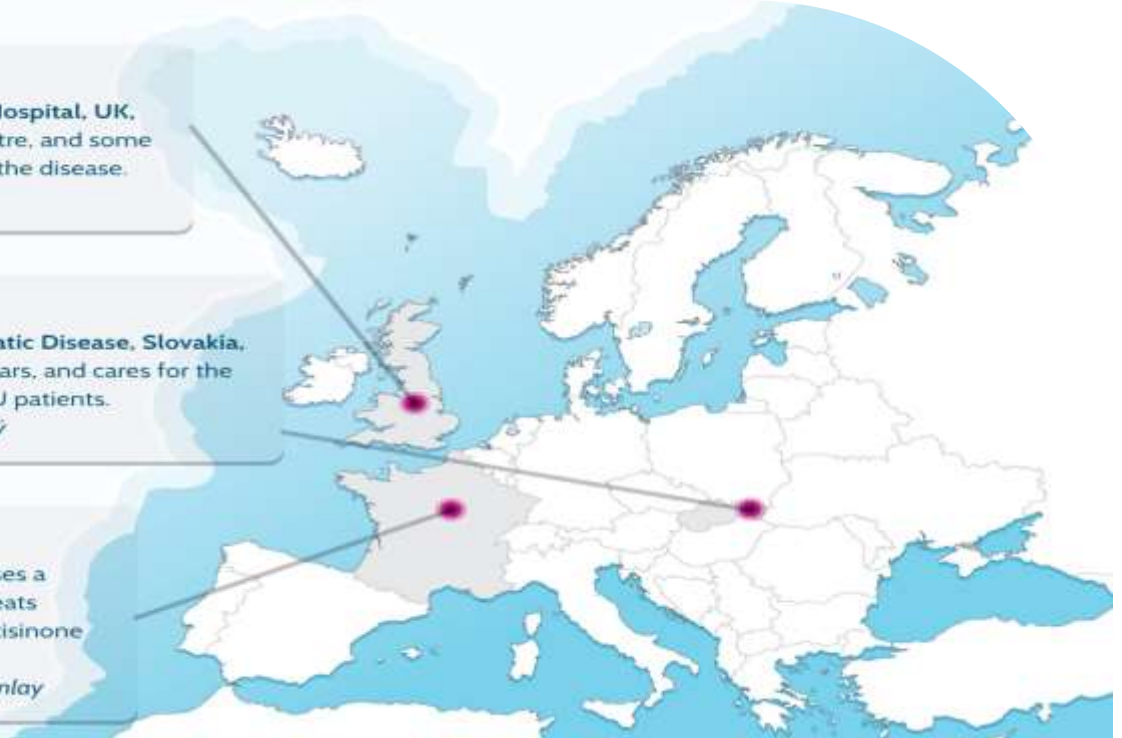
## At Piestany, Slovakia

The National Institute of Rheumatic Disease, Slovakia, has been studying AKU for 60 years, and cares for the world's largest community of AKU patients.  
*Lead clinician – Prof Jozef Rovensky*

3

## At Paris, France

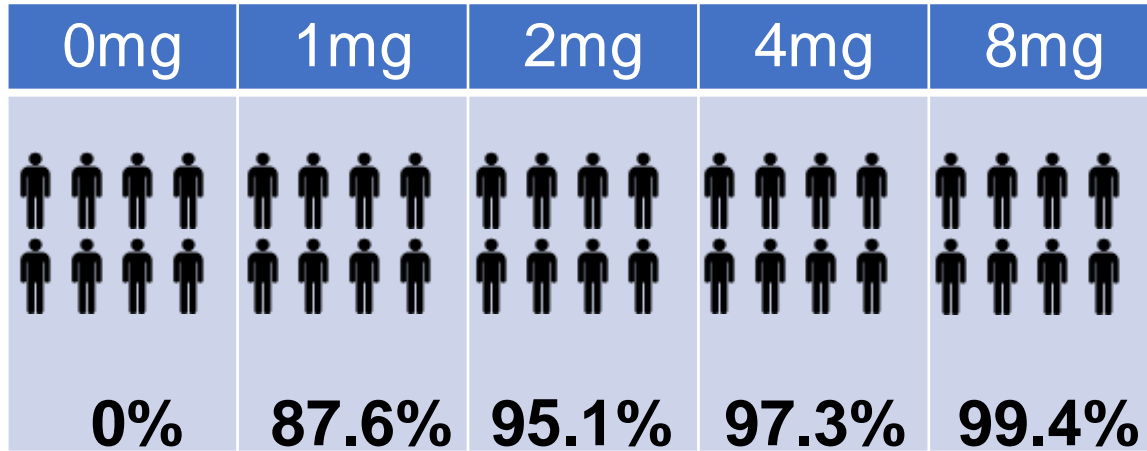
The Hôpital Necker, France, houses a national metabolic centre that treats several AKU patients and uses nitisinone for tyrosinaemia patients.  
*Lead clinician – Prof Pascale de Lonlay*



# SONIA 1



## SONIA 1 results





# SONIA 2

Nitisinone

No nitisinone



70

70

138 Patients

9 Months

Statistical significance reached!

EMA provides positive opinion!

EC grants marketing authorization!



"These trials have given us great hope. This treatment could completely change our lives. We're that one step closer to a cure."

- Belgium AKU patient

# Current research

- Tyrosine inhibitors – pre-clinical success
- mRNA therapy – early pre-clinical stage
- Gene therapy – planning stage

- **The workshop programme**
- **Expenses reimbursement**

Dr Nicolas Sireau,  
Chair & CEO, AKU Society  
[nick@akusociety.org](mailto:nick@akusociety.org)  
[www.akusociety.org](http://www.akusociety.org)





**Group A** - Please go to Shanghai Suite for the cooking demonstration with Natasha Beatty, Nutricia.

**Group B** - Please stay seated here for the next session - Diet & AKU with Clare Soulsby, NAC Dietician

# Diet and Alkaptonuria

Clare Soulsby

AKU Dietitian

The Robert Gregory National AKU Centre (NAC)

# **DIETARY MANAGEMENT OF AKU**

# Current dietetic management at NAC

- 2-10mg Nitisinone
- Dietary protein 0.75-0.83g/kg (UK RNI/ WHO)
- Intakes 40-65kg protein/day
- Dietary management:
  - 70% high biological value protein (7g protein swaps)
  - 30% low biological value protein (2 g protein swaps)
  - Fruit and vegetables freely
  - Tyrosine/ phenylalanine free protein drinks if high serum tyrosine
- Aim: serum tyrosine <700umol/L

## 7g PROTEIN SWAPS

- 25g meat/chicken
- 40g fish
- 25g cheese
- 200ml milk
- 125mls yoghurt
- 1 egg

## 2g PROTEIN SWAPS

- ½ slice bread
- 30g cooked pasta
- 125g boiled potatoes
- 60g chips
- 75g cooked rice
- 20g oats



# Dietary management of AKU in other countries

- Most use 10mg of Nitisinone

Dietary management:

- 0.83g/kg (40-65g/d) protein
- TYR/ PHE free drinks?

OR

- Low protein diet (10-20g/day)
- TYR/ PHE free drinks provide 40-60g (2-3 sachets/ pouches)

OR

- Plant based

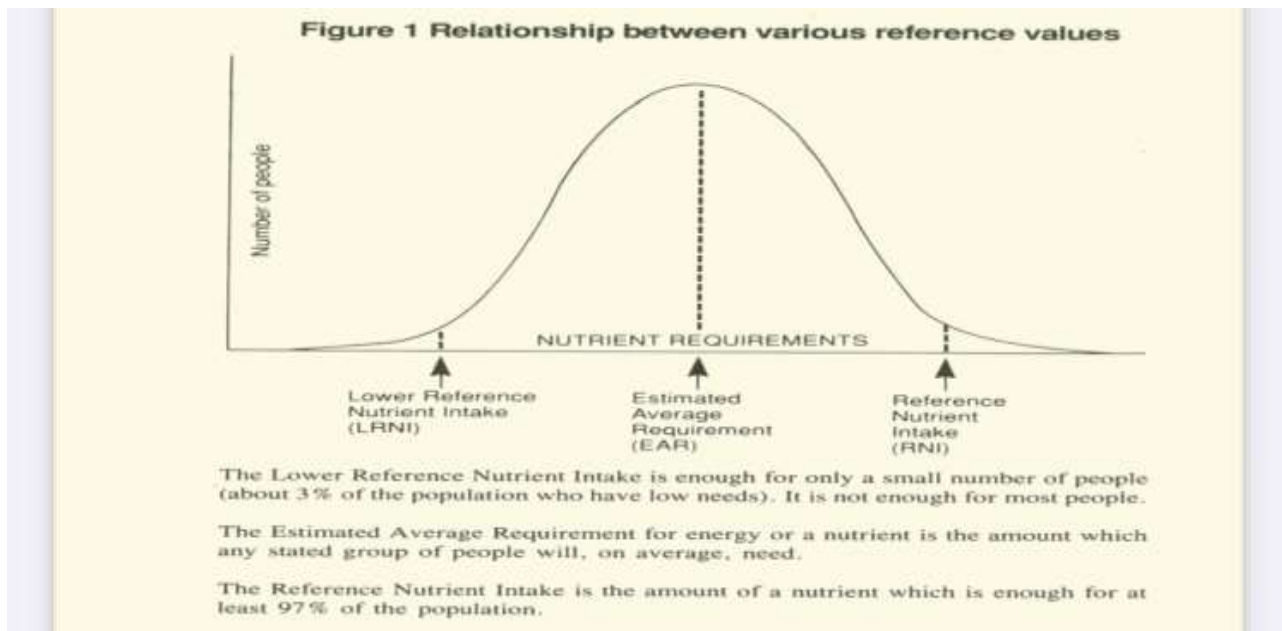
**HOW MUCH PROTEIN DO ADULTS NEED?**

# Why 0.75g protein/kg

- UK dietary reference value = 0.75g/kg
- WHO = 0.83g/kg
- Based on nitrogen balance studies in healthy young lean individuals



# Why 0.75g protein/kg

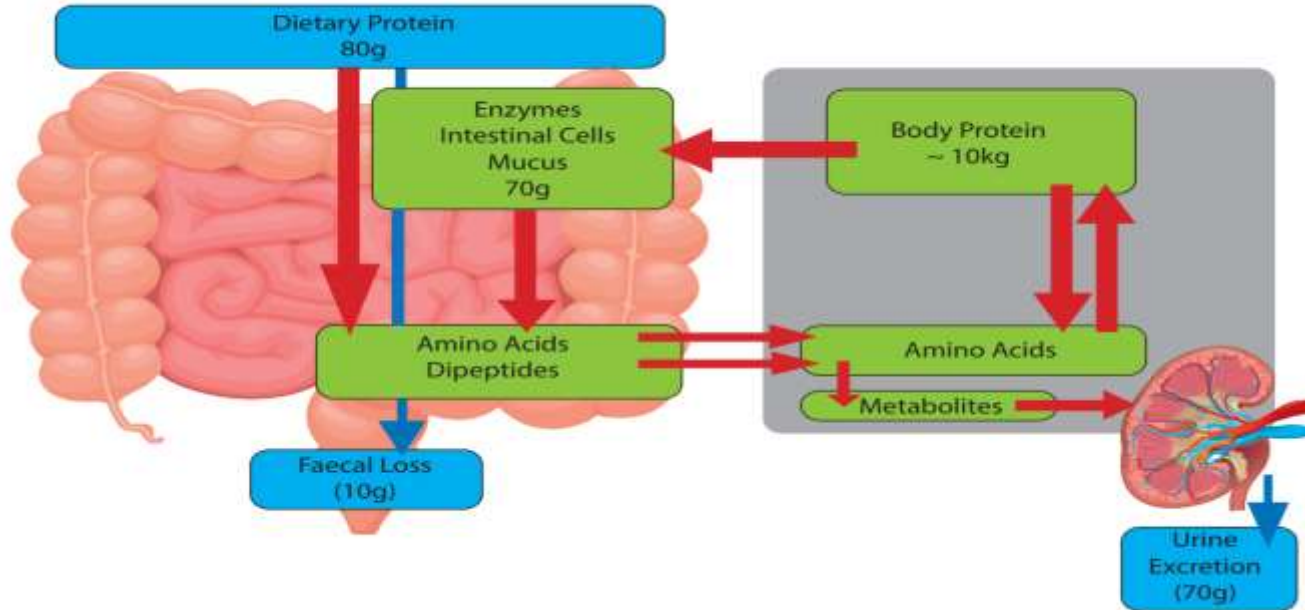


# Nitrogen Balance

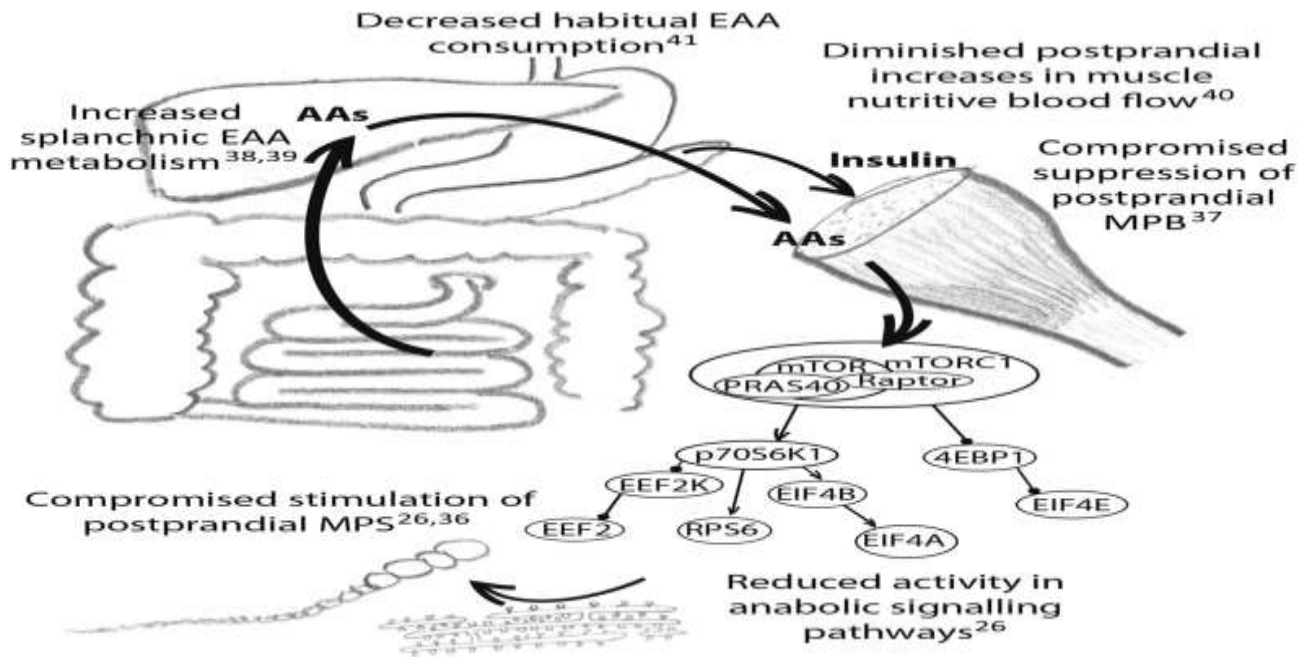
nitrogen intake vs nitrogen losses  
(dietary protein) (faecal losses)  
(urine losses)  
(cells, mucous etc)

**nitrogen intake = nitrogen losses**

# Nitrogen Balance



# Nitrogen utilisation in the elderly



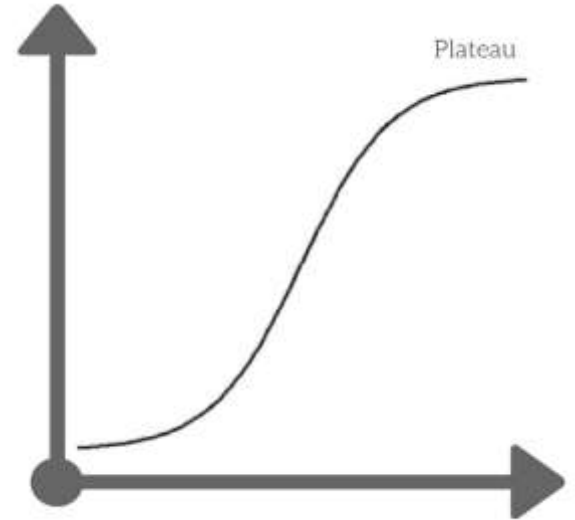
# Protein requirements

May be higher in:

- The elderly (>55years)
- Disease/ metabolic stress
- ? Athletes

Need to be adjusted in

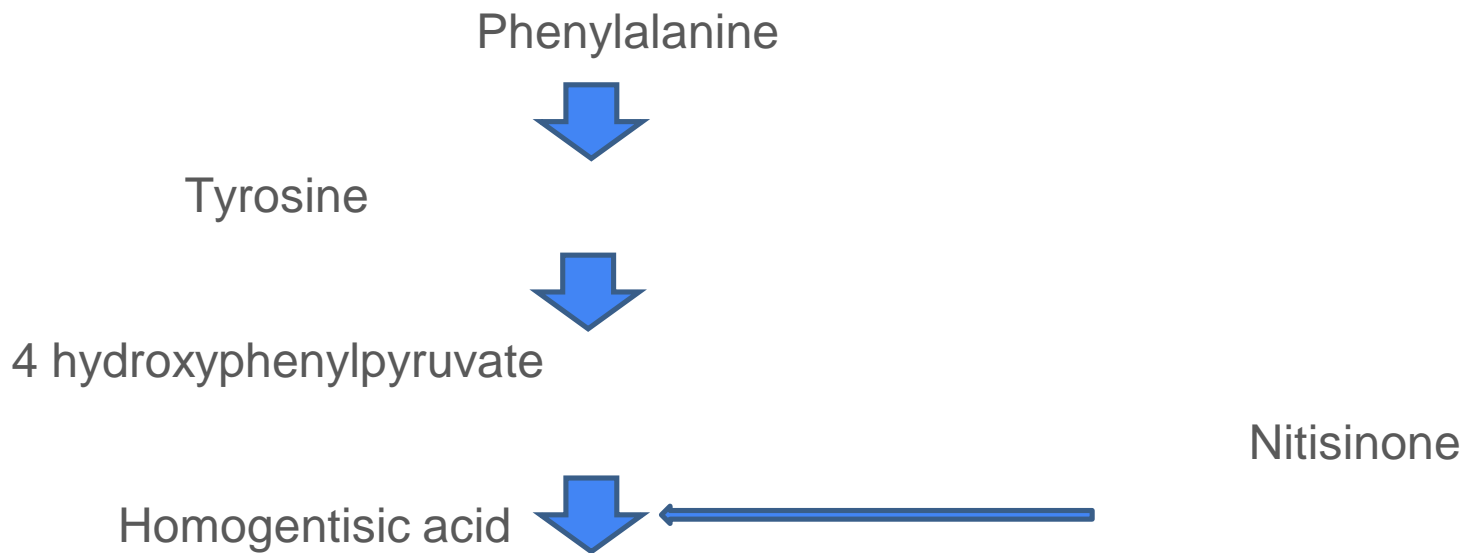
- Underweight
- Overweight



# What is dietary protein

Protein is made from 22 amino acids

- 9 are essential - so must come from our diet.
- Phenylalanine and tyrosine are found in all protein containing foods
- They are used to make serotonin and melanin and thyroid hormones



# What is dietary protein





# Summary

- 0.75-0.83g/kg meets the needs for most
- Adjustments in elderly and extremes of BMI
- Use of TYR/PHE free as additional protein

# **DIETARY STRATEGIES TO REDUCE HIGH SERUM TYROSINE LEVELS**

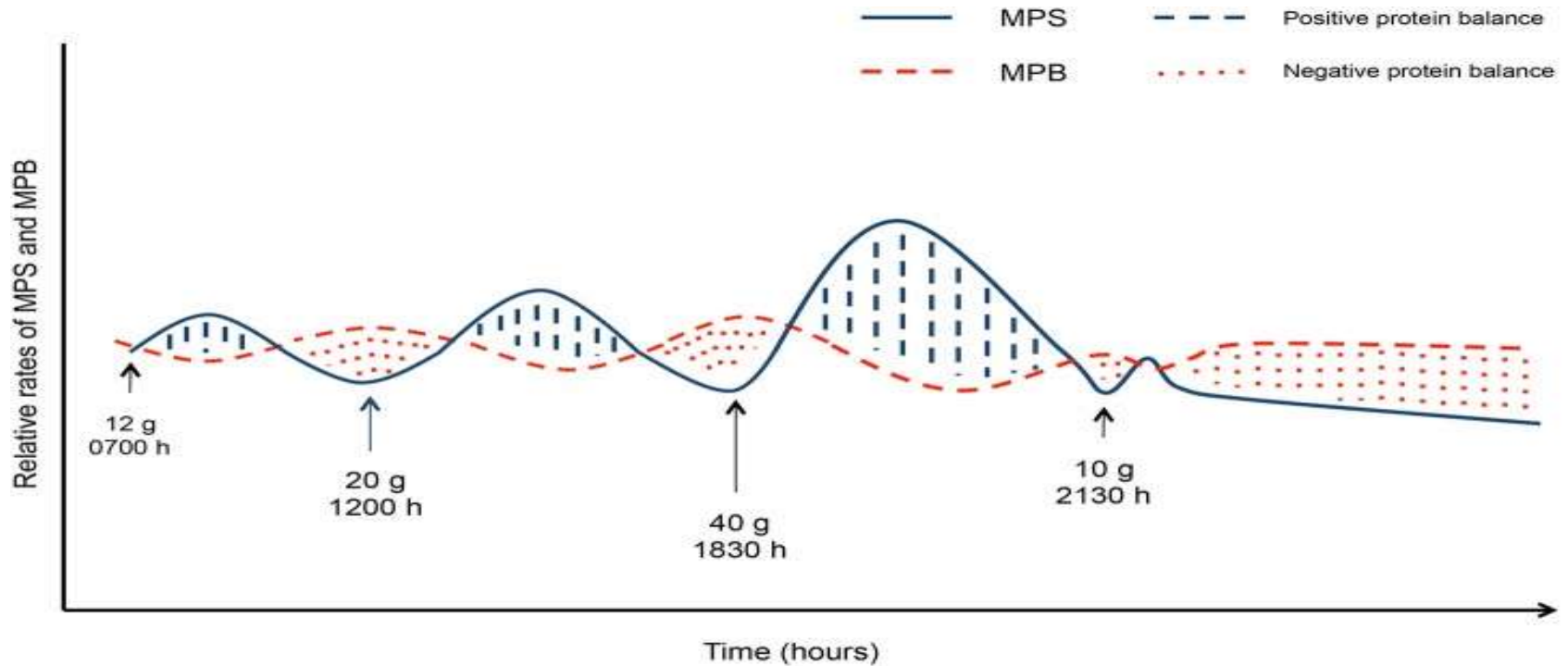
# Adherence to diet

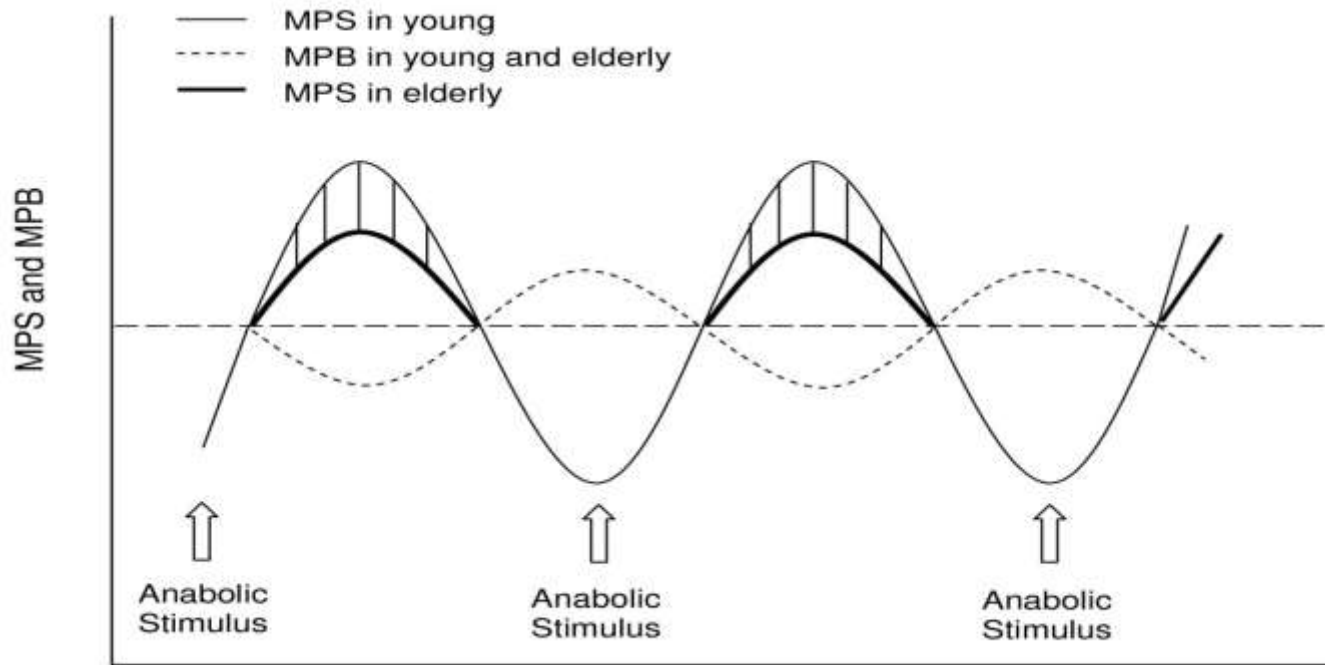


plans which will have greater impact.



# Protein utilisation by muscles

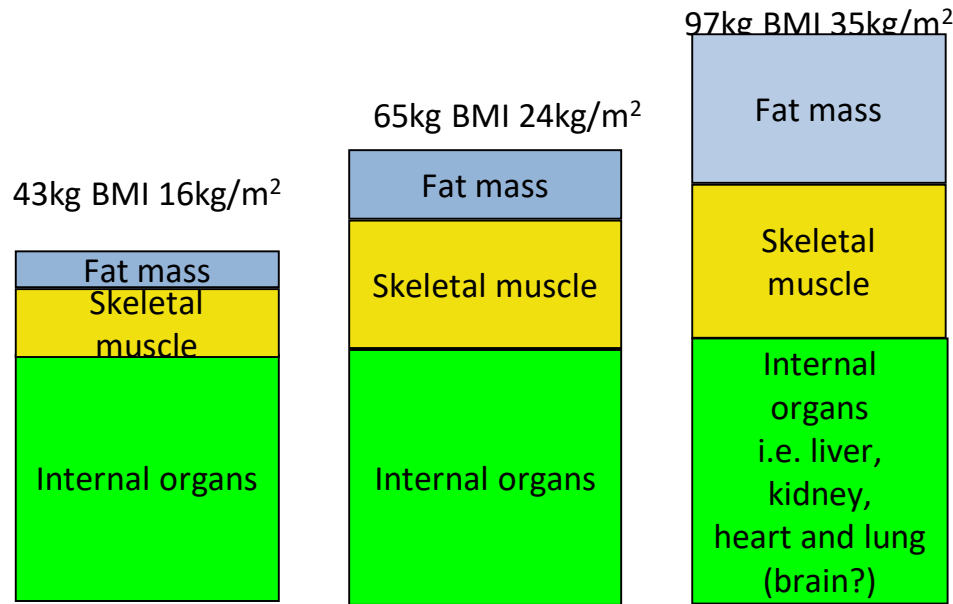




# Tyrosine/ phenylalanine free protein substitutes



# Dietetic strategies for hypertyrosinaemia: extremes of BMI and lean body mass



- 97kg (BMI of 35) = 73g protein
- 65kg (BMI of 24) = 49g protein
- 43kg (BMI of 16) = 32g protein



# Dietary strategies to reduce high serum tyrosine levels

- Dietary adherence:
- Protein intake of 0.75-0.83g/kg/day
- Adjusted for extremes BMI
- Good spread of protein
- Increase exercise
- High tyrosine despite dietary adherence:
- Add tyrosine free protein substitute
- Increase exercise
- Reduce Nitisinone
- Or reduce protein intake and increase tyrosine free protein substitutes

# Really good podcast

- <https://zoe.com>
- ZOE Podcast: Should I eat more protein
- Professor Christopher Gardner
- Stanford University

# Lunch Day 1: Wednesday 13th

ESTIMATED ON AVERAGE PORTION SIZES	PROTEIN (g)	PROTEIN SWAPS
<i>Vegetable based soup (free)</i>		
Selection of bread (dependent on portion size)	6g/slice	
Chicken Stroganoff- (soy milk- based sauce, chicken breast strips, <i>mushrooms, onions and gherkins (free)</i> )	16g	1 x 2g + 2 x 7g
Roasted broccoli & spring greens pasta bake- pasta, gouda, <i>spinach sauce, spinach, spring greens broccoli (free)</i>	14g	1 x 7g + 3 x 2g
Wild rice	4g	2 x 2g
New potatoes	6g	3 x 2g
<i>Fresh fruit salad (free)</i>		
<b>Sandwich options</b>		
<b>SANDWICH FILLING</b>	<b>(INCL 8g BREAD)</b>	<b>(INCL 4 X 2g BREAD)</b>
<i>Roasted red pepper (free) &amp; houmous</i>	11g	5 x 2 g
<i>Falafel &amp; beetroot (free)</i>	15g	1 x 7g + 4 x 2g
Turkey	15g	1 x 7g + 4 x 2g
<i>Avocado &amp; roasted tomato (free)</i>	8g	4 x 2g
<b>Sweet treats</b>		
Overnight oats made with oat milk	6g	3 x 2g
Apple crumble with custard made <i>from coconut milk</i>	3g	1 x 2g
<i>Fresh fruit salad (free)</i>		
Cereal bars	3g	1 x 2g

# Dinner Day 1: 13<sup>th</sup> Nov

ESIMATED ON AVERAGE PORTION SIZES	PROTEIN (g)	PROTEIN SWAPS
<b>Starter</b> Trio of houmous with warm flat bread & roasted butternut squash (free) (VEGAN)	7g	3 x 2g
<b>Main course</b>		
- <b>Main option 1</b> Butterflied chargrilled chicken breast, new potatoes, roasted mediterranean vegetables (free)	65g	9 x 7g + 2 x 2g
- <b>Main option 2</b> Cauliflower burger (free) with roasted sweet potato & spring vegetables (free) Vegan and gluten free option, (VE) (GFA)	3g	1 x 2g
<b>Dessert</b> Chocolate orange mousse with coconut milk (VE) (GF)	1-2g	1 x 2g



# Lunch Day 2: 14<sup>th</sup> November

ESTIMATED ON AVERAGE PORTION SIZES	PROTEIN (g)	PROTEIN SWAPS
<i>Mushroom &amp; spinach risotto: 10g (5 x 2g swaps)</i>	10g	5 x 2g
Five bean chilli con carne and rice	14g	1 x 7g + 2 x 2g
Grilled pineapple & cinnamon with natural yogurt (free)	6g	3 x 2g
<b>Sandwich Options</b>		
<b>SANDWICH FILLING</b>	<b>(INCL 8g BREAD)</b>	<b>(INCL 4 X 2g BREAD)</b>
<i>Roasted red pepper (free) &amp; houmous</i>	11g	5 x 2 g
<i>Falafel &amp; beetroot (free)</i>	15g	1 x 7g + 4 x 2g
Turkey	15g	1 x 7g + 4 x 2g
<i>Avocado &amp; roasted tomato (free)</i>	8g	4 x 2g
<b>Sweet Treats</b>		
Overnight oats made with oat milk	6g	3 x 2g
Apple crumble with custard made from <i>coconut milk</i>	3g	1 x 2g
<i>Fresh fruit</i>	Free	Free
Cereal bar	3g	1 x 2g



# Questions





Group photo before lunch



# Introducing Mindfulness-based approaches to Chronic Health Conditions (part 1)

Steve Smith - Mindfulness Programmes Lead, Rare Minds





Coffee break + exhibition



## Introducing Mindfulness-based approaches to Chronic Health Conditions (part 2)

Steve Smith - Mindfulness Programmes Lead, Rare Minds



November 2024

# *Experience of Dendrite Registries Helping Rare Disease Patients*

Martin Twycross

[martin.twycross@e-dendrite.com](mailto:martin.twycross@e-dendrite.com)

BSc Eng., MBA

# Agenda

## **Dendrite & Credentials**

**What is a Registry?**

**What can it do to support Rare Patients?**

**Examples – 3 different approaches Rare registries:**

- **Our “Classic” – Clinician led**
- **Innovative – a “national support” network**
- **New – “first person” Patient led**

**What makes a successful registry?**

# Dendrite – the company



## Henley-on-Thames Head Office

25 Staff, including 14 senior prog./dev. personnel

- Health Informatics/Clinical Data Management
- UK Based International Company
- 30 year trading history
- Clients in 50 countries around the world
- Software running in 18 major languages
- 200+ National/International Registries delivered
- Rapid Development Web Registry Platform
- Integrated PROs, Data Analysis & Reporting

# Dendrite & Credentials

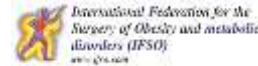
***Dendrite – providing registries for over 30 years***  
**Powers over 200 registries worldwide, in example:**



Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery of  
Great Britain & Ireland



British Orthopaedic Association &  
NHSI



IFSO Global Bariatric Surgery  
Registry



New Zealand Breast Cancer  
Registry



British Society of Allergy & Clinical  
Immunology



UK Paediatric Difficult Asthma  
Registry



SHOT (Serious Hazards of  
Transfusion Registry)



British Association of Paediatric  
Surgeons



GARFIELD – Global Atrial  
Fibrillation Registry

# What is a Registry? A Database!



## Clinical registry:

The collection of **observational clinical data** (ideally longitudinal) for a defined patient population where a **specific disease or condition is studied**.

# The role of a Registry in Rare Diseases .....

..... to capture data on **real-world** activity to:

- **\*Close support a Patient Group/Society\***  
understanding YOUR disease & improve QoL/ Patient Outcomes
- **to combine and make visible a small number of cases**
- **often where clinical trials are unsuitable** or impractical
- to inform and **improve clinical practice & outcomes**
- regulatory/compliance requirements  
or inform a Commissioning Body's choices, e.g.
  - MHRA, NICE
  - NHS Commissioning or Rare Diseases Advisory Group (RDAG)



# A Rare Disease Registry

## Collects detailed information on EVERY patient:



- ✓ Demographic data
- ✓ Detailed history and investigation
- ✓ Detailed co-existing disease info
- ✓ Detailed clinical information
- ✓ Course(s) of treatment(s)
- ✓ Unlimited follow-up data
- ✓ **PROMs** (Patient Recorded Outcome Measures)

# Automated PROMs (Patient Reported Outcome Measures)

A *game-changer* in patient data collection



PROMs allows simple collection of huge amounts of patient outcome and quality of life (QoL) data.



Examples of registries using PROMs:



HADS Anxiety & EORTC



Breast-Q & Enneking



Juniper & Allergy  
Quality of Life

Secure and  
easy to use

High patient  
response rate

Multilingual

Eliminates/  
reduces bias

Huge capacity for  
outcome / QoL data

# WM - a “Classic” Clinical Registry

## Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia: a “blood cancer”

In WM white blood cells undergo changes that turn them into cancer cells

Founded by bequest - running since 2016

Set up by Leading WM Clinicians interacting with PAG

Currently 1640 recorded Patients

1<sup>st</sup> Report in 2018 – altered disease profile!

PROMs returns - 73%

Now in 3<sup>rd</sup> phase/iteration

Financially supported by



PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY OF

JOHNSON & JOHNSON



# WM - a “Classic” Clinical Registry

Initially, no standard first-line treatment for WM patients; in the Registry though 2 therapies were popular options - outcomes tracked by Registry

2017 Ibrutinib (Imbruvica, Janssen) approved by NHS Cancer Drugs fund as 2<sup>nd</sup> line treatment of choice for WM,  
- Registry shows 70% of patients respond well

## **Continuing Aims –**

*“..... as commercial partners seek to gain approval for their (new) therapies within the NHS. We hope that it (the registry) will help to ensure commissioning bodies such as NICE are **better equipped in their decision-making processes as they appraise promising new therapies”.***

# CDN – an Innovative “Support Network” Registry



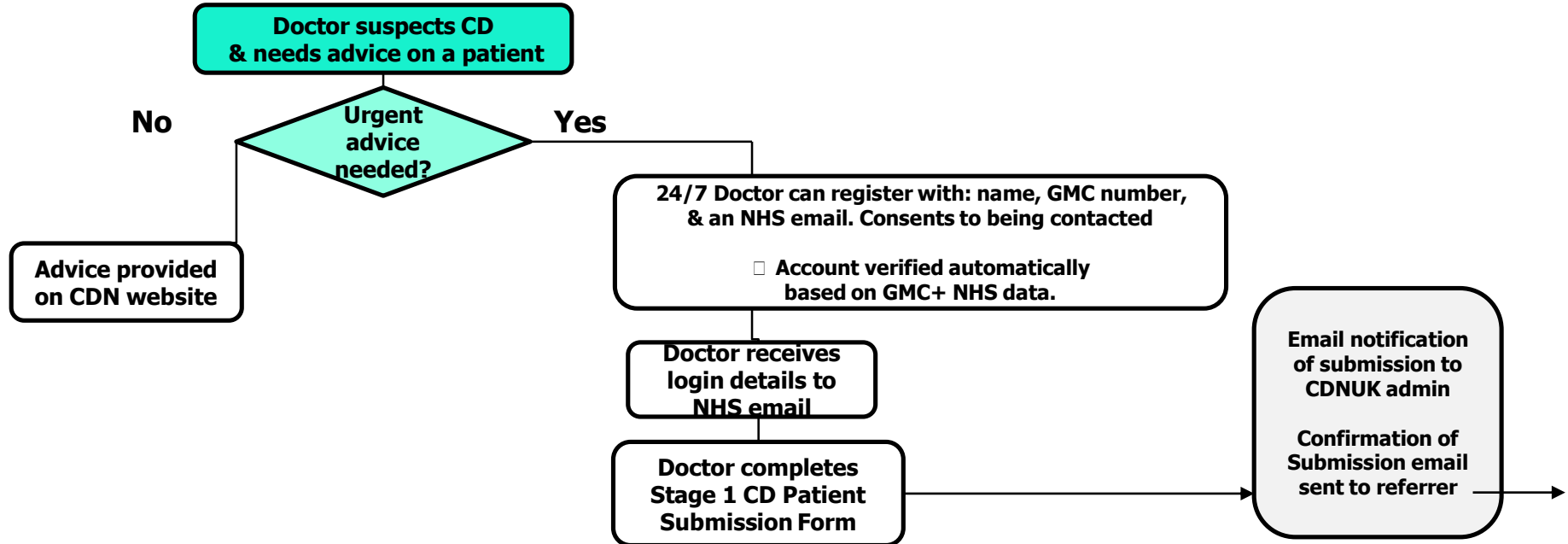
**Castleman Disease:** a group of rare lympho-proliferative disorders  
- involving enlarged lymph nodes, with broad range of inflammatory symptoms.

Unknown if Castleman is an autoimmune disease, a cancer, or infectious disease

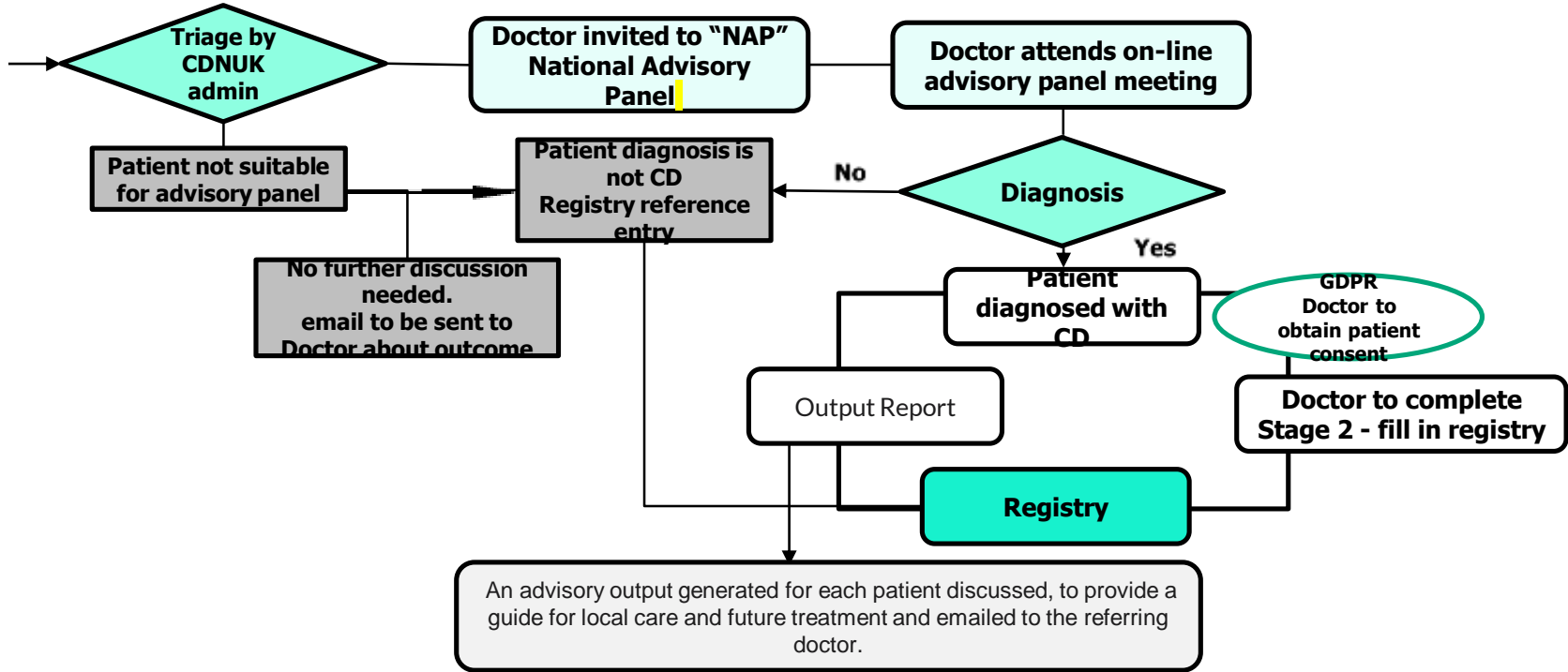
**CD Network** set up by leading UK Haematologist, with 4 national haem-oncologists

Started in 2023, with “seed funding” by a Pharma company

# CDN – an Innovative “Support Network” Registry



# CDN – an Innovative “Support Network” Registry



# CDN – an Innovative “Support Network” Registry

## ***Outcome?***

**SUCCESS!** – Enables consistent diagnosis & discussion of CD patients at National level

45 confirmed CD patients, 5 patients /month being submitted, often 1 ITU case

Monthly case review calls, with individual’s outcomes review

– improved general understanding and specific treatment recommendations/outcomes

## **Initial observations:**

CD – is perhaps a bit rarer than they thought? Or ..... Undiagnosed? Unaware?

iMCD bias? more idiopathic MCD (multicentric CD) in presenting patients

Resource implications – the most demanding form of CD presentation for managing



# The AKU Registry – a new/novel Patient led Registry



**Alkaptonuria**; or Black Bone Disease, an extremely rare (>100 in UK) genetic condition.

AKU stops the body breaking down a chemical - *homogentisic acid*. HGA build up in body and leads to black and brittle bones and cartilage, with early onset osteoarthritis.

Using Orfadin® (Nitisinone - originally a pesticide) supports remission of this process

The **AKU Registry** is designed as a **Patient led journal**

Providing a first-person perspective of how this multi-system disease develops over time.

# The AKU Registry – a new/novel Patient led Registry

The AKU registry started & developed during 2023

The registry launched in April 2024. In just 6 months .....

Patients registered,  
by country

Country	Patient Count
USA	14
UK	11
India	6
Netherlands	4
Australia	3
Belgium	2
Brazil	2
Canada	2
Egypt	2
France	2
Croatia	2
Lebanon	2
UAE	1
Argentina	1
Colombia	1
Czech Republic	1
Spain	1
Greece	1
Nepal	1
New Zealand	1
Oman	1
Poland	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Slovakia	1
Sweden	1
Turkey	1
<b>Total (26)</b>	<b>66</b>

Patients who  
have made one  
or more journal  
entries,  
by country

Country	Patient Count
UK	5
USA	4
Australia	3
France	2
Croatia	2
India	2
Argentina	1
Belgium	1
Brazil	1
Canada	1
Czech Republic	1
Egypt	1
Lebanon	1
Netherlands	1
Nepal	1
Poland	1
Sweden	1
Turkey	1
<b>Total (18)</b>	<b>30</b>

- ✓ It must be set up with clear, explicit objectives
  - ✓ Data fields set up to support the objective
  - ✓ It must be easy to use
  - ✓ Complete, accurate input data
  - ✓ Cover a good representation of patients/condition
  - ✓ High quality output – credible results, useful reports
  - ✓ (ensure GDPR matters covered)
- Ultimately leads to **improved clinical practice** and **better outcomes for patients.**

# Thank you!

**Please contact me for any further questions or information.**



[martin.twycross@e-dendrite.com](mailto:martin.twycross@e-dendrite.com)



Martin Twycross



*“ Without data..... you’re just another person with an opinion.”*

W. Edwards Deming



Summary + Close with Nick Sireau, CEO & Chair of Trustees AKU Society

Thank you for attending, and we look forward to seeing you for dinner this evening.

Please join us at the function bar for a drink at 7:15pm, with dinner to be served at 7:45pm.

Please remember to hand in your name badges at the registration desk on your way out, so we can re-use these for registration tomorrow morning.