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Article

# A Critical Analysis of Dietetics: Part 3, Dietary Ratios: Amino Acids, Fatty Acids, Hormones

# Lynda Sedley

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**Abstract:** Part three of the series critically examines the role of dietary amino acids, fatty acids, and hormones in human nutrition, with a focus on their elemental ratios and epigenetic implications. The analysis highlights discrepancies in food composition data, emphasising the influence of food sources, preparation methods, and environmental factors on amino acid ratios. It explores tyrosine metabolism and its impact on pigmentation, thyroid function, and neurological health, while addressing evolutionary adaptations to dietary changes.

**Keywords:** amino acids; fatty acids; epigenetics; hormones; insulin; tyrosine; plant sterol; arginine; altitude; nitric oxide; sleep; nasal breathing

The study also investigates arginine's role in nitric oxide synthesis and its metabolic benefits in Indigenous Australian diets. Furthermore, nitrogen metabolism is analysed through the lens of quantum biology, revealing novel insights into ammonium ion signalling and energy optimisation. Part three delves into altitude adaptations in nitrate utilisation and nitric oxide production, emphasising the metabolic efficiency of high-altitude populations. Finally, the significance of nasal breathing and nitric oxide in sleep regulation is discussed, providing a preference for a holistic view of dietetics, that integrates biochemistry, epigenetics, and evolutionary biology.

# 1. Introduction

The field of dietetics has traditionally relied on standardised nutritional guidelines that often overlook critical variables such as food preparation methods, environmental influences, and individual genetic predispositions. These variations have profound implications for dietary sufficiency and epigenetic health outcomes. Part three seeks to address these gaps by providing a comprehensive analysis of dietary amino acids, fatty acids, hormones, and their elemental ratios.

### 2. Amino Acids

As discussed in part two, (Sedley L 2025), due to many variables, there is a lack of consensus in food composition data (Editors at Food Standards Australia and New Zealand 2020). Standard nutritional guidelines provide an estimation of the amino acid (AA) content of the raw food product, but no consideration is taken for heating induced deamination and transamination, changes in AA ratios (Ito H, Kikuzaki H et al. 2019). Therefore, the future of nutrition and food composition is set to advance significantly, with modern computational technologies.

Currently, the source of food also impacts AA ratios in food composition data (Editors at Food Standards Australia and New Zealand 2020), for example, eggs can have different AA levels depending on the chickens feed and the environment (Attia YA, Al-Harthi MA 2020). Skeletal muscles of animals contain approximately 75% water, 20% protein, 1-10% fat and 1% glycogen, (Listrat A, Lebret B et al. 2016), yet most nutritional datasets do not account for the sugar content in meat products. The same can be said for the AA content of carbohydrate foods.

Animal and plant protein contain approximately 16% nitrogen, (Sriperm N, Pesti GM et al. 2011), however, if we calculate the ratio of total elements in all 220 primary amino acids, nitrogen comprises an average of only 7.26%. This suggests that there is significantly more nitrogen in the constituents which are not accounted for in nutritional composition data.

AA composition is based on a conversion factor which correlates to 16% nitrogen (US Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service—Nutrient Data Laboratory 2015), and the source of protein influences the conversion factor (Sriperm N, Pesti GM et al. 2011).

An accurate estimation of plant and animal nitrogen will help to determine the extent of dietary elemental deficiencies. With this information, it is possible to advance body composition and energy metabolism by utilising specific cuts of meat and organs containing unique elemental ratios and functional proteins.

As discussed in part one, (Sedley L 2025), the nitrogenous contamination of water, during the extraction of proteins, in a N2 atmosphere, can also result in increased quantification of nitrogen (Kim SY, Kim BM et al. 2014). Therefore, inaccurate quantification of nitrogen concentration in amino acids, is possible (Editors at Food Standards Australia and New Zealand 2020).

When different diets are compared, AA ratios are relatively equal. But this does not necessarily imply sufficiency and can be a source of confusion for nutrition professionals (Figure 1).

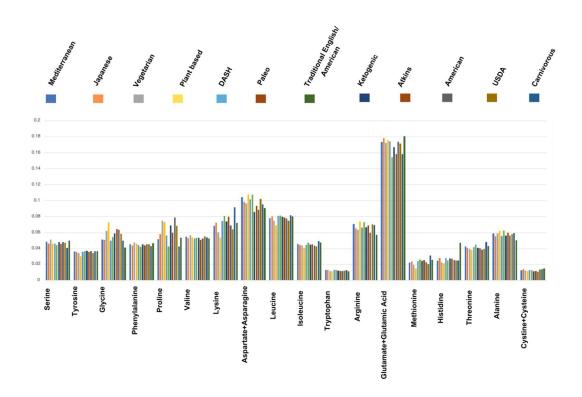
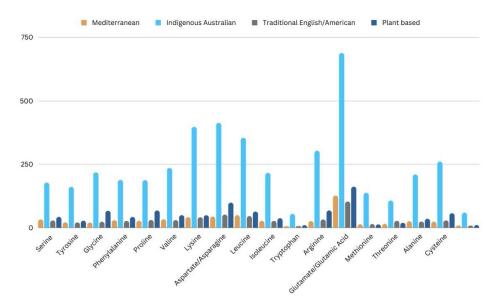


Figure 1. Amino acid ratios, adapted from (Dai Z, Zheng W et al. 2022).

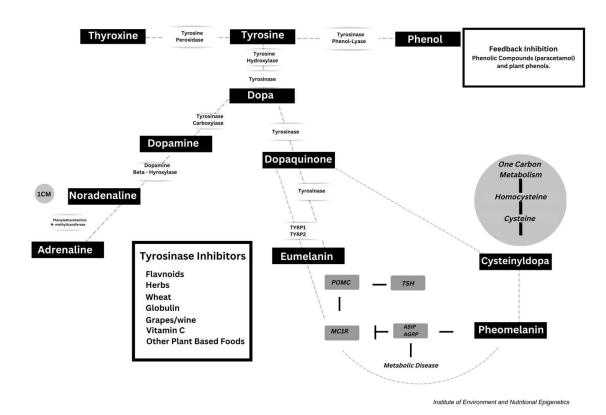
When the AA 'levels' of the Mediterranean, English American, Carnivorous, and plant-based diets are compared, (Supplementary data S1 & S2), significant differences can be seen, which may influence health and epigenetic mechanisms (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Quantification of Amino Acids of Various Diets. Weekly Amino Acid (AA) levels of various diets of different calories based on supplementary data 3, which was extracted from supplementary data 1 and 2.

# 3. Tyrosine

Although the ratios are relatively the same, there is over 5 times more phenylalanine and tyrosine in a carnivorous diet, than the other plant-based diets (Figure 3). Figure 5, shows a highly simplified schematic of the tyrosine pathway, which does not take epigenetic mechanisms into consideration. However, it is determined that tyrosine is essential for the synthesis of melanin, thyroid hormones and several neuropeptides (Kanehisa M, 2019, 2000).



**Figure 3.** Melanin and Neurotransmitter Synthesis from Tyrosine. Overview of Tyrosine Metabolism Extracted from Kyoto-encyclopedia of genes and genomes (Kanehisa M 2000) & (Zolghadri S, Bahrami A et al. 2019).

Tyrosine is considered a non-essential amino acid, meaning the human body can synthesise it in sufficient quantities. Due to a mutation and reduced expression of phenylalanine hydroxylase, some people have a complete inability to synthesise tyrosine, resulting in a condition known as phenylketonuria or PKU (Matthews DE 2007) & (Williams RA, Mamotte CD et al. 2008). PKU presents with neurological impairment and a fair phenotype due to a lack of melanin (Williams RA, Mamotte CD et al. 2008). However, we now understand that a mutation is not the only factor influencing gene expression. Epigenetic mechanisms also influence the rate in which we synthesise any molecule; these mechanisms are unique to the individual and depend entirely on evolutionary history (Sedley L 2023). This means that depending on our dietary evolution, not all of us are capable of synthesising sufficient tyrosine.

Thyroid hormones are pivotal in the thermoregulatory response of the skin. The skin of patients with hypothyroidism is dryer, cooler, and rougher, compared to hyperthyroid patients who excessively perspire; are hot, itchy and can display abnormal pigmentation (Antonini D, Sibilio A et al. 2013). There is a lack of research conducted in eumelanin dominant populations regarding thermoregulation (Lang JA 2020), but given that eumelanin absorbs greater UV-R, epigenetic thermoregulatory differences as evidenced by Indigenous Australians, are likely to be essential in preventing overheating.

The agouti signalling protein (ASIP), its alleles, and the agouti related protein (AGRP), are responsible for skin and hair pigmentation (Yu S, Wang G et al. (2019) & (Bonilla C, Boxill LA et al. 2005) & (Deem JD, Faber CL et al. 2022) & (Barsh GS, Ollmann MM et al. 2006). ASIP action on the melanocortin 1 receptor (MC1R) at the skin, results in reduced tyrosinase activity, and a diversion in synthesis from dark black eumelanin to the lighter red pheomelanin (Hida T, Kamiya T et al. 2020) (Figure 5).

Pheomelanin differs from eumelanin in that it incorporates cysteine into its structure which is derived from homocysteine as part of the trans-sulfation pathway (Morgan AM, Lo J et al. 2013).

Extensive ASIP expression, gives rise to a characteristic metabolic phenotype that includes type 2 diabetes, yellow/red hair, and obesity (Hida T, Kamiya T et al. 2020) & (McNulty JC, Jackson PJ et al. 2005) & (Kempf E, Landgraf K et al. 2022).

Endogenous phenols derived from the degradation of eumelanin, inhibit tyrosinase and eumelanin synthesis (Shane B 2011). Phenol based topical pharmaceuticals are used to inhibit pigmentation (Hida T, Kamiya T et al. 2020). Many phenolic constituents of plant-based foods and herbs contain tyrosinase inhibitors, (Zolghadri S, Bahrami A et al. 2019), including wheat bran globulin (Zolghadri S, Bahrami A et al. 2019) wine, and vitamin C (Zolghadri S, Bahrami A et al. 2019).

Thus, a weighty dietary change from a carnivorous diet, may have played a key role in evolutionary skin lightening, neurological differences, metabolic health, and thyroid hormone regulated metabolism.

Interestingly, it was documented very early, that an Australian Indigenous tribes recalled an epidemic of feet swelling and ulcerations that swept through the nation (Morgan J 1979). This is symptomatic of poor glycaemic control, and may have been the first indication of poor adaptation to increasing plant foods in this population. Moreover, the tribe that recalled the epidemic had unusually lighter skin, than other tribes in the region, suggesting that a reduction in tyrosine due to the switch to consume more plants may have already commenced to influence skin pigmentation in Australia, as early as 1803.

# 4. Arginine

Arginine is essential for nitric oxide (NO) synthesis; the semi-carnivorous Indigenous Australian consumed 10 times more arginine compared to those consuming a standard western diet (Figure 4). In addition, from animal protein, they also derived active transcription factors like oestrogen, which plays a key role in endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) synthesis (Sharma M, Singh K et al. 2020). Nitric oxide (NO) mechanisms are complex. If we recall back to carbon, in part two (Sedley L 2025), NO's actions are compartmentalised. It inhibits one carbon metabolism (1-CM), and its translocation activates methylation in hypoxia, moreover, eNOS is self-regulated in that the protein's S-nitrosylation inhibits its own expression (Sedley L 2023)

### 5. NH4+ (Ammonium Ion)

When it comes to nitrogen metabolism, there is still a wealth of knowledge to be gained. We have only commenced amalgamating physics with biology. Quantum biology advances our understanding of nutritional biochemistry by exploring atomic and subatomic interactions at the biological level (Sedley L 2025). NH4+; a waste product of excitatory neurotransmission, is now said to be an intracellular signalling molecule which is transported to astrocytes via potassium (K+) channels. It diverts pyruvate towards lactate production (Lerchundi R, Fernández-Moncada I et al. 2015), optimising alternative fuel substrates. Increased astrocytic K+ stimulates glycogen degradation and concomitant glycolysis (Choi HB, Gordon GRJ 2012). In contrast, its hydrolysed counterpart ammonia, competes with K+ at its channel, and impairs extracellular buffering, resulting in seizure (Rangroo Thrane V, Thrane A S et al. 2013). Thermodynamic studies of human energy metabolism have not considered compounds like guanine triphosphate (GTP) or NH4+, which undertake exothermic reactions, and may be more efficient than glycolysis and ATP production, in some populations (Clarke A, Pörtner HO 2010).

#### 6. Altitude, Carbon, and Nitrogen

Those that reside at high altitudes are adapted to O<sub>2</sub> poor conditions. Recalling back to part two, we discussed how active 1-CM is essential for the synthesis of phosphocreatine (Sedley L 2025). The Sherpa population of the Himalayas, have low baseline phosphocreatine, which increases during ascent. In contrast, lowlanders, have higher phosphocreatine, which declines during ascent, showing increased and decreased utilisation of epigenetic 1-CM and methylation respectively (Horscroft JA, Kotwica AO et al. 2017).

A highlander exhales double the NO of a lowlander (Beall CM, Laskowski D et al. 2011), and increased nitric oxide synthase (NOS) is said to be responsible (Horscroft JA, Kotwica AO et al. 2017). NO produced in the lungs, dilates pulmonary blood vessels, increases blood flow, reduces hypertension and enhances O<sub>2</sub> uptake from the lungs, allowing highlanders to tap into lung O<sub>2</sub> reserves by

utilising environmental NO (Beall CM, Laskowski D et al. 2011). Together, this demonstrates the importance of evolutionary differences in respiratory mechanisms and metabolism.

Therefore, as discussed in part two, (Sedley L 2025), given the significantly lower oxygen in the carnivorous diet than other diets of the same calories, and the significantly reduced metabolism in the study of Indigenous Australians, (Part two Sedley L 2025), suggests this population also have a more efficient way to utilise oxygen.

### 7. Nitrate Utilisation at Altitude

In hypoxic conditions, reduced HO activity reduces the carbon monoxide inhibition of Cystathionine Beta Synthase (CBS), ultimately activating the trans-sulphation extension of 1-CM, producing H<sub>2</sub>S and SO<sub>2</sub> (Sedley L 2023). Prolonged anaerobicity of muscle cells, influence the accumulation of H<sub>2</sub>S. In normoxic conditions, H<sub>2</sub>S is oxidised to form SO<sub>2</sub> (Veeranki S, Tyagi SC 2015), which plays a highly specific role in cardiovascular function (Huang Y, Tang C et al. 2016). The consequent sulphydryl oxidation of xanthine oxidoreductase, transforms the enzymes so that it functions as xanthine oxidase (Guenter Schwarz C, Kohl JB et al. 2019) & (Battelli MG, Polito L et al. 2016). NOS utilises O<sub>2</sub> as a substrate; but in its absence, the uncoupling of NOS promotes the release of superoxide anion (Battelli MG, Polito L et al. 2016). This reduces xanthine oxidoreductase (XOR) affinity for xanthine, while increasing affinity for competitive nitrites, which are reduced to NO, by the enzyme (Battelli MG, Polito L et al. 2016) & (Bortolotti M, Polito L et al. 2021).

Hypoxia is a potent stimulus of uric acid synthesis in some populations (Sinha S, Singh SN et al. 2009). At high altitude, lowlanders have significantly more venous uric acid (383 umol/l) than high-landers (159.3 umol/l), which doubles during ascent (298 umol/l), suggesting highlanders utilise the nitrate reductase function of XOR more efficiently than lowlanders. Nitrates and nitrites have acquired a negative reputation, but their NO producing physiological benefits out way their deleterious effects in some populations (Thomas DD 2015). Interestingly, the microbiome of highlanders is six-fold more abundant in nitrate reducing proteobacteria bacteria (Quagliariello A, Di Paola M et al. 2019), which thrive in low O2 conditions (Dib JR, Eugenia MF et al. 2011), indicating the increased NO production through NOS oxidation, dietary nitrates, and the microbiome, play an essential role in altitudinal adaptation.

# 8. Oxygen, NO, Sulphur and Thiamine

Since sulphur can be endogenously produced by muscle tissue during anaerobic metabolism, it may play a mediating role between aerobic and anaerobic processes. For example, an excess of sulphur can disrupt glycolysis, interacting with thiamine and leading to lactate accumulation.

In Part One (Sedley L 2025), we discussed thiamine's critical role in maintaining the balance of sulphur, nitrogen, and carbon within the body and imbalances in these elements can contribute to pathological effects. Thiamine functions as an essential cofactor in aerobic glucose metabolism (Nakamura H et al. (2020). As discussed in part two (Sedley L 2025), in early studies, despite consuming minimal carbohydrates, the Australian Indigenous population were able to maintain an RQ of 1 for up to five hours post prandial, animal meat. This suggests efficient aerobic metabolism, which is potentially supported by alternative oxygen utilisation pathways, such as nitric oxide (NO) or sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). Thiamine pyrophosphate (TPP) found in animal-based foods appears sufficient to support this form of aerobic metabolism, especially under conditions of limited dietary and respiratory oxygen. However, a sudden dietary shift that reduces NO production and increases oxygen consumption, heightens the demand for thiamine as a cofactor.

## NO and Sleep

The reliance on nasal breathing may have been metabolically advantageous in the Australian population discussed in part two. The early Australians slept on the ground, outdoors, which would require a shut mouth to prevent intrusion by local insects. Nasal breathing has proven useful in preventing hypertension, infection, allergy, halitosis, attention deficits, fatigue and snoring (Ruth A 2015). Playing the didgeridoo, which requires cyclic nasal breathing (The Editors of IDIDJ Australia 2023), can substantially improve sleep apnoea (Puhan MA, Suarez A et al. 2005). In contrast, mouth breathing is typically characteristic of over breathing (Ruth A 2015), and is associated with poor attention, sleep disorders, (Sano M, Sano S et al. 2013), and learning ability (Ribeiro GCA, dos Santos ID et al. 2016).

NO produced by the cells of the paranasal sinuses, accumulates during periods of non-nasal ventilation, suggesting sufficient NO production may be essential for the very process of nasal breathing in itself (Bazak R, Elwany S et al. 2020) & (Chatkin JM, Qian W et al. 1999).

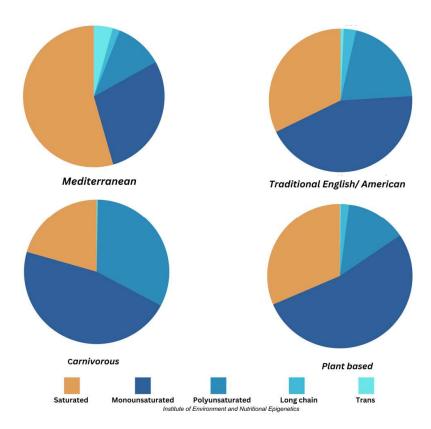
It is estimated that 50% of children are now mouth breathers (Grippaudo C, Paolantonio EG et al. 2016) & (Leal RB, Gomes MC et al. 2016). This evolutionary, physiological adaptation could serve as a method of energy conservation subsequently following a transition to consuming more dietary oxygen and producing less heat (Part two, Sedley L 2025) Generally, nasal breathing increases NO in the blood stream, contributing to vasodilation, allowing the heart to share the metabolic load, whilst reducing respiratory stress. (Lundberg JON, Settergren G et al. 1996) & (Lee YC, Lu CT et al 2022) & (Recinto C, Efthemeou T et al. 2017). 23% of resting energy expenditure comes from cardiopulmonary function, that is, 20% from the lung function, and 80% from the heart (Horiuchi M, Fukuoka Y 2017). Neurological activity, stimulating the heart, requires direct energy (Sedley L 2023), whereas the lungs use less energy due to the mechanical elastic recoil (Hocquette J F 2004). In this case, nasal breathing would require more energy and produce more heat. Therefore, given the compartmentalised function of NO's which involves limiting MAT induced up-regulation of 1-CM, which occurs in anaerobic conditions, and the optimisation of oxygen utilisation, may provide a dual metabolic advantage, resulting in sustaining anaerobic capacity, whilst simultaneously optimising oxygen efficiency (Sedley L 2023).

Heme oxygenase orchestrates governance of gasotransmitters for the circadian rhythm (Lee Y, Wisor JP 2022). This means that seasonal or diurnal shifts in environmental gases can influence circadian rhythms. This can be observed by general diurnal changes in respiratory patterns, such as increased C O<sub>2</sub> production in seen at the onset of the sleep phase (Spengler CM, Czeisler CA et al. 2000). Collectively, these findings point to an exciting new direction, for future research, into sleep disorders.

# 10. Fatty Acid Ratios

For a long time, saturated fats and cholesterol have been associated with cardiovascular disease, however, some populations, like the French and German, paradoxically consume a diet high in cholesterol and saturated fat, and have the lowest rates of cardiovascular disease in the world (Ferriè J 2004). Elevated systolic blood pressure, which is associated with cardiovascular disease mortality, is highest in the countries that rely on a rapidly changing and convenience-based diet, which contrasts to lower rates are seen in countries who have maintained tradition (Ferriè J 2004). Precise levels of fatty acids, are tightly regulated by synthesis and oxidation pathways, which in turn are regulated by epigenetic mechanisms and the circadian rhythm (Gooley JJ, Chua ECP 2014).

Substrates capable of epigenetic histone acylation has recently expanded with the identification of fatty acids and other acyl containing metabolic by-products showing non-histone and histone acylation properties (Resh MD 2016). Therefore, dietary fatty acid ratios play an important role in epigenetic mechanisms (Resh MD 2016). So far, over 1200 fatty acids (Li S, Gao D et al. 2019) and over 1000 acylated carnitines have been identified in the human body (Dambrova M, Makrecka-Kuka M et al. 2022). The predominant fatty acids that can acylate proteins are saturated; mono and polyunsaturated fatty acids (Resh MD 2016). Figure 6 shows the macronutrient fat ratios of the Mediterranean, English American, Carnivorous, and plant-based diets.



**Figure 4.** Macronutrient fat ratios extracted from Mediterranean, English American, Carnivorous, and plant-based diets Nutritional composition data was extracted from The Editors at Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (2020).

Peroxisome proliferator activated receptors (PPAR) are a group of nuclear receptors that behave as transcription factors (Chen L, Yang G 2014). PPAR-a regulates hepatic ATP binding cassette (ABC) transporters for liver efflux of cholesterol and cholesterol transport across the blood brain barrier (Duan LP, Wang HH et al. 2006), and knock-out studies of PPAR-a show elevated plasma LDL cholesterol (More VR, Campos CR 2017).

PPAR-a is activated and inhibited by a variety of fatty acids, depending on the dose, and the chain length (Popeijus HE, van Otterdijk SD et al. 2014). Oleoylethanolamide (OEA) is the primary unsaturated activating fatty acid ligand of PPAR-a, and is derived from the saturated oleic acid (More VR, Campos CR 2017), followed closely by the unsaturated palmitoleic and oleic acids (Popeijus HE, van Otterdijk SD et al. 2014). Activation of PPAR-a stimulates beta-oxidation (Palomer X, Barroso E et al. 2018). PPAR-a activation by OEA regulates feeding, reduces body weight, prevents dyslipidemia and insulin resistance (More VR, Campos CR 2017).

Arachidonic, eicosapentaenoic acid, and docosahexaenoic acid activate and inhibit PPAR-a and its target carnitine-palmitoyltransferase 1 (CPT-1) in a dose dependant manner (Popeijus HE, van Otterdijk SD et al. 2014). Saturated palmitic and stearic acids, inhibit PPAR-a expression in Hepatoblastoma cells (Popeijus HE, van Otterdijk SD et al. 2014). The Sherpa are an excellent example of unique lipid metabolism. The highlanders undergo remarkably more PPAR-a stimulated beta-oxidation than lowlanders (Horscroft JA, Kotwica AO et al. 2017). Therefore, in the absence of O<sub>2</sub>, peroxisomal beta-oxidation may be a more efficient energy source, fascinatingly, due to the production of reactive O<sub>2</sub> species (Sandalio LM, Rodríguez-Serrano M et al. 2013).

# 11. Palmitoylation

Palmitic acid (C:16) comprises 20-30% of the body's fatty acids (Carta G, Murru E et al. 2017). ABC transporters are regulated by palmitoylation (Tada H, Nohara A et al. 2018). The ABC transporters are responsible for extra-hepatic excretion of cholesterol and plant sterols (Berge KE, Tian H et al. 2000). Mutations in ABC transporters have been implicated in a variety of diseases including schizophrenia and bipolar (ABCA13), skin disorders (ABCA12 and ABCA4), tissue cholesterol

accumulation and reduced HDL (ABCA1) (Segrest JP, Tang C et al. 2022). Palmitoylation of ABC's are primarily mediated by Zinc Finger DHHC domain containing family of palmitoyl-transferases (De I, Sadhukhan S 2018). Palmitoyl-transferase ZDHHC8 palmitoylation by ABCA1 is essential for lipid efflux (Tada H, Nohara A et al. 2018). Impaired ZDHHC5 and ZDHHC8 transporters are associated with mental health. ZDHHC9 deficient mice display altered excitatory/inhibitory synaptic balance, altered hippocampal- based learning and memory and seizure-like activity (Wang HH, Liu M et al. 2020). Impaired palmitoylation is associated with Huntington's disease, epilepsy, speech and language impairment, and impaired neurological development (De I, Sadhukhan S 2018).

We already have a clear understanding of the macro-level fatty acid ratios across different diets (Figure 6), but future advancements in nutritional medicine will rely heavily on the precise quantification of individual fatty acids, which may profoundly influence mental health outcomes and the development of personalised treatment strategies.

#### 12. Plant Sterols

Plant sterols are recommended by physicians and dieticians to reduce plasma cholesterol and increase high-density lipoproteins and low-density lipoprotein ratios (Tada H, Nohara A et al. 2018). Sitosterolemia is the pathological vascular accumulation of the plant sterol sitosterol due to impaired ABC cassette binding (Berge KE, Tian H et al. 2000). It is estimated, that 1 in 200,000 people, carry a pathogenic mutation, however, epigenetic research indicates, a mutation is not required to suffer the negative side-effects of altered gene expression. It is highly unlikely that any human would have had sufficient time to evolutionarily adapt to large quantities of isolated plant sterols, thus, inadequate gene expression and the global burden of arterial plant sterol accumulation may be far greater than currently assumed. Plant sterols are highly methylated and can behave as endocrine disruptors; binding and interfering with transcription factors such as oestradiol receptor-alpha, ultimately inhibiting essential enzymes for downstream cholesterol metabolism like 17-beta hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (Qasimi MI, Nagaoka K et al. 2017). The future of diagnostic arterial disease requires specific analysis of the constituent's contributing to a patient's arterial disease, for better personalised health care.

### 13. Hormone Related Disease

The global burden of endocrine disorders is astronomical, with most adults suffering some sort of endocrine or hormone related illness (Crafa A, Calogero AE et al. 2021). Endogenously synthesised hormones or those obtained from our diet possess epigenetic activity through activation of transcription factors. Therefore, rapid modifications to diet require efficient epigenetic adaptation, which may be impaired under specific circumstances (Sedley L 2023). Due to molecular mimicry, many environmental chemicals disrupt normal endocrine epigenetic mechanisms influencing the burden (Sedley 2020).

# 14. Thyroid Hormones

Besides synthesis from tyrosine, the GIT acts as a reservoir of thyroid hormones. Thyroid hormone is taken up by the liver from mesenteric circulation and its excess is excreted in bile. Gastrointestinal cells take up a greater proportion of thyroid hormone when endogenous thyroid hormone is depleted (Hays MT 1988). 48-hour starvation experiments result in reduced thyroid hormones in plasma (DeGroot LJ, Coleoni AH 1977).

Participants of the Adventist Health Study —2 were analysed for a correlation with hypothyroidism and diet. The study showed a considerable portion of subjects, 5.79% of vegans, 6.2% of omnivores, and 8.3% of lacto/ovo vegetarians, were hypothyroid within the preceding 12 months (Tonstad S, Nathan E et al. 2011). This implies that adaptation to consuming more plants is still affecting a large portion of this plant-based population.

Ketogenic diets demonstrate a reduction in T3 and an increase in serum T4 (Lacovides S, Maloney SK et al. 2022). A Polish study of Hashimoto's thyroiditis examined the effects of different diets in the management of the disease, over a two-year period. All those consuming the carnivorous diet had an improvement in their condition; showing no increase in lipid related illness compared to the other diets, nor did they suffer from gout or kidney related illness, which are often associated with increased red meat consumption (Ihnatowicz P, Wątor P et al. 2021).

#### 15. Insulin

Metabolic differences in the consumed animal, influence the nutritional properties of it produce. Due to animal domestication, much of the World's population have adapted to consuming herbivorous animals. Some countries allow hunting and consumption of carnivorous game, but due to the risk of parasitic infection, seafood is the most widely consumed carnivorous animal meat (Kadohira M Phiri BJ 2019).

Like discussed in part one (Sedley L 2025), injection or consumption of animal extracts used to treat disease was beginning to be explored in the late 19th century (The Hospital 1894). In 1889, complete removal of the dog's pancreas resulted in severe and fatal diabetes. Researchers demonstrated the successful treatment of diabetes mellitus by feeding or injecting pancreatic extracts, but the consumption of the pancreas caused negative gastrointestinal discomfort, due to the concomitant presence of concentrated digestive enzymes (Banting FG, Best CH et al. 1922). It was noted that the removal of the pancreas caused disruptions due to the blood glucose: nitrogen ratio (Meting JV, Minkowski O 1890).

A cow fed different diets can have a blood insulin level ranging from 19.2 to 117 ug/ml and likely plays an important role in glucose homeostasis for animal consuming populations (Evans E, Buchanan-Smith JG et al. 1975) & (Jenny BF, Polan CE 1975). In contrast to the myocyte insulin receptors, the insulin receptors in the GIT do not promote the absorption of glucose (Macdonald RS, Thornton WH et al. 1993), but are still potent targets of insulin (Sodoyez- Goffaux F, Sodoyez JC et al. 1985). Insulin in the GIT promotes signalling via the MEK(ERK1/2) pathway, which regulates secretion of glucagon like peptide 1 (GLP), which stimulates insulin secretion by pancreatic beta cells via cross talk with the vagus nerve (Langlois A, Dumond A et al. 2022) & (Spreckley E, Murphy KG 2015). Blocking the activation of insulin receptors results in insulin resistance, and reduced GLP secretion (Lim GE, Huang GJ et al. 2009).

The new anti-obesity medication Ozempic, is a receptor agonist, that selectively binds the GLP-1 receptor, assisting in the body's natural insulin synthesis (NovoMedLink 2025).

Meat hydrolysate and essential AA's are the most powerful stimulators of the MEK(ERK1/2) pathway, and GLP secretion, in enteroendocrine cells (Reimer RA 2006). This demonstrates how important dietary meat constituents are in the regulation of insulin and glucose for populations who rely on a meat-based diet for sustenance. Moreover, it highlights how the timing of macronutrient consumption can be used to prevent glucose or insulin dysregulation.

# 16. Conclusions

This critical analysis reveals significant gaps in current nutritional guidelines. The complexity of dietetics is highlighted here by integrating biochemical processes with epigenetic mechanisms and evolutionary adaptations.

Part three of the critical analysis discusses arginine's essential role in nitric oxide synthesis within Indigenous Australian diets, demonstrating unique metabolic advantages tied to higher arginine intake. Altitude adaptations provide compelling evidence of nitrate utilisation among highland populations, emphasising unique metabolic capacity. The discussion on nasal breathing connects the importance of nitric oxide production in sleep regulation and overall health.

Quantum biology offers promising avenues for understanding nitrogen metabolism at deeper levels, such as alternative energy pathways, like ammonium ion signalling, and reactive oxygen species.

Current evidence suggests, tyrosine metabolism influences melanin synthesis, thyroid hormone production, and neurological function. The study reveals that dietary shifts from carnivorous to plant-based diets reduce tyrosine intake by over 80%, potentially driving evolutionary skin lightening and metabolic changes in populations like Indigenous Australians. This reduction correlates with historical accounts of metabolic disturbances, including glycaemic dysregulation and ulcerations, observed during early dietary transitions in Australia.

Epigenetic regulation, further complicates tyrosine sufficiency, as evidenced by phenylketonuria (PKU) cases, where impaired tyrosine synthesis leads to neurological deficits, and hypopigmentation. These findings emphasize that standardised nutritional guidelines fail to account for population-specific adaptations to tyrosine metabolism, particularly in eumelanin-dominant groups with evolutionary reliance on high-tyrosine diets.

The fatty acid composition of the diet also influences epigenetic marks, with implications for mental health, neurological function, and overall well-being. Excessive intake of widely recommended plant sterols could pose health risks, highlighting the need for closer examination of their role in coronary artery disease.

Finally, Part three advocates for a focus on individual variability, environmental influences, and evolutionary history in nutritional care. These findings pave the way for advancements in personalised nutrition strategies that optimise health outcomes across diverse populations.

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