

**NUTRITION & SUPPLEMENTATION FOR WOMEN
ACROSS THE LIFESPAN: LEVERAGING SCIENCE TO
PROVIDE APPLICATION**

Abbie Smith-Ryan, PhD, CSCS[®]D, FACSM, FNSCA, FISSN
Professor & Director of Applied Physiology Lab
Exercise & Sport Science & Nutrition
University of North Carolina

1

COI

AizChem
LADDER
HOLOGIC
FIFA
KYOWA

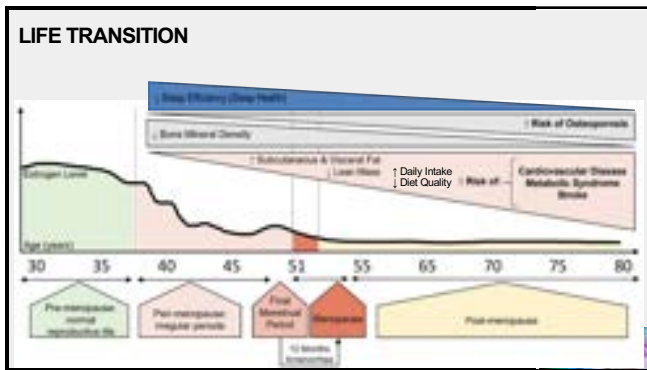
2

ACTIVE WOMEN – CONSIDERATIONS FOR LIFESPAN

CHILDHOOD | PUBERTY (Menstrual Cycle) | PREGNANCY (Pregnancy, Postpartum) | MENOPAUSE | OLD AGE

AGE (YEARS)

3



4

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Pre-Menopause
- Pregnancy
- Peri-Menopause
- Menopause

5

PRE-MENOPAUSE CONSIDERATIONS

Follicular	Luteal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ CHO utilization ↑ CK/IL6 (inflammation) ↑ Pain tolerance → ↑ potential for exercise volume ↓ Sleep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ Energy Expenditure ↑ Protein Oxidation (>1.5 g/kg) ↑ Fat oxidation ↑ Fluid Retention & ECF Shift → Dehydration ↓ Capacity for high intensity work

Feeling BEST

Ellison-Sale et al. Methodological considerations for studies in sport and exercise science with women as participants. Sports Medicine. 2021
Moore et al. Fueling the female athlete: Carbohydrate and protein recommendations. ISSN 2021
Wolke-Smith, Smith-Eby et al. Sex differences and considerations for female-specific nutritional strategies. JISSN 2021

6

SEX SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Follicular

- ↑ Complex CHO
- Omega 3 → Inflammation
- Nutrient Timing = ✓✓ (soreness/recovery)
- Avoid caffeine days 0-5

Feeling BEST

Ellison-Sale et al. Methodological considerations for studies in sport and exercise science with women as participants. Sports Medicine, 2021
 Moore et al. Fueling the female athlete: Carbohydrate and protein recommendations. ESSS 2021
 Wolgast, Smith-Ryan et al. Sex differences and considerations for female-specific nutritional strategies. JISSN 2021

7

SEX SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Luteal

- ↑ Snack/Pre-Bed Feeding
- EAA or Whey before exercise
- Caffeine
- Creatine (continue use or just after loading)
- Beta-Alanine

Beta-Alanine Start

Creatine Start

Feeling BEST

Ellison-Sale et al. Methodological considerations for studies in sport and exercise science with women as participants. Sports Medicine, 2021
 Moore et al. Fueling the female athlete: Carbohydrate and protein recommendations. ESSS 2021
 Wolgast, Smith-Ryan et al. Sex differences and considerations for female-specific nutritional strategies. JISSN 2021

8

RECOVERY ?

Female Sex Hormones and The Recovery From Exercise: Menstrual Cycle Phase Affects Responses (2019)

Anthony Hackney, Ashley Kallman, Eszter Aggon

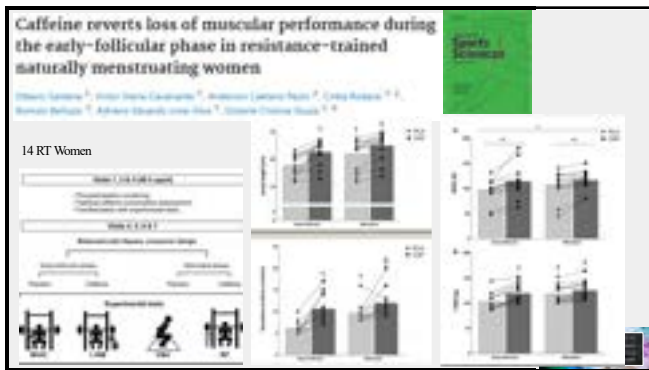
- Greater variance in a variety of biomarkers response during the extended recovery period of women athletes
- 8 female eumenorrheic, no OC, runners
 - 90 minutes of running exercise at the mid-follicular and mid-luteal
 - CK and IL-6 measured over 72 hours of recovery

Greater CK/IL-6 in the MF – may need longer recovery.

	Rest	MF	LF	72 hours
CK (U/L)	94.7 ± 34.7	168.7 ± 66.7	109.9 ± 34.9	403.7 ^a ± 146.7
IL-6 (pg/ml)	92.8 ± 39.6	142.7 ± 66.8	175.3 ± 92.1	221.2 ± 52.6

Values are mean ± SD. Significant differences between MF and LF values.

9



13

Pre-Menopause

1. Understand your MC
2. Prioritize Exercise – but not too much
3. Eat more (protein), exercise less
4. Eat before exercise
5. Sleep more
6. Create habits now

14

Peri-Menopause

1. Lift heavy weights
2. Do high intensity exercise → mitochondrial
3. Pay attention to symptoms/cycle
4. Eat even more (protein)
5. Eat around exercise
6. Prioritize YOU. Right. NOW

15

• ! "%&' 1() +, #) #/ &01# (2' !"# \$%&' (345) &(') # " \$789 : ;
 • <= %&' + " #) - 2982) " 51 %? " &# " #) 1&# @ " A" +, - " B) &# = " , 1) 05) " #) ! " & (% " %? . / O 123 " 2 " 4 5 O 6788
 9 " 2 : ; < > ? 2 @ A ? @ 7 4 8
 (C " # \$ % " - @ " # & % & ' C B
 D : < C " % 1 " # & ' 0 B
 : : (C " # 1) & " E ? " # \$: E C " % 1 " # & ' E D B

16

AN EVALUATION OF BODY COMPOSITION AND MENOPAUSE SYMPTOMS ACROSS THE MENOPAUSE TRANSITION

Sam R. Moore^{1,2}, Hannah E. Cabre^{1,2}, Kelly E. Joniak¹, Alexandra N. Ladan¹, Abbie E. Smith-Ryan^{1,2}

- %BF significantly related to TMS ($r=0.464$; $p<0.001$)
- %BF predicting 44% of variance in TMS
- LBM had no significant effect

17

In Review

↓ Lean Mass ↓ Muscle Quality

18

PHYSIOLOGICAL TARGETS

19

MACRONUTRIENTS

! Optimizing CHO:PRO
 - 3.5-4:1 – normal US
 - 2:1; 1:1

! 24 Women – 10 wk diet intervention
 ~1700 kcals

3.5 CHO:1 PRO
 • 240g:68g

1.4 CHO:1 PRO
 • 171g:125g

Layman et al. A reduced ratio of dietary CHO to PRO 2003

20

- The MR + Exercise > EX
- **Body weight 83% greater loss**
- **Fat weight 60% greater loss**
- **Muscle mass 40% greater gain**
- Cardiorespiratory fitness – 38% greater improvement
- Upper body strength 20% greater increase
- Lower body strength 17% greater increase

21

NOOTROPICS/ADAPTOGENS

- Rhodiola (Rosavins, salidroside)**
 - Reduce Fatigue
 - Improve mood
 - Time to Exhaustion
 - Often diluted
 - 200-600 mg daily
- Theanine - Neurotransmitter**
 - Often combined with caffeine- and can be synergistic
 - Relaxation/Attention
 - 100-200 mg (with caffeine)

Substances that may improve cognitive function, memory, creativity, motivation in healthy individuals

Sellami et al. JISSN. 2018; Ishaque et al. BMC Complementary and Alt Med. 2012; Higashiyama et al. J of Funct Foods. 2011.

22

CREATINE

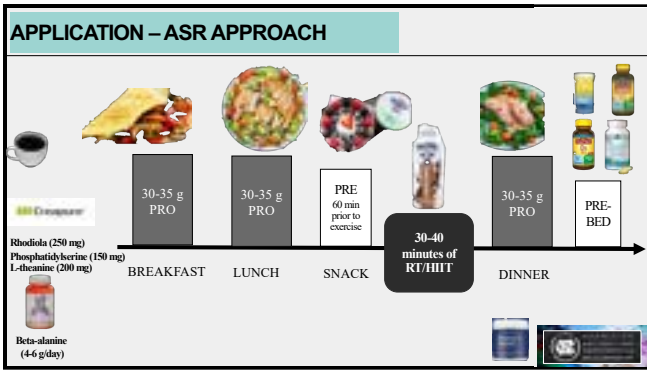
- Creatine homeostasis changes throughout the menstrual cycle and lifespan
- Performance in women = ✓ (strength, sport, aerobic)
- Depression & mood = ✓
- Reductions in mental fatigue
- Improvements in cognition, especially under sleep deprivation
- Pregnancy
- Postmenopause → bone

23

PROBIOTICS

Langenbach et al. Probiotic supplementation affects markers of intestinal barrier, oxidative, and inflammation. JISSN 2012.
Bajer M. Efficacy of Probiotic Supplementation. Adv. Health Res. & Nutrition. Probiotic Supplementation and Nutrition. 2011.

24

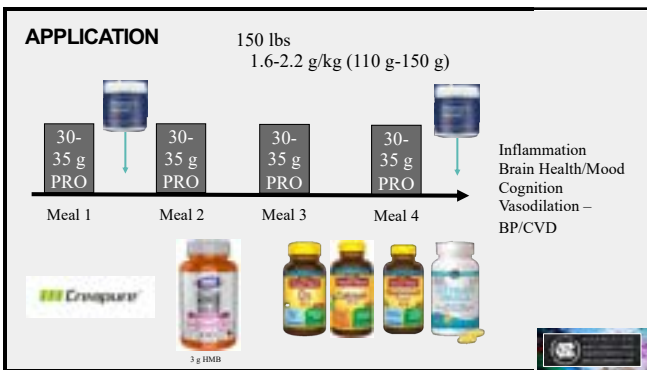


25

Menopause

1. Enjoy the journey

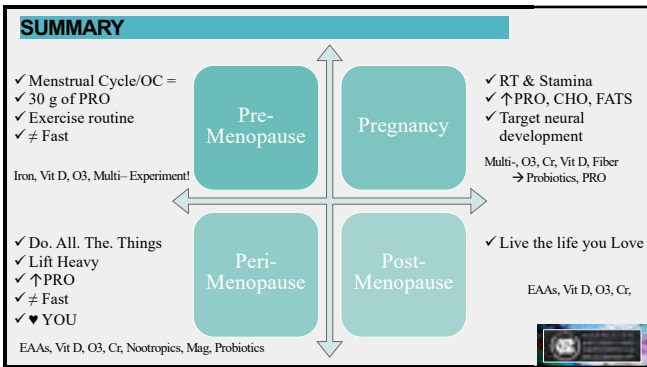
26



27



28



29

THANK YOU

nutrition
metabolism
performance
body composition

APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY LAB

Lab Team:
Hannah Cabre, MS, RD
Samantha Moore, MS, CSCS
Amanda Gordon, BS, CSCS

Katie Hirsch, PhD
Malia Blue, PhD

[asmithryan](https://asmithryan.com)
<https://asmithryan.com>
abbiesmith@unc.edu

30
