AHEAD OF THE CURVE

How Better Understanding of Women's Health is helping to shape the demand for Female Focused Wellness Solutions.

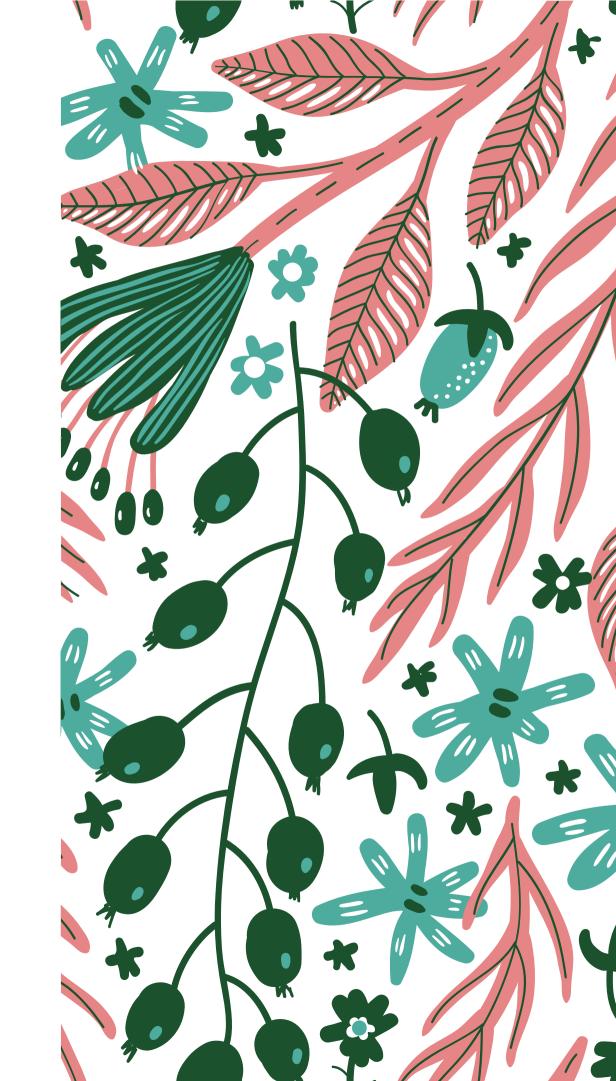
Pauline Cox BSc MSc

Functional Nutritionist, Author, Women's Health Specialist.

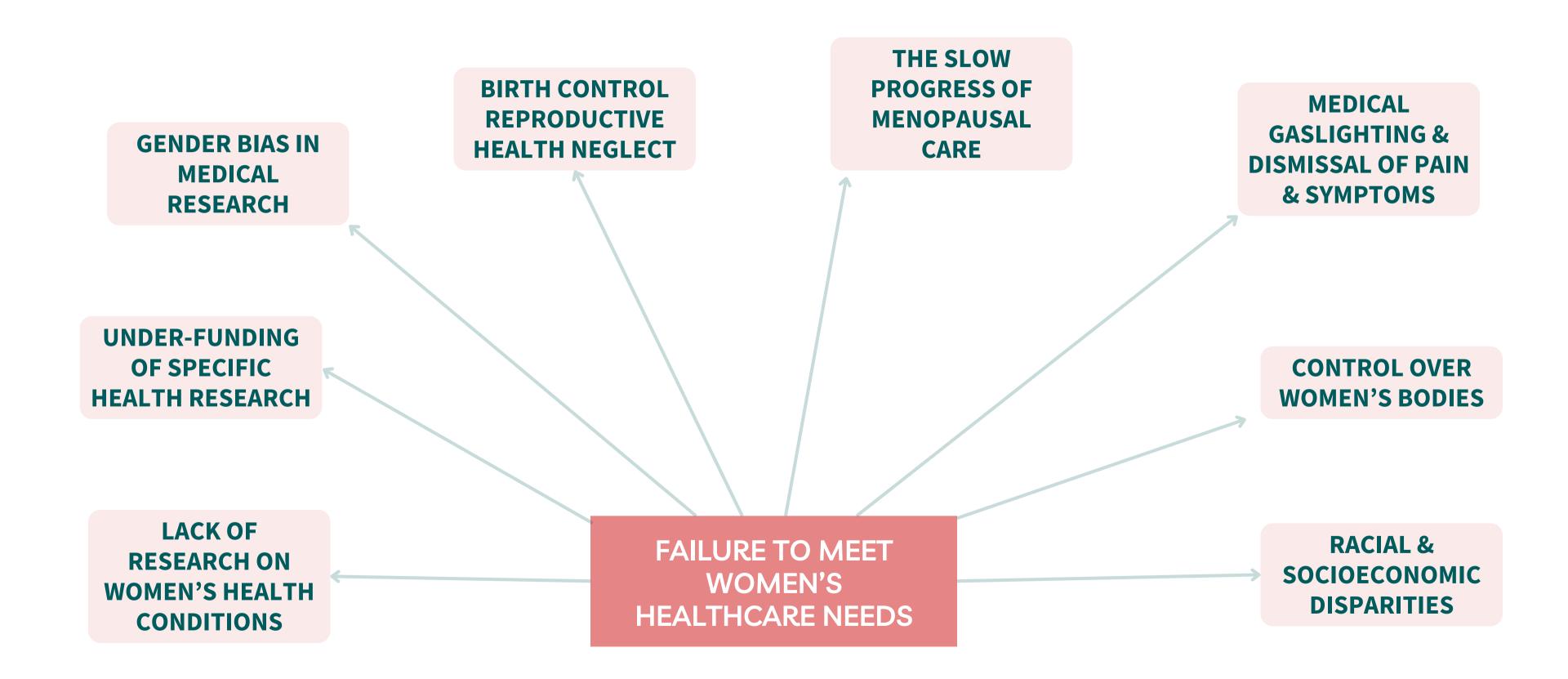
Co-founder of Sow & Arrow











LACK OF RESEARCH ON WOMEN'S HEALTH CONDITIONS

- ENDOMETRIOSIS, PCOS, MENOPAUSE, AND MENSTRUAL DISORDERS ARE UNDERFUNDED AND UNDERSTUDIED DESPITE AFFECTING MILLIONS OF WOMEN.
- THE AVERAGE DIAGNOSIS TIME FOR ENDOMETRIOSIS IS 8-10 YEARS, LARGELY BECAUSE SYMPTOMS ARE NORMALISED.
- MENOPAUSE RESEARCH IS DECADES BEHIND, LEADING TO MISINFORMATION AND A LACK OF MEDICAL SUPPORT FOR WOMEN IN MIDLIFE.

UNDER FUNDING OF SPECIFIC HEALTH RESEARCH

- ONLY 4% OF TOTAL MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING GOES TO WOMEN'S HEALTH BEYOND REPRODUCTIVE ISSUES.
- EXAMPLE: VIAGRA WAS DEVELOPED AND APPROVED QUICKLY, BUT FEMALE SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION RESEARCH HAS LAGGED BEHIND.

GENDER BIAS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

- FOR CENTURIES, MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE HAS BEEN BASED ON STUDIES OF MALE BODIES, TREATING THE FEMALE BODY AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT.
- WOMEN HAVE OFTEN BEEN EXCLUDED FROM CLINICAL TRIALS, LEADING TO MISDIAGNOSIS AND INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENTS.
- MANY DRUGS AND MEDICAL TREATMENTS ARE TESTED PRIMARILY ON MEN, WHICH RESULTS IN DIFFERENT (AND SOMETIMES DANGEROUS) EFFECTS ON WOMEN.

BIRTH CONTROL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NEGLECT

- MANY BIRTH CONTROL OPTIONS HAVE SIDE EFFECTS, YET RESEARCH FOR SAFER ALTERNATIVES HAS BEEN SLOW.
- NON-HORMONAL BIRTH CONTROL METHODS ARE LIMITED, DESPITE DEMAND.
- WOMEN ARE OFTEN DISMISSED WHEN REPORTING SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS LIKE DEPRESSION AND LIBIDO LOSS.

SLOW PROGRESS OF MENOPAUSAL CARE

- MENOPAUSE RESEARCH IS DECADES BEHIND, WITH LIMITED MEDICAL TRAINING ON HOW TO TREAT SYMPTOMS.
- MANY DOCTORS DON'T KNOW HOW TO PROPERLY SUPPORT PERIMENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSAL WOMEN, FORCING THEM TO SEEK SOLUTIONS IN THE WELLNESS INDUSTRY.

DISMISSAL OF PAIN & SYMPTOMS

- WOMEN'S PAIN IS FREQUENTLY UNDERESTIMATED OR IGNORED BY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.
- CONDITIONS LIKE ENDOMETRIOSIS, FIBROMYALGIA, AND CHRONIC PAIN DISORDERS HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN DISMISSED AS PSYCHOLOGICAL OR "HYSTERICAL" ISSUES RATHER THAN LEGITIMATE MEDICAL CONDITIONS.
- WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE PRESCRIBED ANTIDEPRESSANTS RATHER THAN RECEIVING PROPER DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT FOR PHYSICAL CONDITIONS.

CONTROL OVER WOMEN'S BODIES

• HOW MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE CONTROLLED AND POLICED WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES.

RACIAL & SOCIOECONOMI CAL DISPARITIES

- BLACK WOMEN FACE HIGHER MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES DUE TO SYSTEMIC MEDICAL RACISM.
- WOMEN FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES ARE LESS LIKELY TO RECEIVE PROPER PAIN MANAGEMENT.
- LOWER-INCOME WOMEN STRUGGLE WITH ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE, PRENATAL CARE, AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT.

WOMEN ARE LEADING THE WELLNESS REVOLUTION

SAVVY CONSUMER

UNDERSTANDING THIER OWN NEEDS

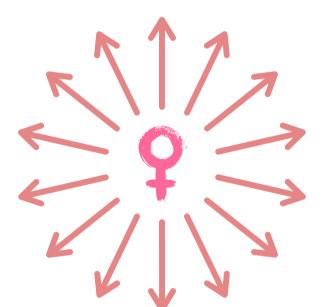




THIRD PARTY TESTING

EXPERT-KNOWLEDGE







TRANSPARENCY & CLEAN INGREDIENTS

SCIENCE-BACKED CLAIMS





ETHICAL, SUSTAINABLE INGREDIENTS



ECO-PACKAGING & DELIVERY

UNDERSTANDING THE CONSUMERS NEEDS



Sell at me

Meno-washing

Use unneccessary
Barriers

Make Presumptions

Disempowering

No Choice



Listen to me

Build Trust

Understand

Provide Answers

Empowering

Provide Choice



EXPLORING CONSUMER-DRIVEN TRENDS IN WELLBEING & HOLISTIC WELLNESS

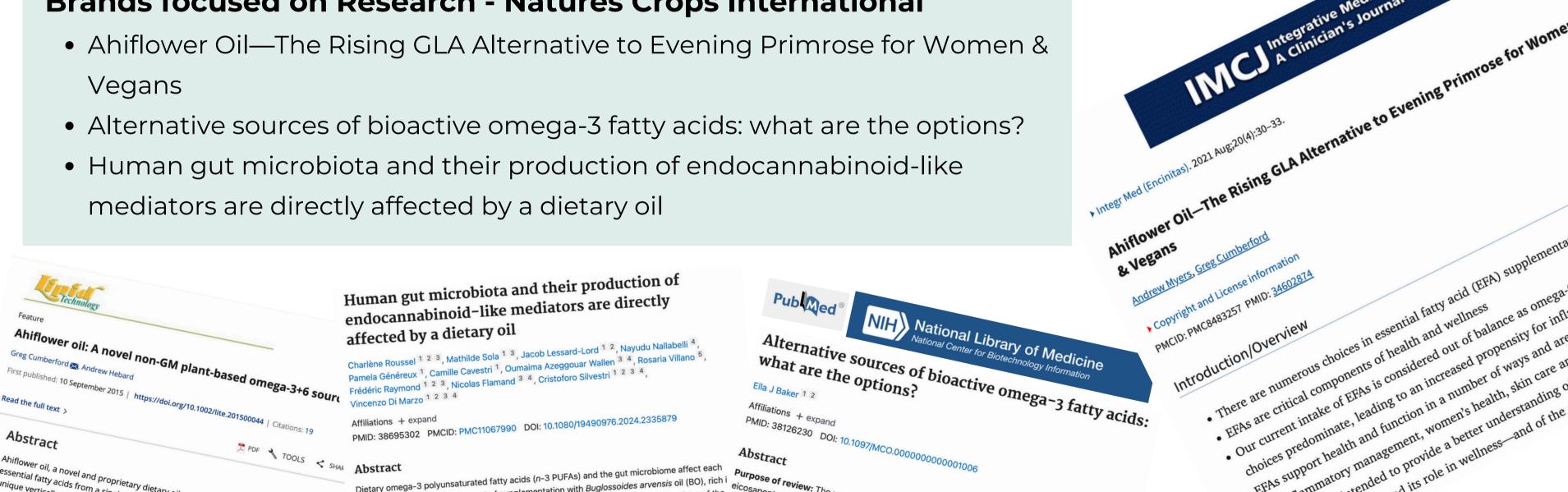
The Female consumer is demanding science-backed & ethical solutions

- ∘ Consumers reject unverified claims → Expect research-based products.
- o Brands investing in clinical studies, transparency, and expert endorsements
- The wellness industry is evolving due to informed, empowered and savvy female consumers.

INC Integrative Medicina A Clinician's Journa

Brands focused on Research - Natures Crops International

- Ahiflower Oil—The Rising GLA Alternative to Evening Primrose for Women & Vegans
- Alternative sources of bioactive omega-3 fatty acids: what are the options?
- Human gut microbiota and their production of endocannabinoid-like mediators are directly affected by a dietary oil



GOOD FOR ME - GOOD FOR THE PLANET

Consumers today expect more than just health benefit - they want to know where ingredients come from, how they're made & who is impacted along the supply chain.

Here's how these trends are reshaping the supplement industry



• Brands are focusing on fair trade, fair wages, ethical & regenerative farming, and community impact. Demand for adaptogens, herbs and superfoods from sustainable and ethical sourcing is rising.

Why Consumers Want Regeneratively Farmed Supplements

- ✓ Higher Nutrient Density Health-conscious consumers understand that regenerative farming increases soil quality, resulting in more nutrient-rich plants and herbs.
- ☑ Better for the Planet Unlike industrial farming, regenerative practices improve soil health, store carbon, and reduce chemical use (pesticides, synthetic fertilisers).
- ✓ Sustainable & Ethical Consumers want products that support small farmers, biodiversity, and local ecosystems.
- ✓ Clean Label & Transparency Shoppers seek organic, non-GMO, glyphosate-free supplements that prioritise soil health and environmental impact.



LET'S BE CLEAR ... TRANSPARENCY IS KEY

Transparency & Clean Ingredients Matter:

- Shoppers are reading labels more closely, avoiding unnecessary fillers, artificial additives, and allergens. Honest and transparent labelling is part of the trust built with a brand.
- Supplements with fewer, high-quality ingredients are gaining popularity

Plant-Based, and Sustainable Omega-3 Alternatives

- Overfishing concerns are shifting demand from fish-based omega-3s to plant-based sources eg Ahiflower Oil
- Vegan and plant-based supplements are becoming mainstream.

Third-Party Testing & Certification Transparency & Sustainability

- Consumers demand independent testing to verify purity, potency, and safety.
- Certifications like B-Corp Certified, Non-GMO Verified & Informed-Sport are now key selling points.





Eco-Friendly Packaging & Carbon-Neutral Initiatives

- Glass bottles
- Eco-Friendly Packaging & Carbon-Neutral Initiatives
- Supplement companies are reducing plastic waste by using:
 - Compostable pouches
 - Recyclable glass bottles
 - Refillable packaging





COMMUNITY & SOCIAL PROOF

Community & Social Proof Are Driving Purchasing Decisions

Building Trust with the consumer:



- Credible, influencer-backed recommendations
- o 😭 Expert-led educational content YouTube, Instagram, Podcasts from wellness leaders
- ∘ ★ Brand Reputation
- @Founders with Expert Knowledge
- © Collaborations with Health Experts
- 🕾 Responsive & knowledgeable customer service
- (i) Informative content not just sales content

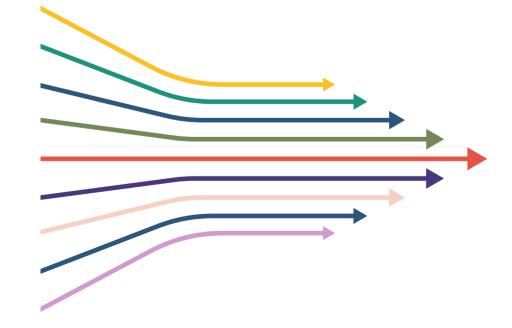


IN IT FOR THE LONG GAME

Holistic Health over Quick Fixes

- The female consumer's focus is much more on long-term, wellness & root-cause healing:
 - The Gut health prebiotics, probiotics, postbiotics, estrobolome, adaptogens
 - 🗗 Hormone Balancing Dietary & Lifestyle sleep, blood sugar balance, specific supplementation
 - Liver-Love. Opening up the Detox Pathways for hormone balance, skin & metabolic health
 - Stress reduction breathwork, meditation, therapy apps
 - Biohacking & longevity supplements, sleep tracking
 - Sestorative Sleep & Adrenal Support sleep hygiene protocols

Greater understanding of how Dietary & Lifestyle choices in your 20s and 30s impacts your hormonal health, mental wellbeing and general health in your 40s, 50s and beyond.



UNDERSTAND THE CONSUMER'S NEEDS

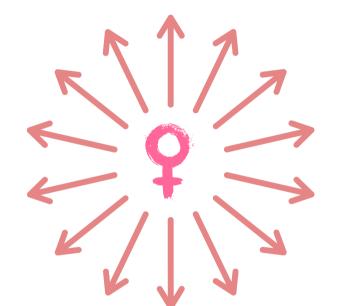




THIRD PARTY TESTING

PROVIDE EXPERT-KNOWLEDGE







TRANSPARENCY & CLEAN INGREDIENTS

CLEAR, SCIENCE-BACKED CLAIMS

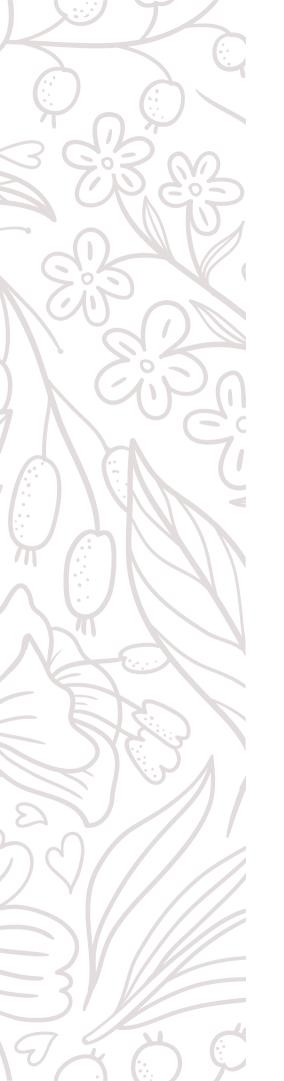






ETHICAL, SUSTAINABLE INGREDIENTS

ECO-PACKAGING & DELIVERY



ANY QUESTIONS?



sowandarrow.com pauline@sowandarrow.com



@paulinejcox

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