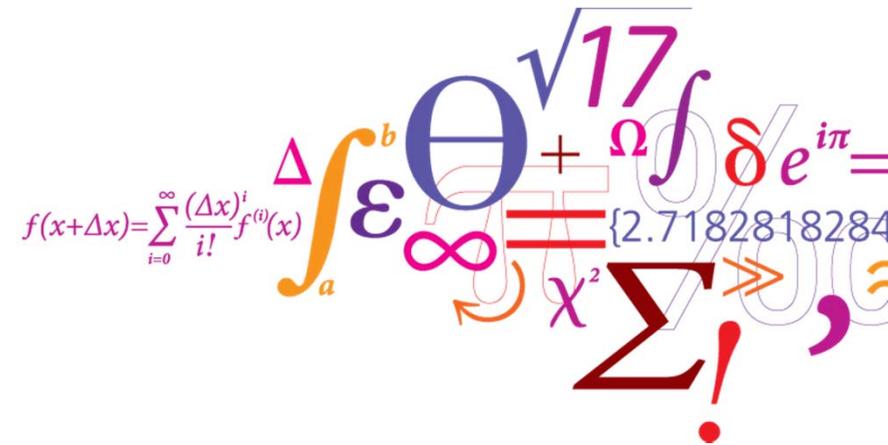


# Risk-Benefit Assessment of Foods

Maarten Nauta  
Research Group for Risk-Benefit



## Why is Bread Bad For You? The Shocking Truth

By Kris Gunnars | 381,111 views

"The Whiter The Bread, The Sooner You're Dead."

It has been known for a long time that white bread and refined grains in general aren't particularly nutritious.

Nutritionists and dietitians all around the world have encouraged us to eat whole grains instead.

But grains, especially gluten grains like wheat, have been under intense scrutiny in recent years.

Many respected scientists now claim that bread and other grain products are unnecessary at best.

### Fruit and Vegetable Intake and Chronic Disease

#### Bread is High in

Hsin-Chia Hung, Kaumudi J. Joshipura, Rui Jiang, Frank B. Hu, David Hunter, Stephanie A. Smith-Warner, Graham A. Colditz, Bernard Rosner, Donna Spiegelman and Walter C. Willett

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Correspondence to: Walter C. Willett, MD, Department of Nutrition, Harvard School of Public Health, 651 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115 (e-mail: [walter.willett@channing.harvard.edu](mailto:walter.willett@channing.harvard.edu))

Received April 3, 2004.

Revision received August 26, 2004.

Accepted September 1, 2004.

#### Abstract

**Background:** Studies of fruit and vegetable consumption in relation to overall health are limited. We evaluated the relationship between fruit and vegetable intake and the incidence of cardiovascular disease and cancer.



## Dangers Of Milk And Dairy Products - The Facts

By Dave Rietz  
Webmaster [www.notmilk.com](http://www.notmilk.com)  
7-6-2

Yes... milk is Mother Nature's "perfect food" ...for a calf... until it is weaned. Everything you know about cow's milk and dairy is probably part of a Dairy industry MYTH.

Cow's milk is an unhealthy fluid from diseased animals that contains a wide range of dangerous and disease-causing substances that have a cumulative negative effect on all who consume it.

MILK IS DANGEROUS

cancer and

**IS ALL FOOD IS DANGEROUS?**

... including cow ate... expectancy... Harvard Medical School.

The study of more than 120,000 people suggested red meat increased the risk of death from cancer and heart problems.

Substituting red meat with fish, chicken or nuts lowered the risks, the authors said.

The British Heart Foundation said red meat could still be eaten as part of a balanced diet.

The researchers analysed data from 37,698 men between 1986 and 2008 and 83,644 women between 1980 and 2008.

They said that during the study period, adding an extra portion of unprocessed red meat to someone's daily diet would increase the risk of death by 13%, of fatal cardiovascular disease by 18% and of cancer by 10%. The figures for processed meat were higher, 20% for



Experts advise to choose leaner cuts of red meat

#### Related Stories

Red meat study: Risks 'very clear'

Cut red meat to lower cancer risk

How much red meat should you eat?

30 November 2017





## Benefits of Fruits



Pineapples help digest food and build strong bones



Watermelons help the body get rid of excess ammonia and helps you heal wounds

Natural oil in oranges keeps your skin young and fresh



Cherries contain antioxidants that protect the body from cancer cells



Drinking lemon water can help cure bad breath



**HEALTH TOTAL**  
ANJALI MUKERJEE



## 10 Benefits of Milk

1. Amazing Complexion
2. Strong Teeth
3. Healthy Bones
4. Muscle Growth
5. Weight Loss
6. Reduce Stress
7. Alleviate PMS Symptoms
8. Energy Booster
9. Heartburn Eliminator
10. Disease Fighter

## 6 REASONS TO EAT MEAT FOR OPTIMAL HEALTH



[healthylivinghowto.com](http://healthylivinghowto.com)

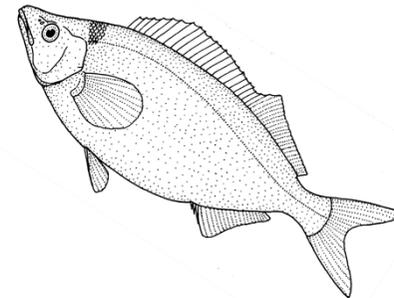
# Risk-Benefit Assessment

- Usually our research focus is on only risks or benefits
  - one hazard or benefit
  - one food
  - one health effect
- Food is associated with benefits and risks
  - This requires an integrated approach

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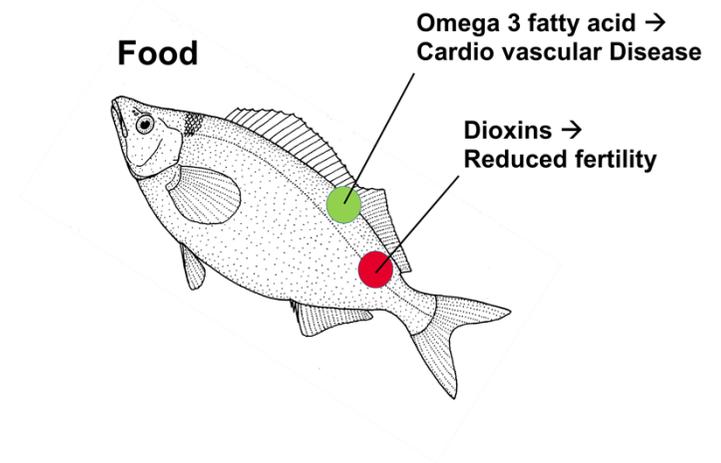
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- Risk-Benefit Assessment at different levels:
  - Food product

**Food**



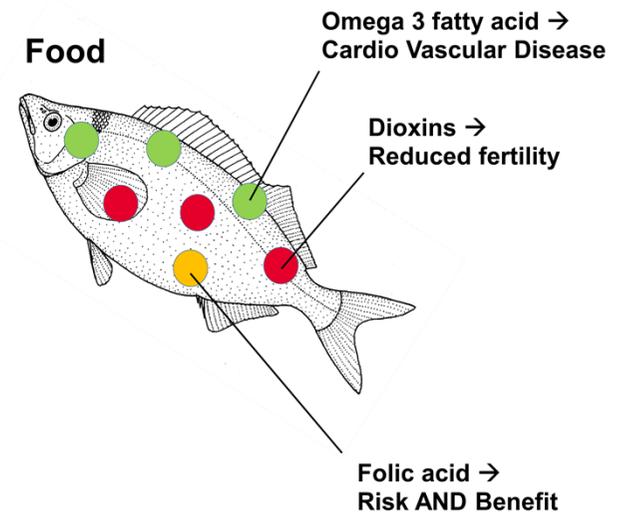
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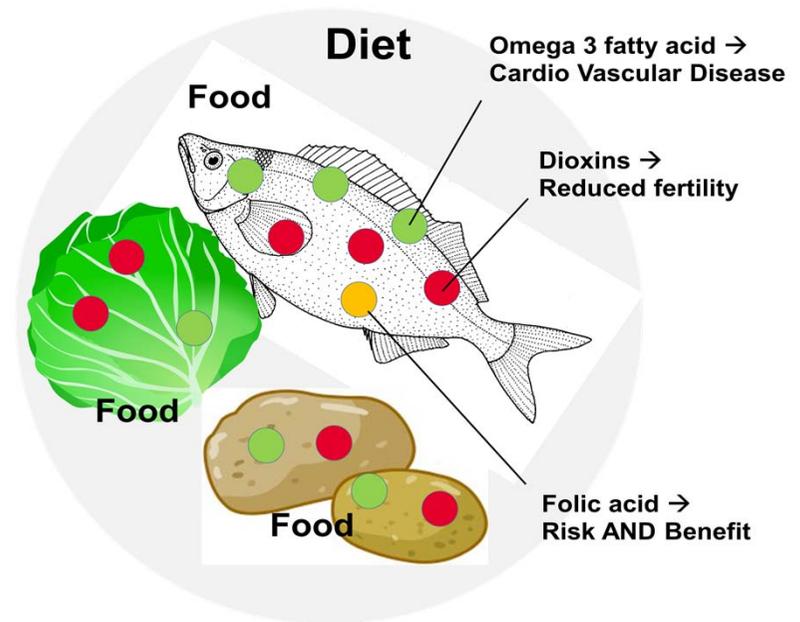
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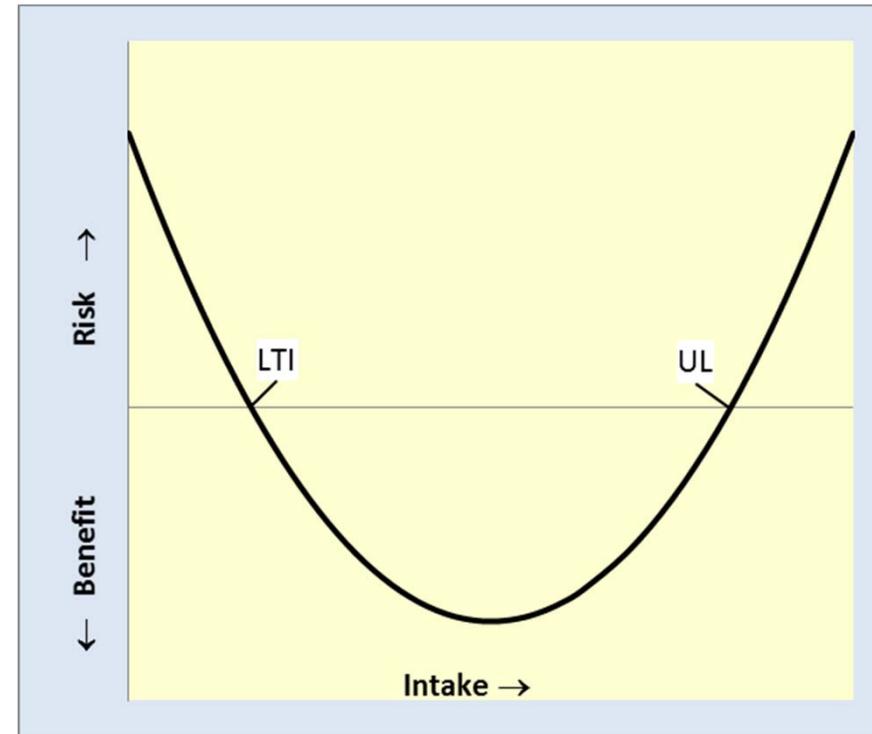
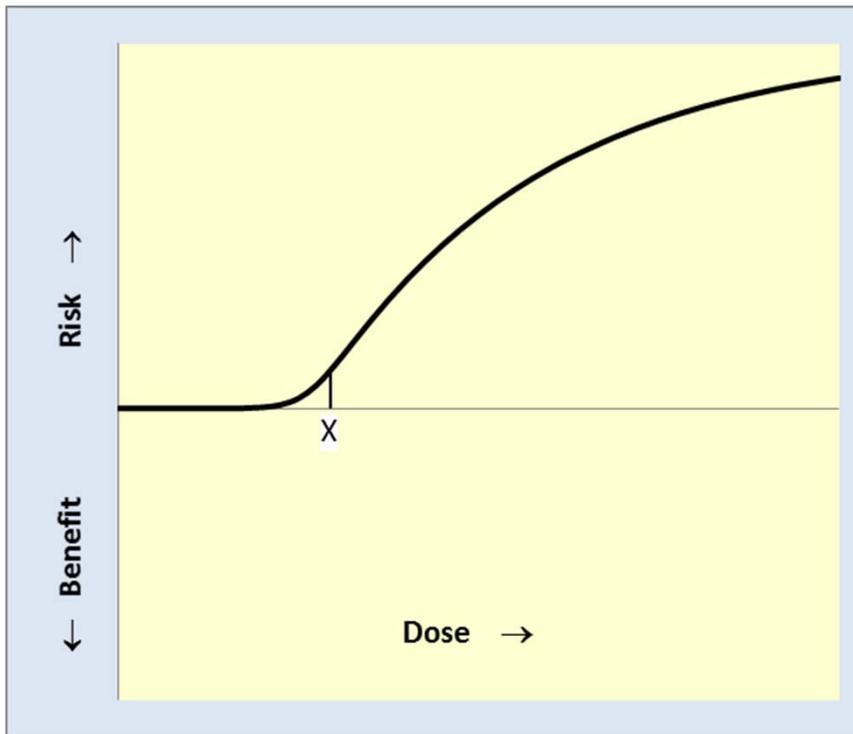
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  - Food product
  - Diet



# Risk-Benefit Assessment

- Assessing food risks and benefits requires a multidisciplinary approach
  - Toxicological risks
  - Microbiological risks
  - Nutrition
    - risks
    - benefits
- Important differences in terms, concepts and approaches
  - Definitions
  - Nature of health effects and dose-response models
  - Available data
  - Common questions and approaches

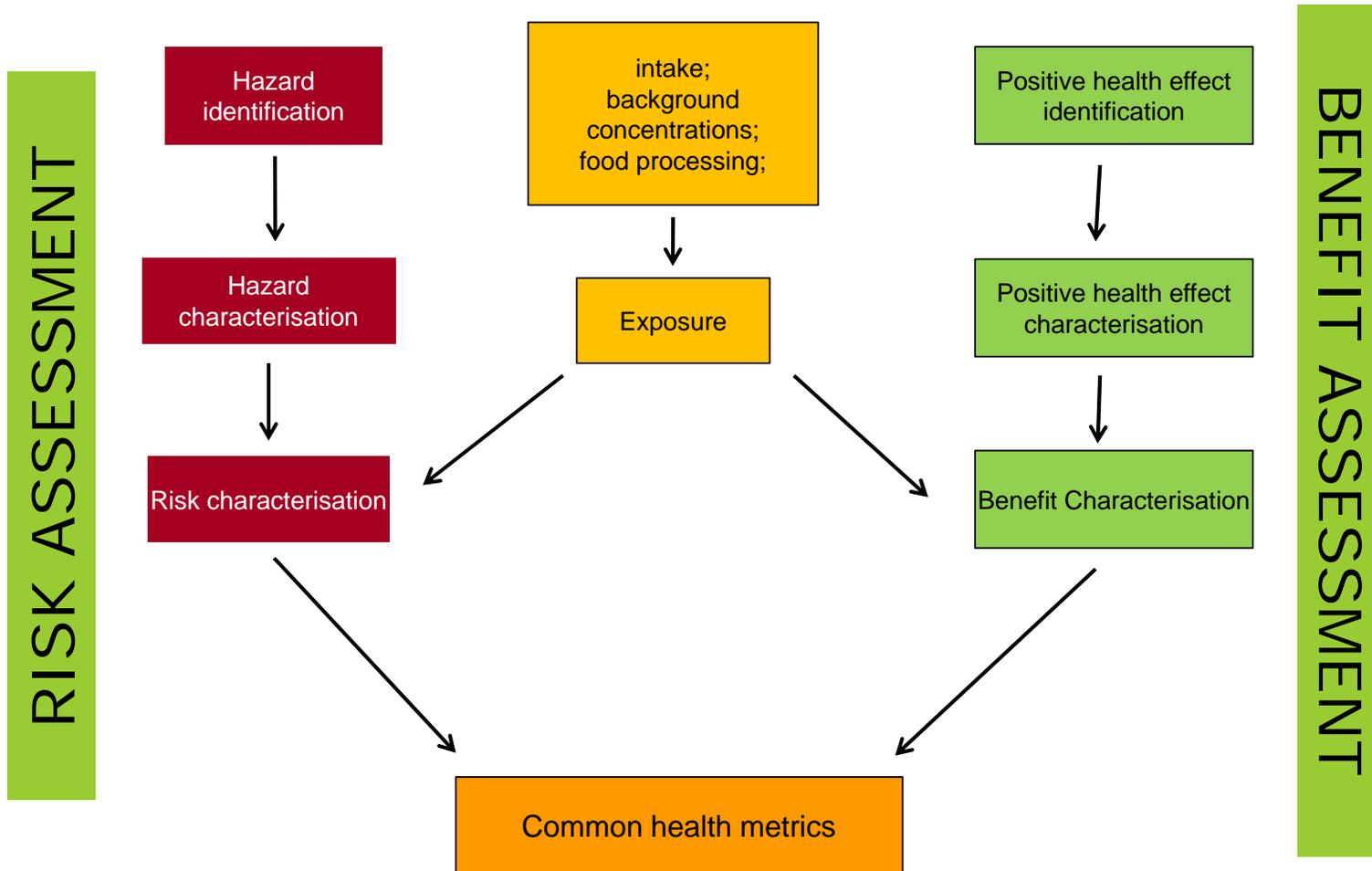
# Food safety risk assessment vs. Nutritional risk and benefit assessment



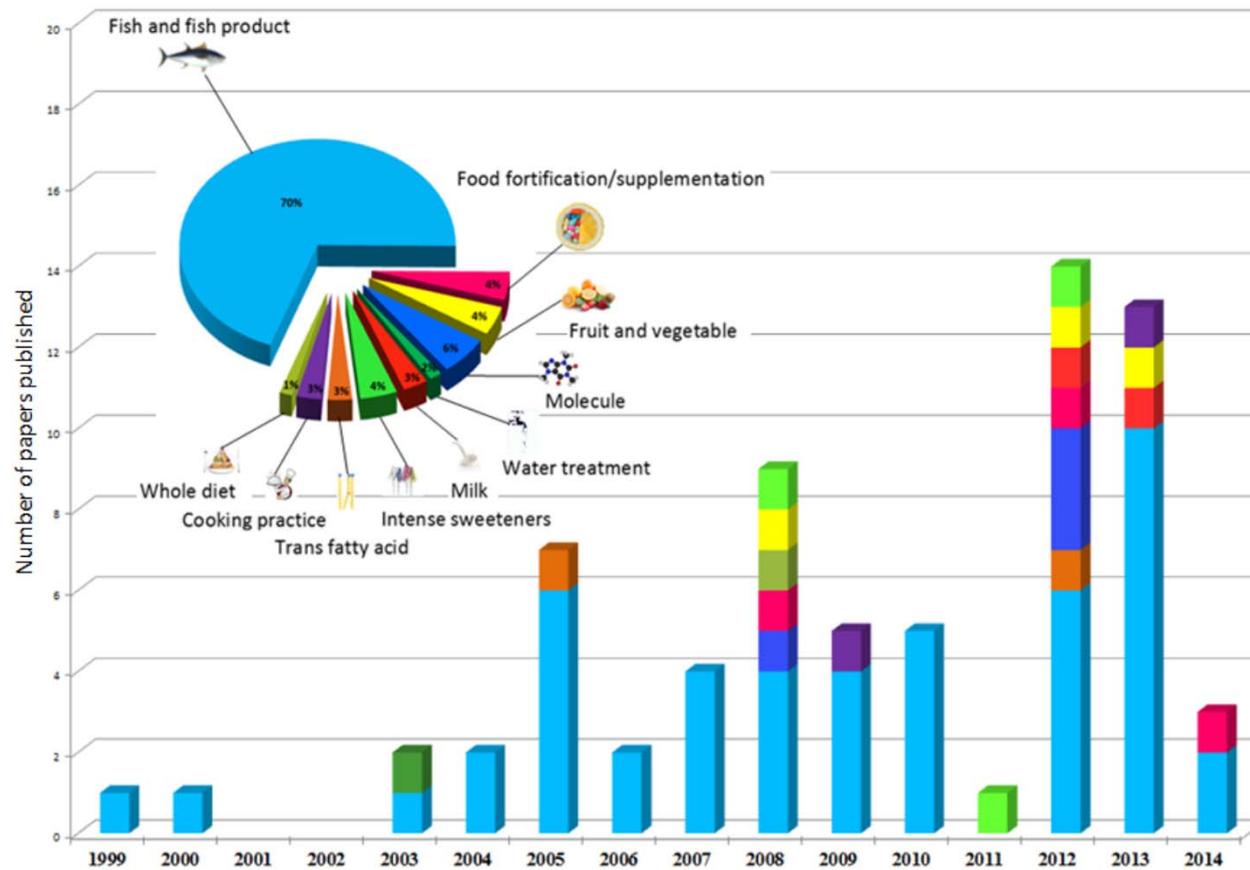
# Risk-Benefit Assessment so far

- First studies 10-20 years ago
  - Qualitative comparisons
  - Nutrition and chemicals
  
- Some EU projects
  - BRAFO
  - BENERIS
  - BEPRARIBEAN
  
- EFSA opinion 2010

# General framework



# Risk-Benefit studies performed



Géraldine BOUÉ et al., 2015, European Journal of Nutrition & Food Safety, 5(1), 32.

# Risk-Benefit Assessment in Denmark

- Risk-Benefit research group established 2015
- Expertises available at the National Food Institute
  - Toxicology
  - Nutrition
  - Microbiology
  - Risk assessment
  - Epidemiology (*Burden of foodborne diseases*)



## MetriX project

- Develop and apply models for quantitative health assessment in
  - Risk-benefit assessment
  - Risk and benefit ranking
  - Burden of disease studies

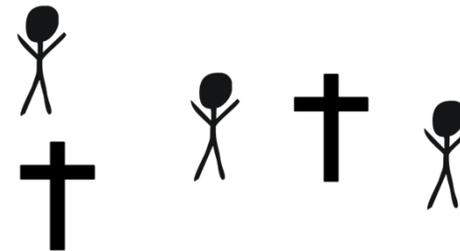
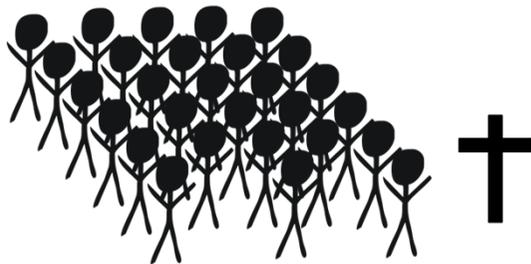
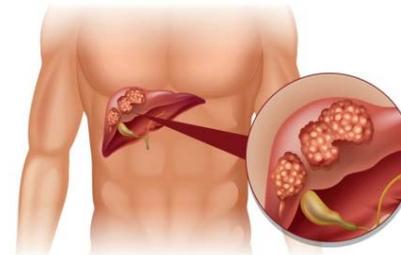
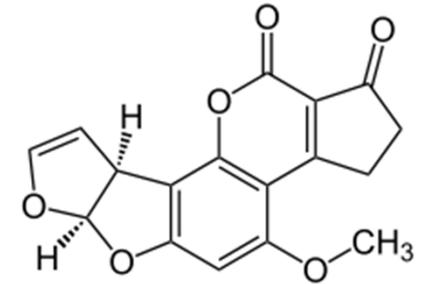
# Current International Activities

- Projects in different countries
- Workshop Nordic countries 2016
- Special sessions and symposia in international conferences
- EFSA sponsored workshop in Copenhagen 2017
  - Informal network established
  - Challenges identified and way forward discussed

# Selected challenges

- Metrics and quantification
- Comparing risks and benefits
- The scope of Risk-Benefit Assessment

# How to compare the health impacts of foods?

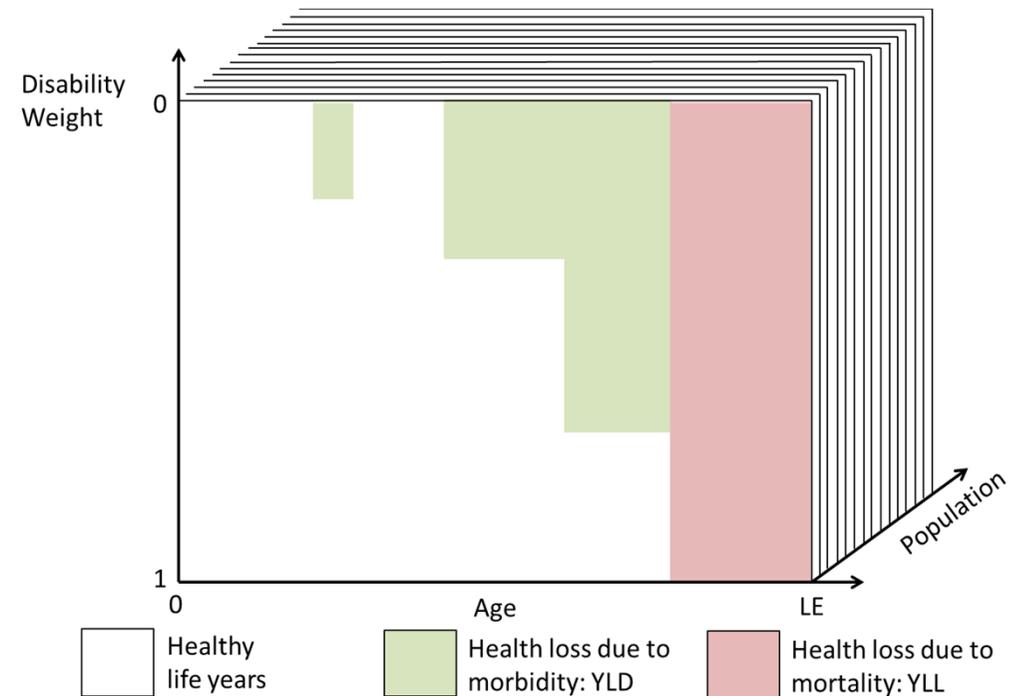


# Disability Adjusted Life Years - DALY

Conceptually simple:

- Translate the number of years of life lost due to the diseases, in terms of **loss of quality of life** and by **premature death**

$$DALY = \underline{YLD} + \underline{YLL}$$



# How good are DALYs?

## ☺ Widely used

- WHO Global burden of foodborne disease studies

## ☺ Well developed

## ☺ One metric

- combines incidence, severity, mortality
- quite easily interpreted (average healthy life years lost)

## ☹ Contains "hidden" and/or subjective values

- severity weight of disease
- impact of age at death / onset of disease
  - discount rate over time?
- no "adaptation" to chronic state of disease
- choice for life expectancy
- no impact on family included

## ☹ One metric

- different dimensions of health burden are hidden

# The case of processed meat: how bad is it?

theguardian



## Processed meats rank alongside smoking as cancer causes - WHO

UN health body says bacon, sausages and ham among most carcinogenic substances along with cigarettes, alcohol, asbestos and arsenic

Sarah Boseley Health editor

Monday 26 October 2015 12.30 GMT

Bacon, ham and sausages rank alongside cigarettes as a major cause of cancer, the World Health Organisation has said, placing cured and processed meats in the same category as asbestos, alcohol, arsenic and tobacco.

## The New York Times

SundayReview | NEWS ANALYSIS

## So Will Processed Meat Give You Cancer?

By ANAHAD O'CONNOR OCT. 31, 2015



gency for Research on Cancer said there was is group 1 carcinogens because of a causal link

y carcinogenic to humans". Eating red meat is er, the IARC says.

-gram (1.8-ounce) portion of processed meat cancer by 18%.

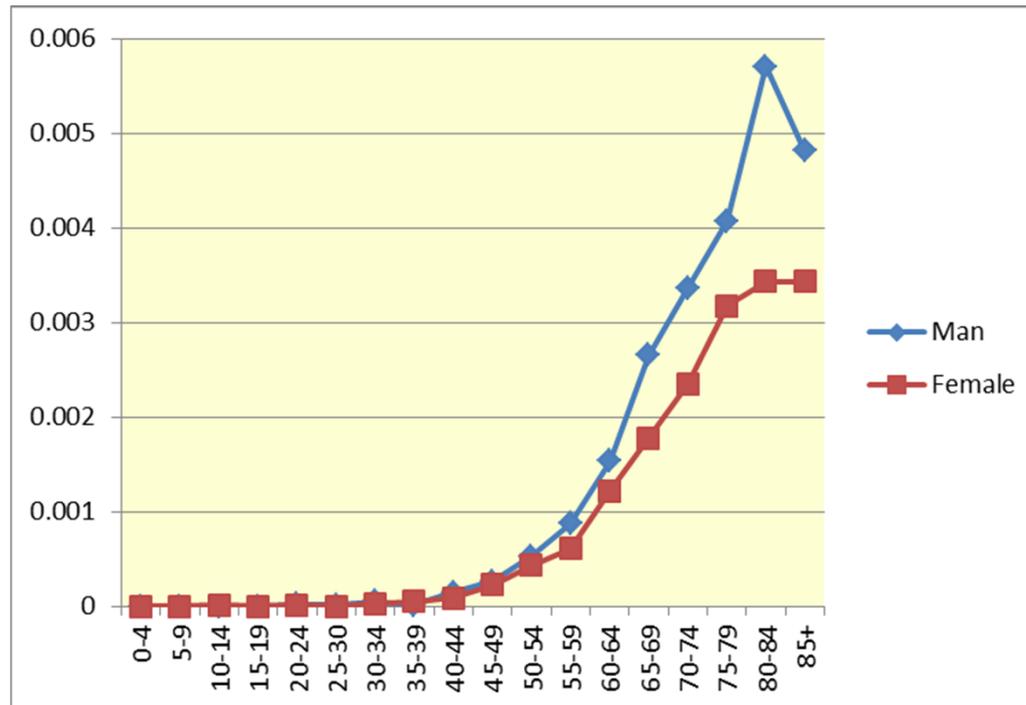
# How bad is processed meat?

- IARC experts say the evidence is convincing:

*the risk of colorectal cancer when eating processed meat is significantly larger than when you do not eat it.*

- But **how** bad is it?
  - Relative risk 1.18
  - A 18% increase in risk of colorectal cancer per 50 g per day
  
  - What does this mean?
    - Incidence increase?
    - Death?
    - DALY?
    - Lifetime risk?

# Incidence colorectal cancer in Denmark



*Incidence is not very high and increases with age*

# Simplified model for Denmark

- Two consumer group:
  - low and high consumers,
  - high consumers eat 50 g processed meat per day more

For one year, 18% increase in risk means:

- Increased probability of acquiring colorectal cancer up to 0.1% at high age
- Increased probability of *fatal* colorectal cancer up to 0.001% at high age
- DALY approach:
  - Expected loss in healthy life days up to half a day
- Increased probability of ever getting colorectal cancer during your life increases to up to 2% around age 85

**The same risk but the risk perception of different metrics may be different!**

# Selected challenges

- Metrics and quantification
- Comparing risks and benefits
- The scope of Risk-Benefit Assessment

# Comparing Risks and Benefits

- Risk assessment and benefit assessment are different by nature
- Risk should be prevented
  - Conservative estimates
  - Worst case scenarios
  - Precautionary principle
- Benefits should be proven
  - Health claims
- Using statistical evidence
  - we need to be 95% sure there is NO risk to exclude it
  - we need to be 95% sure there is a benefit to include it
- For fair Risk-Benefit Assessment, risks and benefits should get the same treatment

# The risk of Risk-Benefit Assessment

- Benefits should not be an excuse to introduce risks
- Risk-Benefit Assessment should be used to inform on overall health effects
  - One metric may not be enough
- Quantitative approach is ESSENTIAL



# Selected challenges

- Metrics and quantification
- Comparing risks and benefits
- The scope of Risk-Benefit Assessment

# Broaden the scope outside the health arena

There is more in food than health

- Economy
- Sustainability
- Consumer risk perception and acceptance
- Social sensitivity

Potential tool:

MCDA (Multi Criteria Decision Analysis)

e.g. Ruzante et al. 2010



Source: IOM, 2015

# Example: RIVM study



	<u>Scenarios for 2040</u>		
	<u>Safe foods</u>	<u>Healthy diets</u>	<u>Sustainable diets</u>
<b>Safety indicators</b>			
Number of foodborne infections			1
Percentage of health standard violations			
Percentage of NVWA fines			
Confidence in food			
<b>Health indicators</b>			
DALYs due to unhealthy diet			
Prevalence of overweight			
SES (social and economic status) differences			
<b>Ecological indicators</b>			
Greenhouse gas emissions	2		
Water use			
Biodiversity			
<b>Consumer indicators</b>			
Price of shopping cart			
Freedom of choice for consumers			
Speed/convenience			
Sociocultural function of food			
Appreciation of taste of food			
Loss of utility			
Animal welfare			
Fair trade			
<b>Economic indicators</b>			
Added value of agricultural complex			
Export-Import balance of payments			

# Conclusions

- Risk-Benefit Assessment is a necessary and relevant method to integrate different risk assessment methods with benefit assessment
- Useful methods and frameworks have been developed but
  - More case studies need to be done
  - (Quantitative) method development should continue
  - Think "out of the box"
- New initiatives are taken
  - Take up challenges
  - Collaborative action needed

# Thanks!

- My DTU colleagues from the Risk-Benefit Research group
- Participants workshop Copenhagen May 2017
- You

