

Adapting Programming in the New Landscape of Anti-Obesity Medications: Biological, Behavioral, and Business Considerations



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Professional Disclosure:
Consultant, Wondr Health, Inc.
IDEAL Strategy and Consulting

Personal Disclosure:
Obesity Treatment Advocate



BIOLOGICAL

BEHAVIORAL

HUMAN

**LIVING WITH
OBESITY**



**EXERCISE
INTERVENTION**

**BEHAVIOR
CHANGE STRATEGY**

FIDELITY

ADAPTATION

*Living with obesity
isn't easy*

*Treating obesity
isn't easy*



one size fits
NONE

Person-Centered

Not

Method-Centered

Objectives

To understand contemporary approaches for inclusion of and the effectiveness of, physical activity within the context of obesity medications.

To understand how lifestyle interventions, specifically physical activity, may need to be adapted and tailored, from the provider and the patient.

Highlight the need for building inclusive and collaborative spaces for patients/clients taking obesity medications and key considerations: method-centered → client-centered frameworks



But First...

Highlights from Part #1



Renee J. Rogers, PhD • You

Bio-behavioral healthy lifestyle strategist | Engagement + adher...

1mo • Edited •

PSA for [#fitnessprofessionals](#) regarding [#antiobesity](#) medications...



STOP: Calling anti-obesity medications, “weight loss” drugs.

STOP: Calling all anti-obesity medications, “Ozempic”

STOP: Making claims that resistance training and exercise programs will “stop lean mass and muscle mass loss”



DO: Read more ([evidence](#)) about what we do and do not know about the role of physical activity...



Renee J. Rogers, PhD • You

Bio-behavioral healthy lifestyle strategist | Engagement + adher...

1mo • Edited •

PSA for [#fitnessprofessionals](#) regarding [#antiobesity](#) medications...



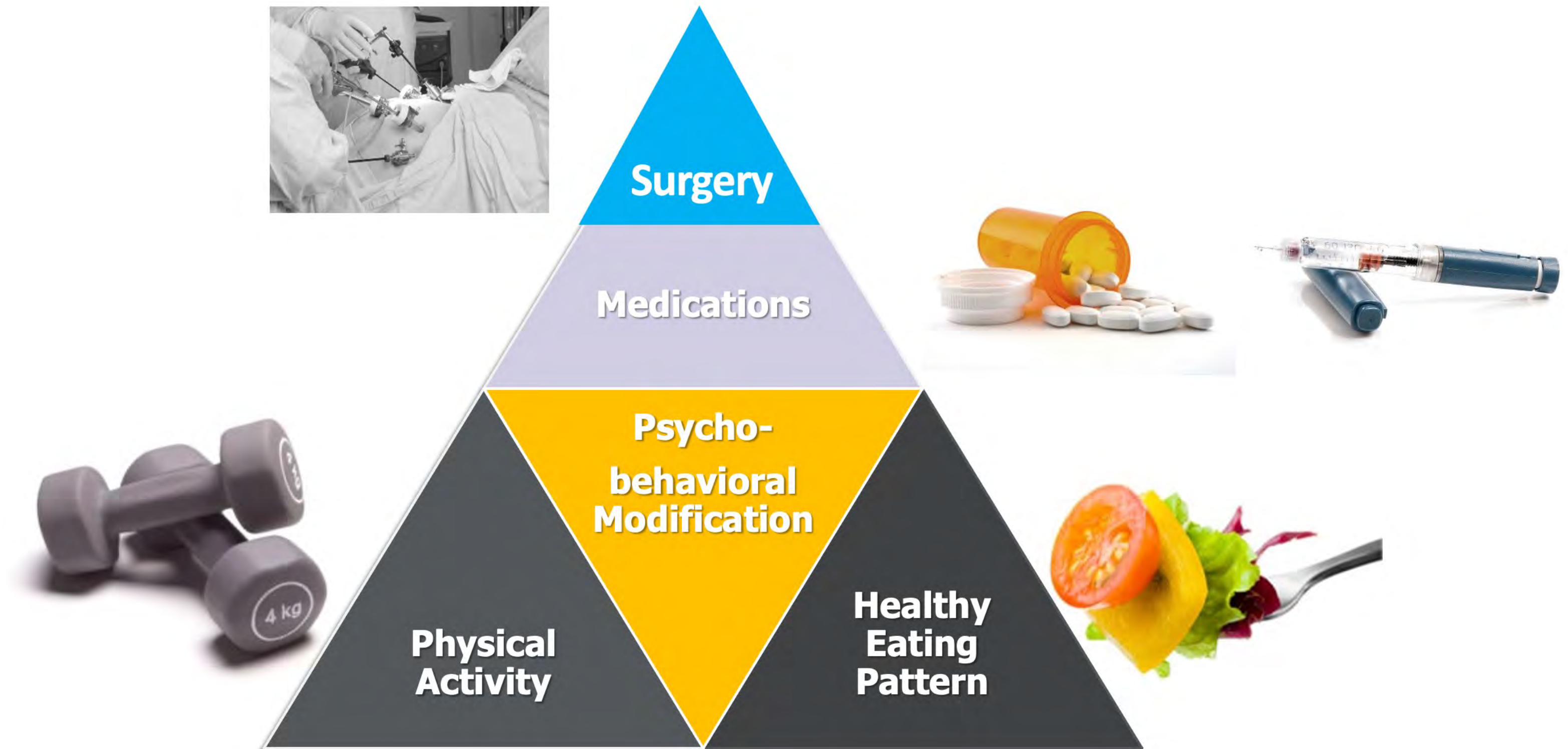
STOP: Calling anti-obesity medications, “weight loss” drugs.

These medications are FDA approved for the
treatment of **obesity***

Obesity is a chronic disease
American Medical Association, 2013

These medications are **not** for modest weight loss

Components of an Effective Obesity Management Program



Slide Image credit: Dr. Robert Kushner



Renee J. Rogers, PhD • You

Bio-behavioral healthy lifestyle strategist | Engagement + adher...

1mo • Edited • 

PSA for [#fitnessprofessionals](#) regarding [#antiobesity](#) medications...



STOP: Calling all anti-obesity medications, “Ozempic”



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

- Not all “Ozempic”
 - 2nd or 3rd Generation Medications
 - Incretin-based Hormone Agonists
 - **Nutrient Stimulated Hormone (NuSH) Therapies**
- GLP-1 agonist receptor therapies have been around
 - Lirglutide (“Victoza/Saxenda”)
 - Dulaglutide (“Trulicity”)

SEMAGLUTIDE

“OZEMPIC”
TYPE 2 DIABETES

“WEGOVY”
OBESITY

~15%

FDA APPROVAL
2021

~22%

FDA APPROVAL
2023

TIRZEPATIDE

“MOUNJARO”
TYPE 2 DIABETES

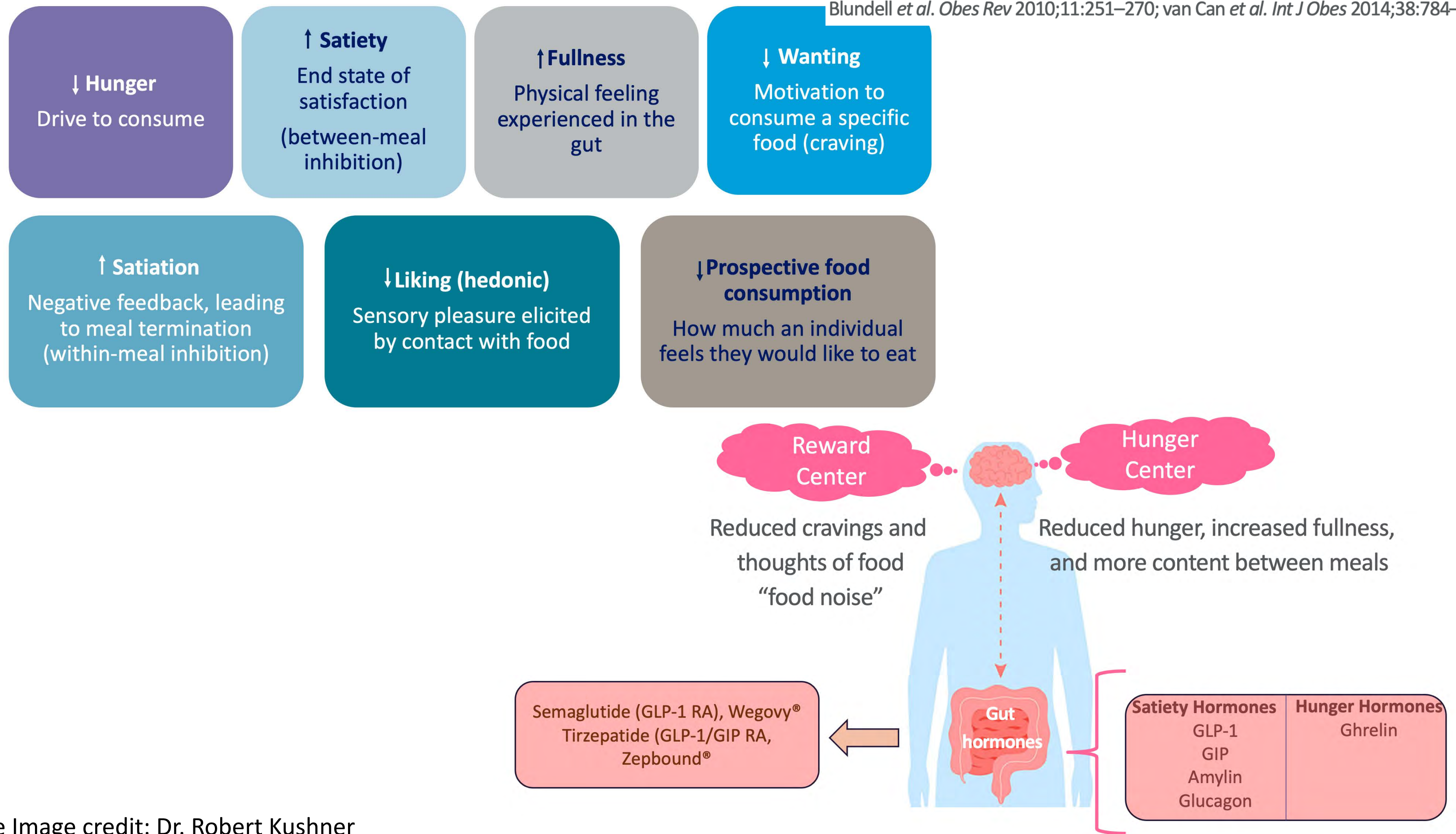
“ZEPBOUND”
OBESITY



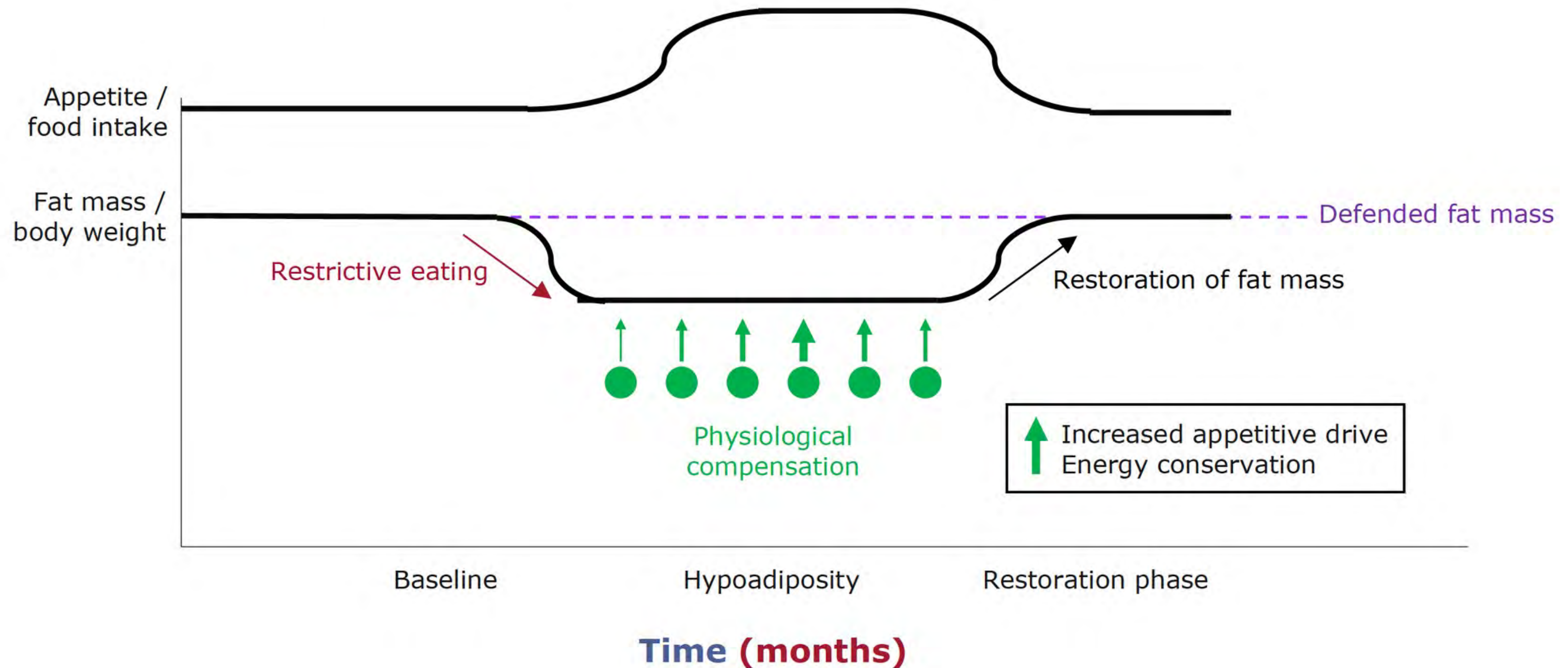
100+

AGENTS IN DEVELOPMENT





Metabolic compensatory mechanisms – calorie reduction



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Medical Management



- Indications
- Evaluation
- Administration
- Dosing – Escalation/De-Escalation
- Side Effects
- Dietary changes + increased Physical Activity

The Challenges:

On these agents, patients:

- Will lose significant weight without engaging in activity,
- Will improve many health parameters without engaging in activity, and
- May not see the value of activity specifically for weight loss.

Despite these challenges, this may open the door for new physical activity opportunities.

HT AOM

ACSM HOT TOPIC

A Perspective on Anti-Obesity Medications



AMERICAN COLLEGE
of SPORTS MEDICINE
LEADING THE WAY

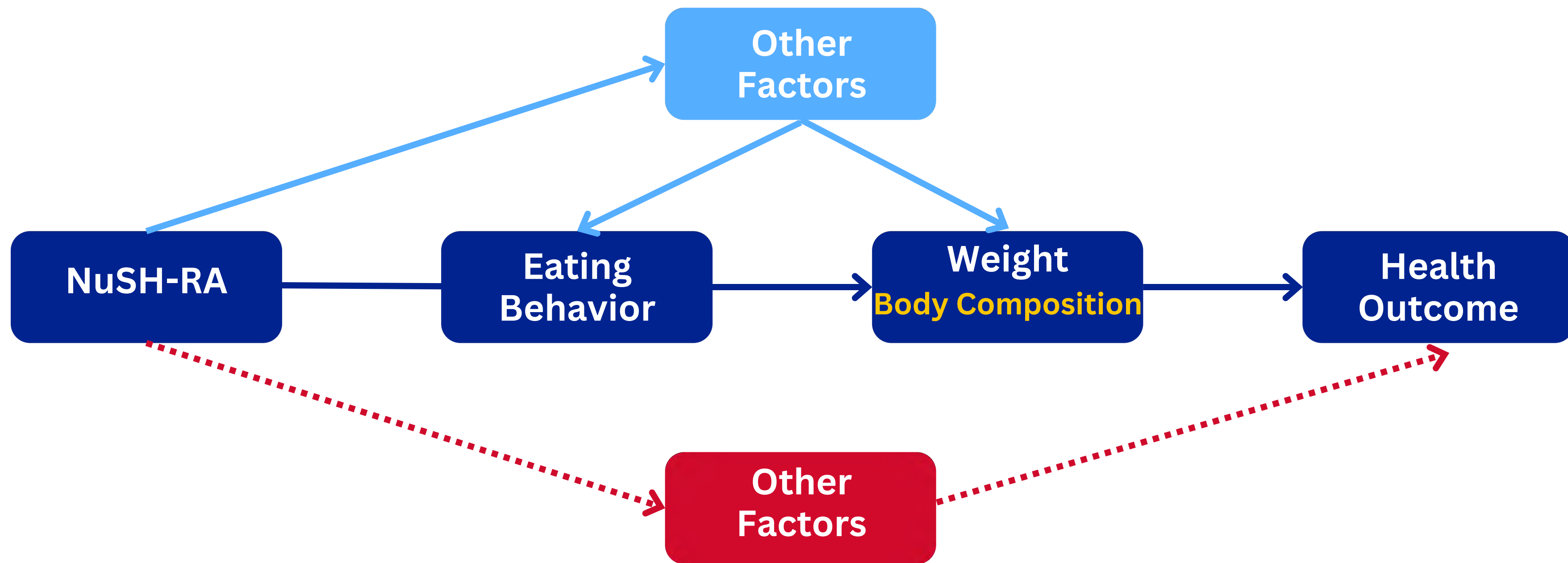


HOWEVER...



STOP: Making claims that resistance training and exercise programs will “stop lean mass and muscle mass loss”

MORE RESEARCH IS NEEDED



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF EXERCISE / PHYSICAL ACTIVITY?

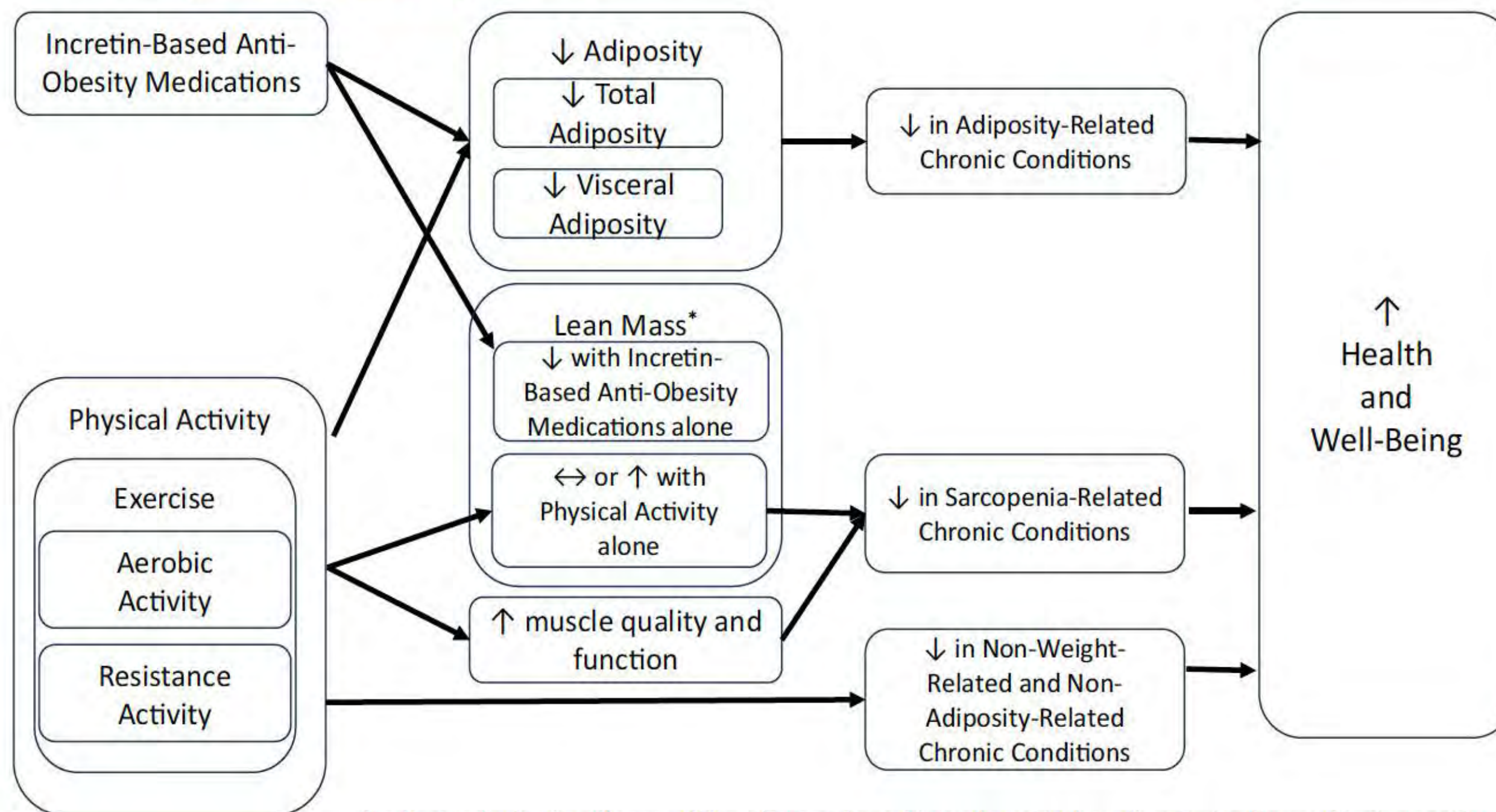
PERSPECTIVE

Physical activity in the new era of antiobesity medications

John M. Jakicic✉, Renee J. Rogers, Timothy S. Church

First published: 17 October 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/oby.23930>







*Indicates limited evidence of the effects of combining incretin-based anti-obesity medications with physical activity on the change in lean mass.

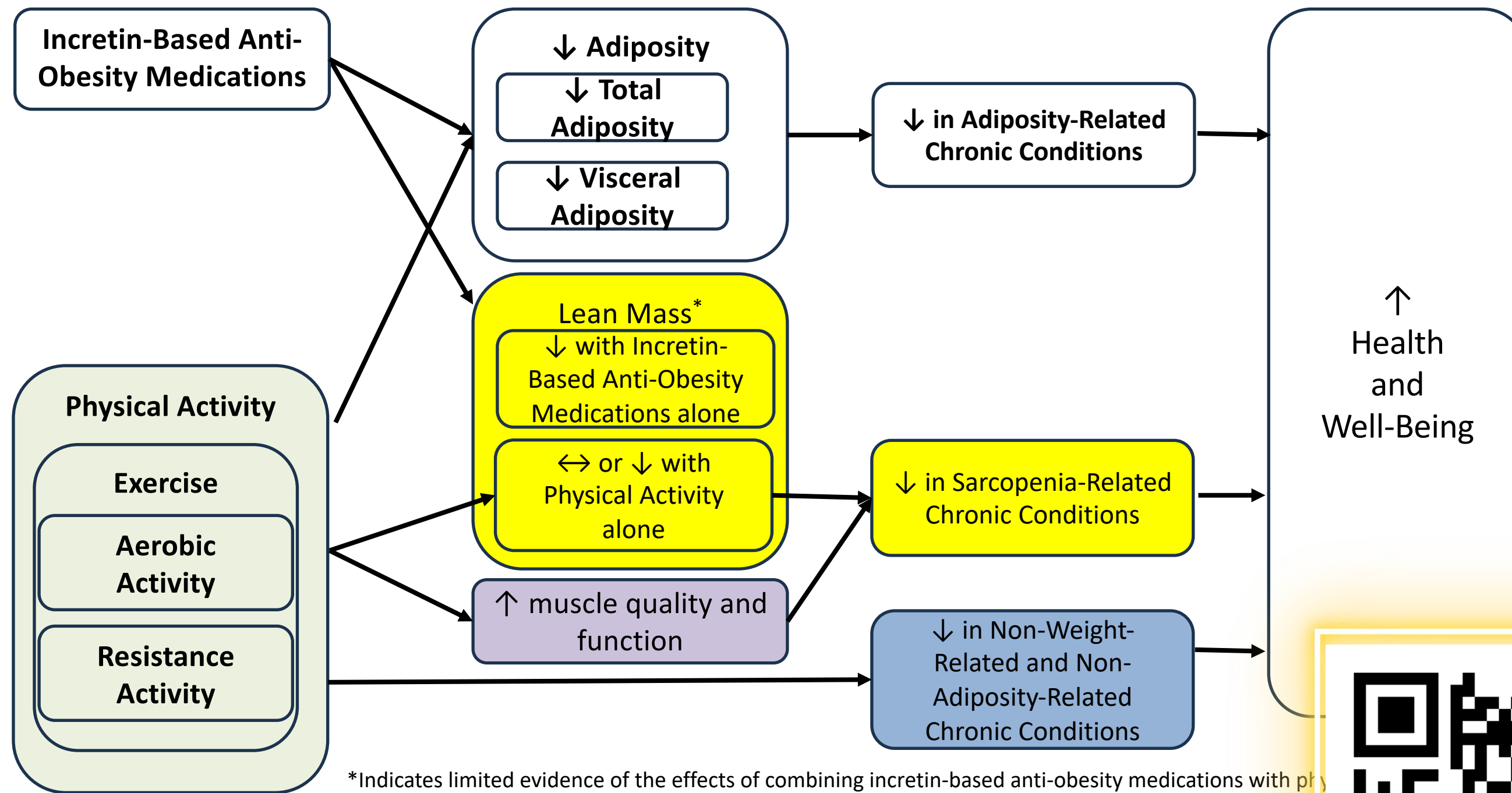
Physical activity in the new era of antiobesity medications

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What do we know about Contemporary AOMs?

Weight Loss	
Better Control of Type 2 Diabetes	
Reductions in Cardiometabolic Risk	
Reductions in Adiposity	
Reductions in Lean Mass  ~25-40%	
Reductions in Muscle Mass	



Move Away from: Exercise to...

“Preserve Muscle”

“Slow or Stop Muscle Loss”

Move to: Exercise for...

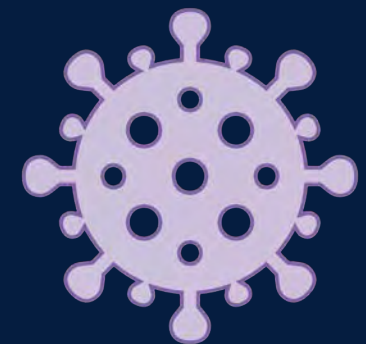
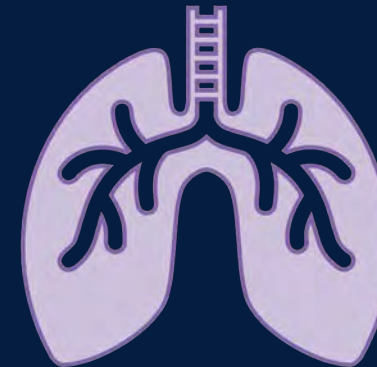
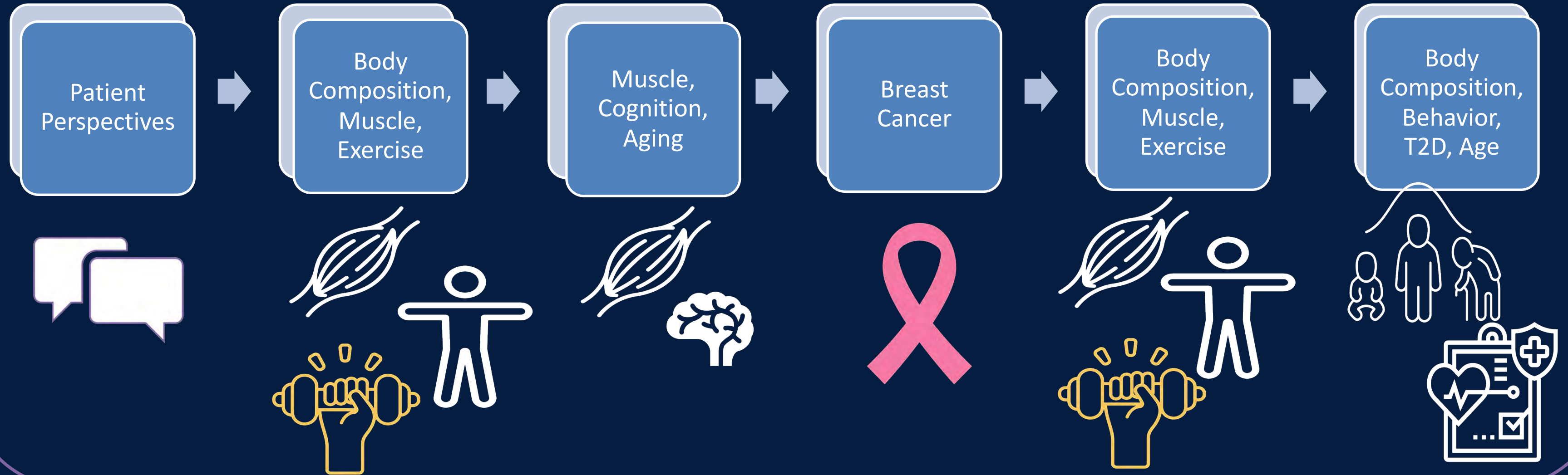
“Muscle Health”

“Quality of Life”

“Physical Function”



Obesity Medications



ADULTS
18 TO <60 YEARS

OLDER ADULTS
≥60 YEARS

BASELINE
ASSESSMENT

CONTROL

AEROBIC

RESISTANCE

CONTROL

6-MONTH
ASSESSMENT

R_x

- **Body Composition**
- **Fitness**
- **Strength**
- **Function**
- **Quality of Life**
- **Qualitative Interviews**

The Challenges:

On these agents, patients:

- Will lose significant weight without engaging in activity,
- Will improve many health parameters without engaging in activity, and
- May not see the value of activity specifically for weight loss.

Despite these challenges, this may open the door for new physical activity opportunities.

The Opportunities:

We can now:

- Pivot from doses and intensities of physical activity for weight loss and prescribe based on improving health in patients using AOMs,
- Target physical activity for the independent health benefits not realized with weight loss alone, and
- Support patients on their holistic weight loss journey as a part of an integrated team of healthcare professionals.

The Opportunities:

We can now:

- Pivot from doses and intensities of physical activity for weight loss and prescribe based on improving health in patients using AOMs.
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DOSE



HEALTH



**SUPPORT
TEAM**

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Approach

BIOLOGICAL

BEHAVIORAL

BUSINESS



Approach

BIOLOGICAL

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DOSE



HEALTH



**SUPPORT
TEAM**



DOSE

KNOWN:

- Pivot from **Energy Expenditure** Intensities
- Focus on the **individual needs** of the client/patient

LEARNING:

- Exercise Tolerance
- Relationship between escalation/de-escalation medication with exercise

UNKNOWN:

- Is it all about **Resistance Training**?
- Can you attenuate **muscle mass loss**?
- *IF* you can, is the dose, intensity, frequency different? Do patients achieve the same benefits?
 - Consider:
 - Hypocaloric state
 - Intake
 - Independent mechanisms of agent
 - Magnitude of Loss
- Is it really about muscle **quantity** or muscle **quality**?
- What about **new agents**?

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DOSE



HEALTH



**SUPPORT
TEAM**



HEALTH

KNOWN:

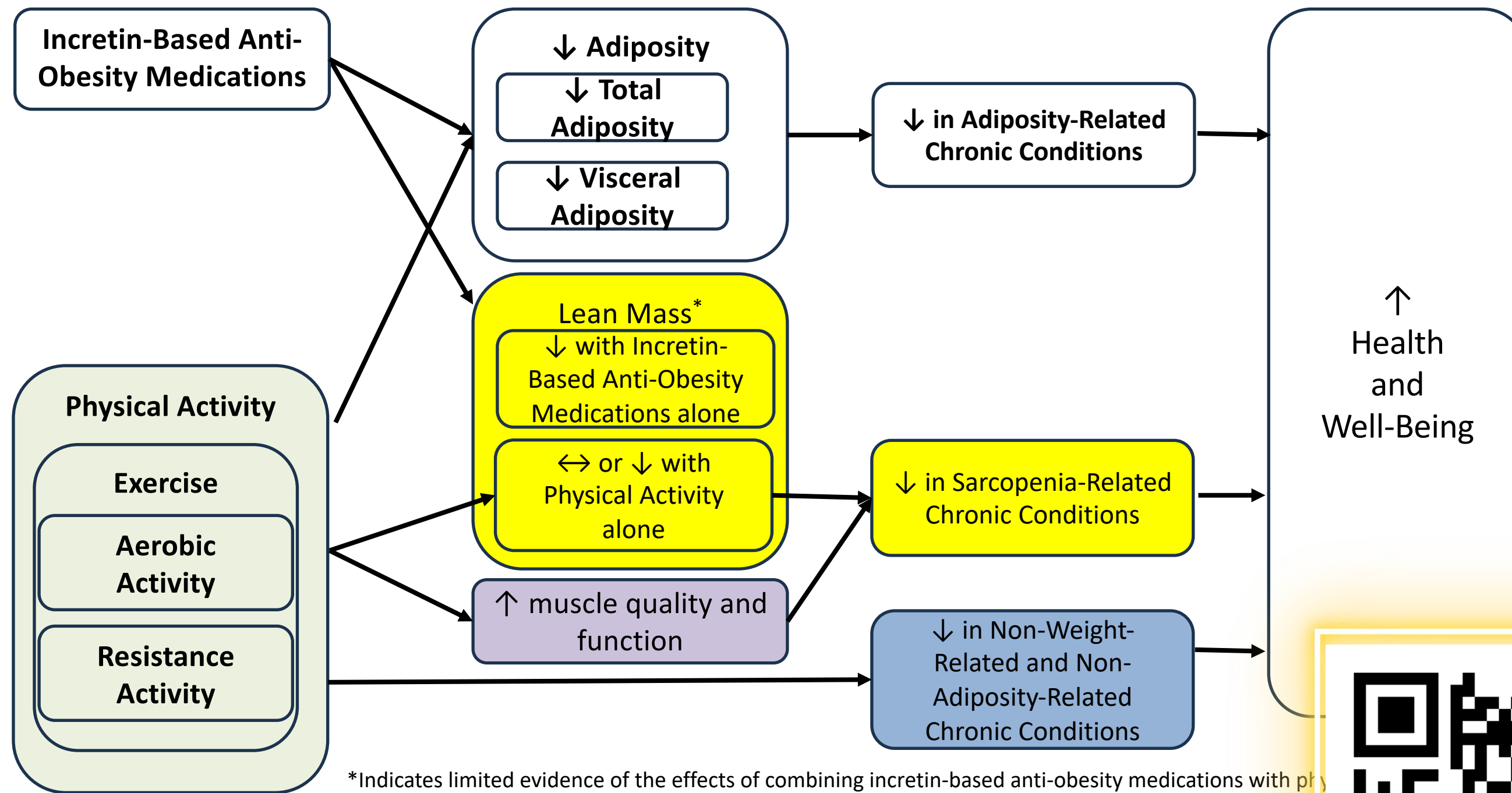
- Focus on the **individual needs** of the client/patient
- **Holistic Health** opportunity
- Beware of **outcome only** framing (i.e. muscle mass, metabolic changes)
- Target the **independent effects of exercise** on health beyond weight loss
- **Side Effects** are variable along with how patients feel

LEARNING:

- Exercise Tolerance
- How patients/clients think and feel about exercise

UNKNOWN:

- Is it all about **Resistance Training**?
- Is the dose, intensity, frequency different? Do patients achieve the same benefits?
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DOSE



HEALTH



**SUPPORT
TEAM**



SUPPORT TEAM

KNOWN:

- Exercise professionals are a **critical part** of the obesity care team
- **Collaboration** is critical
- **Scope of Practice**
 - Medical Management vs. Certificate Knowledge
- **Concerns over collaboration**
- **Method-centered vs. Person-centered**

UNKNOWN:

- Are we currently **building bridges** with our approaches or **creating a wider divide**?
- What is the appropriate **level of training**?
- Are we positioning the industry to be **appropriately responsive** to the fast-changing **landscape** AND **complete medical management** of obesity?

LEARNING:

- Reimbursement structures
- How to build meaningful connections with providers and fitness professionals
- Building trust with patients/clients



Contemporary Treatments for Obesity: Physical Activity in the Context of Antiobesity Medications

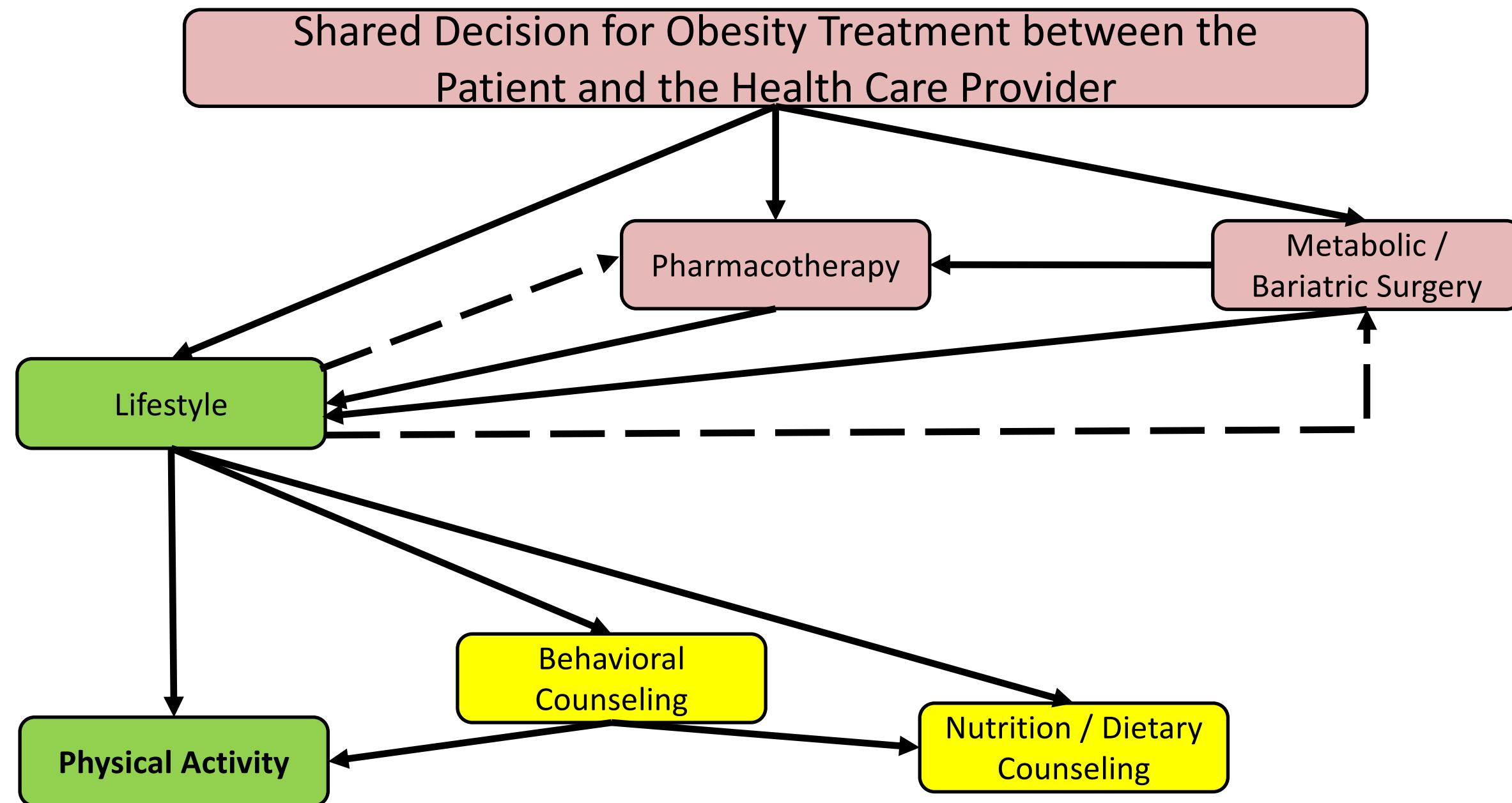
Jakicic, John M.¹; Rogers, Renee J.¹; Apovian, Caroline M.²

[Author Information](#) 

Translational Journal of the ACSM 9(2):e000253, Spring 2024. | DOI:

10.1249/TJX.00000000000000253



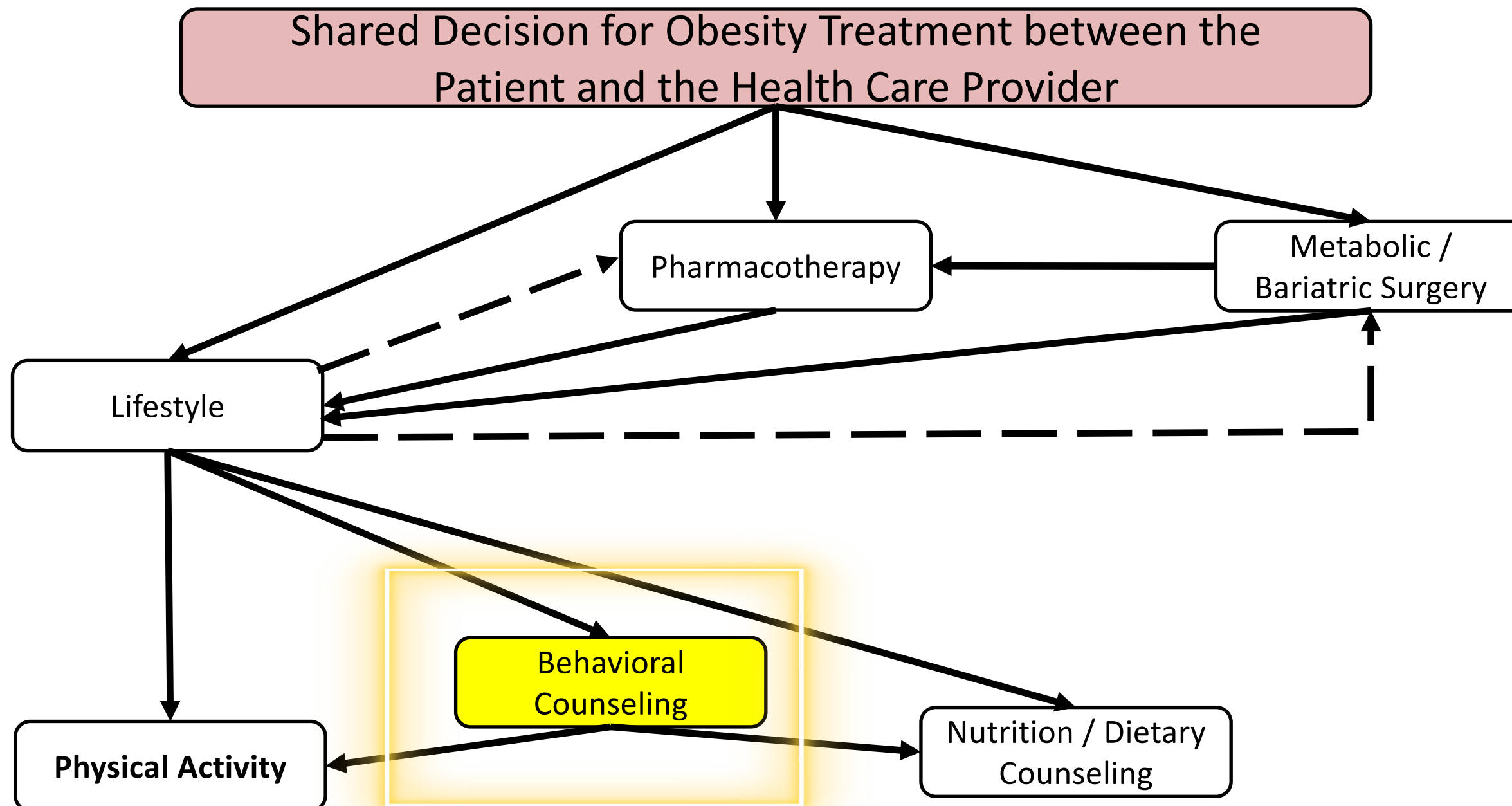


CRITICAL **REFERRAL NETWORK**

Medical Providers

Dietitians

Behavioral Health



JOURNAL ARTICLE

Relevance of Behavioral Research in the Evolving State of Anti-obesity Medications: Is the Glass Half Empty or Half Full?

[Get access >](#)

Michelle Y Martin, PhD, FACSM, FSBM ✉, Renee J Rogers, PhD, FACSM

Annals of Behavioral Medicine, kaae022, <https://doi.org/10.1093/abm/kaae022>

Published: 15 May 2024

Approach

BIOLOGICAL

BEHAVIORAL

BUSINESS

Approach

BEHAVIORAL



**Survey
Preparation**



**Survey
Distribution**



**Semi-Structured
Interviews**



**Data Analysis
Interview Coding**

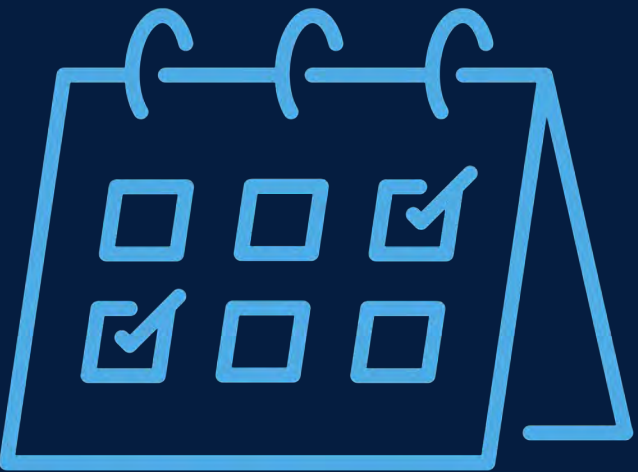
Variable	Total	Males	Females
N (%)	190	41 (21.6%)	149 (78.4%)
Age (years)	55.7±12.3	57.2±12.0	55.2±12.4
Weight (kg)	97.8±22.8	121.6±33.0	92.5±22.5
Weight Loss (kg)	18.7±14.0	22.6±16.8	17.6±13.0

Mid-50s



-19 kg

Days / Week		
Sample Average		2.8 ± 1.7
Report ≥1		84.3%
Minutes / Week		
Report ≥ 150 (34%)		238 ±104
Report ≤ 150 (66%)		63 ± 46
Mode of Activity		
Aerobic		42.2%
Resistance		2.4%
Mind Body		2.4%
Other		1.2%
Aerobic + Resistance		15.7%
Aerobic + Resistance + Mind Body		12%
Resistance + Mind Body		1.2%



2.8



66%



aerobic

Variable	Category of Current importance			p-value
	Low	Moderate	High	
N (% of total sample)	21 (11.1%)	50 (26.3%)	119 (62.6%)	-----
Physical Activity (min/wk)	45.7±82.9	95.5±148.1	156.0±131.1	0.002
Physical Activity (days/wk)	1.1±1.6	1.9±1.7	3.3±1.7	<0.001
% (within category) meeting ≥ 150 min/wk	4.8%	18.0%	47.1%	<0.001*



importance



days
minutes
 ≥ 150

Variable	Category of Confidence			p-value
	Low	Moderate	High	
N (% of total sample)	42 (11.9%)	60 (31.6%)	88 (46.3%)	-----
Physical Activity (min/wk)	67.4±82.3	125.7±152.3	158.3±137.5	0.002
Physical Activity (days/wk)	1.6±1.5	2.6±1.9	3.3±1.8	<0.001
% (within category) meeting ≥ 150 min/wk	11.9%	23.3%	53.4%	<0.001*


confidence


days
minutes
 ≥ 150



SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

DISCOMFORT

With way look and feel during exercise

ENERGY

Primary reason for exercising

SELF-EFFICACY

Lack of knowledge and skills to exercise

Never been an "Exercise Person"

Negative Past Experience

Safety concerns

STIGMA SUPPORT

Feels judged for "Taking Easy Way Out"

Feels size / co-morbidities influence activity counseling

LOSS OF STRENGTH / MUSCLE

Primary concern related to AOM therapy that exercise may impact

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**WEIGHT
BIAS**

**INTELLECTUAL
BIAS**

**STIGMA
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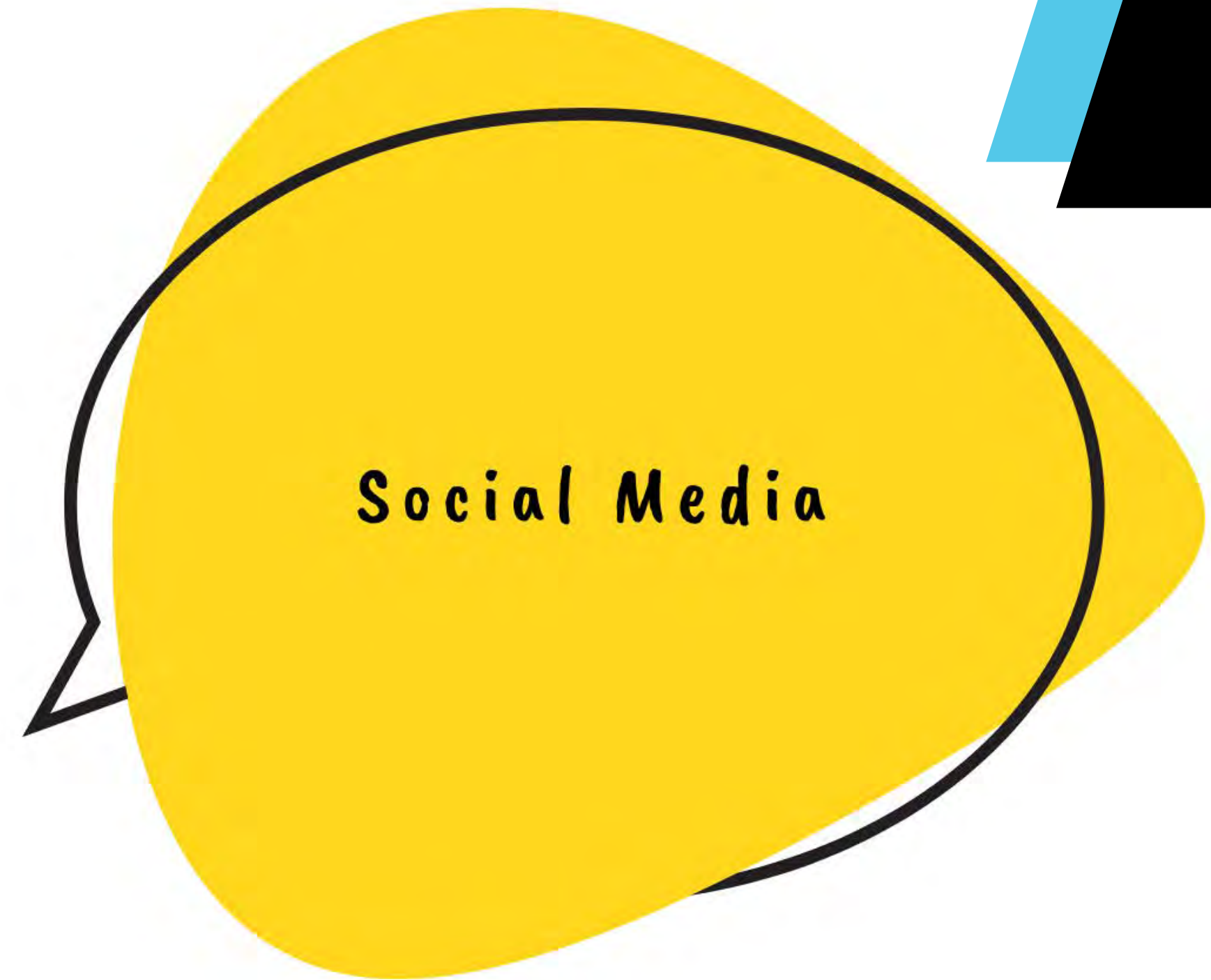
Primary concern related to AOM therapy that
exercise may impact


WHY?

If I knew you were an
"Exercise Person"
I wouldn't have talked
to you.

People that act like
everyone can do it
alone don't
understand life long
obesity well.

**HELP ME
UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU FEEL
THIS WAY?**





Can you help me get
access to an exercise
person that knows
weight loss and is
empathetic?



3 trainers
told me...
You don't need those
drugs - my method works
better.
I never went back.

DISCOMFORT

With way look and feel during exercise

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LOSS OF STRENGTH / MUSCLE

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LOSS OF STRENGTH / MUSCLE

Primary concern related to AOM therapy that
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RELEVANT TARGETS

ENERGY

Primary reason for
exercising

21%

**weakness
loss strength**

35%

**fatigue
low energy**

Low Levels PA

ACSM's HEALTH & FITNESS JOURNAL



AMERICAN COLLEGE
of SPORTS MEDICINE
LEADING THE WAY

ENHANCING YOUR BEHAVIORAL TOOLKIT

Anti-Obesity Medications

Targeting Exercise Engagement

by Renee J. Rogers, Ph.D., FACSM

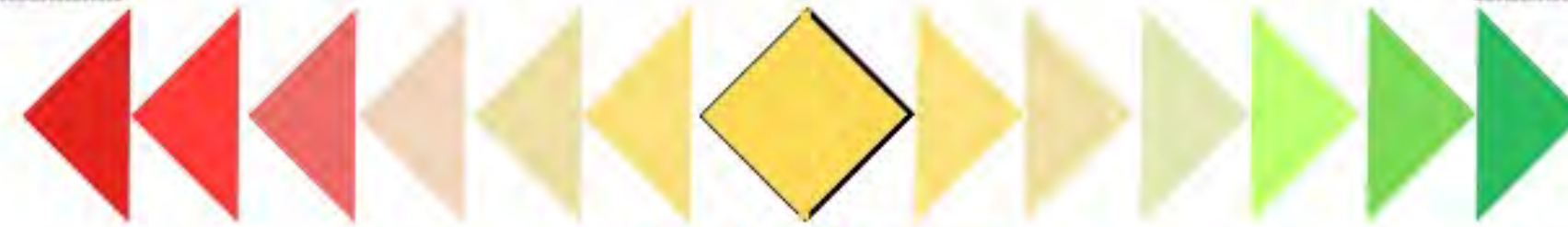






Less Chance:

Negative factors to exercise engagement are greater than positive factors



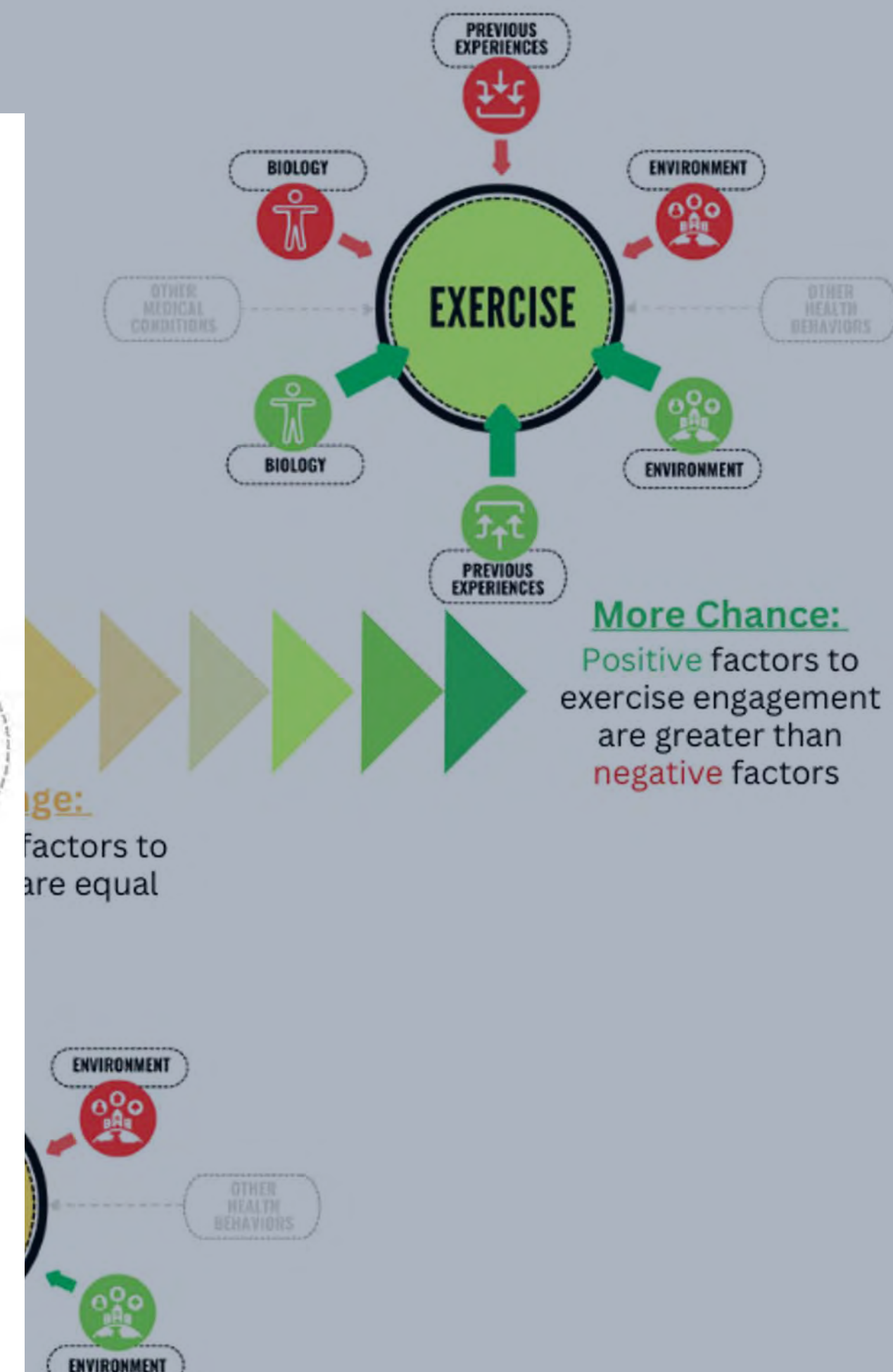
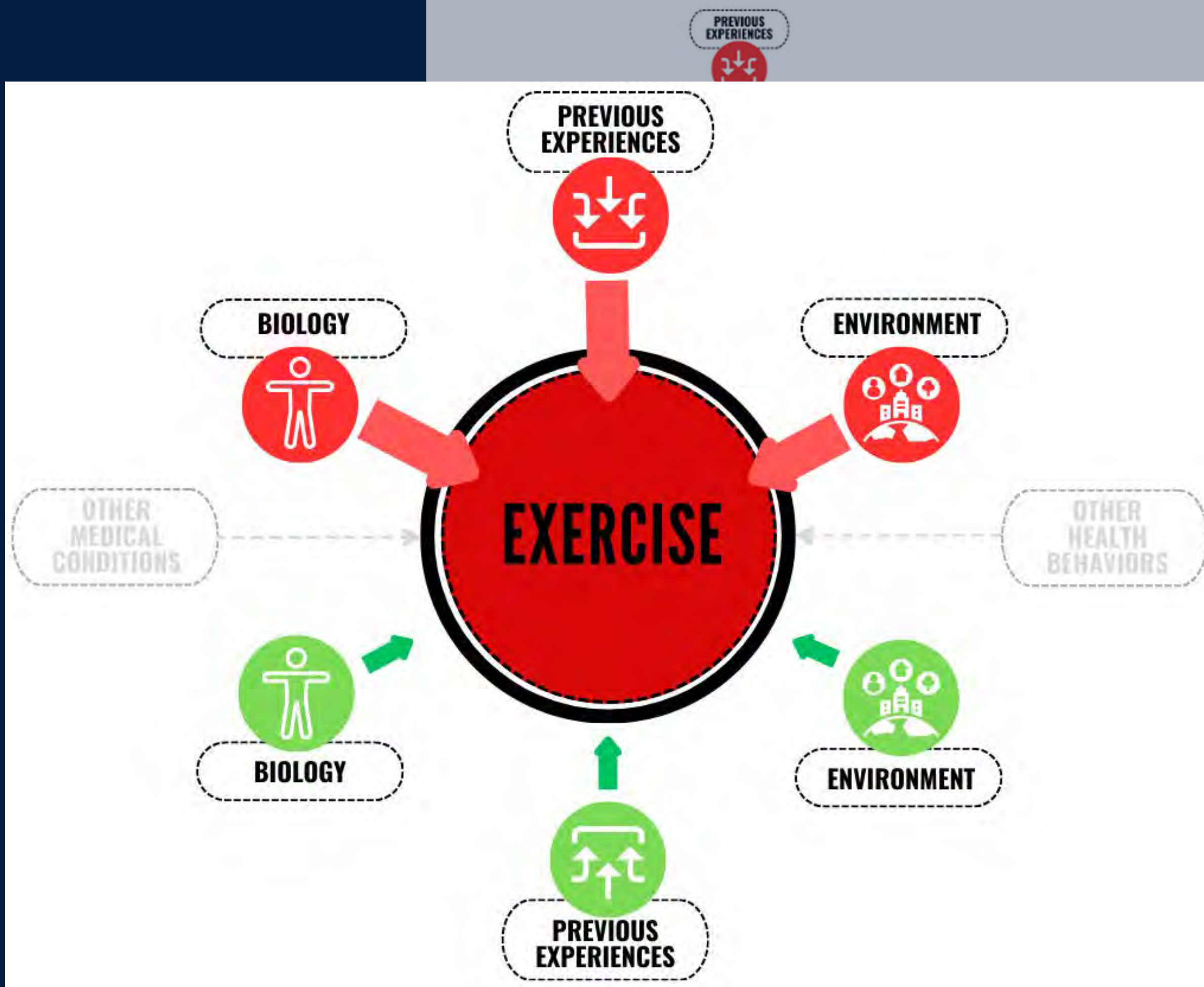
Likely No Change:

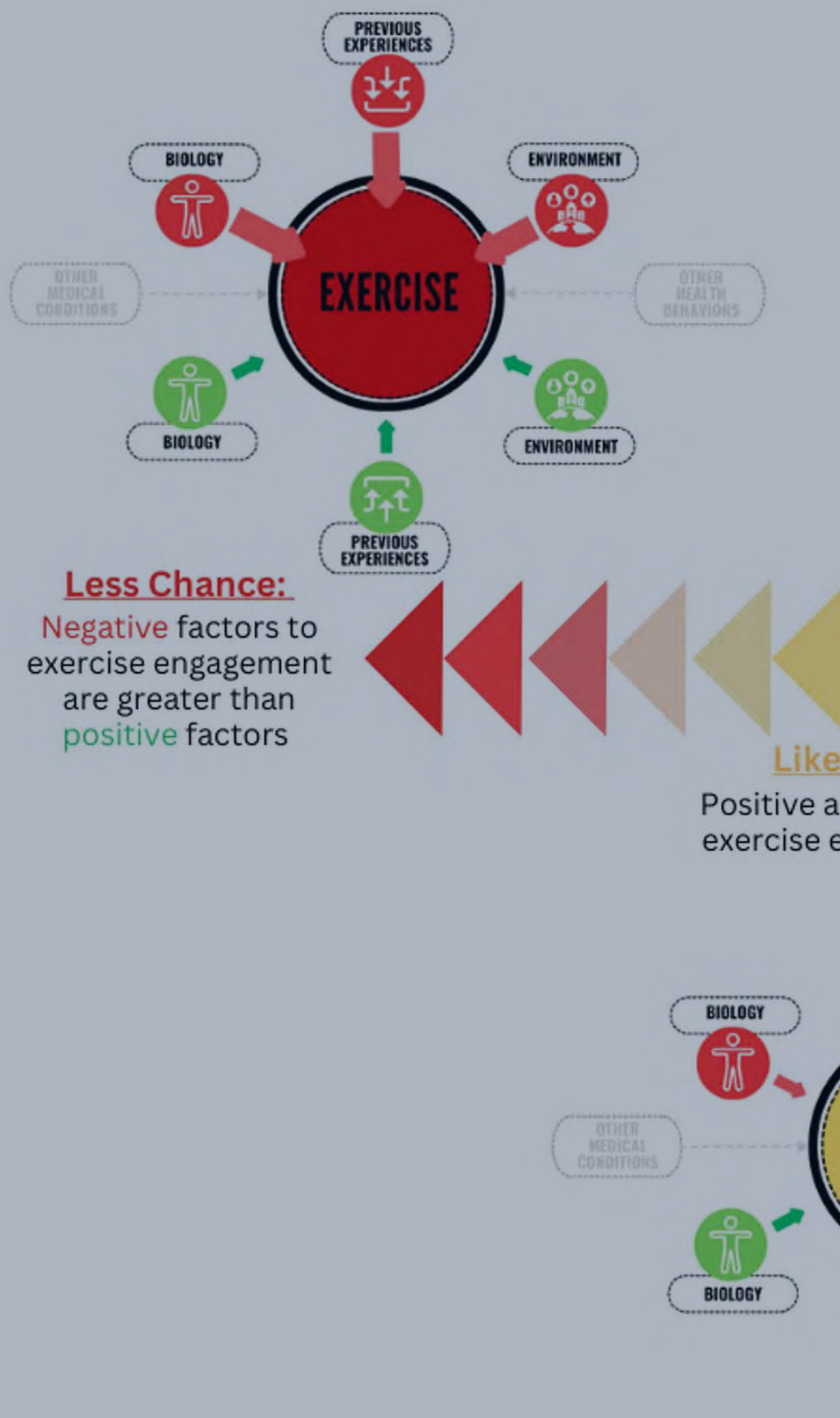
Positive and negative factors to exercise engagement are equal



More Chance:

Positive factors to exercise engagement are greater than negative factors







Likely No Change:

Positive and negative factors to exercise engagement are equal

More Chance:

Positive factors to exercise engagement are greater than negative factors

Approach

BIOLOGICAL

BEHAVIORAL

BUSINESS

Approach

BUSINESS



one size fits
NONE

Person-Centered

Not

Method-Centered

Credentialing



Francis Neric, MS, MBA • 1st

AVP of Certification and Credentialing, American College of Sports Medi...

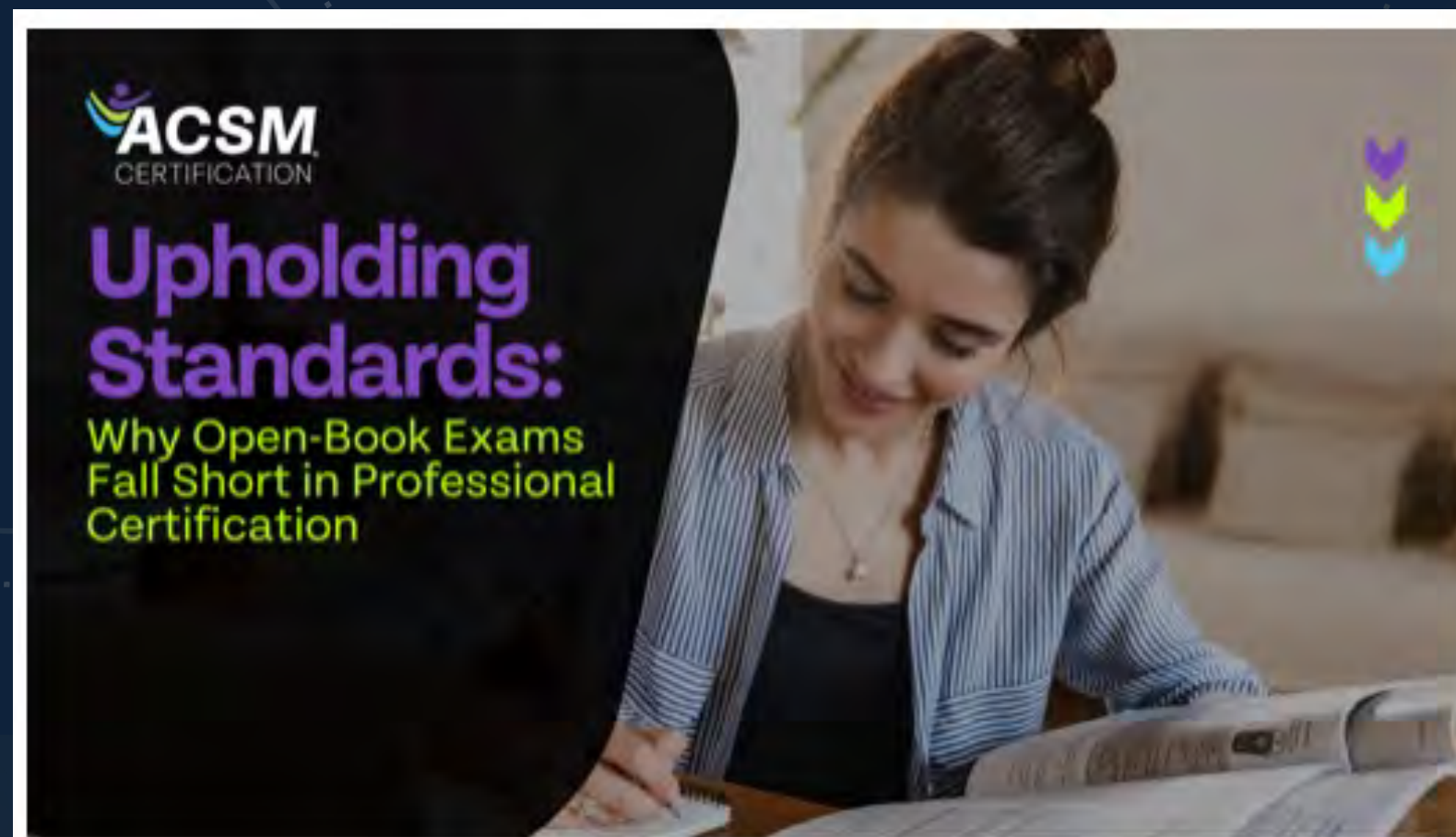
1w • Edited •

Conflating open-book certificate programs with professional certification raises substantial concerns about the credibility of the health fitness profession. It is critical we maintain a clear distinction between training (educational programs) and competency assessment (certification).

I provide additional thoughts/insights in my latest [American College of Sports Medicine](#) blog –

“Upholding Standards: Why Open-Book Exams Fall Short in Professional Certification”

<https://lnkd.in/eWK2Zpce>



Key Questions



BUSINESS

- How are medications being obtained?
- Is appropriate medical management in place?
- Is the approach method-centered or person-centered?
- Scope of Practice
- Business is Business but... is it more about PROFIT over PERSON?
- Is the method based on true clinical trial evidence?
 - Consider what we have covered
- LIABILITY

Thank You!



Renee J. Rogers, PhD, FACSM

Senior Scientist

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