

Scientific Update

# Muscle, Fat & Bone in Older People: Relation to Healthy Ageing

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Decade of Healthy Ageing, 2020 - 2030  
World Health Organisation

Globally,

- In 2020, 2/3 older people live in middle-income countries
- By 2030, 1 in 6 people are  $\geq$  60y
- By 2040, 1 in 5 people are  $\geq$  60y

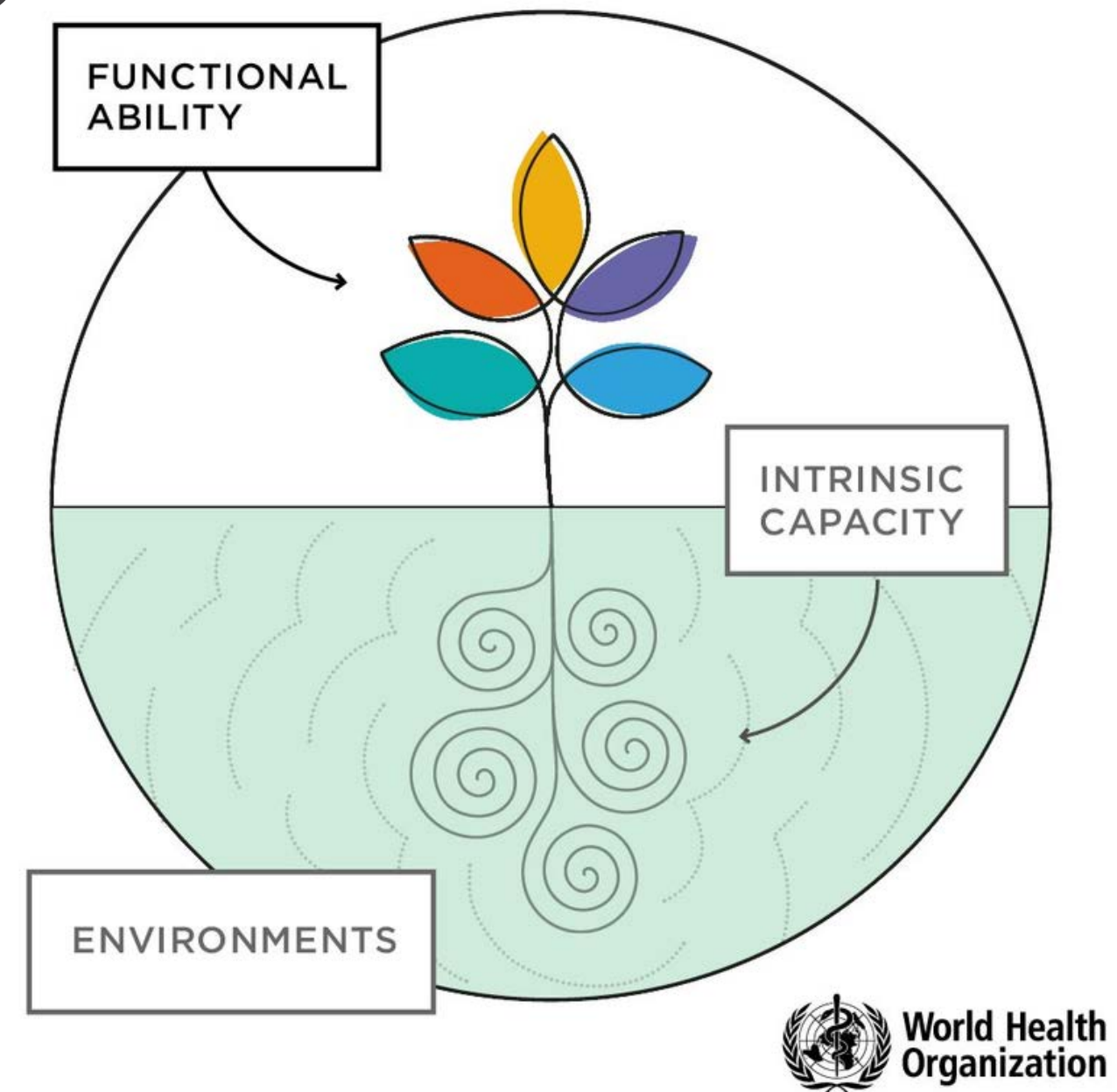
# Healthy Ageing

Healthy ageing is the **process of developing and maintaining the functional ability** that enables well-being in older age. Functional ability reflects **a person's physical and mental capacities**, the **environments** he or she inhabits and the ways in which people **interact** with their environment.

# Healthy Ageing (WHO)

## Functional Ability

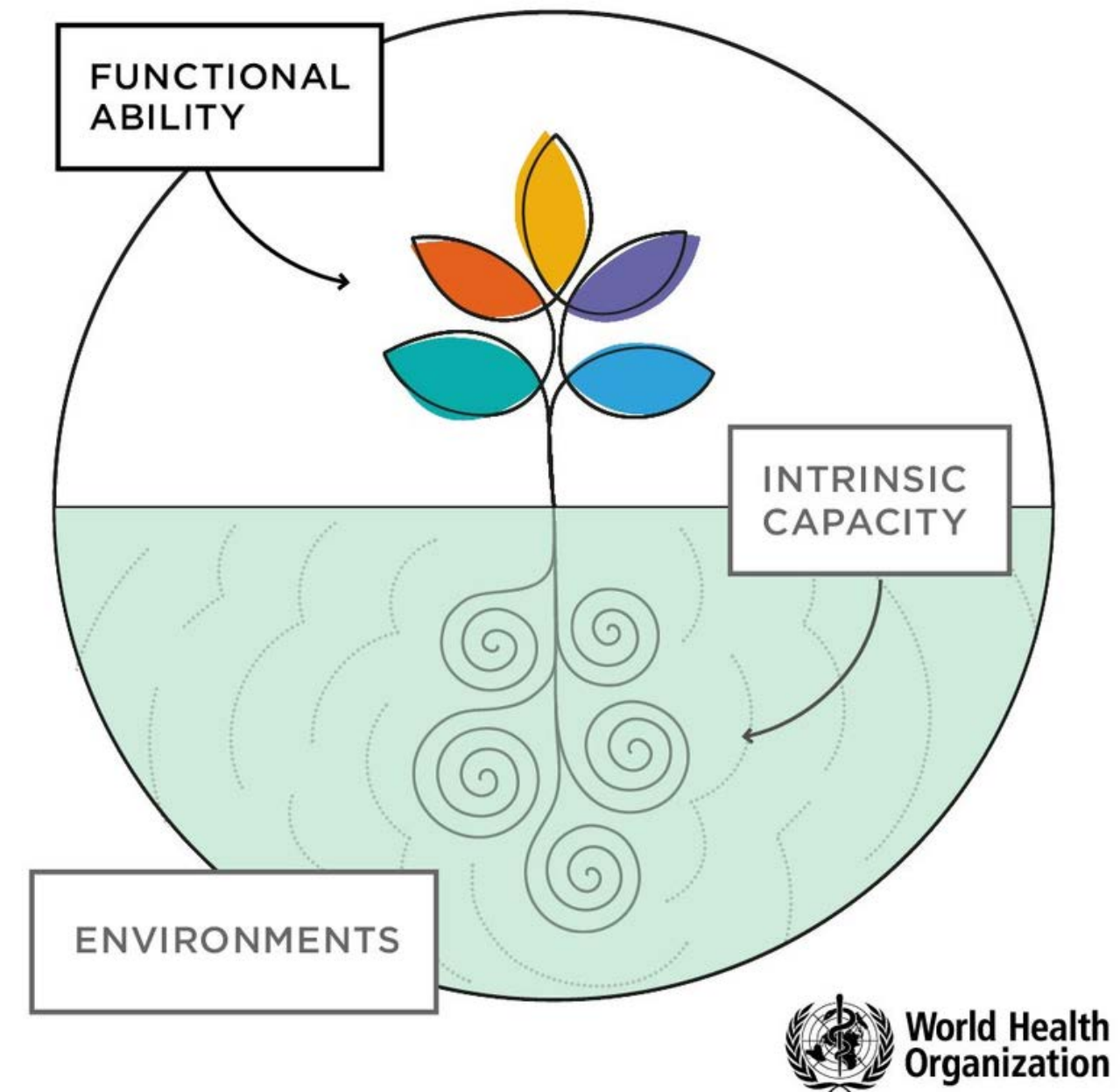
- Ability to meet basic needs, standard of living
- Ability to learn, grow and make decisions
- Ability to be mobile
- Ability to build and maintain relationships
- Ability to contribute to society



# Healthy Ageing - WHO

Functional Ability - From intrinsic capacity: Physical and mental

- Locomotor capacity
- Sensory capacity
- Vitality
- Cognition
- Psychological capacity

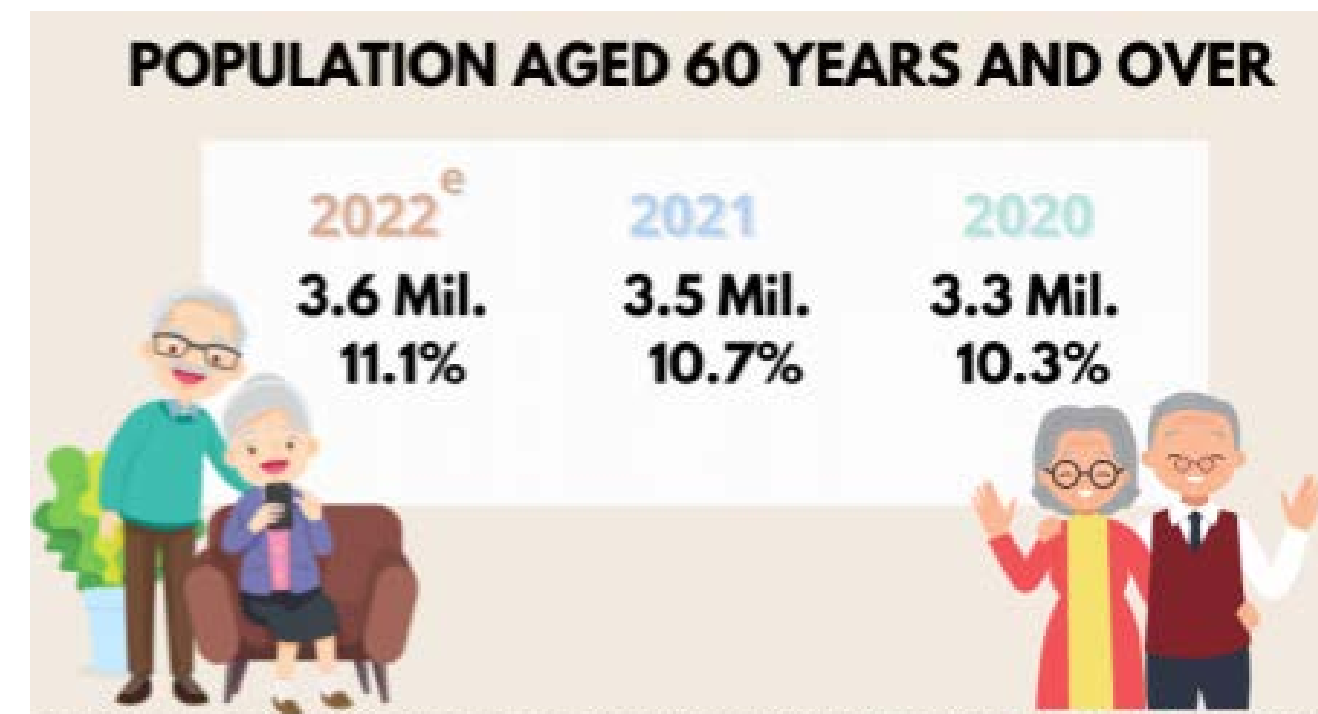




# Challenges towards Healthy Ageing

Are we ready?

Malaysia's Older Adult population



Dept of Statistics Malaysia, accessed 13 May 2023,  
<https://www.dosm.gov.my/portal-main/release-content/current-population-estimates-malaysia-2022>

What enables functional ability?

How do we enable functional ability?





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What enables functional ability?

# Bone, muscle & fat



## Bone

### Structural & mesenchymal reservoir

- 95% adult bone density set in adolescence
- Bone resorption > Bone formation after third decade
- Accelerated decline of bone mineral post-menopausal

## Muscle

### Energy powerhouse for movement, posture

- Active tissue that regulates basal metabolism
- Reserves of ATP for 2-h long running
- Slow-twitch fibres, fast-twitch muscles to generate strength endurance, power

## Fat

### Energy source, endocrine disruptor

Required as part of health, daily energy resource  
Too few and too much results in health issues  
Energy reserve - used when sick, longer duration physical activity



# Bone in OP



## OSTEOPOROSIS

Low bone mineral density (BMD) ( $\leq -2.5$  T-score from dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry [DXA]) or presence of fragility fracture(s) or both

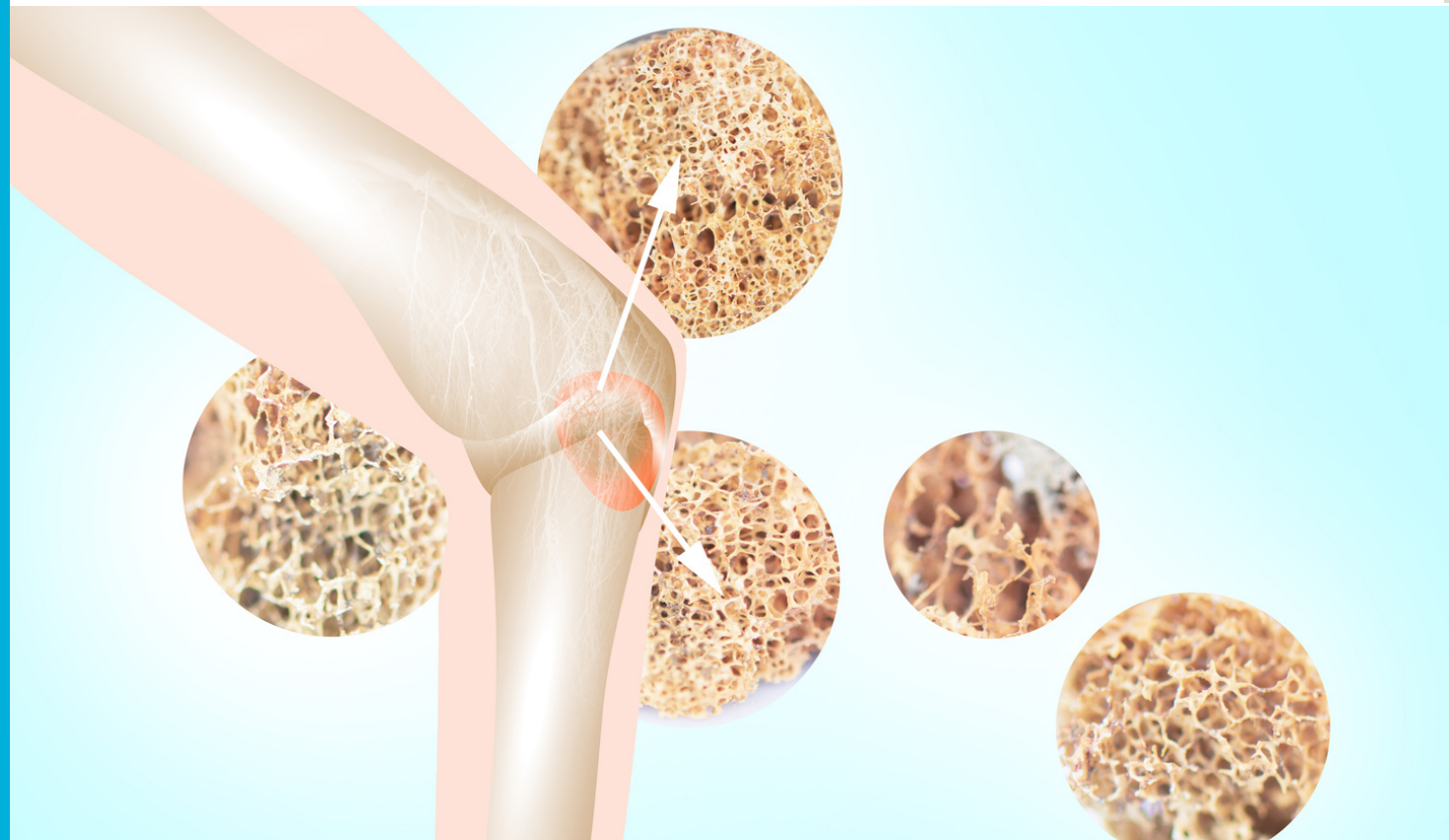
(Beck, 2022, Exerc Sports Sc Rev)

Main concern of osteoporosis = Fractures

Fractures depends on bone strength

Bone strength = Density + Structure + Quality

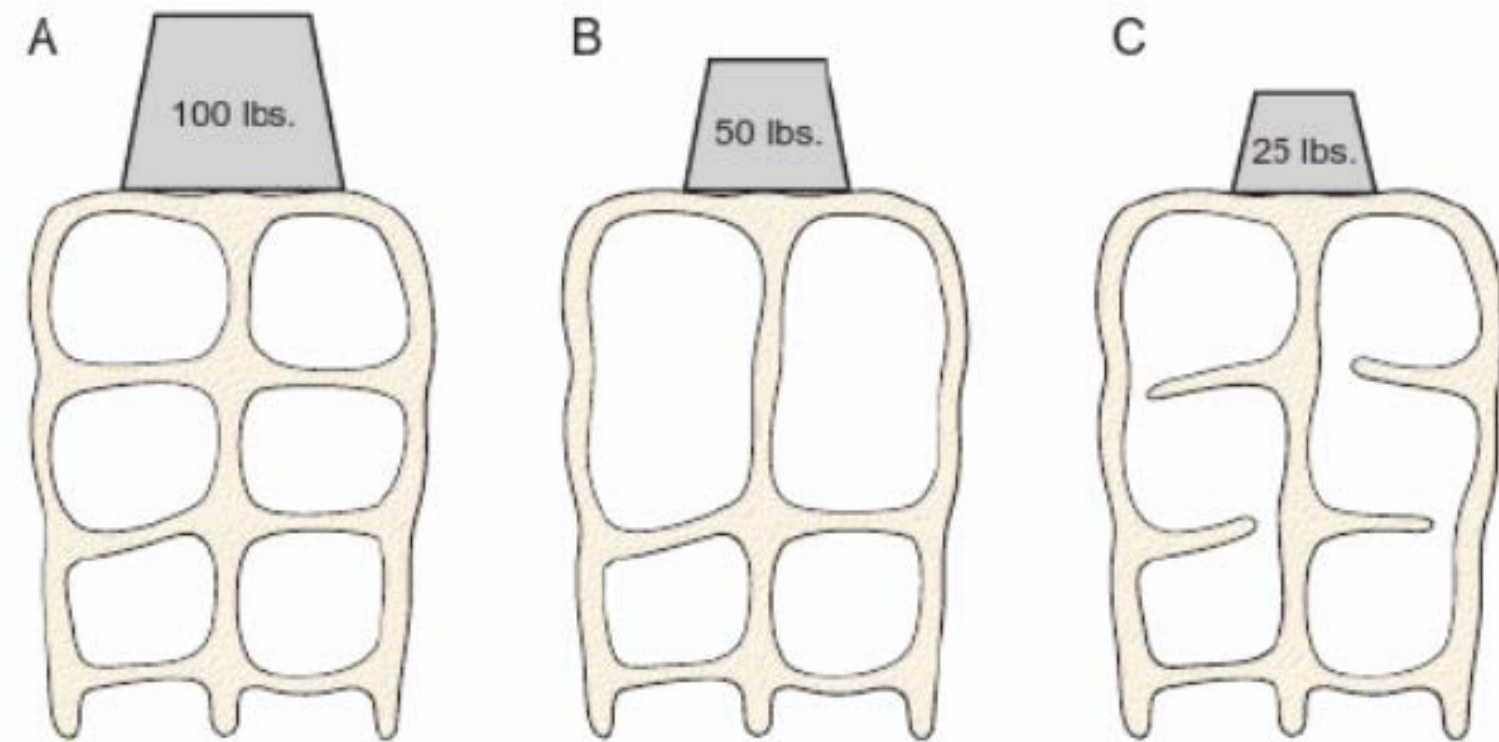
(Burr & Akks, 2014, Chpt 1, Basic Appl Bone Biol)







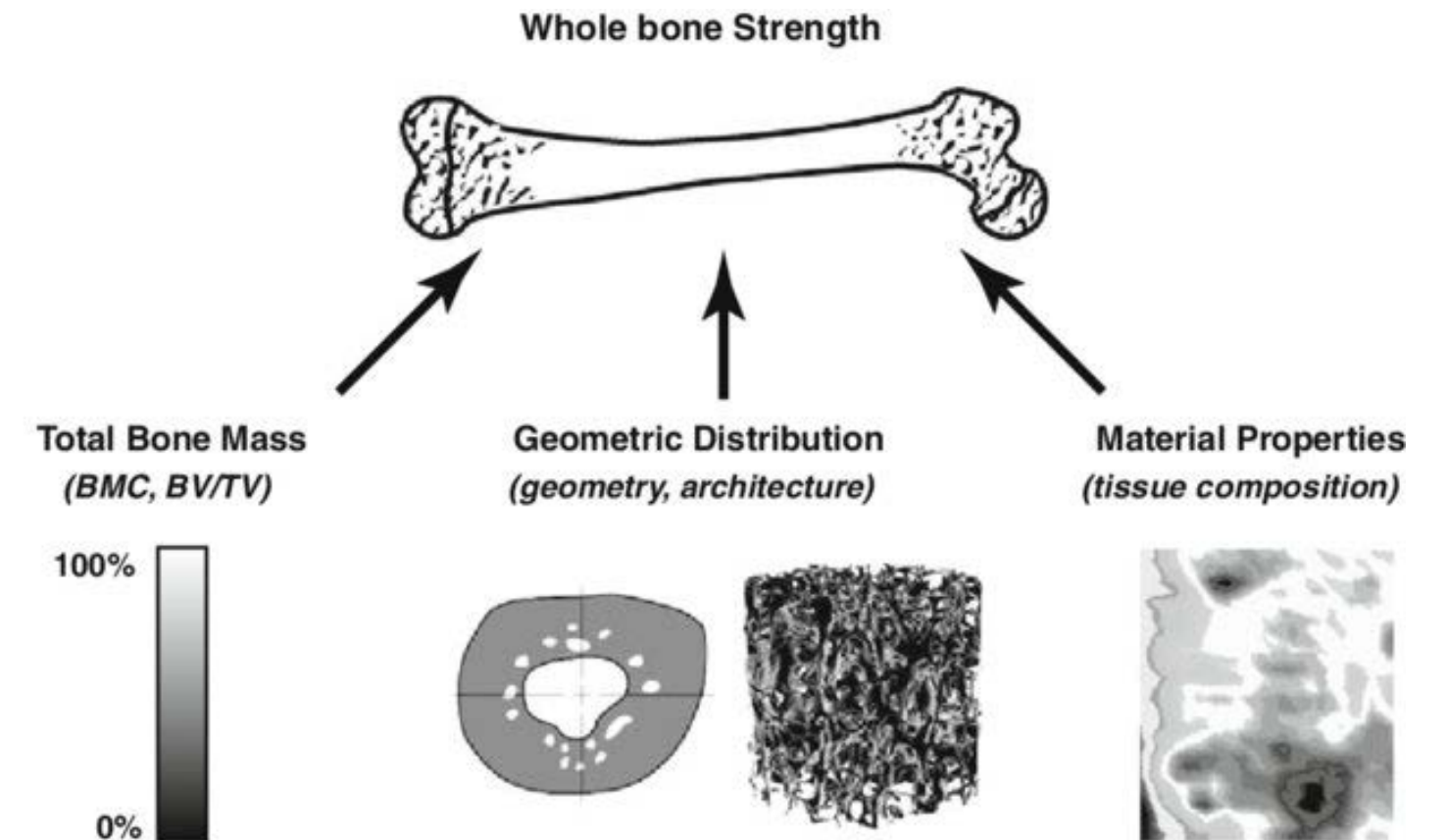
# BONE STRENGTH



Model A & C - Similar mass

Model B - Lower mass than A & C

(Burr & Akks, 2014, Chpt 1, Basic Appl Bone Biol)



Bone material = Quality

Compromised collagen-links, AGEs

(Cole & van der Mulen, 2011, Clin  
Ortho Related Res)

# Osteoporosis

(Beck, 2022, Exerc Sports Sc  
Rev)

## Consequences

- High risk of fragility fractures
- Leads to disability
- All-course mortality

## Assessed

- Bone mineral density - DXA, CT, US
- Bone structure - pQCT, CT, MRI
- Bone quality - bone biopsy

## Treatment

- Pharmacotherapy - anti-absorptives, anabolic agents
- Nutrition - calcium, vitamin D
- Exercise - resistance & impact training

# Muscle & Fat in OP



## MUSCLE DISORDER

Sarcopenia: A progressive age-related muscle mass loss, poor muscle strength and reduced muscle performance

(ICD-10, 2016)



## FAT DISORDER

Obesity: Excessive adipose tissue especially around visceral organs that would increase risks of chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes.

(International Diabetes Federation)



# Sarcopenia

(Chen et al., 2020, JAMDA)

## Assessed

- Muscle strength: Handgrip, 5-time sit-to-stand
- Muscle mass: DXA, BIA
- Muscle performance: 6-m gait, SPPB

## Consequences

- Leads to frailty
- Higher incidences of falls & fractures
- Lower QoL
- All-course mortality

## Treatment

- Nutrition - essential amino acids, adequate kcal
- Exercise - resistance training
- Possible pharmaco treatment in the future



# Sarcopenia Diagnostic criteria

**Table I.** Former and ISarcoPRM diagnostic criteria for sarcopenia by different working groups (in chronological order)

Study group, (reference)	Diagnostic criteria			
	Muscle mass	Muscle strength	Performance	Outcome (severe or mobility limited)
ESPEN-SIG Muscaritoli et al. 2010 (4)	ASM/Wt (%)	×	Gait speed < 0.8 m/s	×
EWGSOP Cruz-Jentoft et al. 2010 (5)	ASM/Ht <sup>2</sup> ♂ < 7.26 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ♀ < 5.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Grip strength ♂ < 30 kg ♀ < 20 kg	Gait speed ≤ 0.8 m/s SPPB ≤ 8	Low (muscle mass + strength + performance)
IWGS Fielding et al. 2011 (6)	ASM/Ht <sup>2</sup> ♂ ≤ 7.23 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ♀ ≤ 5.67 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	×	Gait speed < 1 m/s	×
SSCWD Morley et al. 2011 (7)	ASM/Ht <sup>2</sup> ♂ ≤ 7.26 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ♀ ≤ 5.45 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	×	Gait speed ≤ 1 m/s < 400 m during a 6-min walk	×
FNIH Mclean et al. 2014 (8)	ASM/BMI ♂ < 0.789	Grip strength ♂ < 26 kg	×	Gait speed ≤ 0.8 m/s Inability to rise from a chair w/o support
Studenski et al. 2014 (9)	♀ < 0.512	♀ < 16 kg		
AWGS Chen et al. 2014 (10)	ASM/Ht <sup>2</sup> ♂ < 7.0 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ♀ < 5.4 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Grip strength ♂ < 28 kg ♀ < 18 kg	Gait speed < 0.8 m/s	
EWGSOP2 Cruz-Jentoft et al. 2019 (11)	ASM/Ht <sup>2</sup> ♂ < 7.0 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ♀ < 5.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Grip strength ♂ < 27 kg ♀ < 16 kg CST > 15 s	×	Gait speed ≤ 0.8 m/s SPPB ≤ 8
AWGS 2019 Chen et al. 2020 (12)	ASM/Ht <sup>2</sup> ♂ < 7.0 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ♀ < 5.4 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Grip strength ♂ < 28 kg ♀ < 18 kg	CST ≥ 12 s Gait speed < 1 m/s SPPB ≤ 9	Low (muscle mass + strength + performance)
ISarcoPRM Kara et al. 2020 (13)	STAR ♂ < 1.4 ♀ < 1.0	Grip strength ♂ < 32 kg ♀ < 19 kg CST ≥ 12 s	×	Gait speed ≤ 0.8 m/s Inability to rise from a chair w/o support

# Sarcopenia

## Clinical routine management

- Need for medical doctors to check under usual care for older adults
- Muscle strength test - detect possible/probable sarcopenia
- SARC-F - detect severe sarcopenia, late capture & treatment

## Concomitant diagnosis

### Commonly accompanying but not sarcopenia

- Frailty - fatigue, psychosocial
- Malnutrition - inadequate intake, absorption issues
- Cachexia - cancer, cardiac

(Dent et al., 2021, Nat Aging)



# Obesity

## Measured

Body mass index -  $>30 \text{ kg/m}^2$

Body fat percentage - DXA, BIA;  $> 30\%$  men,  $>42\%$  women

Waist circumference -  $>102 \text{ cm}$  men,  $>88 \text{ cm}$  women

(Berens et al., 2020, BMC Geriatrics)

## Consequences

Obesity-related co-morbidities - CVD, T2D, OA

Mobility issues - disabilities

All-cause mortality

## Treatment


Pharmacotherapy - appetite suppressants, lipase inhibitors AOMs

Diet therapy - low kcal, low fat, high-fibre

Exercise - higher volume, AE & RE



# Cohort Profile Update: The Concord Health and Ageing in Men Project (CHAMP)

Saman Khalatbari-Soltani, Fiona M Blyth, Vasi Naganathan , David G Le Couteur, David J Handelsman, Markus J Seibel, Vasant Hirani, F A Clive Wright, Louise M Waite, Robert G Cumming

*International Journal of Epidemiology*, Volume 51, Issue 1, February 2022, Pages 31–32h,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyab171>

**Published:** 03 October 2021



## Overview

- Started in 2005, n = 1705 men aged 70 y & above
- Follow-up measures at 2007/09, 2012/13, 2015/16 and 2019/20
- Clinical (blood samples), physical, dietary, QoL, cognition, oral health

## 5 - y follow - up - frailty, disability, institutionalisation, mortality

Mean age:  $81.4 \pm 4.6$  y, n = 950, BMI:  $27.6 \pm 3.9$

Low lean mass (ALM: BMI  $< 0.789$ ):

- OR 2.12-2.35,  $p < 0.001$  frailty (adapted Fried)
- ADL and IADL disability scores: Full adj not sig

Obese ( $> 30\%$ ) - No effects except OR 0.51 (0.31, 0.84) on institutionalisation

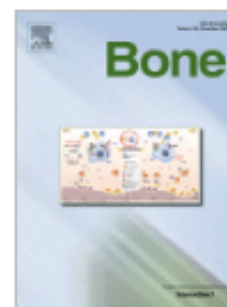
(Hirani et al., 2018, Age and Ageing)







Bone

Volume 140, November 2020, 115546



# Incidence and predictors of fractures in older adults with and without obesity defined by body mass index versus body fat percentage

Anoohya Gandham<sup>a</sup>  , Ayse Zengin<sup>a</sup>, Maxine P. Bonham<sup>c</sup>,  
Tania Winzenberg<sup>d</sup>, Saliu Balogun<sup>d</sup>, Feitong Wu<sup>d</sup>, Dawn Aitken<sup>d</sup>,  
Flavia Cicuttini<sup>e</sup>, Peter R. Ebeling<sup>a</sup>, Graeme Jones<sup>d</sup>, David Scott<sup>a b d f</sup>

- Age 63 y at baseline, follow-up at 10y
- Obesity by BMI >30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Obesity by DXA body fat % >30 men, >40 women
- Self-report incidence fracture at 2.7y, 5y and 10y, n=1099

## Result

- Obese by BMI 28%, by body fat 43%
- By BMI - aBMD & ALM higher than non-obese
- Obese-BMI - lower 40-50% likelihood non-vertebral fracture
- Obese-BF - lower muscle strength (hand, leg, knee) than non-obese
- Falls risk score OR2.15 (O-BMI), OR1.72 (O-BF)

# Bone - Muscle - Fat

## Additional challenges towards healthy ageing

### Osteosarcopenia

- Presence of osteoporosis & sarcopenia
- Inter-related from bone-muscle cross talk

(Papadopoulou et al., 2022, Nutrients)

### Sarcopenic obesity

- Presence of sarcopenia & obesity
- Recommend to look into the relation of ALM to fat ratio rather than defined obesity condition

(Donini et al., 2022, Obes Facts)





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How to enable functional  
ability?



# Diagnose & Treat



## Diagnose early

Assess body composition & function

- Sarcopenia, osteoporosis, obesity measures and monitoring
- Assess as early as age 50 y
- Earlier intervention

## Nutrition

Sufficient & suitable consultation

- Components to treat body composition measures
- Educate & empower of food beliefs, availability, source
- Calcium, protein, vitamins, fibre

## Exercise

Professional consult & progression

- Assess ability, individual prescription
- Specific with exercise principles and progressions
- Educate & empower on fitness & exercise skills & habits

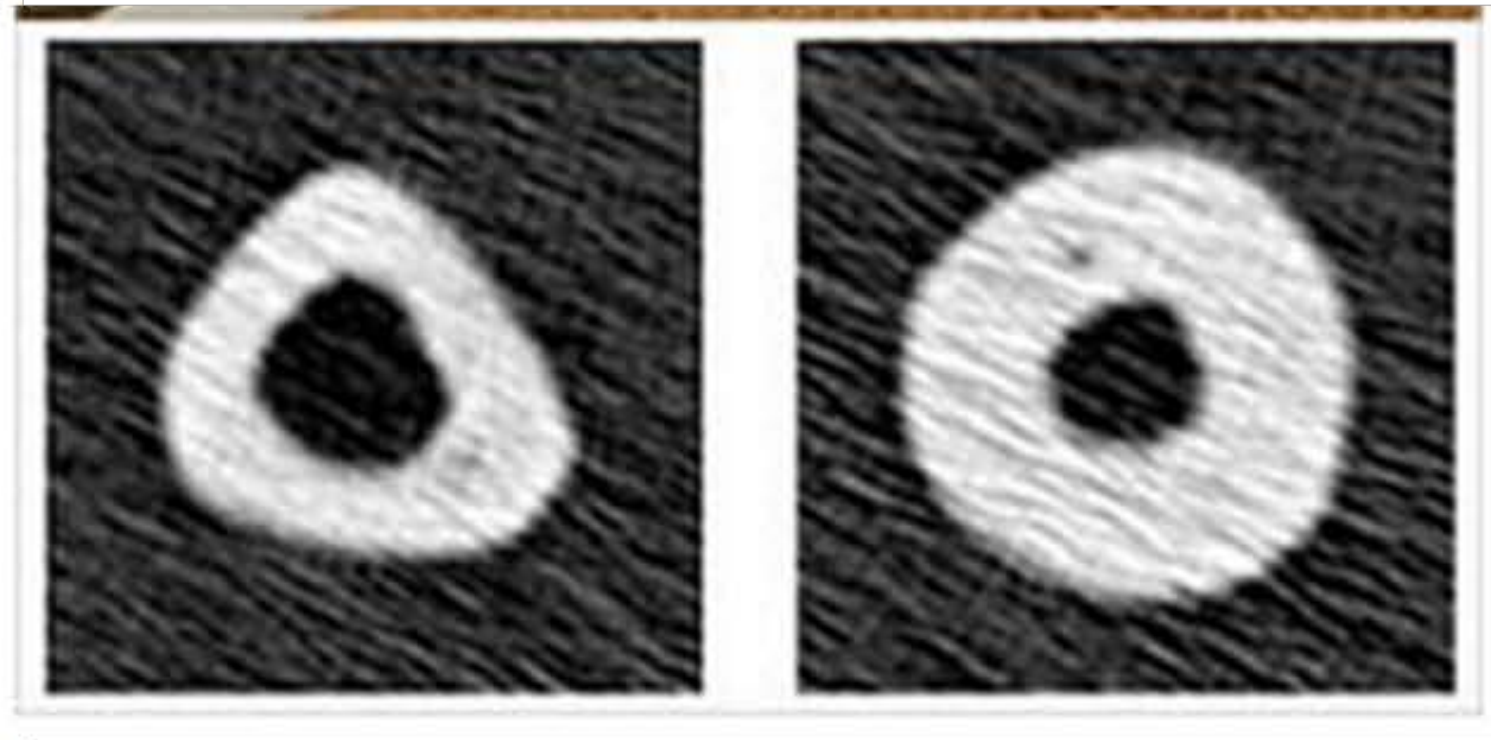


# Physical activity when young provides lifelong benefits to cortical bone size and strength in men

Stuart J. Warden<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Sara M. Mantila Roosa<sup>a</sup>, Mariana E. Kersh<sup>c</sup>, Andrea L. Hurd<sup>a</sup>, Glenn S. Fleisig<sup>d</sup>, Marcus G. Pandy<sup>c</sup>, and Robyn K. Fuchs<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Center for Translational Musculoskeletal Research and <sup>b</sup>Department of Physical Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN 46202; <sup>c</sup>Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC 3010, Australia; and <sup>d</sup>American Sports Medicine Institute, Birmingham, AL 35205

Edited by Christopher B. Ruff, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, and accepted by the Editorial Board February 21, 2014 (received for review November 22, 2013)



# Exercise is Medicine Grant

Screened 320 people, got 18 sarcopenic

- $n=16$ ,  $66 \pm 3.1$  y, BMI  $25.5 \pm 4.4$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Randomised 1) HIRT and 2) HIRT+Nutrition
- 12-week intervention, 80% 1-RM
- Exercise physiologist graduate trainer

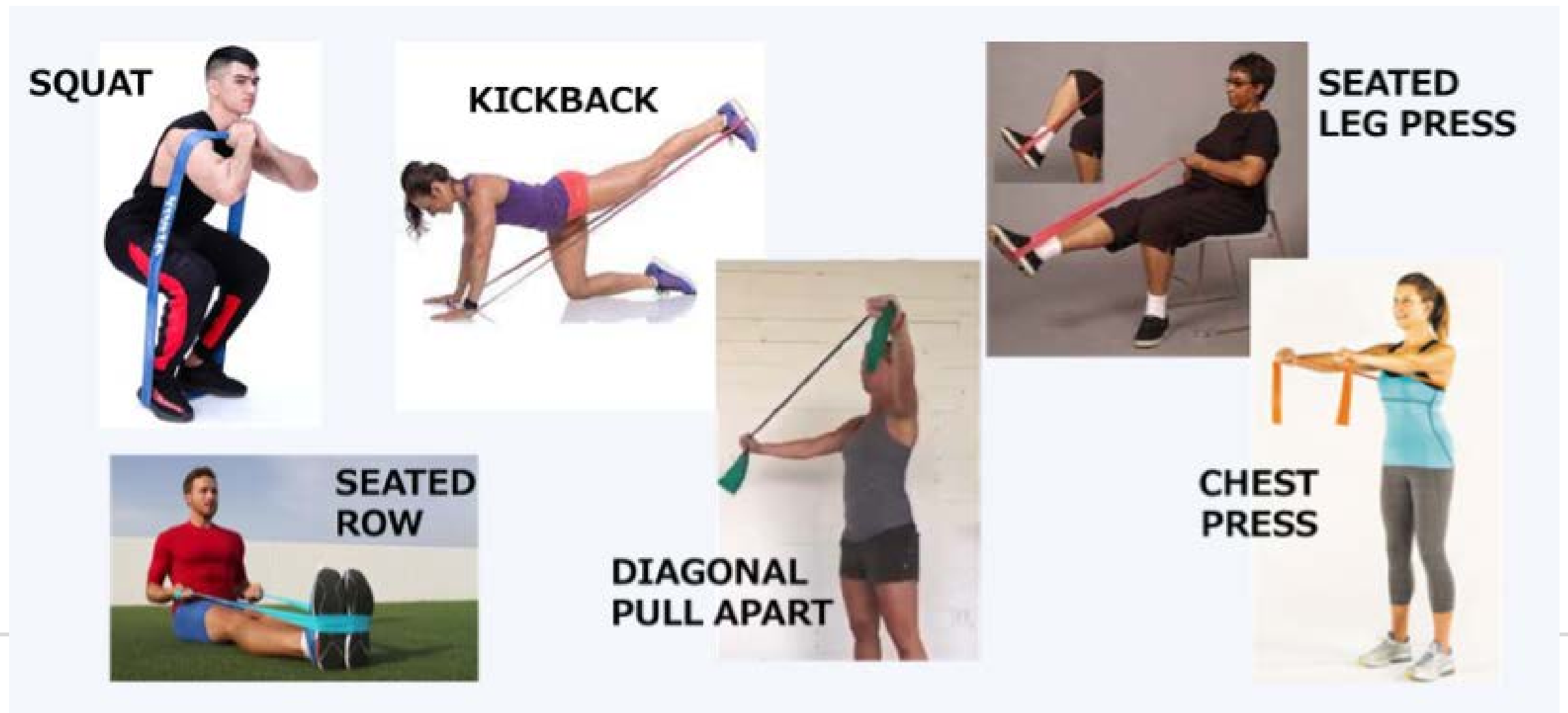
## Result

Pre - sarcopenia: 11 - - - > 4 (ALM)

Sarcopenia: 2 - - - > 0

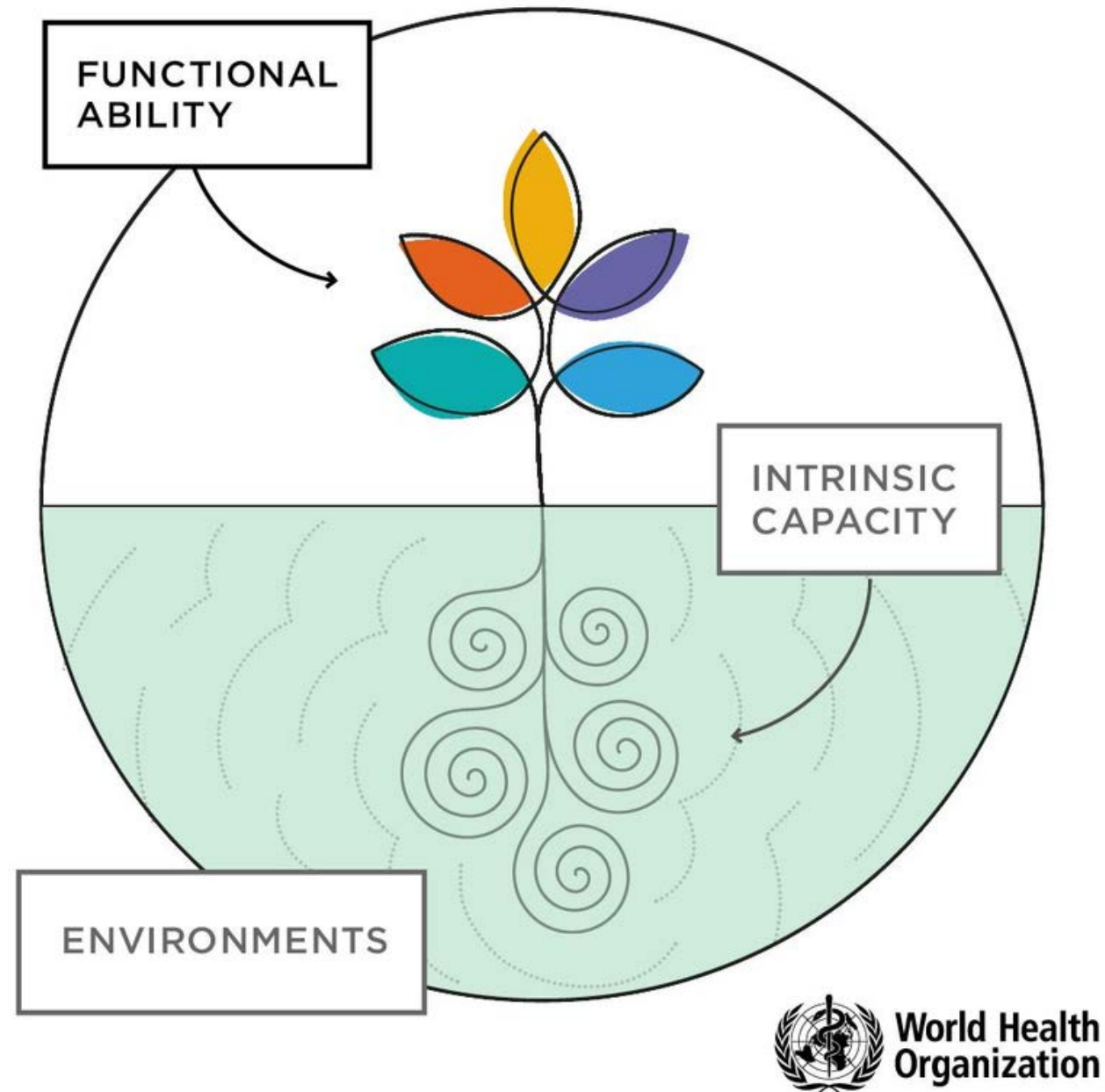
Severe sarcopenia: 3 - - - > 1

No difference with  
HIRT vs HIRT+Nutrition  
groups









# Conclusion

- Reexamine understanding of bone, muscle, fat in older people
- More consequences to healthy ageing than we know
- Applications on how to improve bone, muscle and fat
- Exercise is key but need professional consultation



# Thank you

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