



# Calories, Carbs, or Quality? What Matters Most for Body Weight

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National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases  
National Institutes of Health

October 17, 2019



**Intramural** Research Program

*Our Research Changes Lives*

one program  
many people  
infinite possibilities



VIEWPOINT

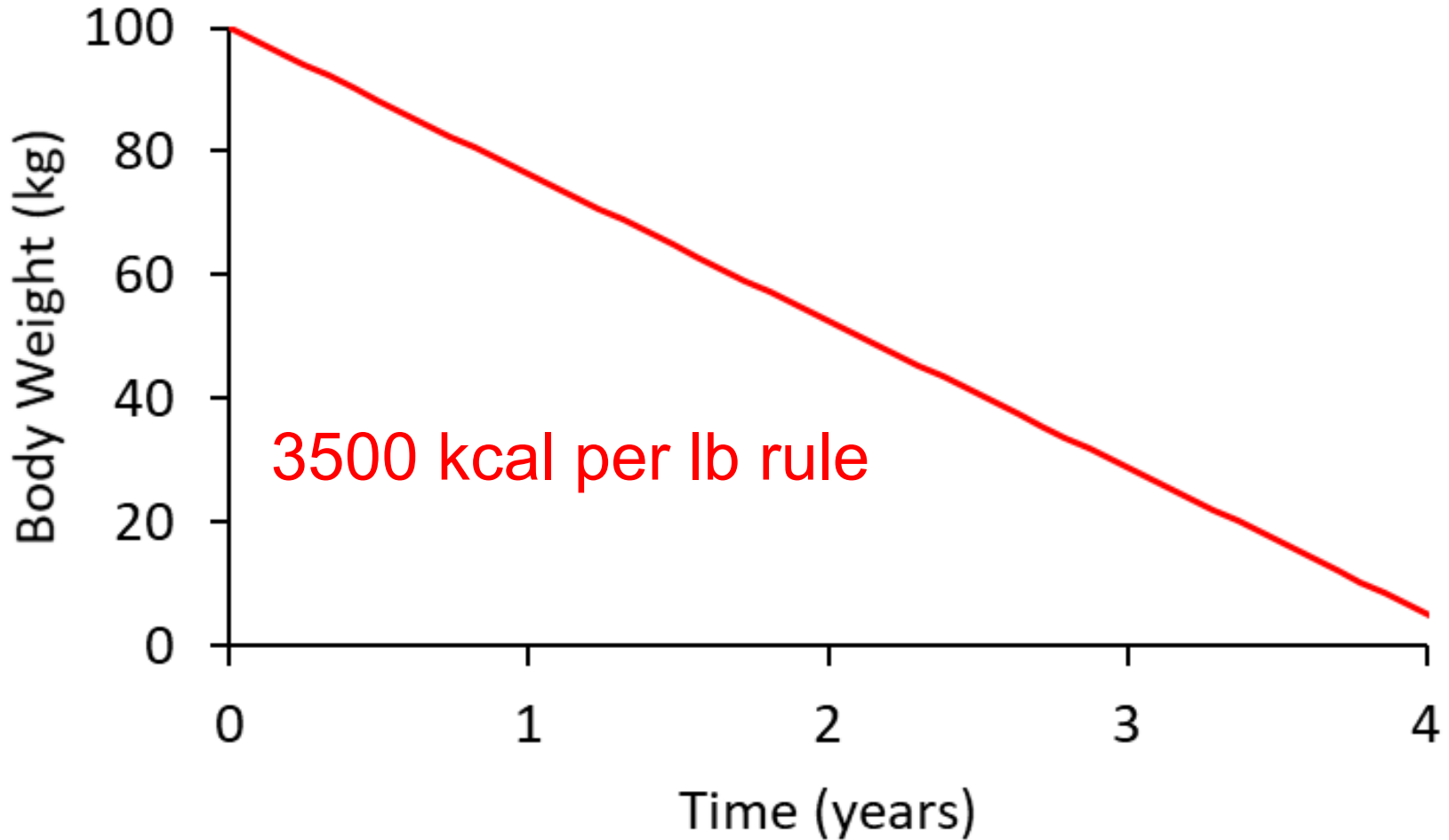
# Counting Calories: A New Approach to Achieve Weight Control

JAMA January 16, 2018 Volume 318 225

If a patient reduces energy intake by 500 calories per day for 7 days, they could lose about 1 lb of body weight per week.

**Wrong, Wrong, Wrong!**

# Erroneous Weight Loss Projections

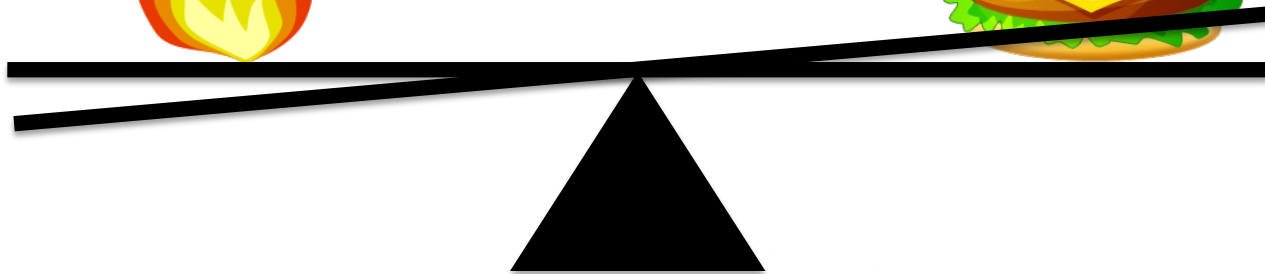
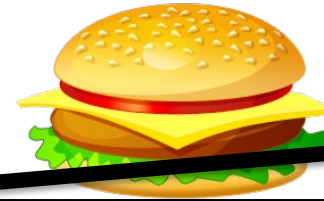


# Calories In & Out are NOT Independent

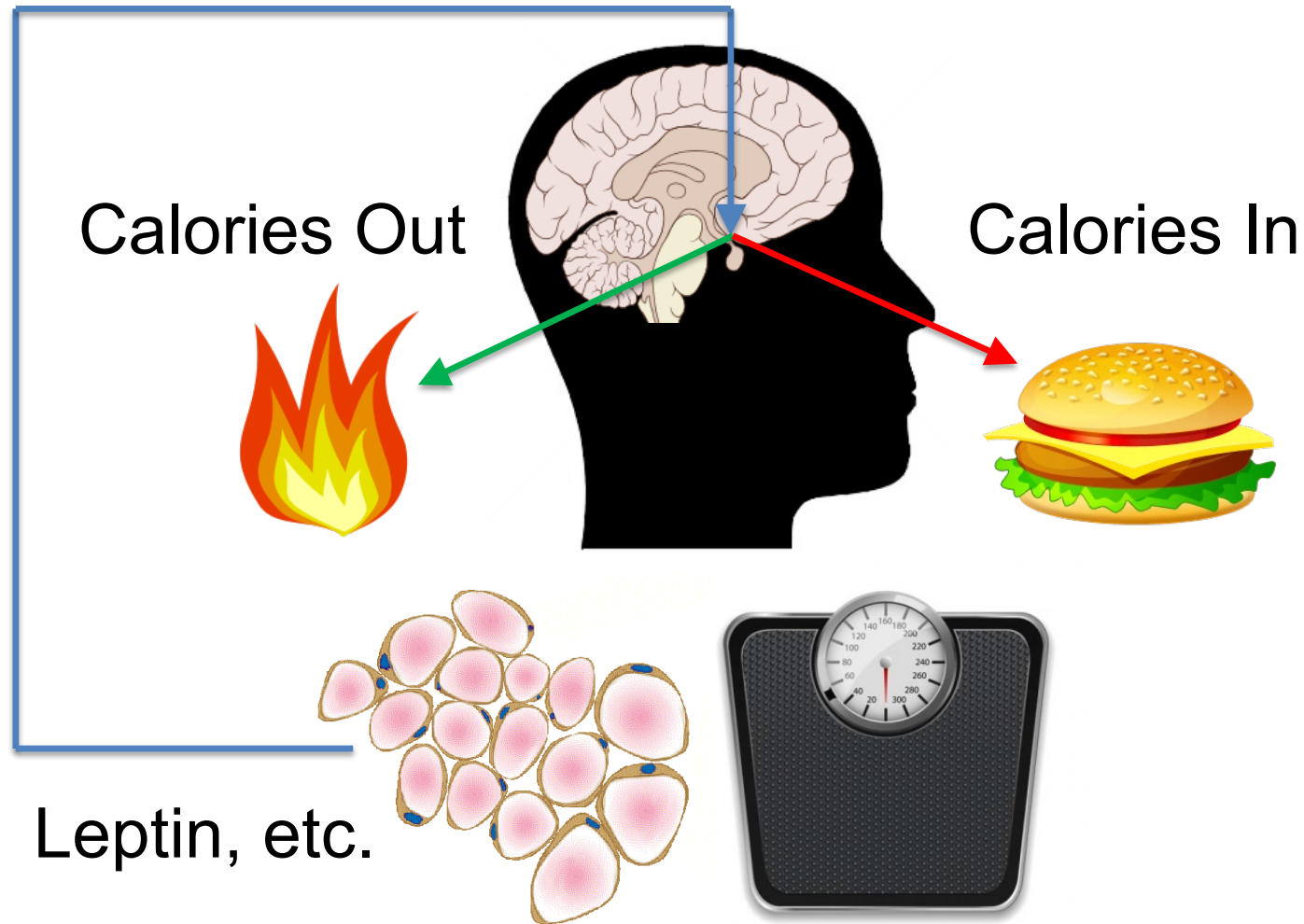
Calories Out



Calories In

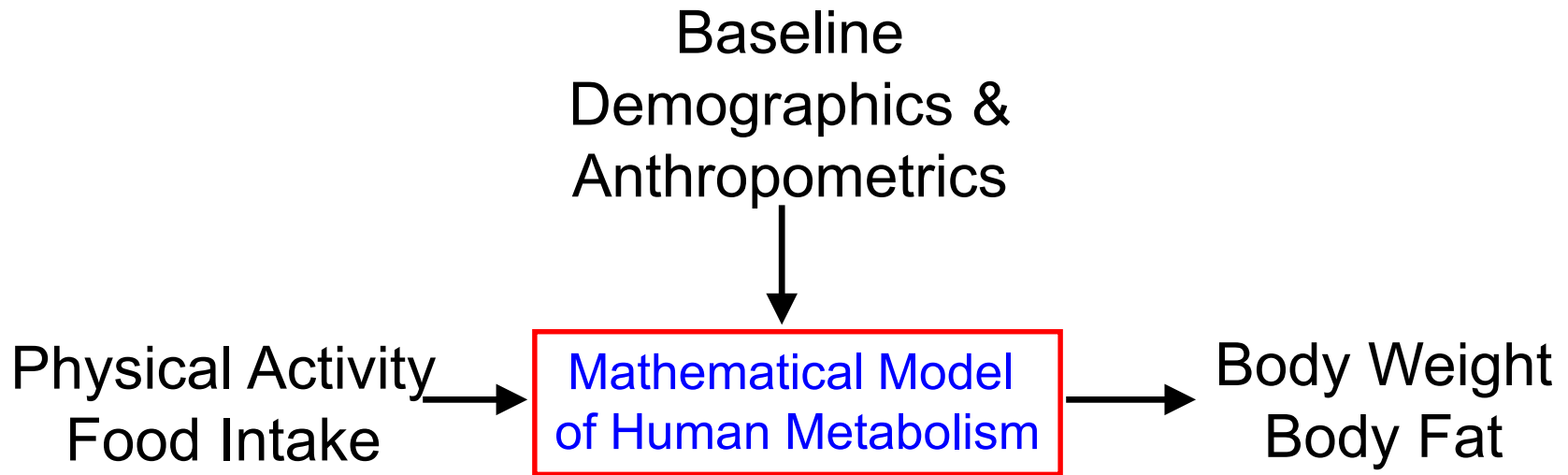


# Feedback Regulation of Body Weight

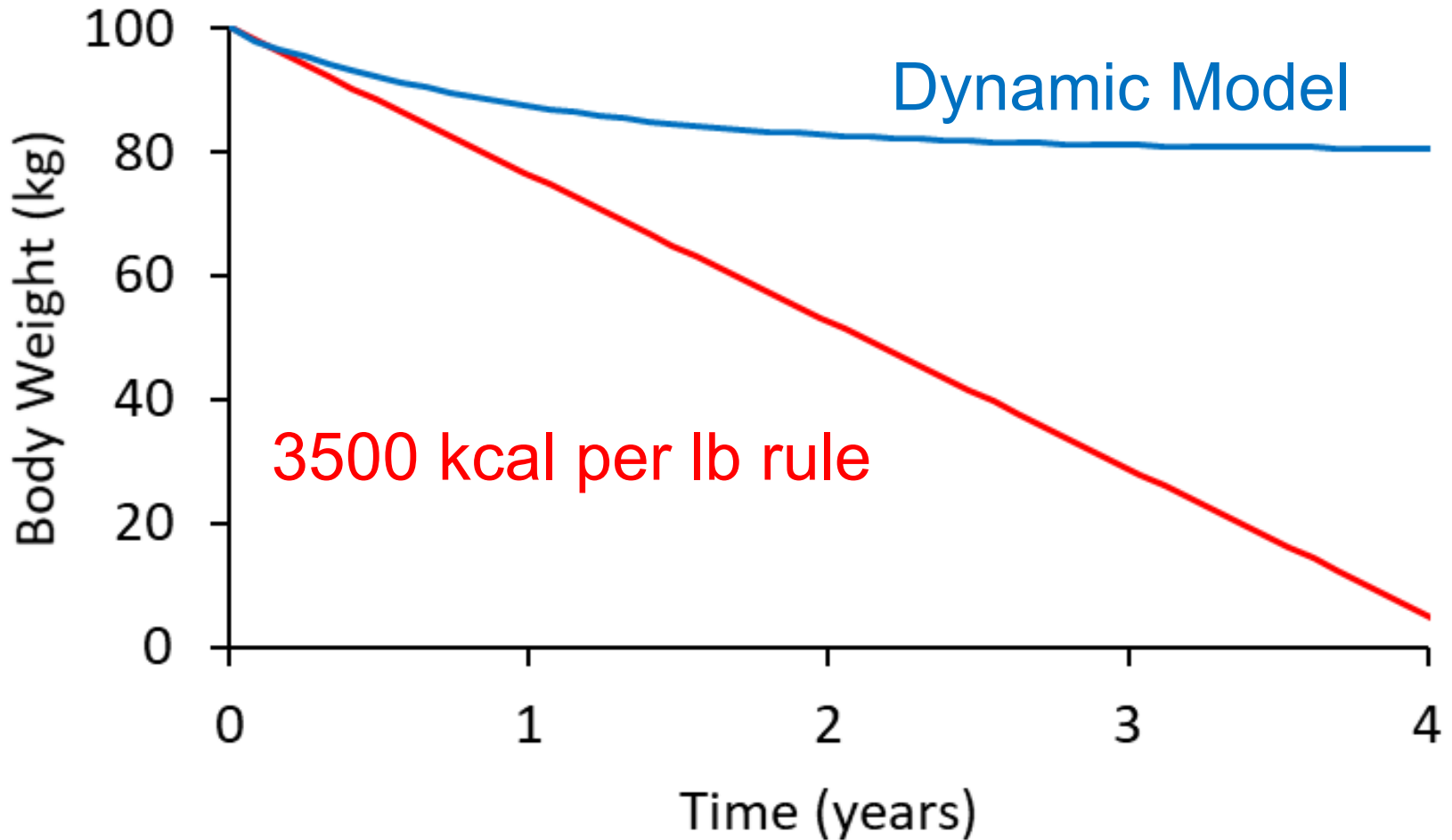




# Mathematical Modeling of Metabolism

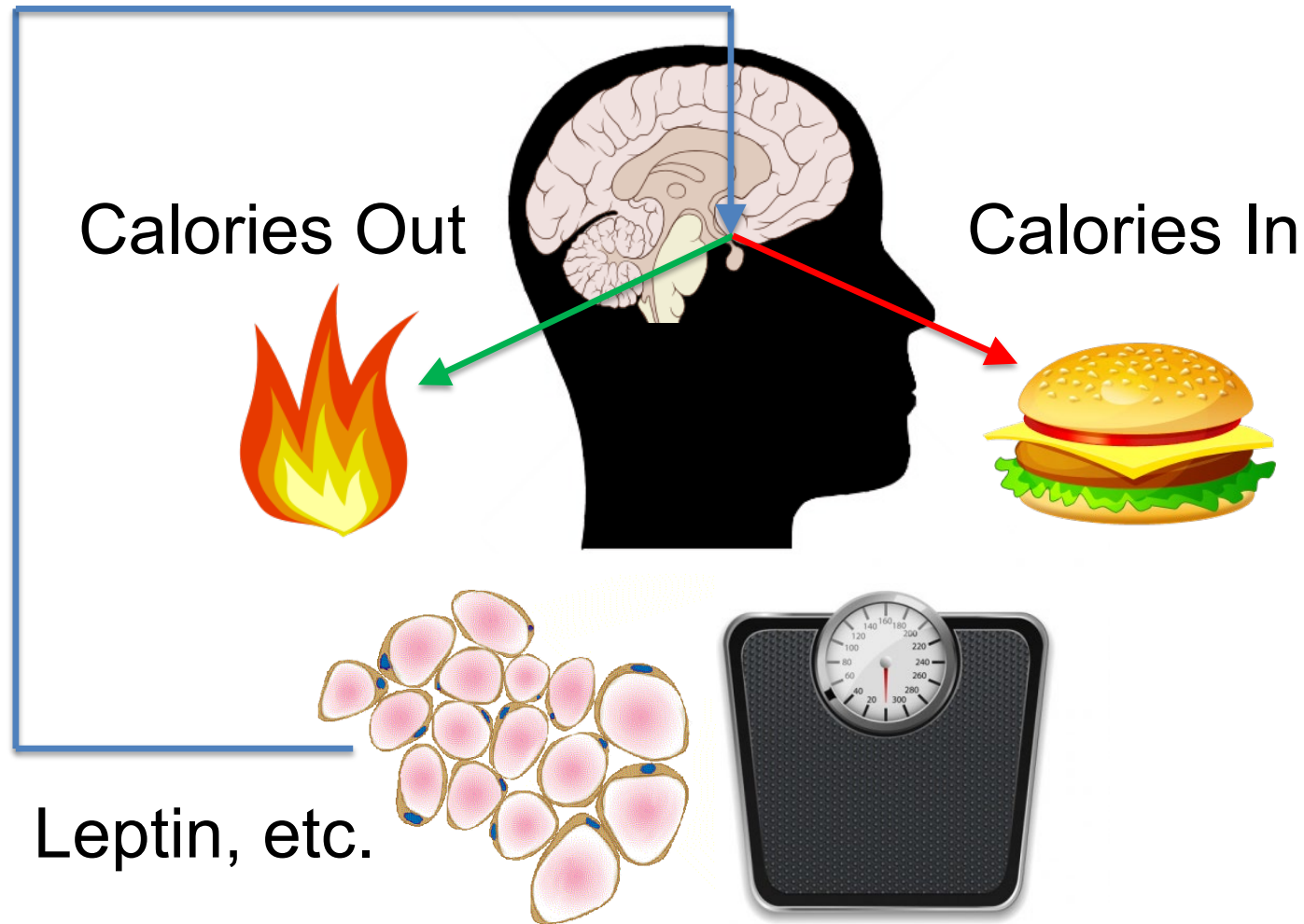


# Corrected Weight Loss Projections





# Feedback Control of Appetite?



# The fundamental flaw in obesity research

J. T. Winkler

obesity reviews (2005) 6, 199–202

Study No:           

Please answer the following questions:

1. Please enter today's date: 13 / 08 / 93  
Day Month Year

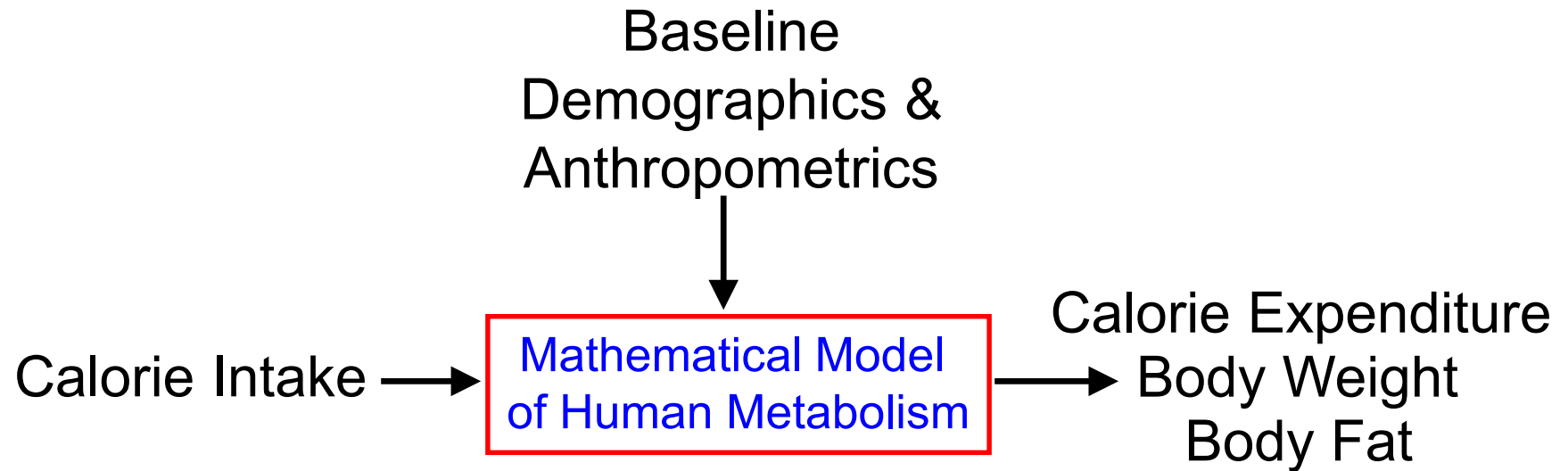
2. Which day of the week does this record? Please tick one:  
Sun  Mon  Tues  Weds  Thurs  Fri  Sat  18 AUG 1993

3. Is this a typical day? Please tick one: Yes  No   
If not, give an example of a typical day after yesterday's record, if you wish.

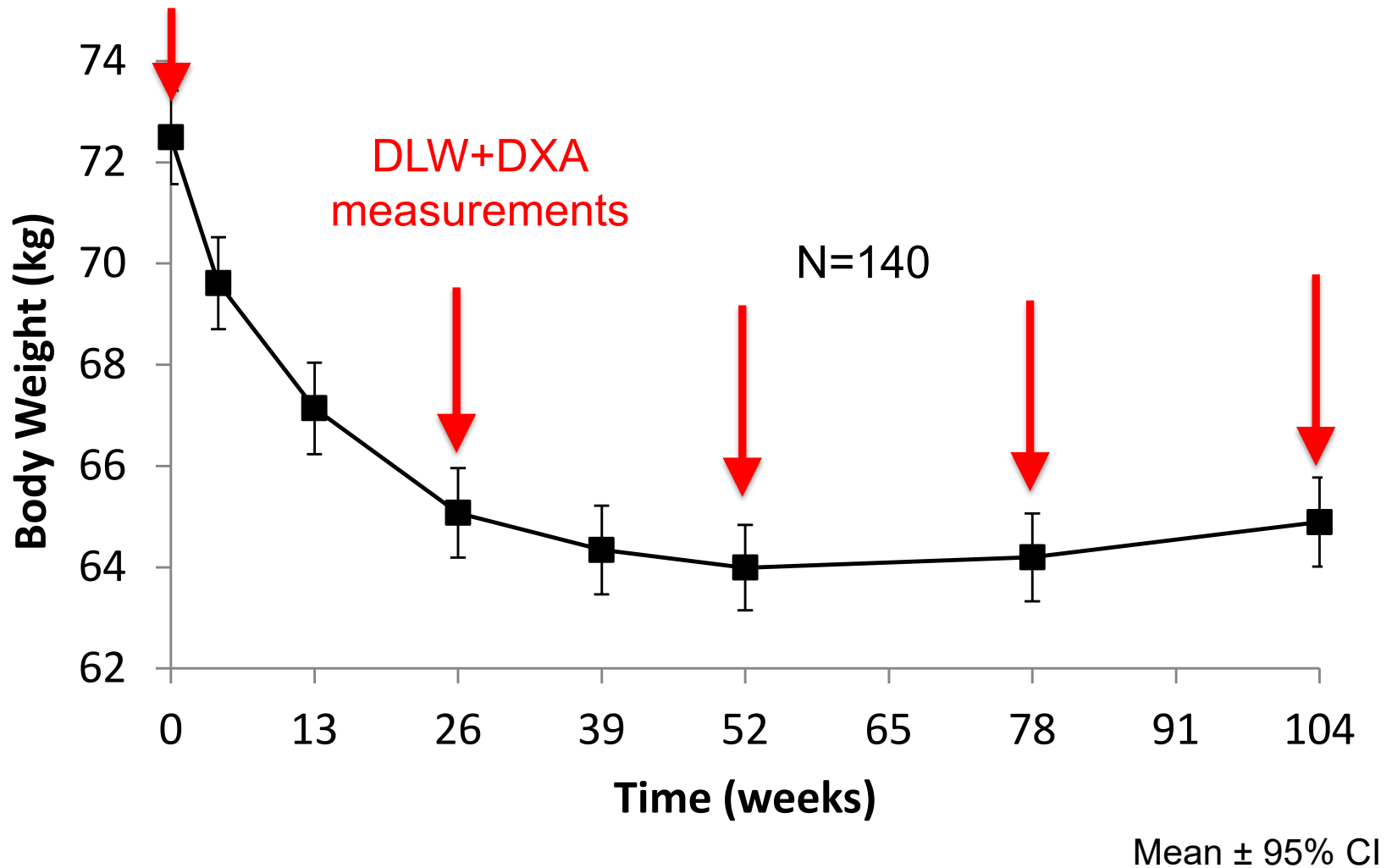
24 HOUR RECORD		
Time	Quantity eaten	Details of food and drink
7:15 a.m.	1 Cup	Tea
	1 1/2 teaspoons	Semi Skimmed Milk
	1 large fruit Dish	White Sugar
	2 teaspoons	Rice Crispies + Sliced Banana
		White Sugar
		Semi Skimmed Milk
10 a.m.	1 Mug.	Instant Powdered Coffee.
	1 1/2 teaspoons	White Sugar
	1/2	Semi Skimmed Milk
	1/2	Water
	1	Homemade Date Cake
12:30 p.m.	1 Dinner Plate	Homemade Steak Pie - Shortcrust pastry
	3	Medium Size Potatoes (Boiled)
	3 Tablespoon	Runner Beans (Fresh)
	1 "	Carrots (Fresh)
	1 Glass	Orange Squash.
3 p.m.	1 Cup	Tea.
		Semi Skimmed Milk
	1 1/2 teaspoons	White Sugar.
	2 Small	Sweet Biscuits
6 p.m.	Mid Size Plate	Salad (Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onion, Radish, Beetroot)
		2oz Grated Cheese
		Salad Cream.
	2 Thin Slices	White Bread
		Non Fat Butter (Willow)
	1	Homemade Cake
9:30 p.m.	1 Tea Cup.	Drinking Chocolate
	1 1/2 teaspoons	White Sugar

How often, in the past 3 months, did you eat the following?	never	Less than 1 time per week	1-3 times per week	4-6 times per week	1 time per day	2-3 times per day	4 or more times per day	What was your usual serving size, relative to the following?			
								1	1/2 or less	1 1/2 or more	
<b>Fruit</b> (apples, bananas, oranges, etc.)								1/2 cup raw fruit; 1/2 medium apple or large orange			
<b>Vegetables</b> (carrots, mushrooms, potatoes, etc.)								1/2 cup cooked or raw; 1 carrot or stalk celery			
<b>Chicken</b> (fried chicken, in soup, grilled chicken, etc.)								3-4 oz; 1/2 large or 1 small breast; 2 drumsticks			
<b>Turkey</b> (turkey dinner, turkey sandwich, in soup, etc.)								3-4 oz; 6-8 very thin slices; 1-3 thick slices			
<b>Fish and Seafood</b> (tuna, shrimp, crab, etc.)								3-4 oz; 1 can of tuna; 6 medium shrimp			
<b>Pork</b> (ham, pork chops, ribs, etc.)								3-4 oz; 1 pork chop; 2 ribs; 3-4 slices bacon			
<b>Beef</b> (steak, meatballs, in tacos, etc.)								3-4 oz; 1/2 lb burger; 3-6 slices roast beef			
<b>Other Meat</b> (duck, lamb, venison, etc.)								3-4 oz; a piece about the size of your palm			
<b>Nuts</b> (almonds, cashews, walnuts, etc.)								1/4 cup or 1 handful; 20 almonds; 2 tbsp nut butter			
<b>Beans</b> (tofu, chickpeas, chili, etc.)								1/2 cup cooked beans; 1/4 cup hummus or tofu			
<b>Dairy</b> (cheese, milk, yogurt, etc.)								3 slices cheese; 1 cup milk; 1 cup yogurt			
<b>Eggs</b> (omelet, in salad, in baked goods, etc.)								1 egg; 1/4 cup scrambled eggs or 1/2 cup egg salad			
<b>Grains</b> (breads, pasta, rice, etc.)								1 slice bread or pizza; 1/2 cup rice or pasta			
<b>Sweets</b> (candy, cookies, pie, etc.)								2 small cookies; 1 slice cake or pie			
<b>Caffeinated Soft Drinks</b> (cola, diet cola, energy drinks, etc.)								1 can (12 oz) soda; small fountain drink			
<b>Coffee and Tea</b> (hot coffee, iced coffee, black tea, etc.)								6 oz hot coffee or tea; small iced coffee			

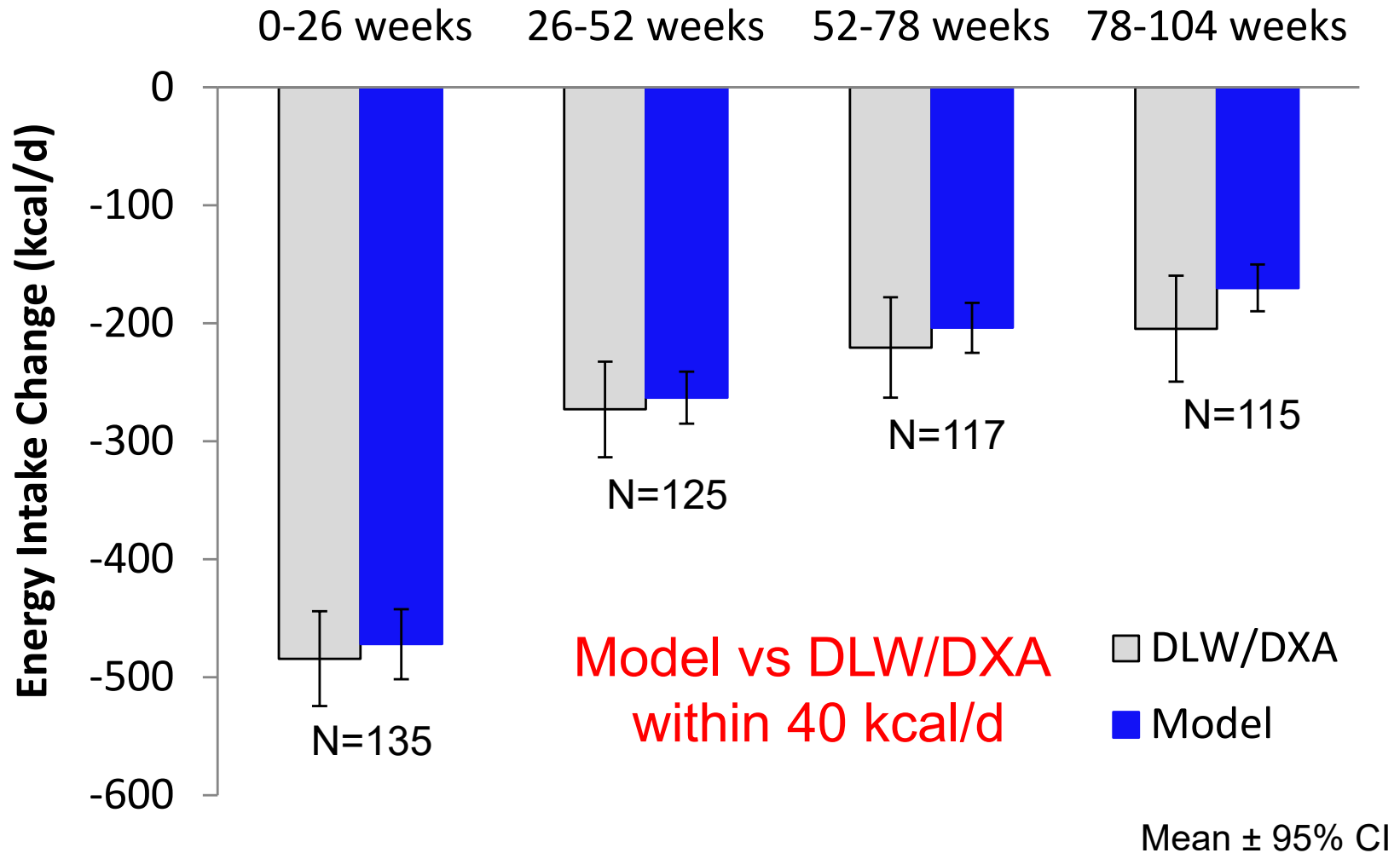
# Math Models to Calculate Calorie Intake?



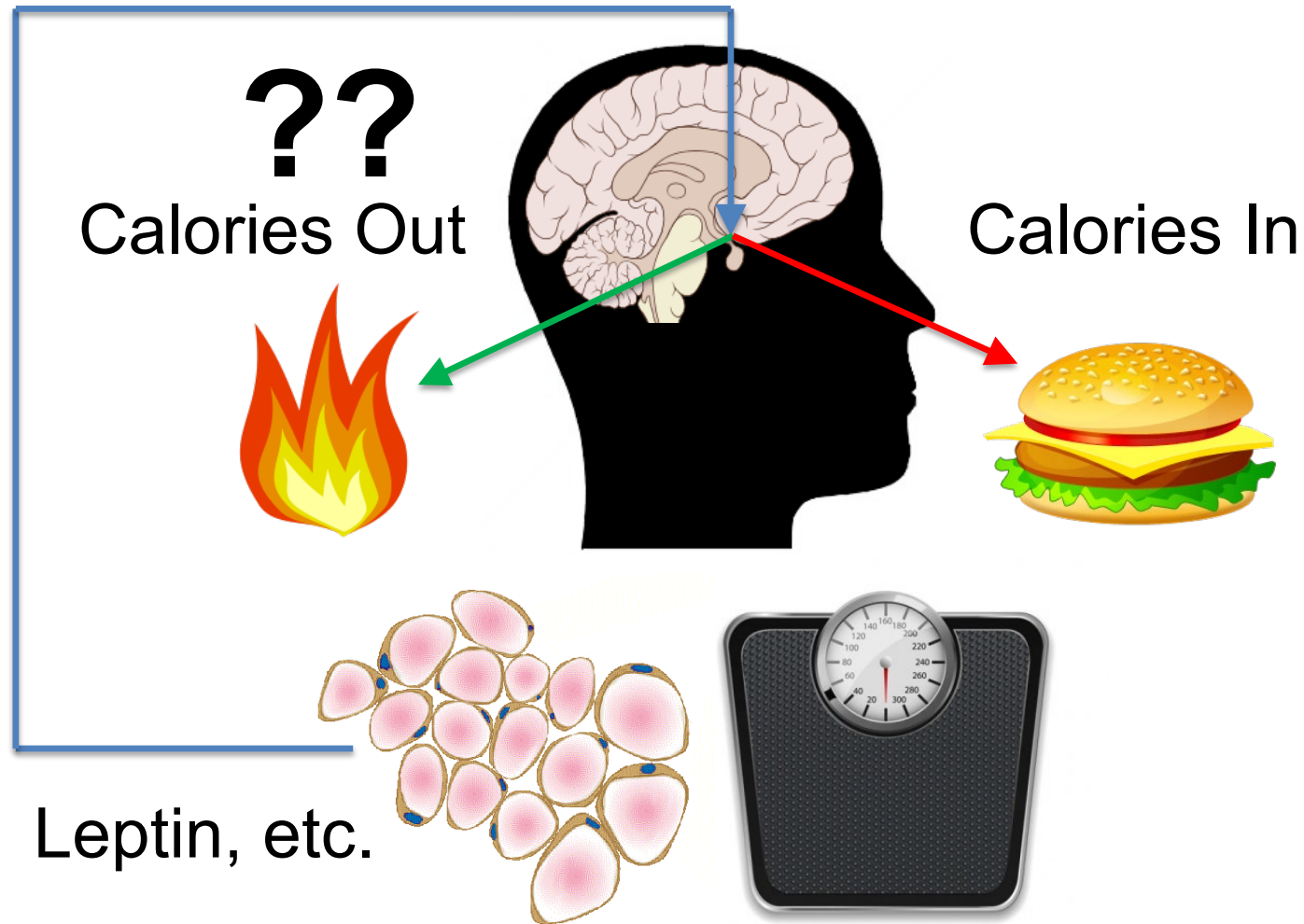
# Validation: Caloric Restriction for 2 Years



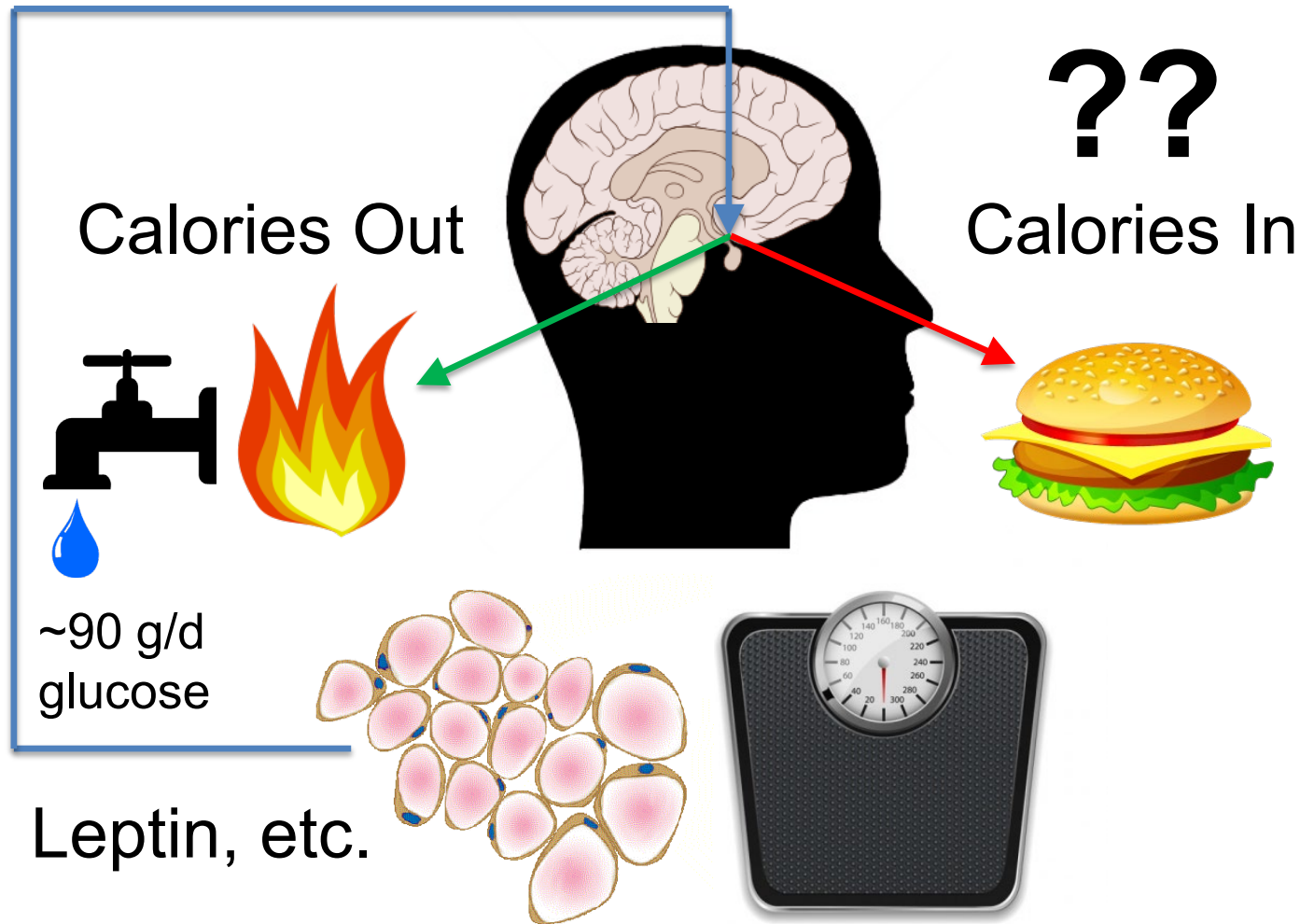
# Mean CALERIE 2 Energy Intake Changes



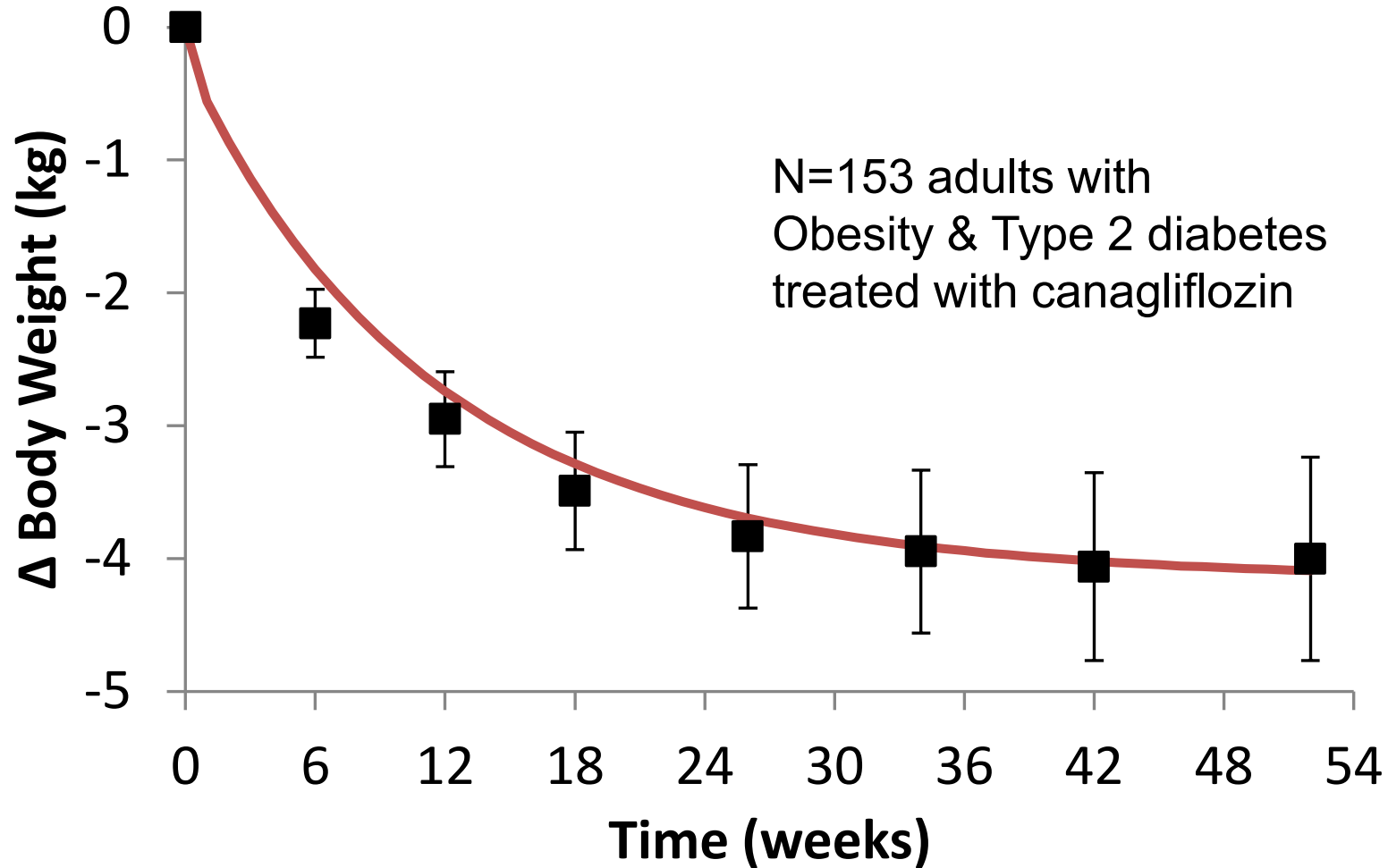
# How to Increase Calorie Expenditure?



# How to Increase Calorie Expenditure?

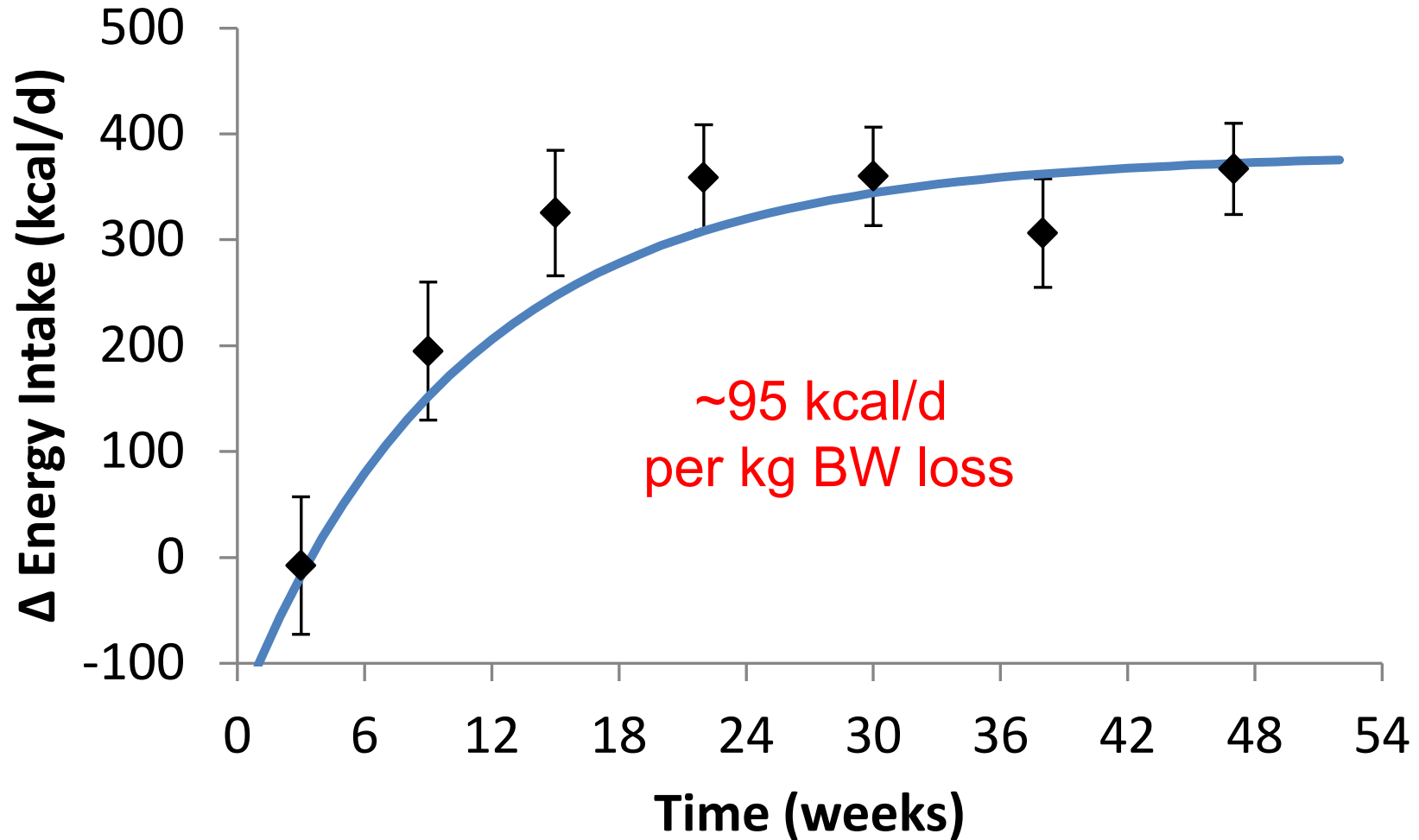


# Weight Changes during SGLT2 Inhibition

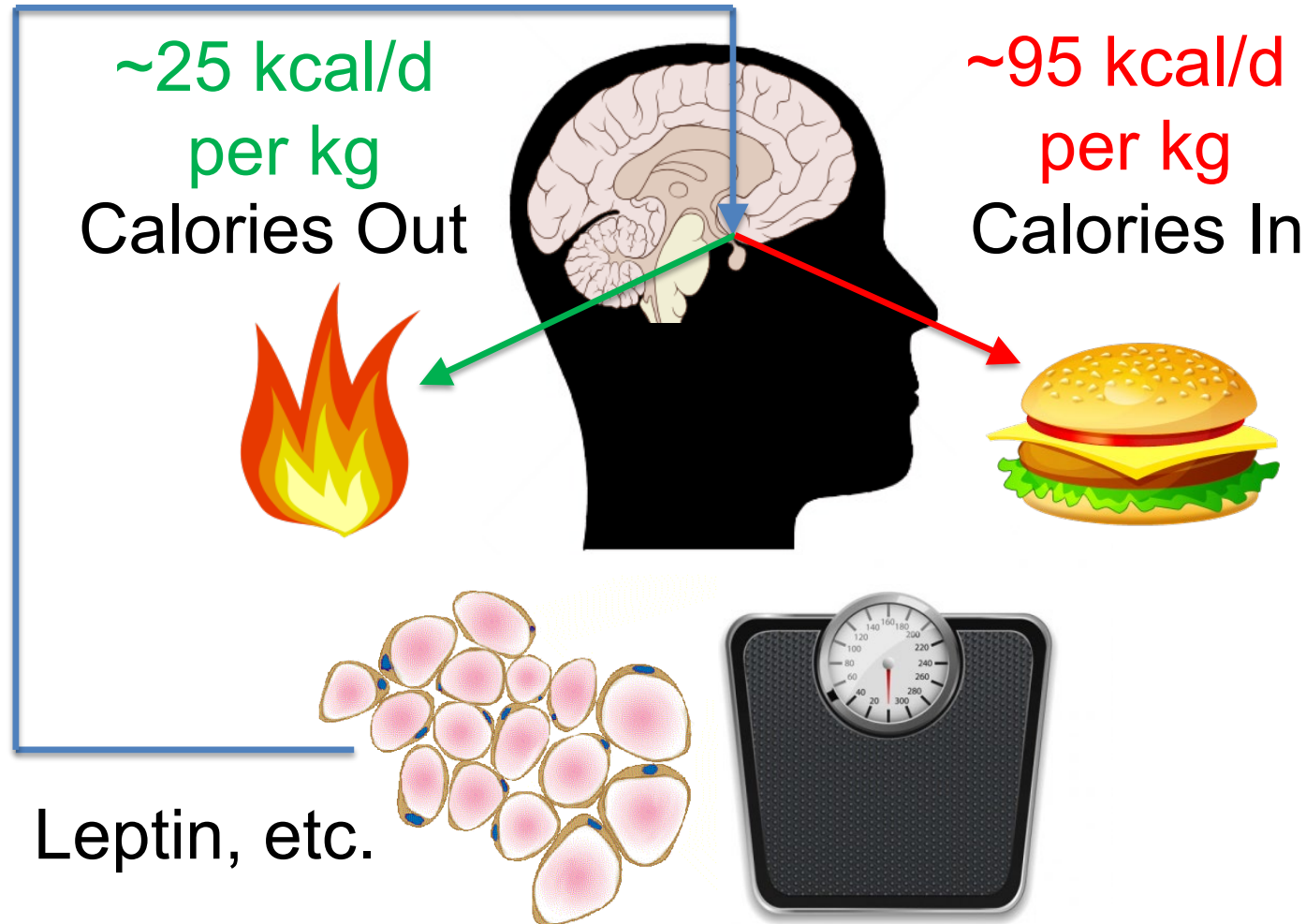




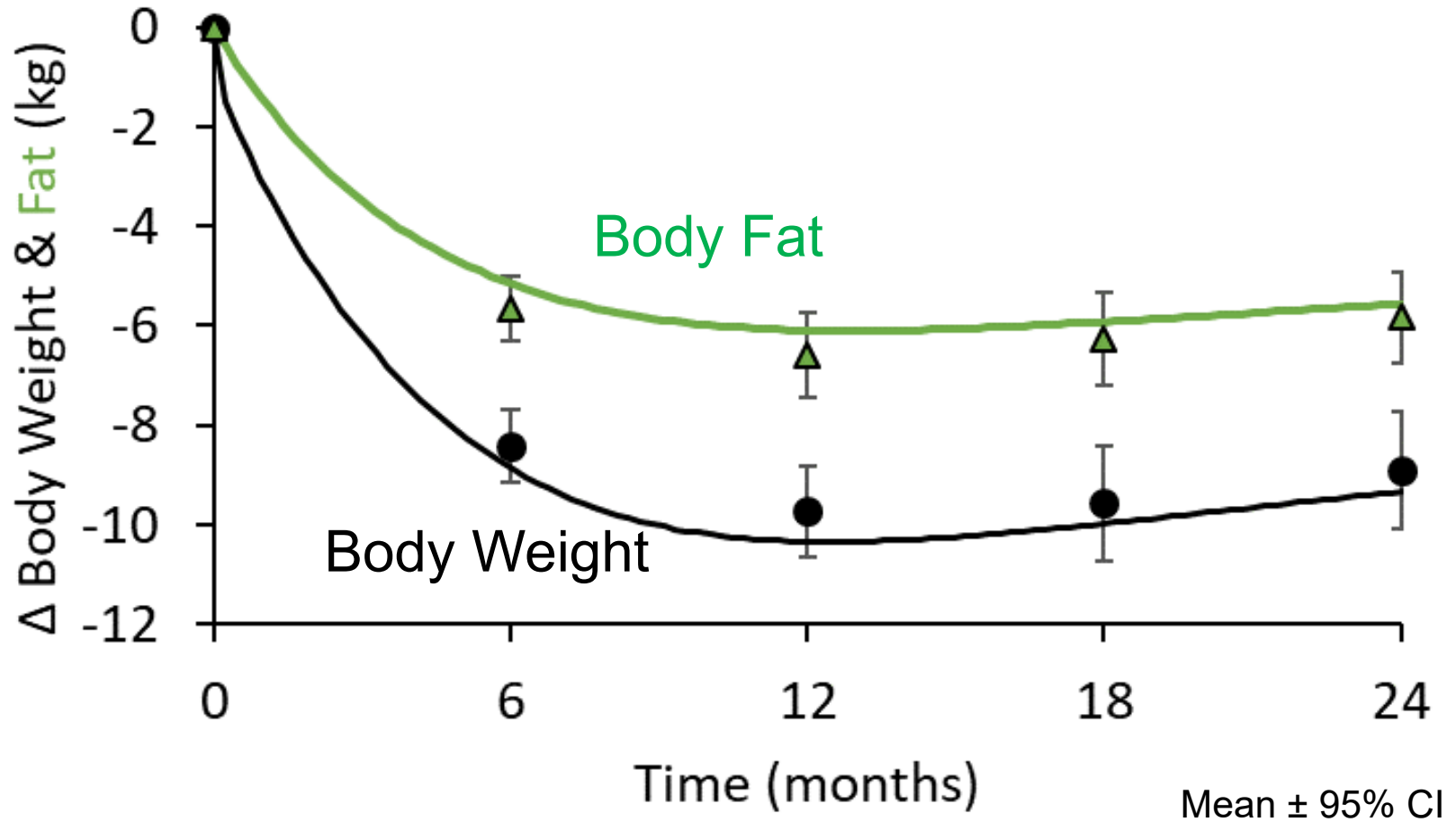
# Intake Changes during SGLT2 Inhibition



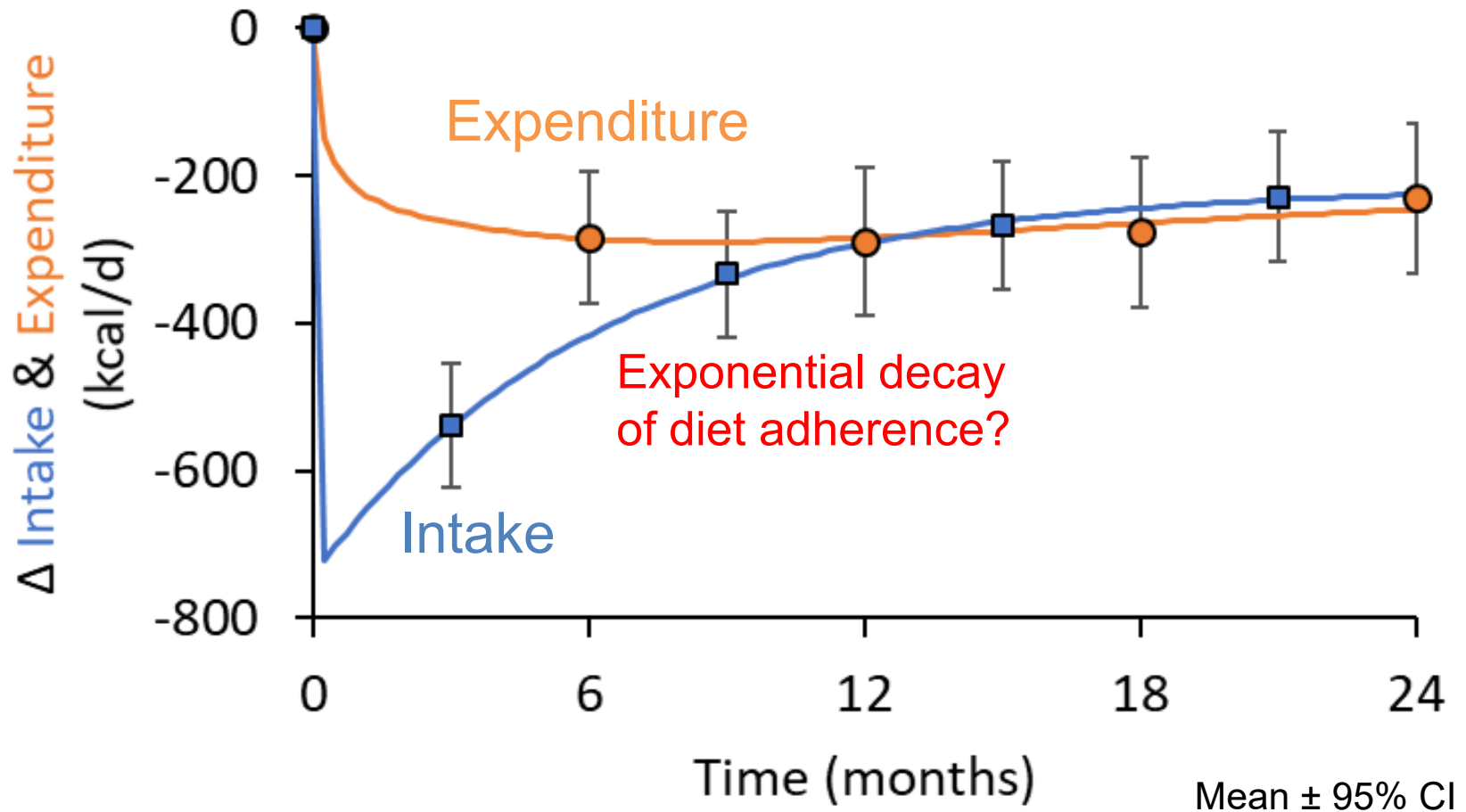
# Feedback Regulation of Body Weight



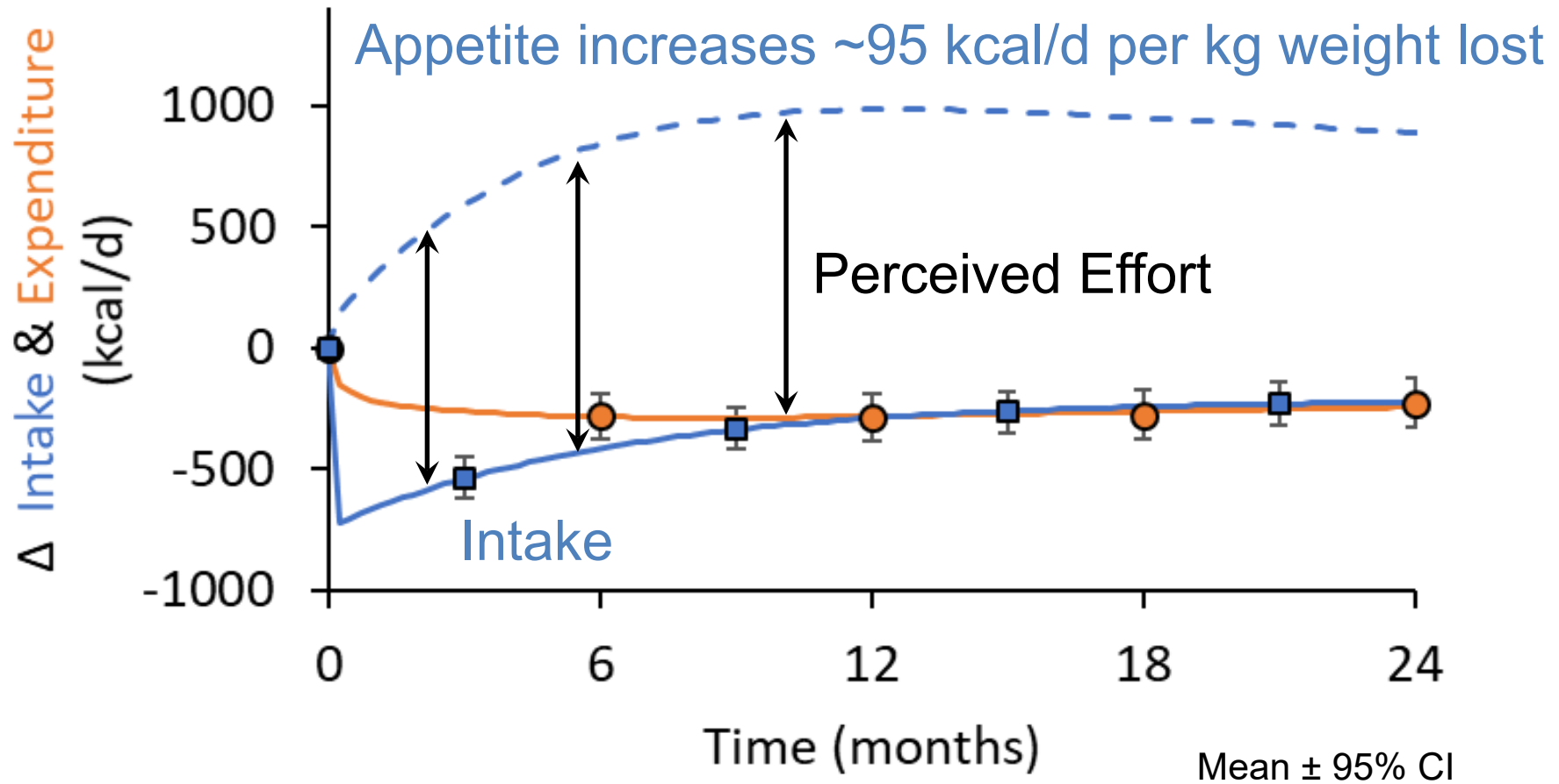
# Lifestyle Induced Weight & Fat Loss



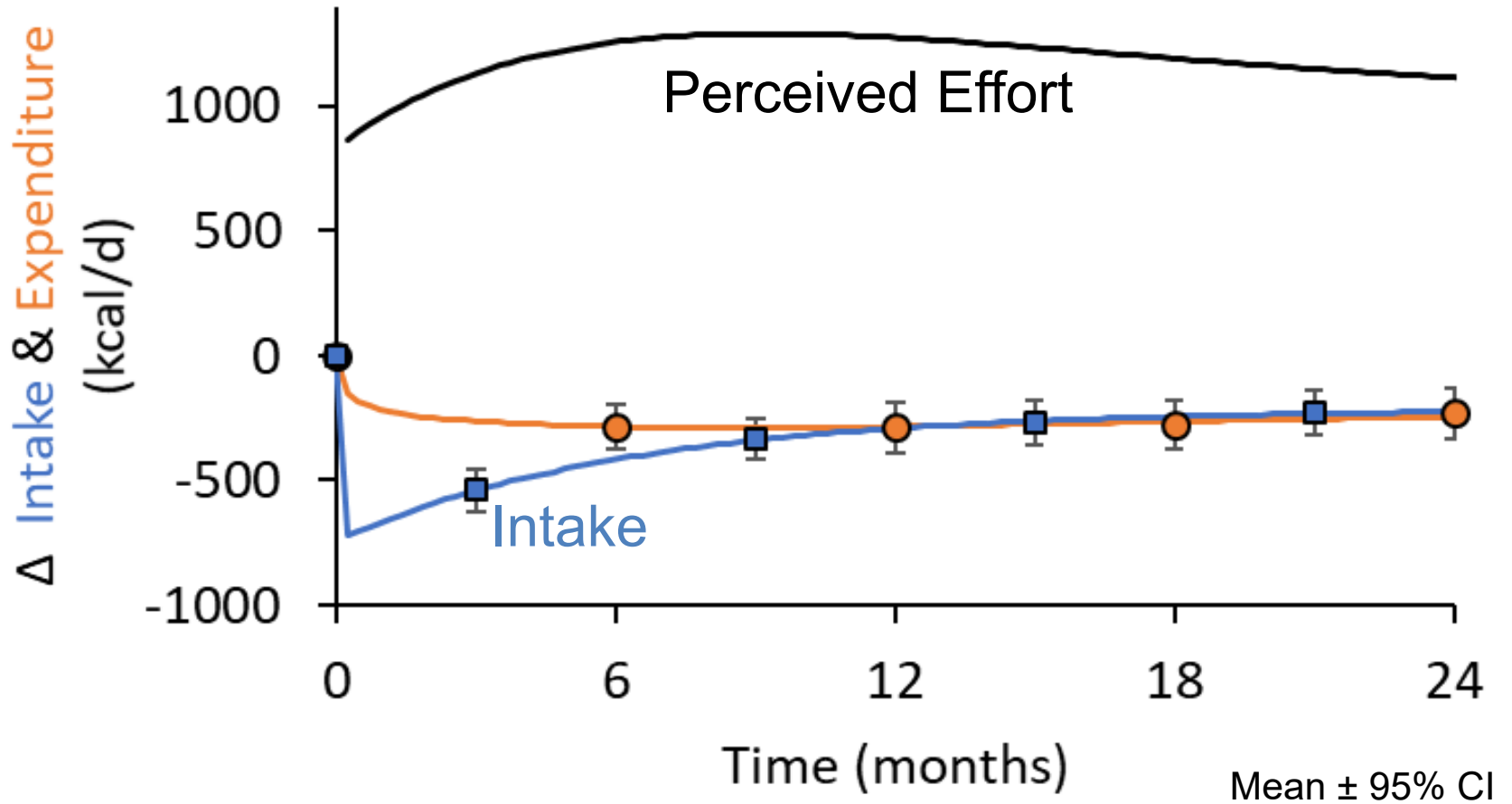
# Corresponding Energy Balance Dynamics



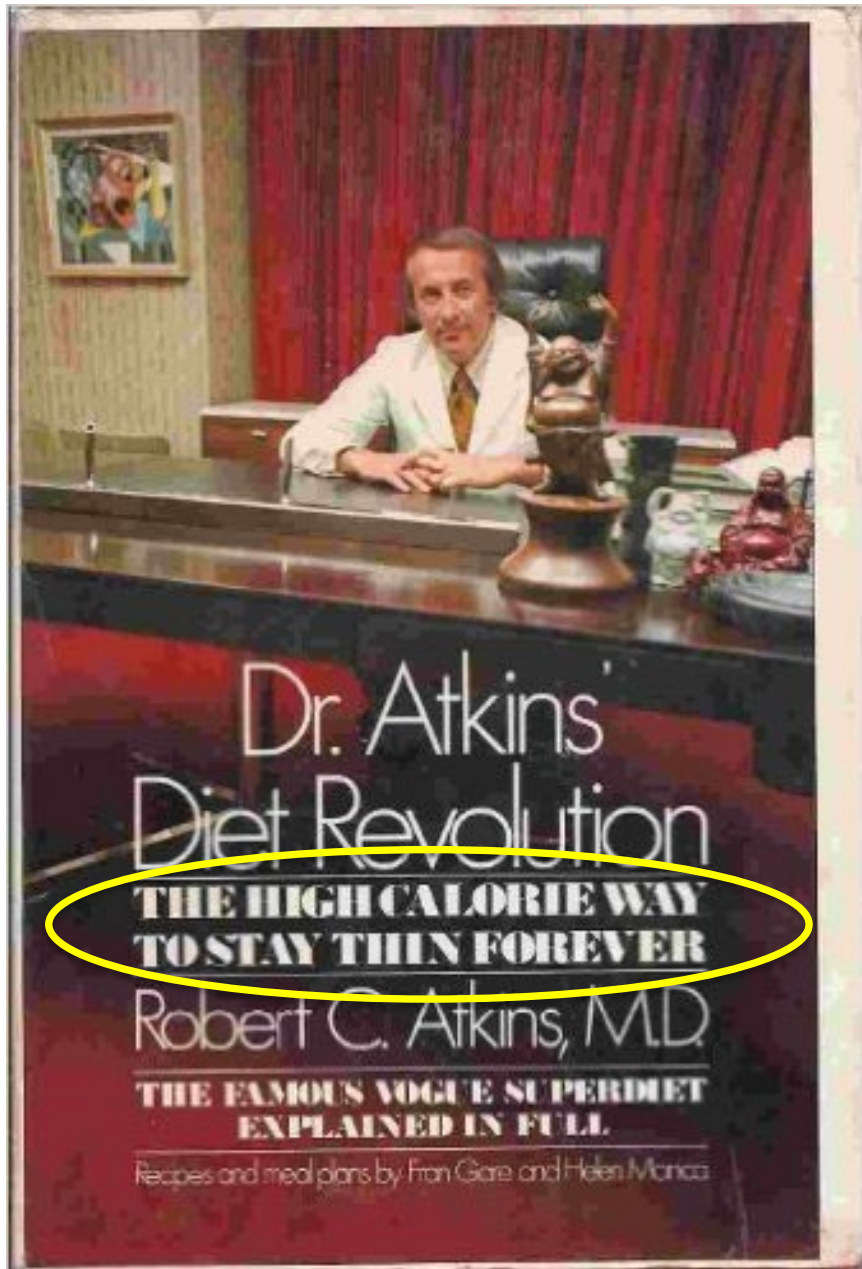
# Interpreting Lifestyle Weight Loss



# Large & Persistent Perceived Effort



# The Promise of Low Carb Diets



#1 New York Times Bestseller

# Always Hungry?

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Conquer Cravings,

---

Retrain Your Fat Cells &

---

Lose Weight Permanently

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## David Ludwig, MD, PhD

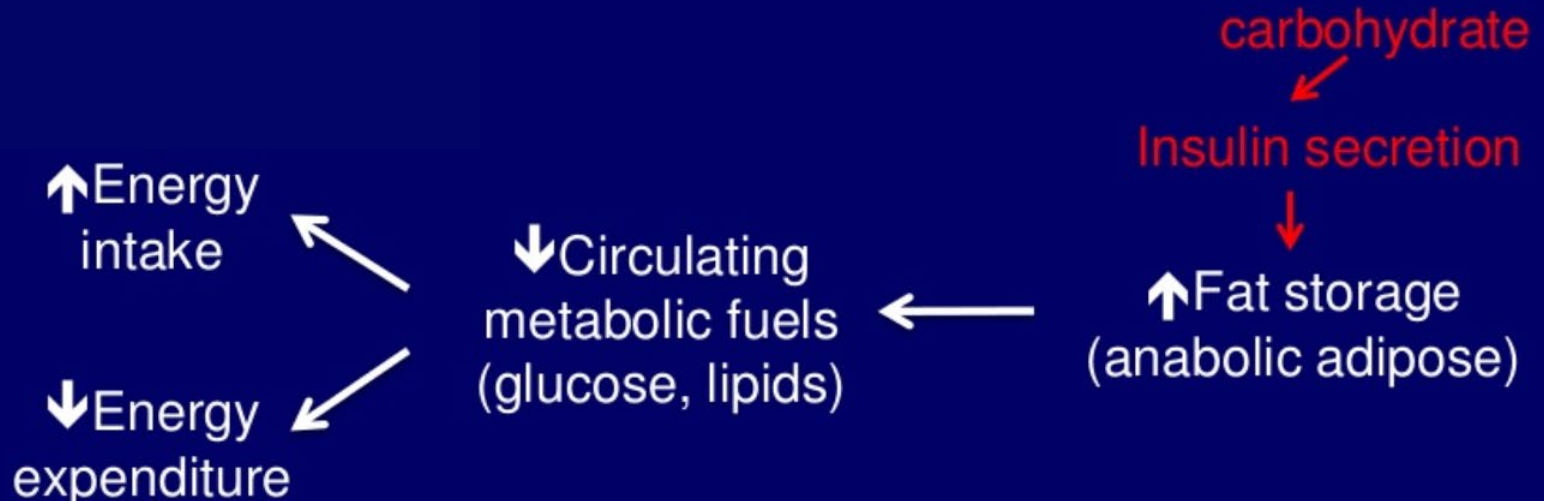
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"A brilliant book that shatters every myth about weight loss. Read it to end your struggles with weight once and for all."—Mark Hyman, MD, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Blood Sugar Solution*



# Carbohydrate-Insulin Model of Obesity

*Excessive anabolic drive in adipose tissue*

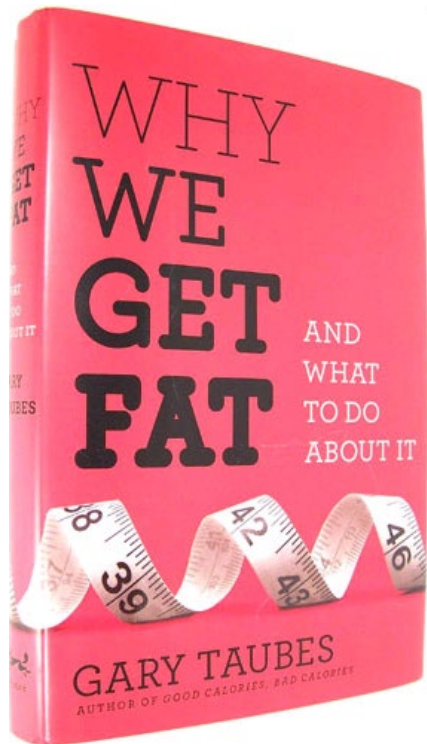


*“the metabolic effects of carbohydrate [to increase insulin] cause the adipocyte to take in, store, and trap too many calories. Subsequently, energy expenditure declines and hunger increases”*



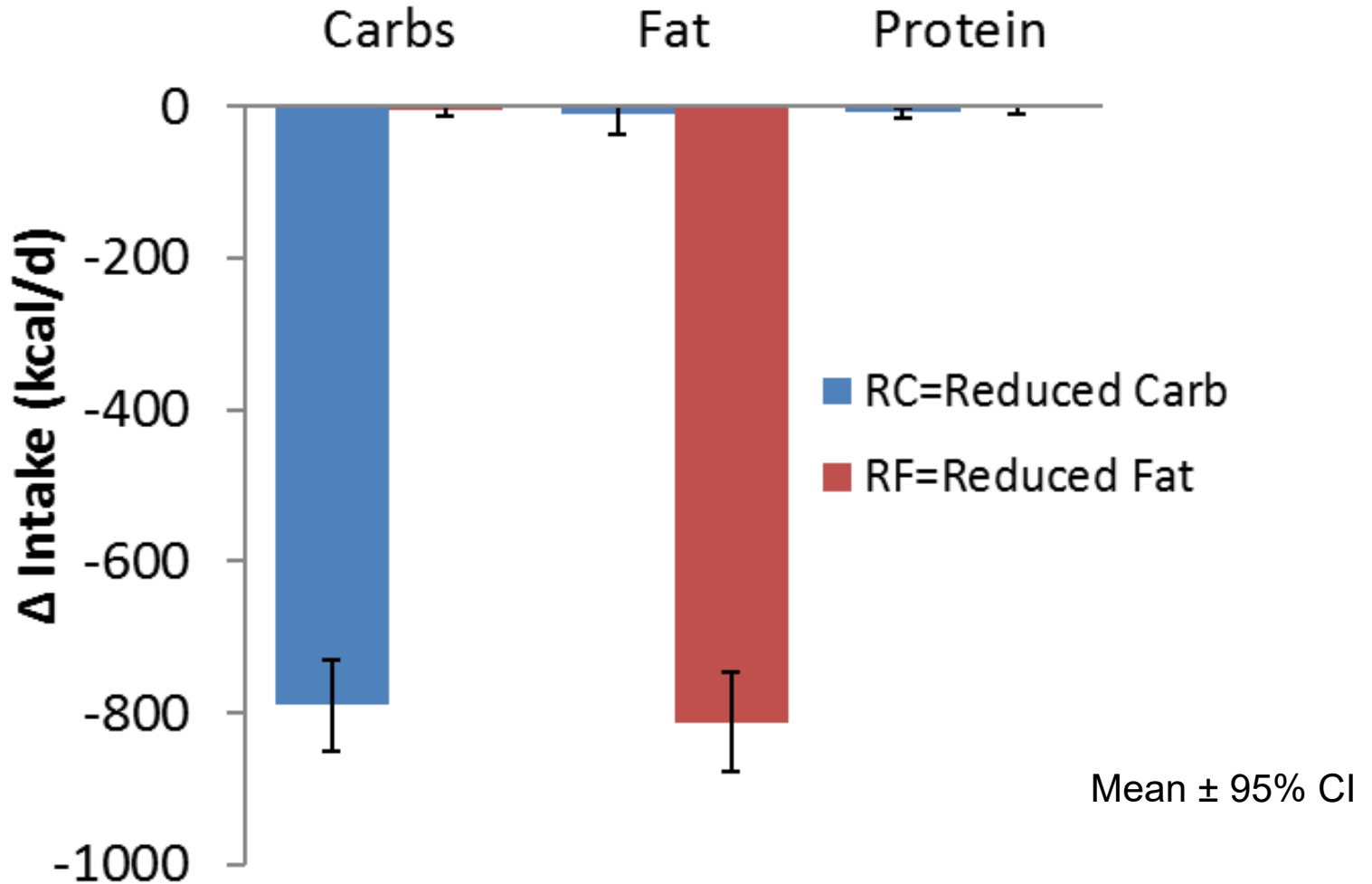
# Fat Loss Requires Carbohydrate Reduction?

“Any diet that succeeds does so because the dieter restricts fattening carbohydrates... Those who lose fat on a diet do so because of what they are not eating – the fattening carbohydrates”

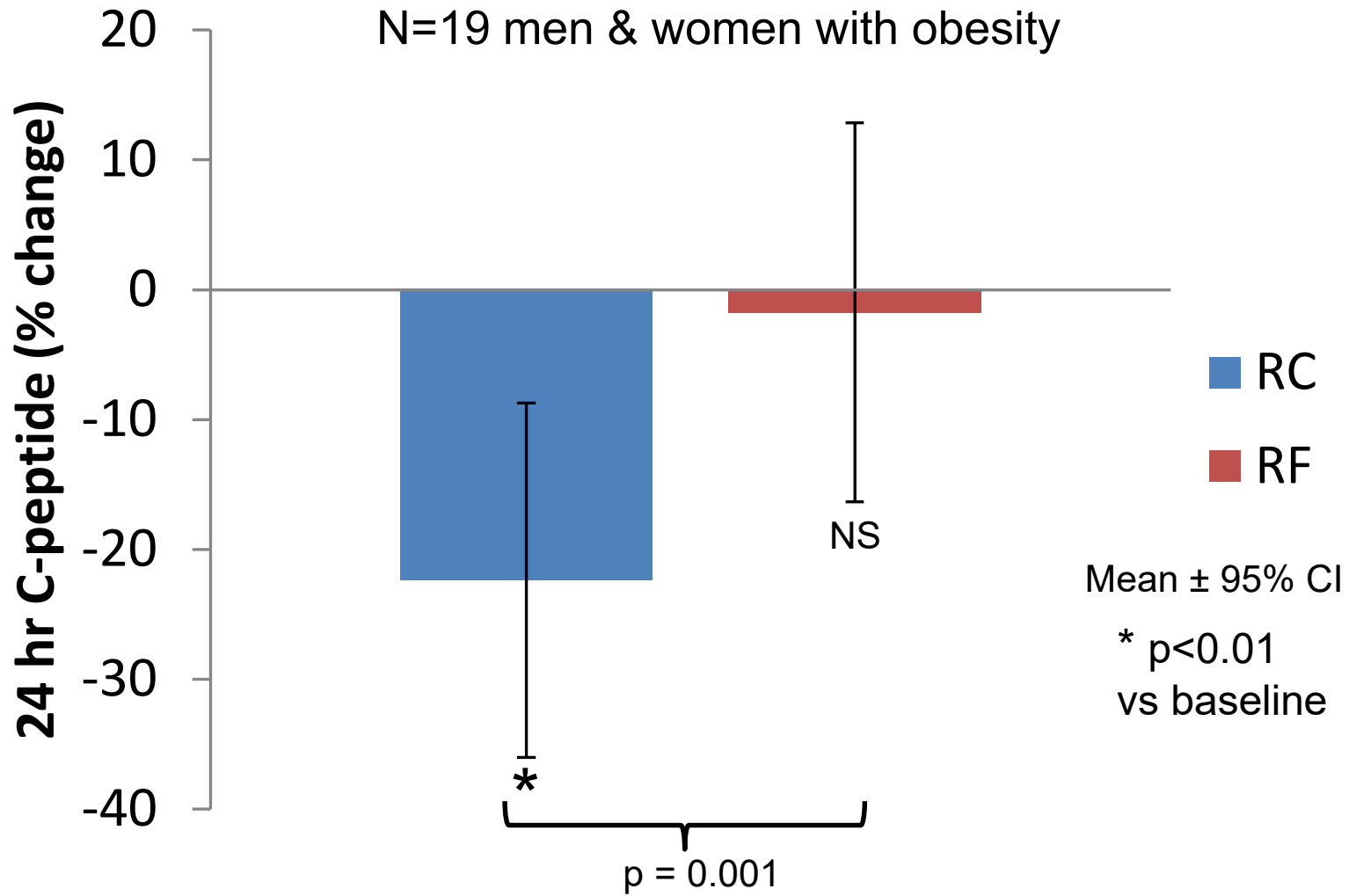


Gary Taubes, *Why we get fat and what to do about it* (2011).

# Isocaloric 30% Calorie Restricted Diets



# Only RC Diet Decreased Insulin Secretion

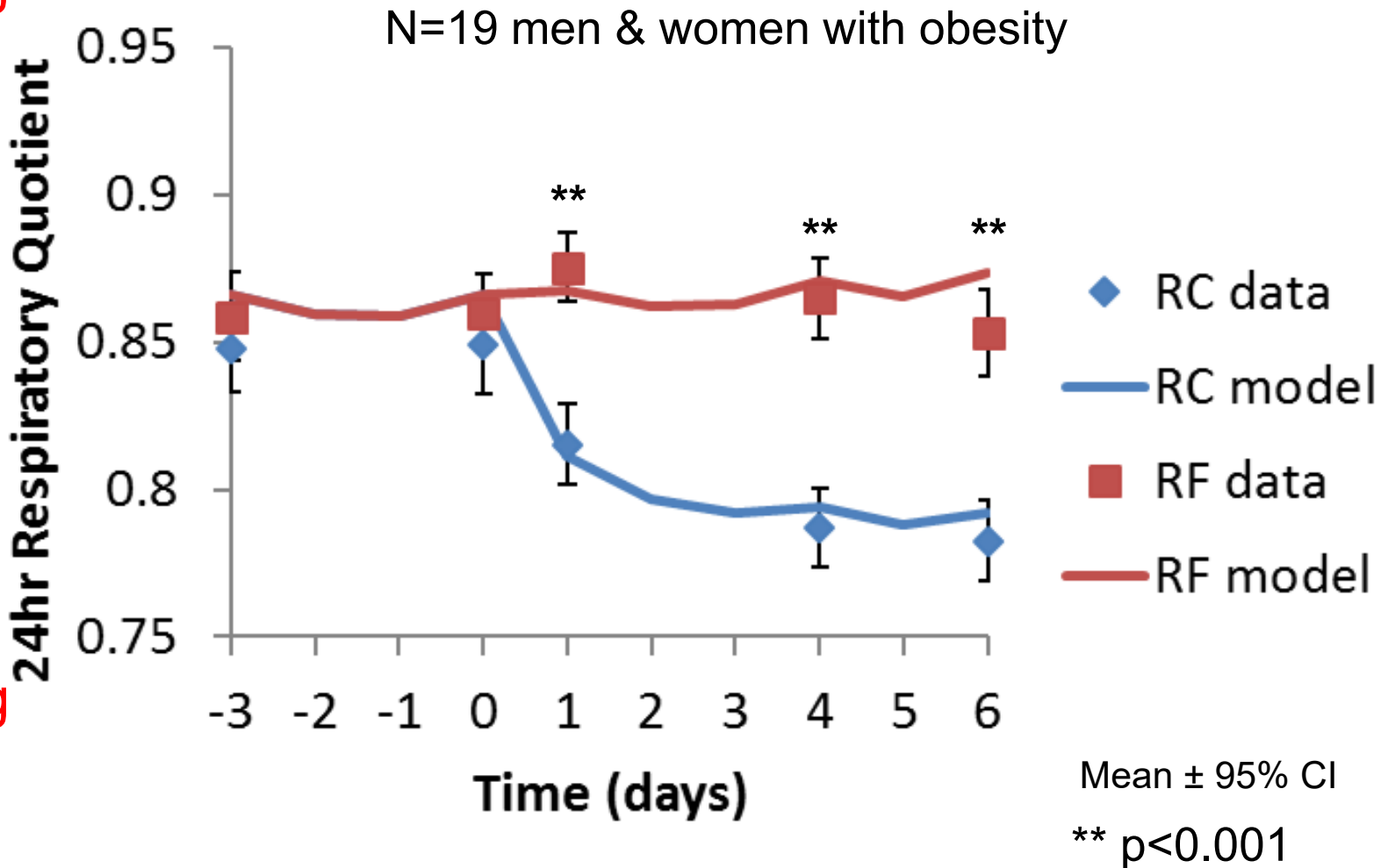


# Only RC Diet Increased Fat Oxidation

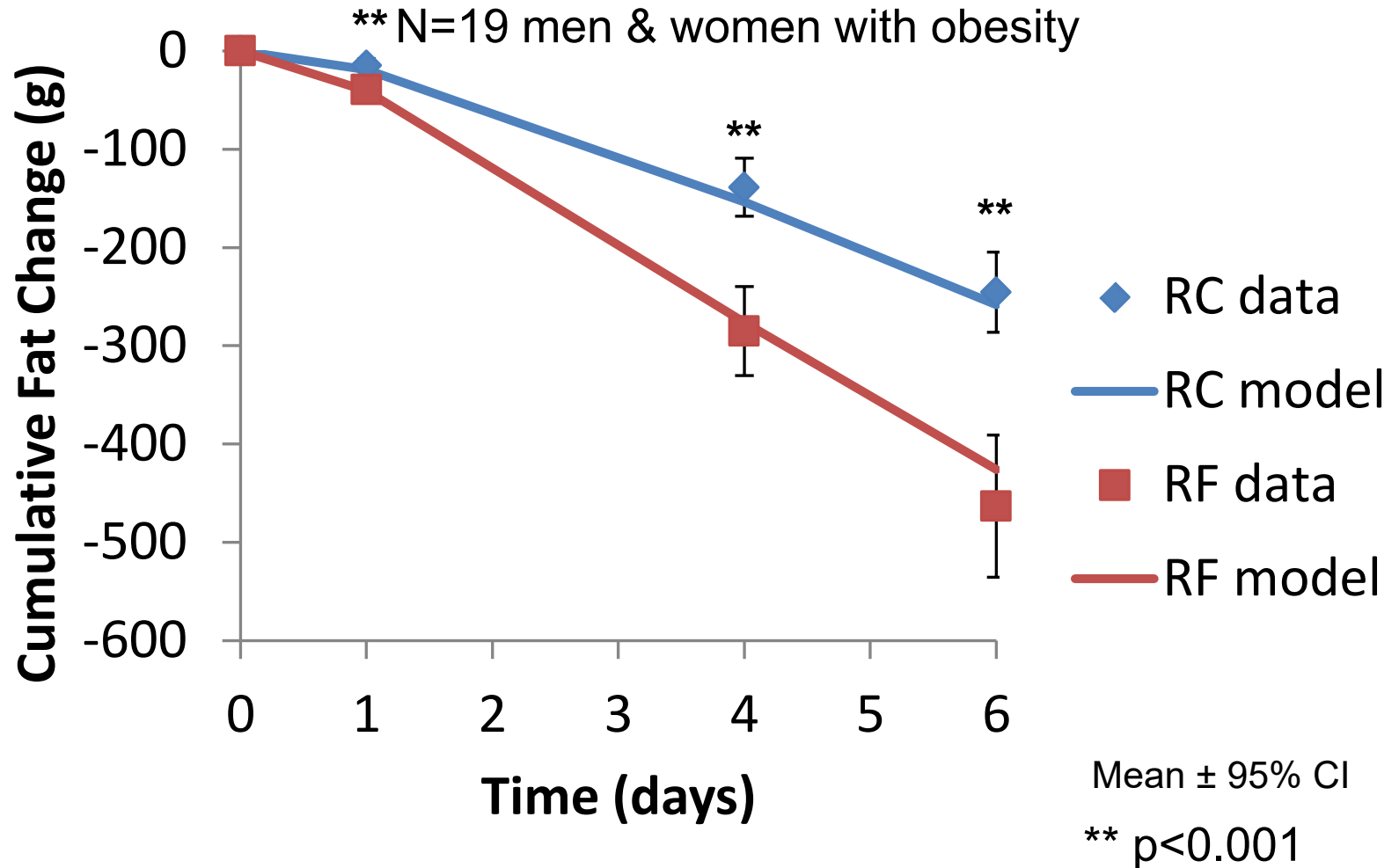
Burning  
Carbs



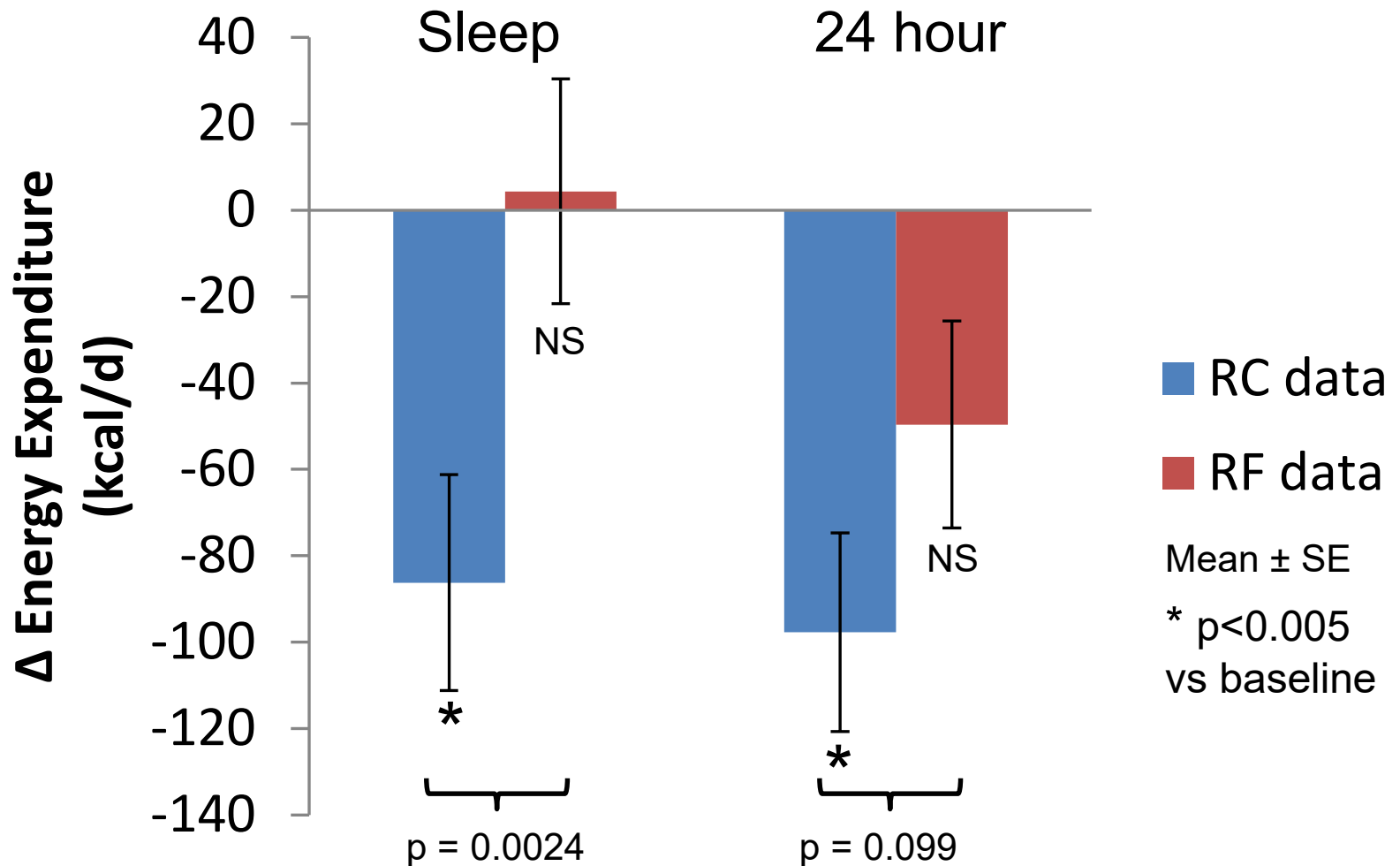
Burning  
Fat



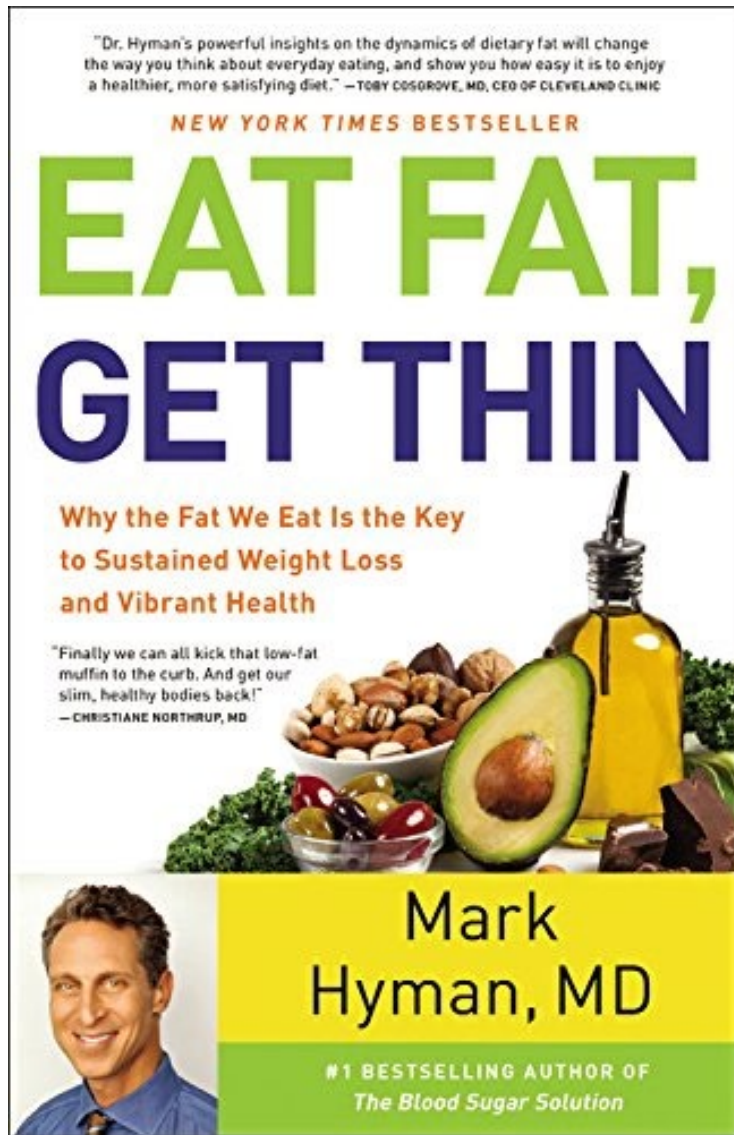
# More Cumulative Body Fat Loss with RF



# Only RC Decreases Energy Expenditure



# The Low Carb Community Responds

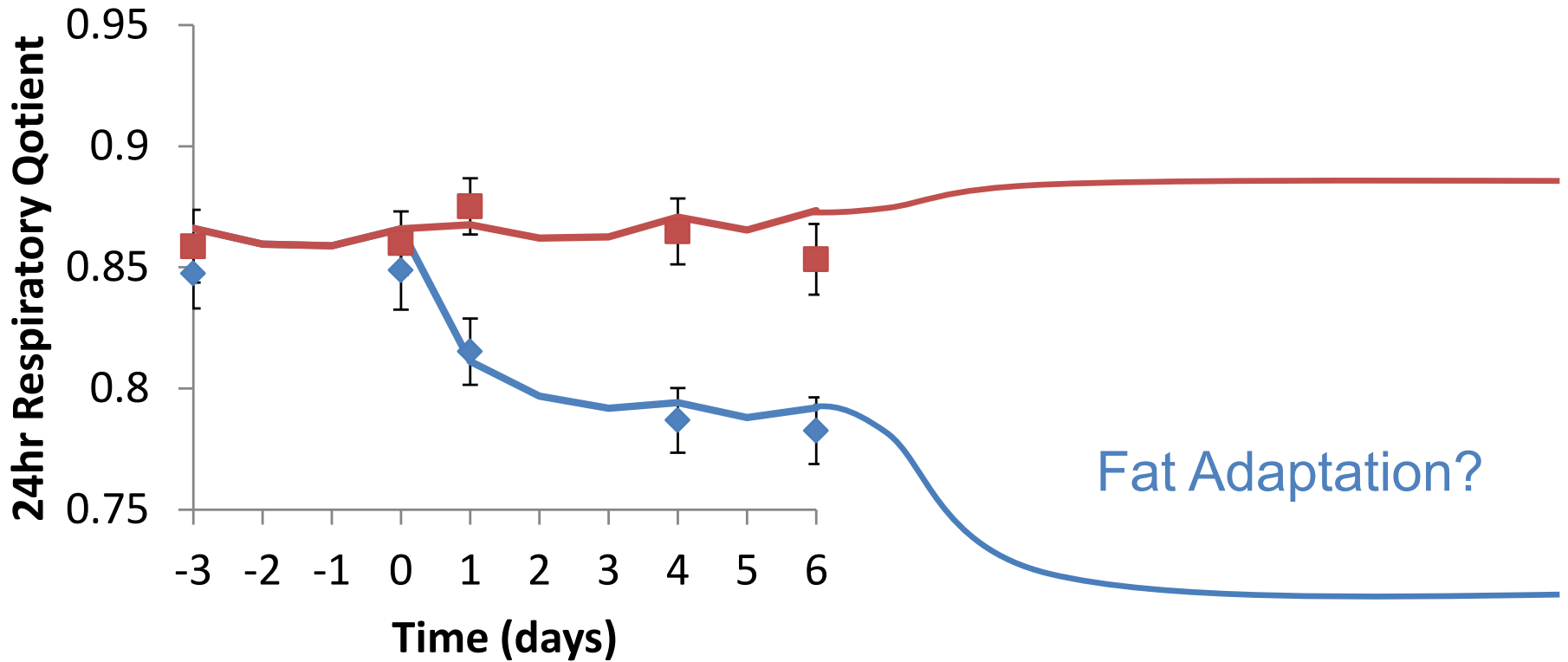


Recently, a study in *Cell Metabolism* by Kevin Hall from the National Institutes of Health attracted a lot of buzz in the news and online...[but] **there were some real problems with the study**

- The **low-carb diet wasn't low at all**, actually, with 29 percent of calories coming from carbs, including refined carbs. A true low-carb diet would have less than 10 percent of calories from carbs.
- It was a **very short-duration study (only six days)** conducted on only nineteen people who were contained in a metabolic ward where all the food was provided...It showed what happened in a vacuum but not in real life.

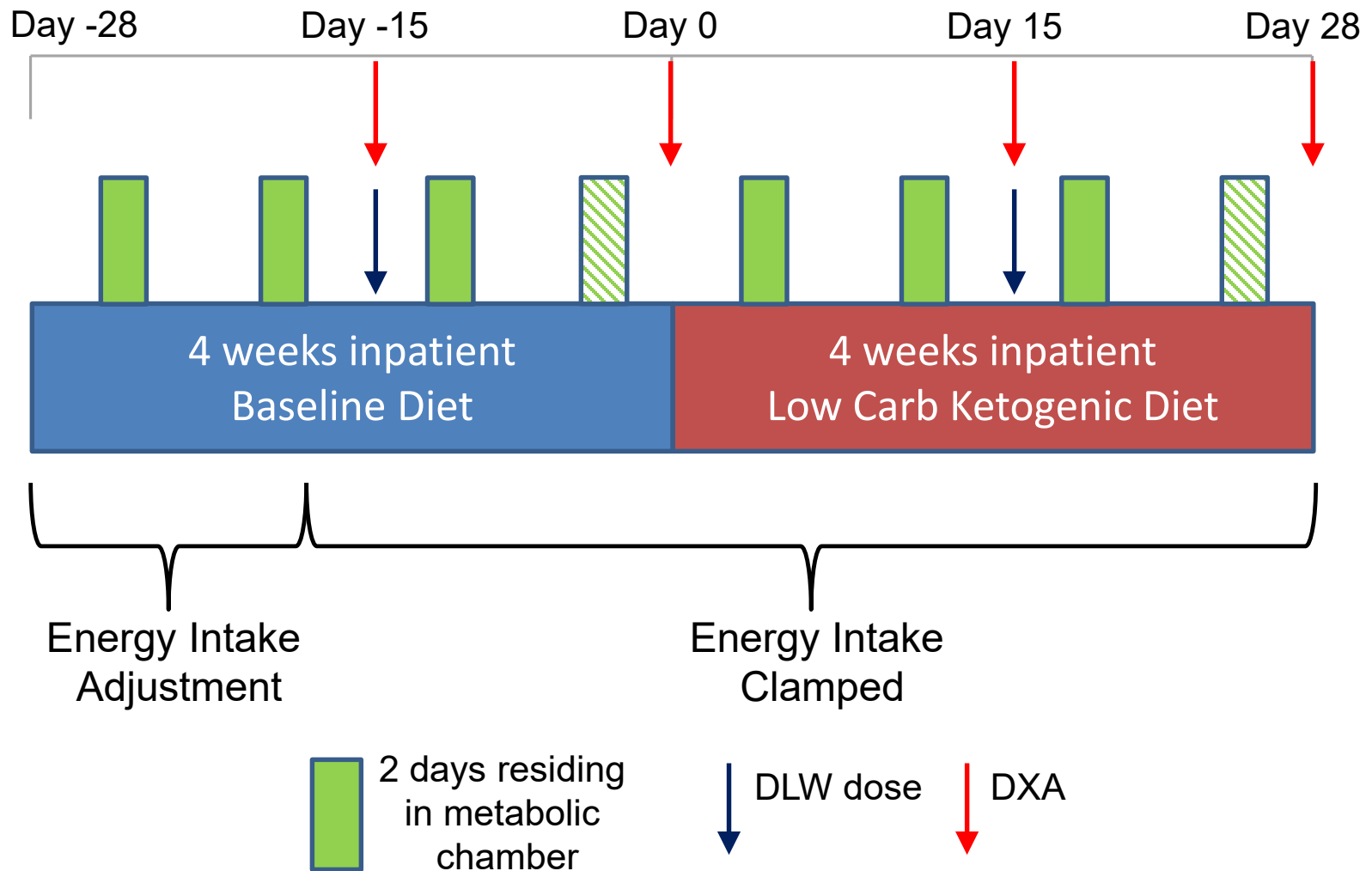
Mark Hyman, MD  
*Eat Fat, Get Thin* (2016)

# Hypothetical Extended Duration Study

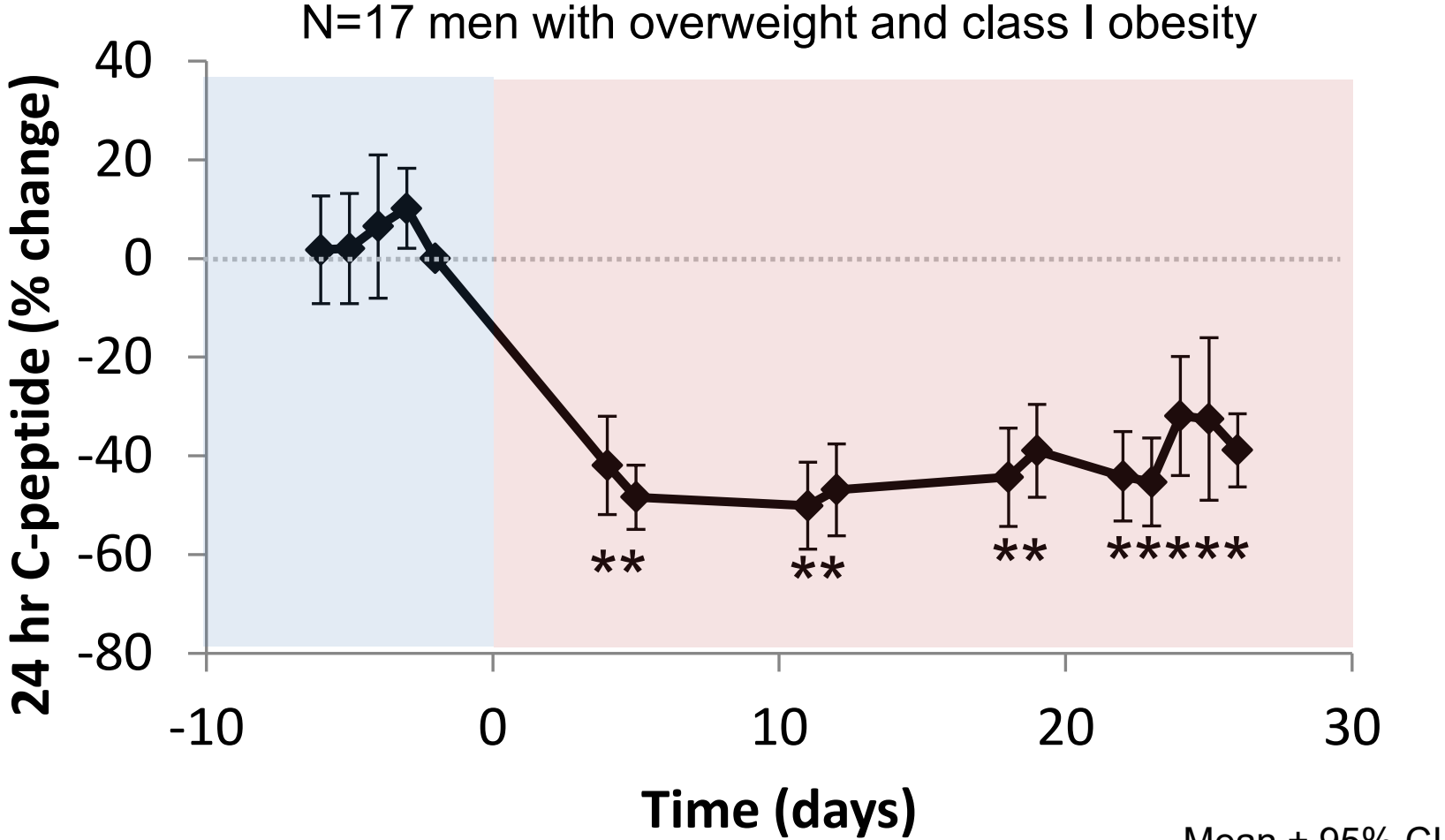




# 2 Month Isocaloric Ketogenic Diet Study



# Rapid & Persistent Decrease in Insulin Secretion



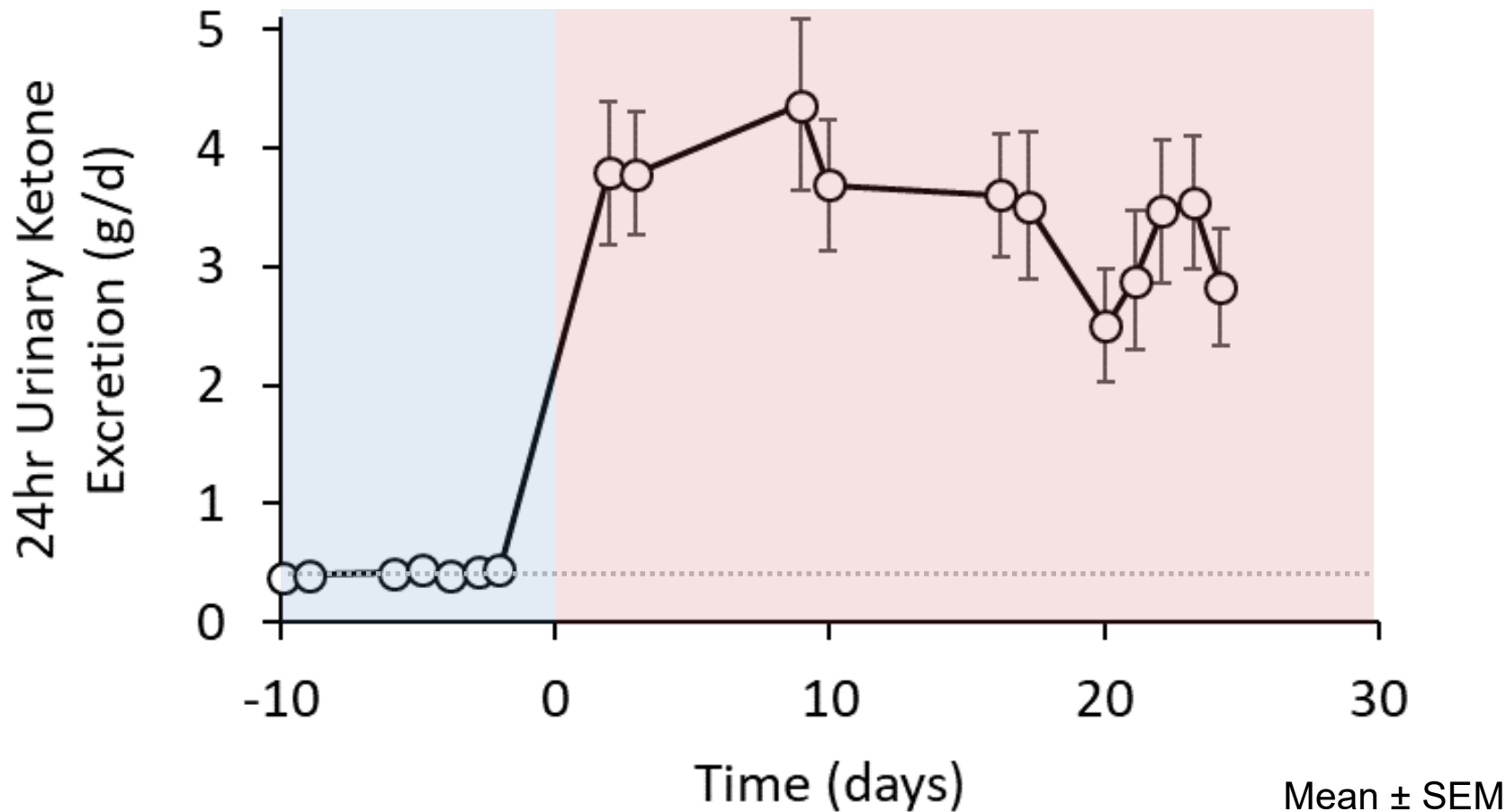
Mean ± 95% CI

\* p<0.0033

KD Hall et al. *AJCN* 104:324–33 (2016).

# Rapid & Persistent Increase in Ketosis

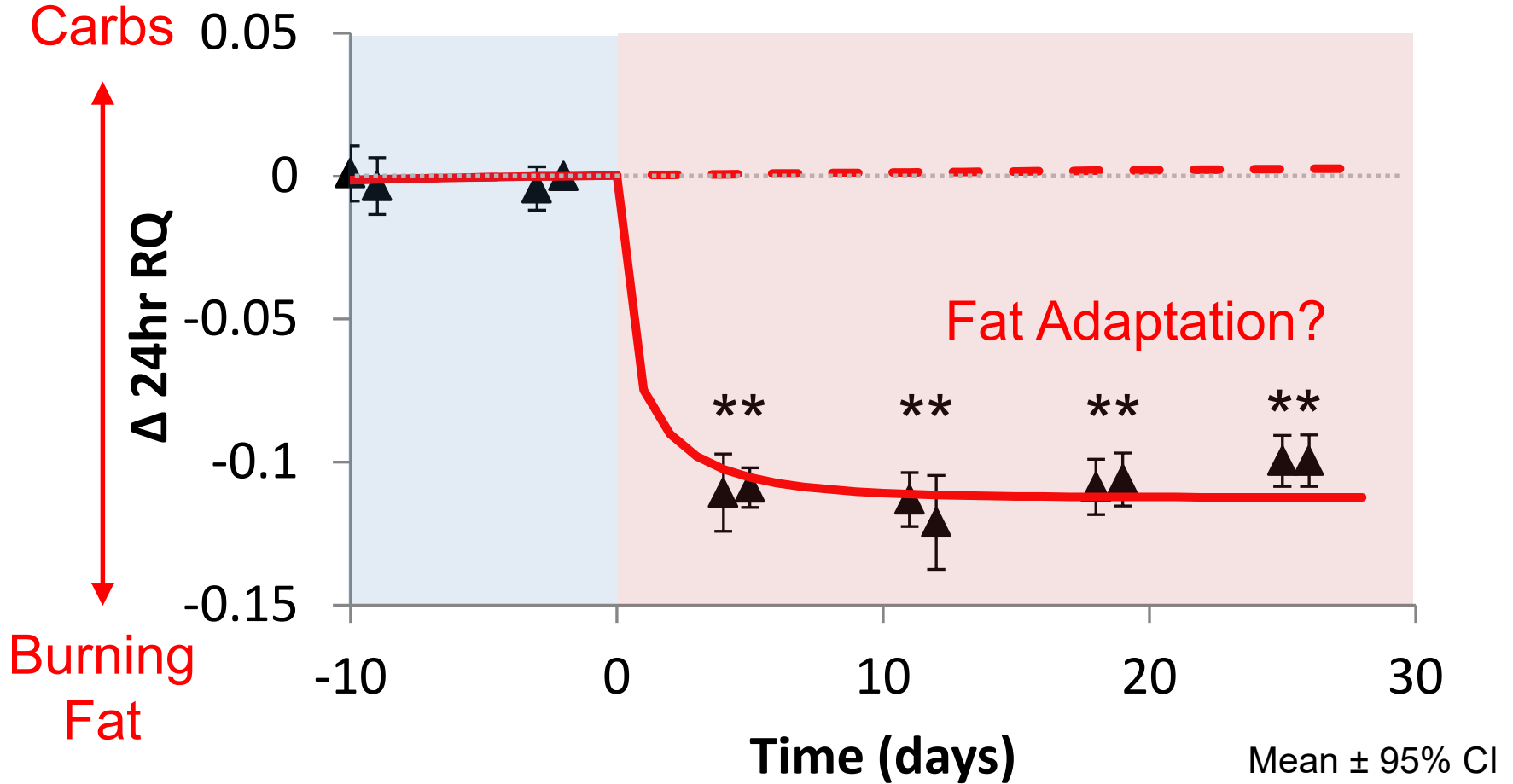
N=17 men with overweight and class I obesity



# Rapid & Persistent Shift to Fat Oxidation

Burning  
Carbs

N=17 men with overweight and class I obesity

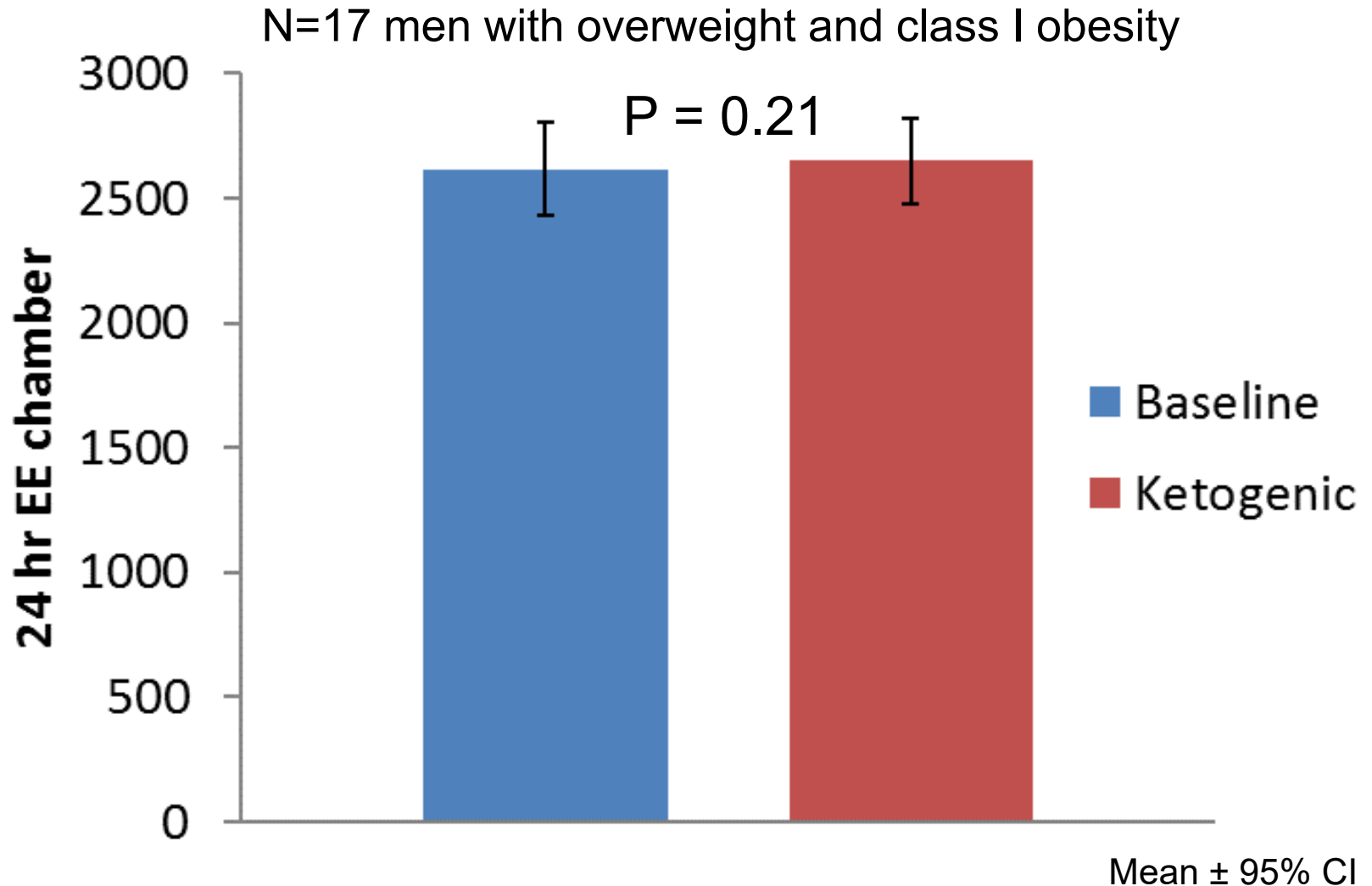


Burning  
Fat

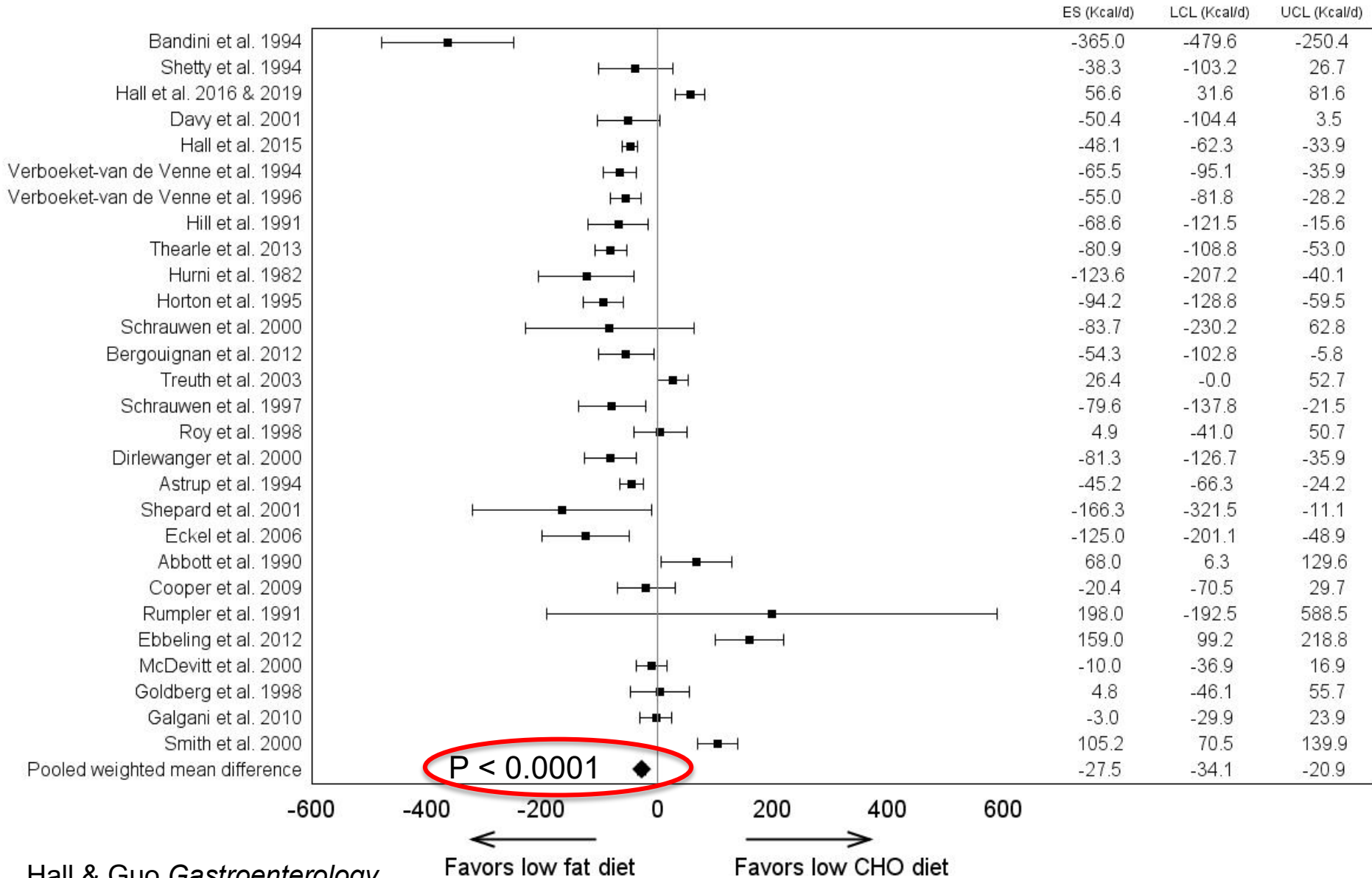
KD Hall et al. *AJCN* 104:324–33 (2016).

\*  
p<0.0045

# No Significant Effect on Daily Expenditure



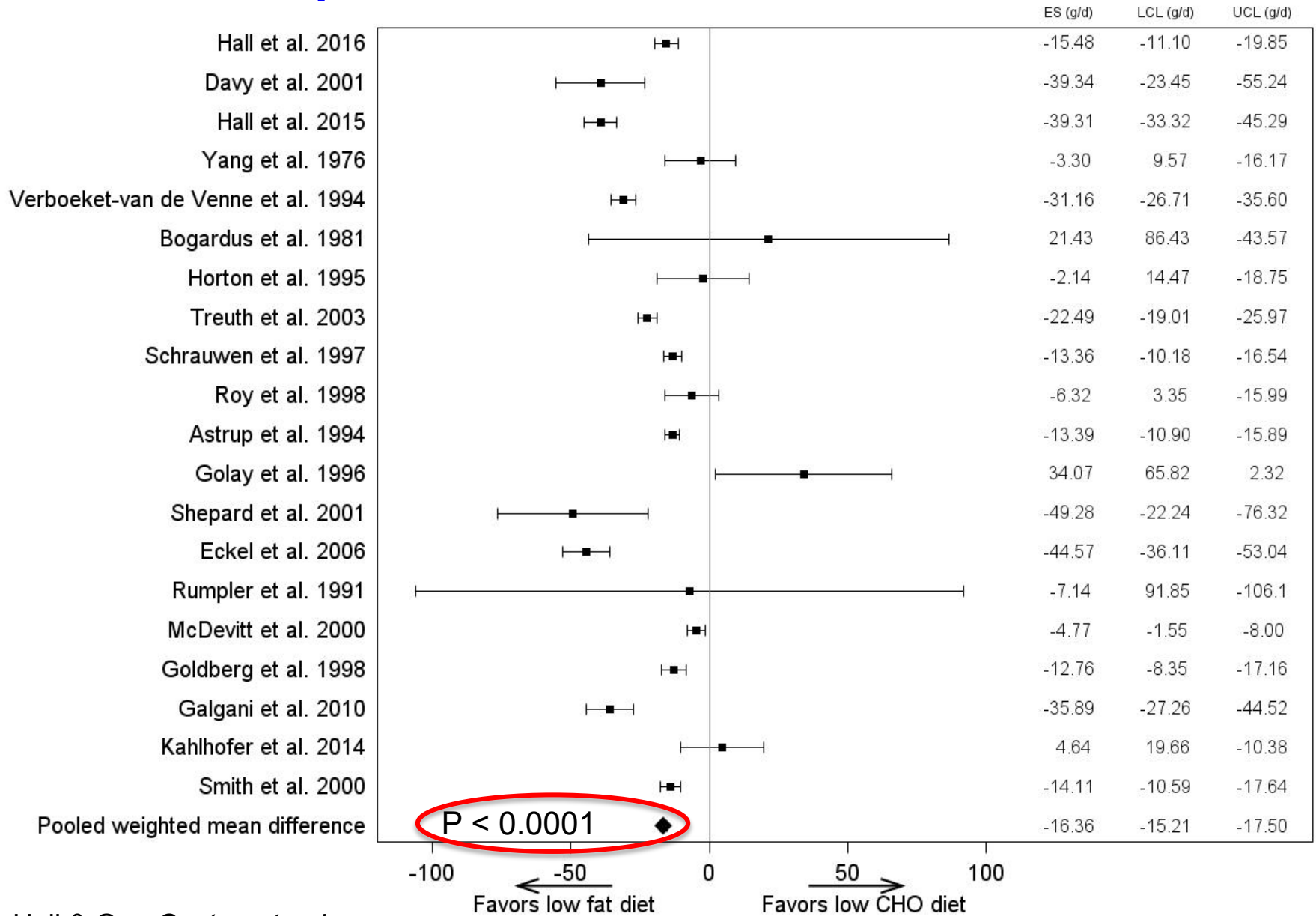
# Energy Expenditure: Isocaloric Carb vs. Fat



Hall & Guo *Gastroenterology*  
152:1718–27 (2017)

Weighted Mean Difference in Energy Expenditure (kcal/d)

# Body Fat: Isocaloric Carb vs. Fat



# Can We Transcend the Diet Wars?

Low Carb

Low Fat







# Diet Quality & “Nutritionism”

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

## IN DEFENSE OF FOOD

AN EATER'S MANIFESTO



MICHAEL POLLAN

AUTHOR OF THE OMNIVORE'S DILEMMA  
AND COOKED

In the case of nutritionism, the widely shared but unexamined assumption is that the key to understanding food is indeed the nutrient. Put another way: Foods are essentially the sum of their nutrient parts.



# Diet Quality & Ultra-processed Food

#1 New York Times bestseller

**MICHAEL  
MOSS**

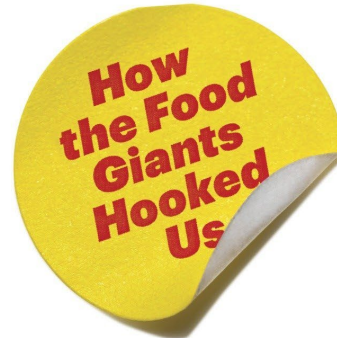
"A **Fast Food Nation** for the processed food industry."

—**MICHAEL POLLAN**

**SALT**

**SUGAR**

**fat**



*Unprocessed or minimally processed foods include fresh, dried, or frozen vegetables, grains, legumes, fruits, meats, fish, eggs, and milk. They are the basis of healthy dishes and meals.*

*Ultra-processed foods include fast food, sugary drinks, snacks, chips, candies, cookies, sweetened milk products, sweetened cereals, and sauce and dressings. They are nutritionally poor.*





# Ultra-processed vs Unprocessed Diets

Ultra-processed Diet



Unprocessed Diet



The meals had similar amounts of:

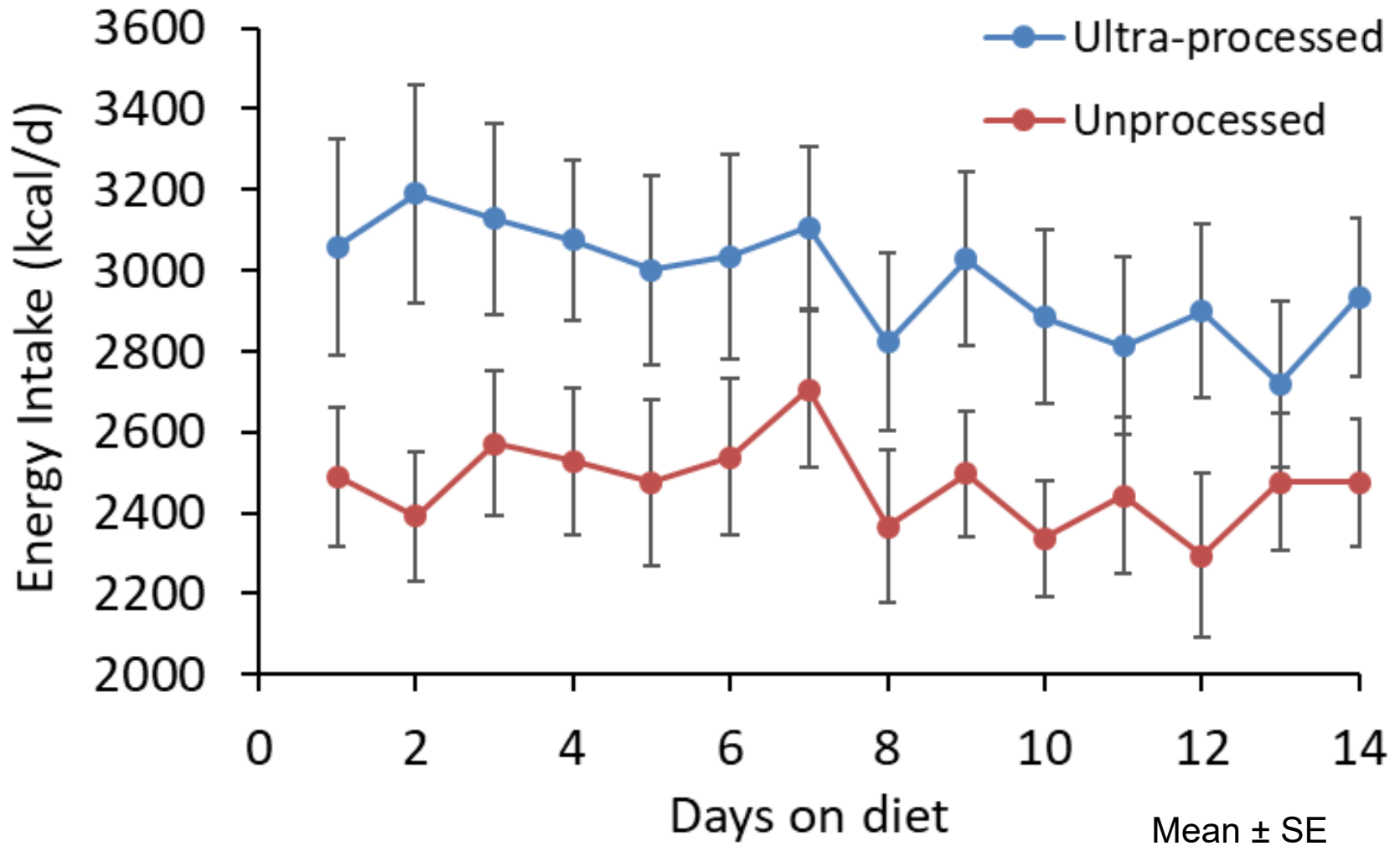
Calories, Carbs, Fat, Protein, Sugar, Sodium, Fiber

20 Adults were instructed to eat as much or as little as desired

Primary Outcome: Energy Intake Differences

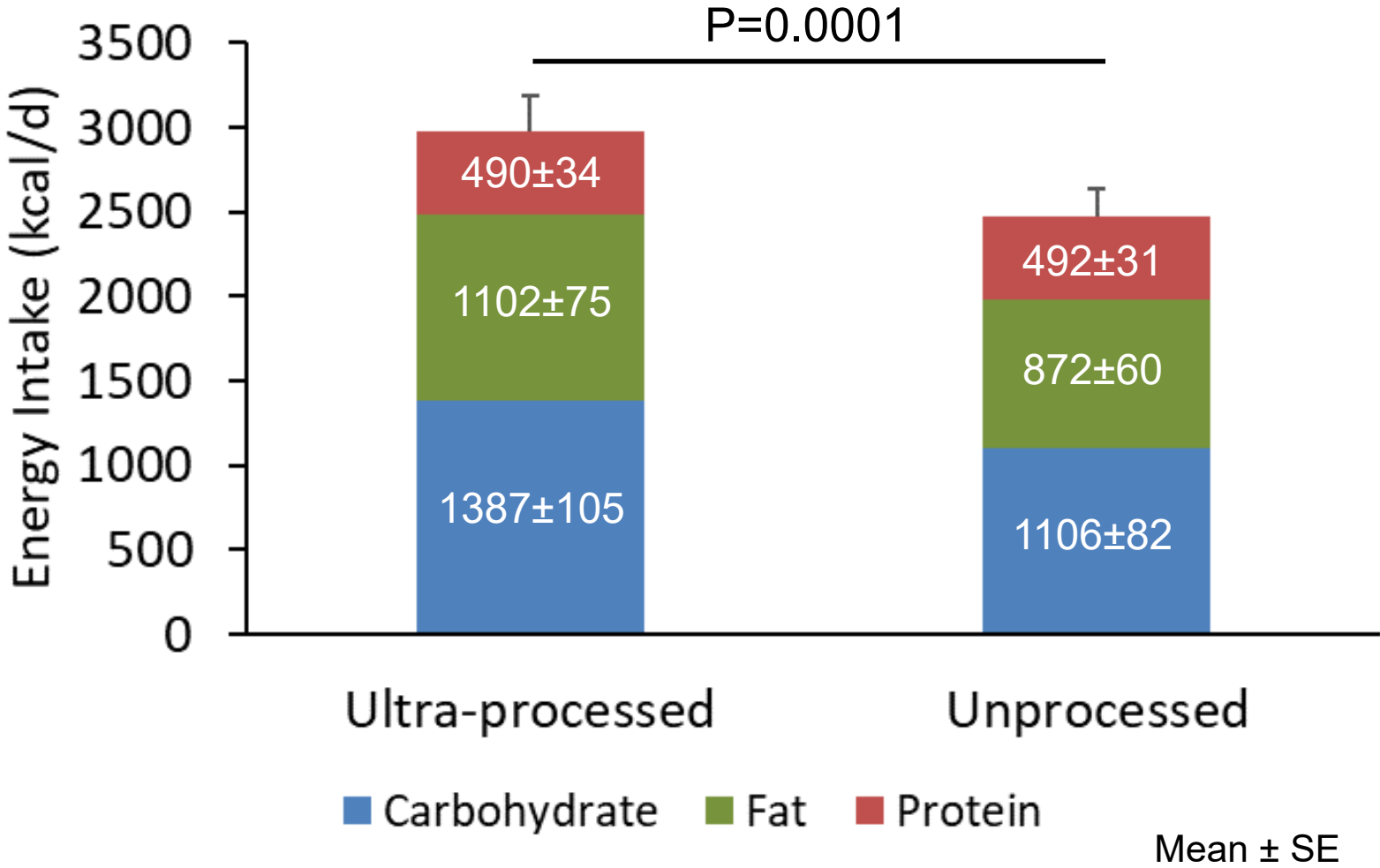
KD Hall et al. *Cell Metabolism* 30:1-11 (2019).

# Ultra-processed Diets Cause Increased Intake



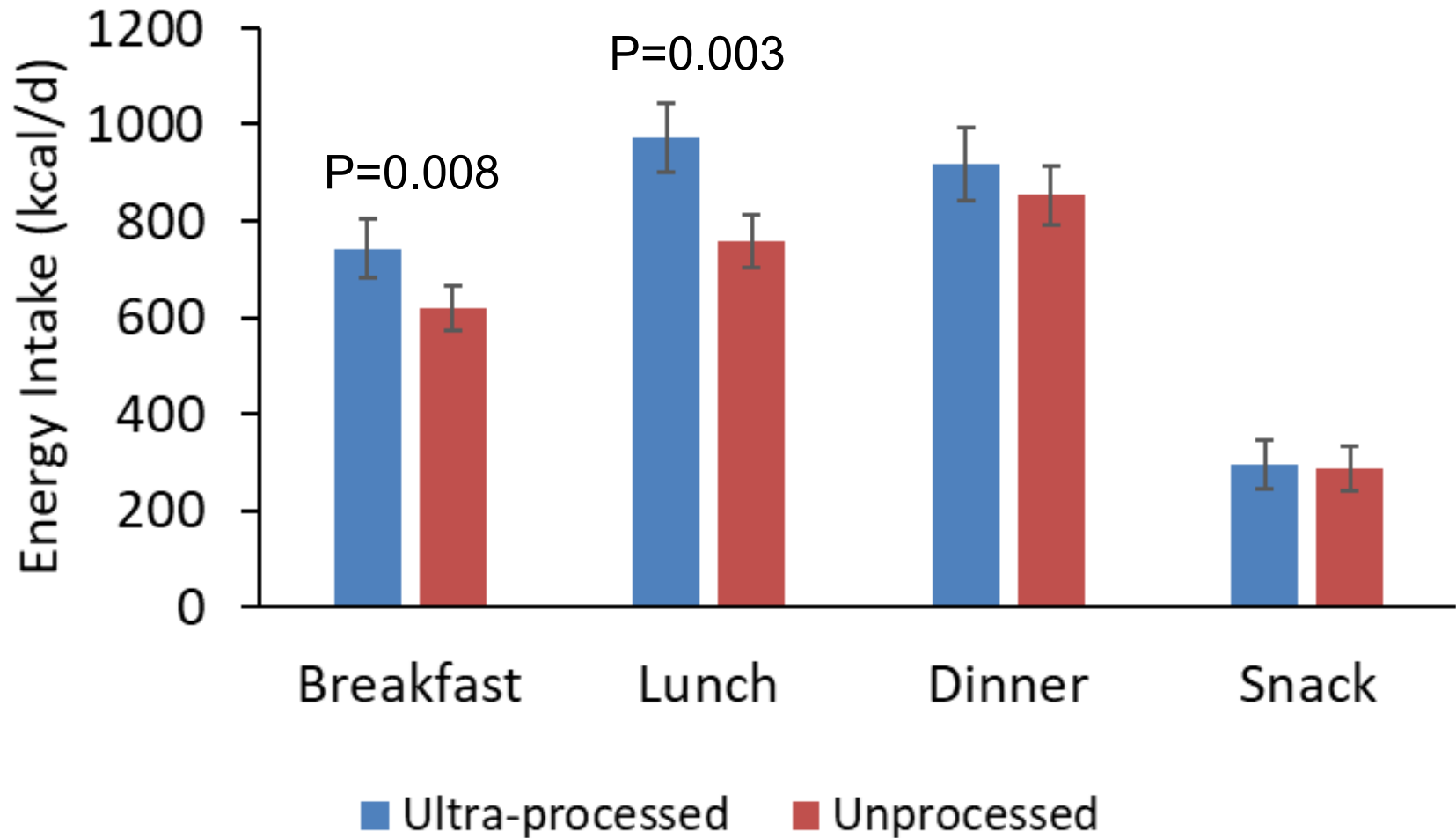
KD Hall et al. *Cell Metabolism* 30:1-11 (2019).

# More Carbs & Fat with Ultra-processed Diets



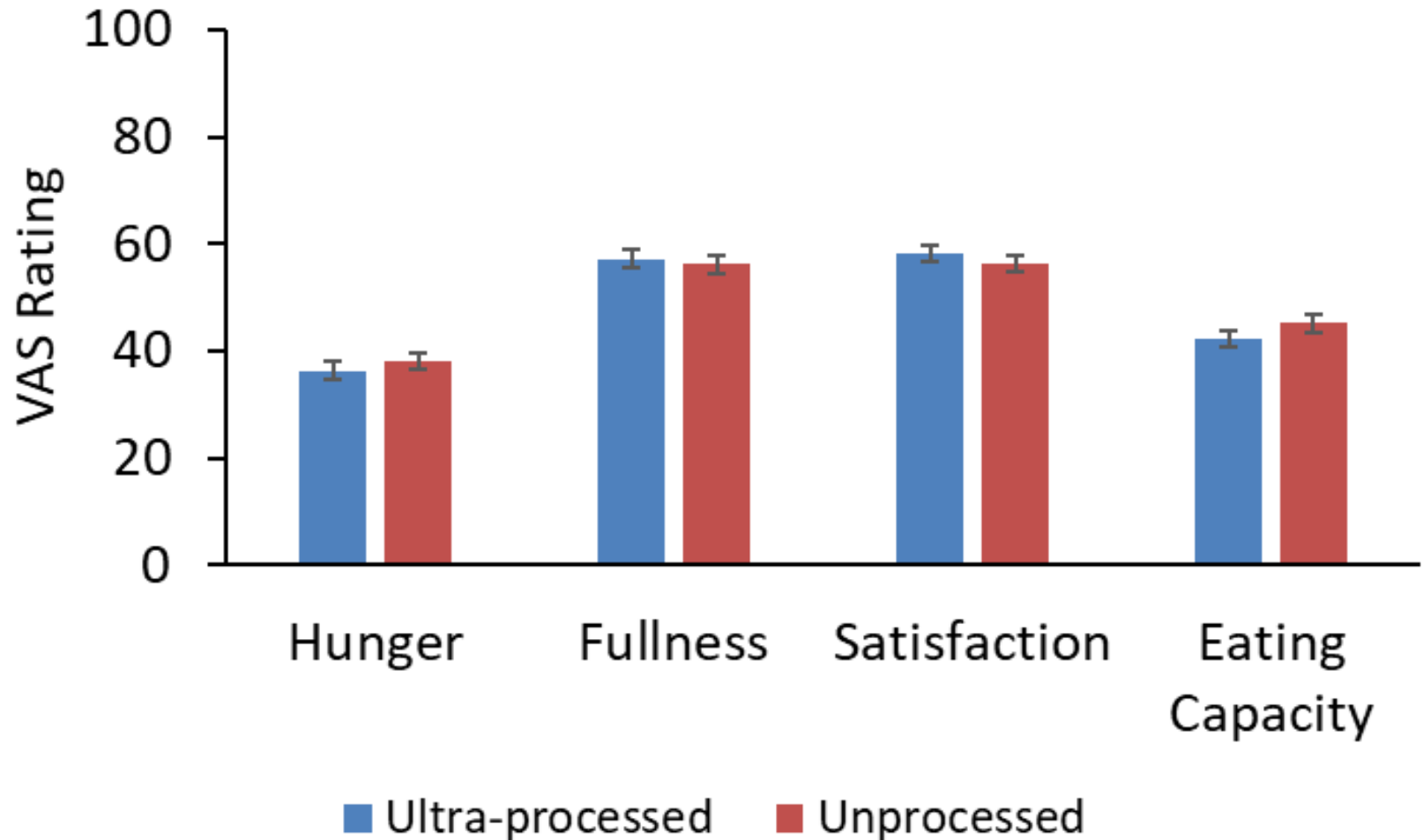
KD Hall et al. *Cell Metabolism* 30:1-11 (2019).

# Larger Meals with Ultra-processed Diets



KD Hall et al. *Cell Metabolism* 30:1-11 (2019).

# No Differences in Self-Reported Appetite

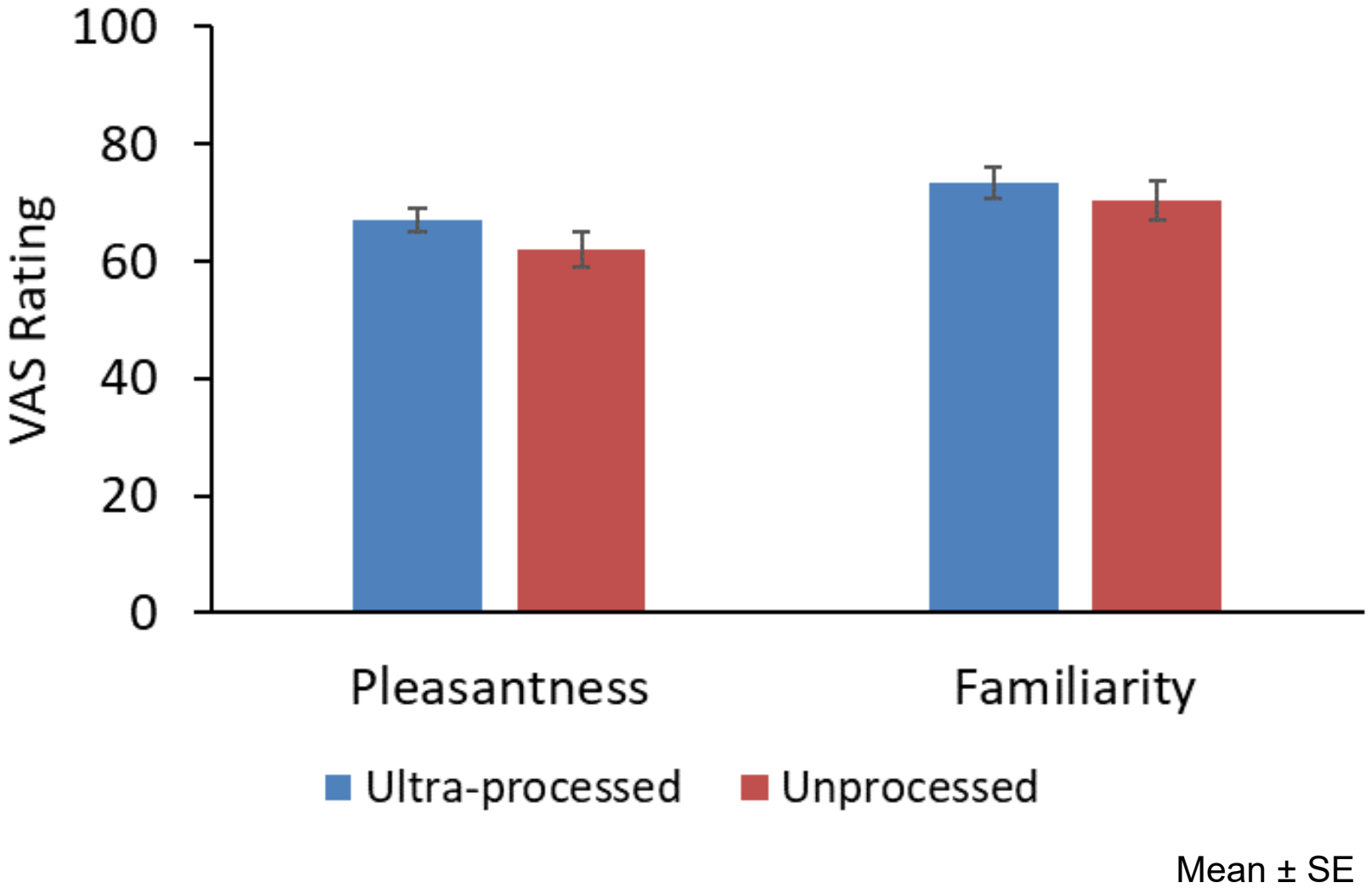


Mean ± SE

KD Hall et al. *Cell Metabolism* 30:1-11 (2019).

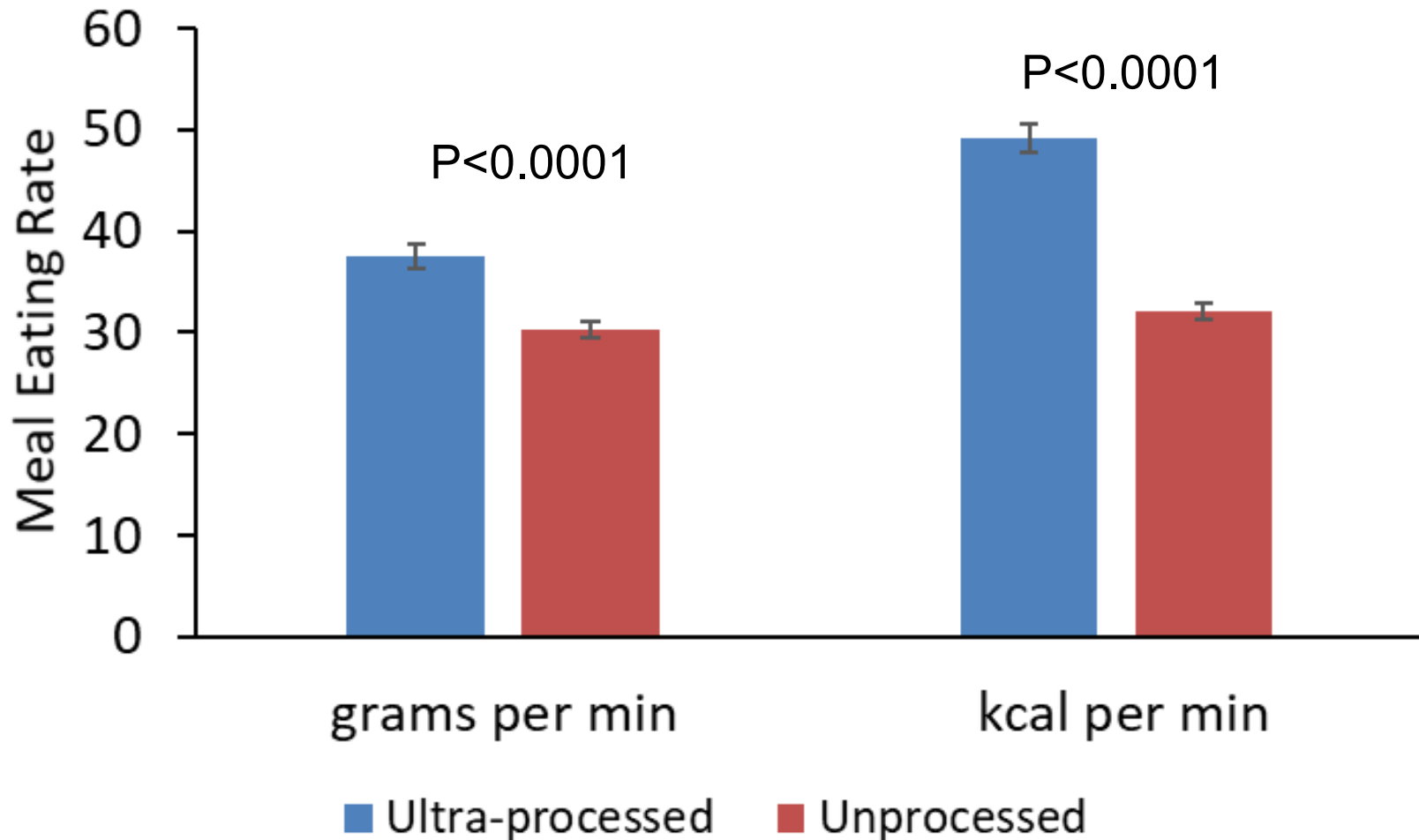


# No Differences in Pleasantness or Familiarity



KD Hall et al. *Cell Metabolism* 30:1-11 (2019).

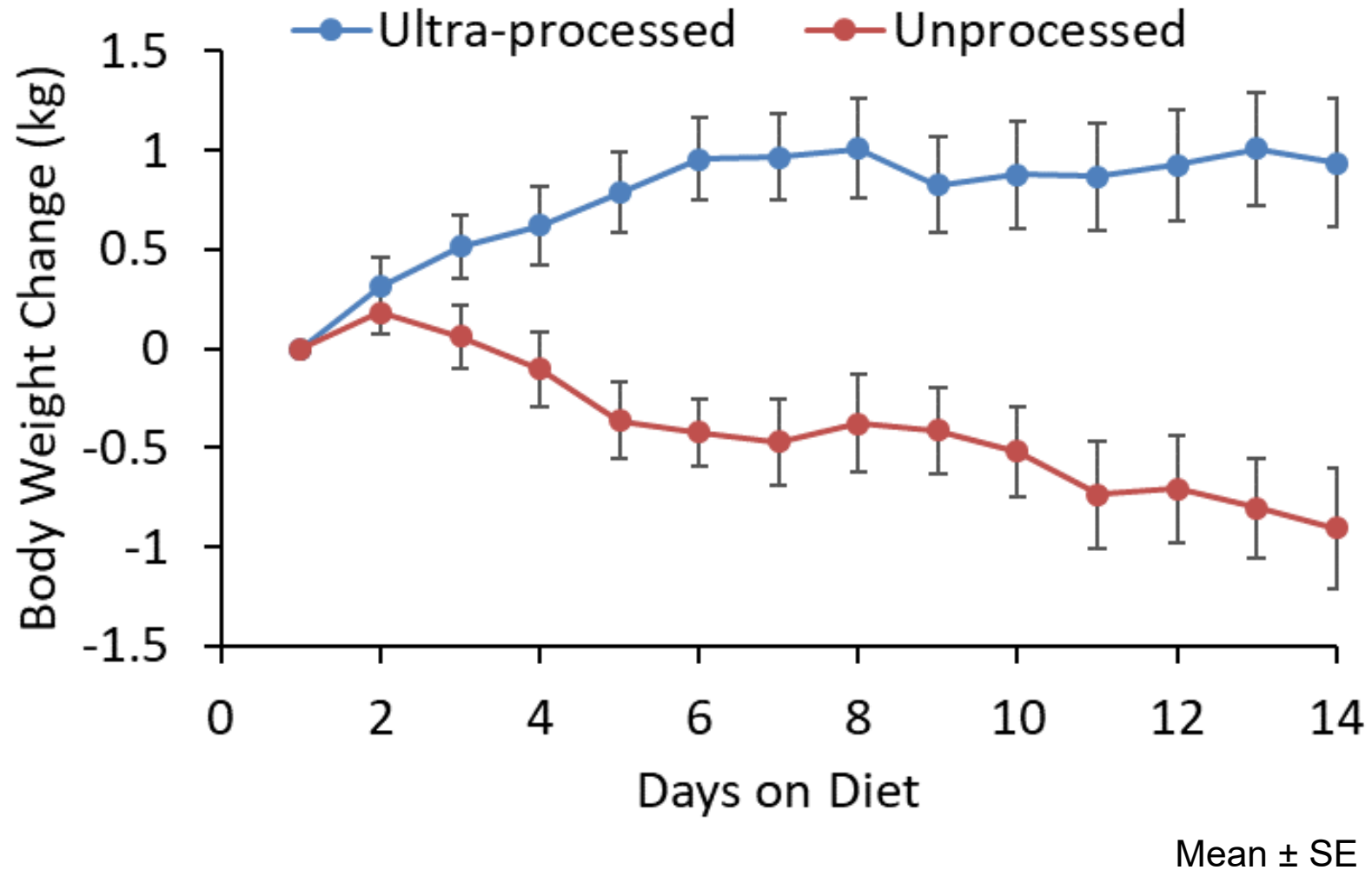
# Faster Eating Rate for Ultra-processed Meals



Mean ± SE

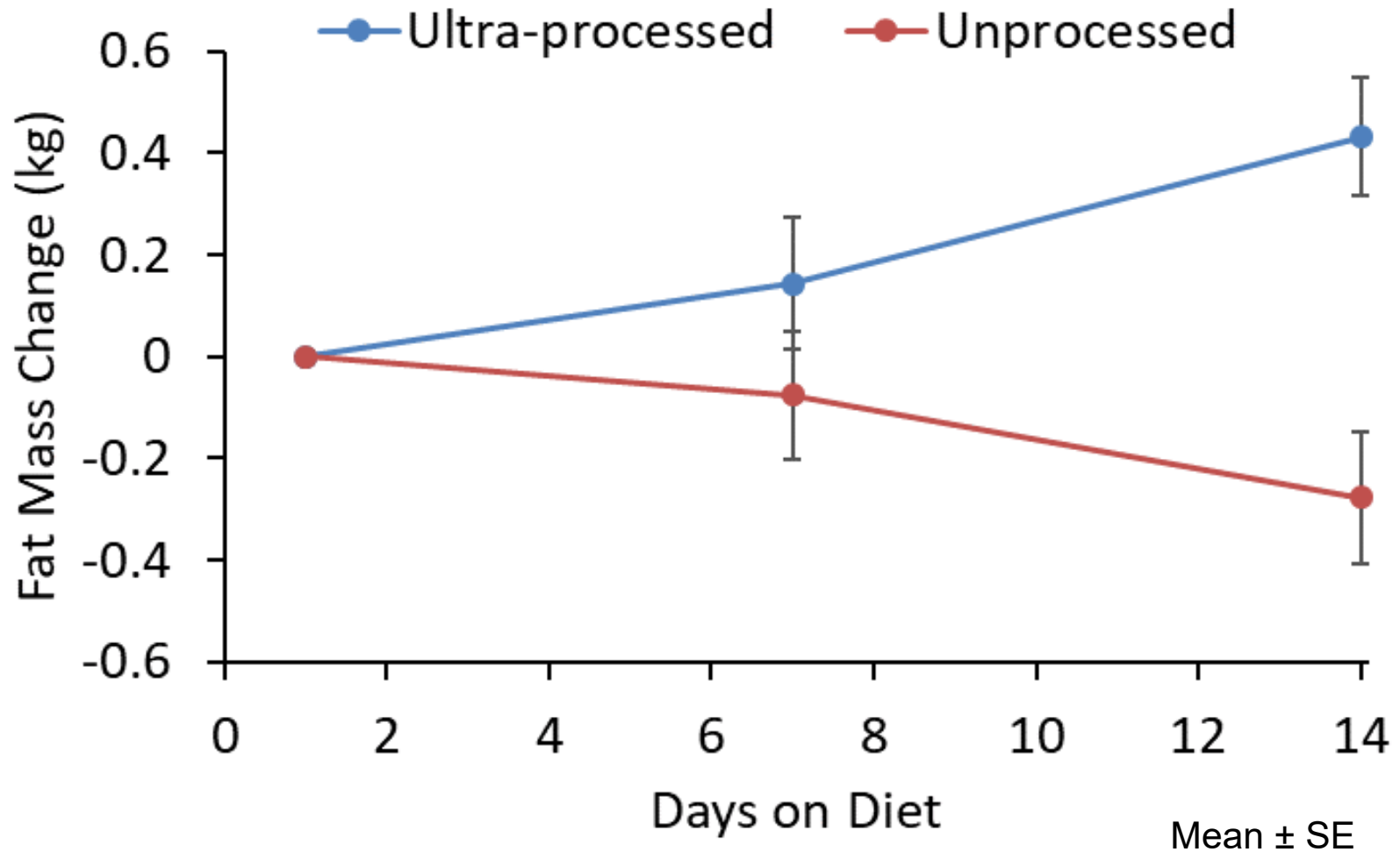
KD Hall et al. *Cell Metabolism* 30:1-11 (2019).

# Ultra-processed Diets Cause Weight Gain



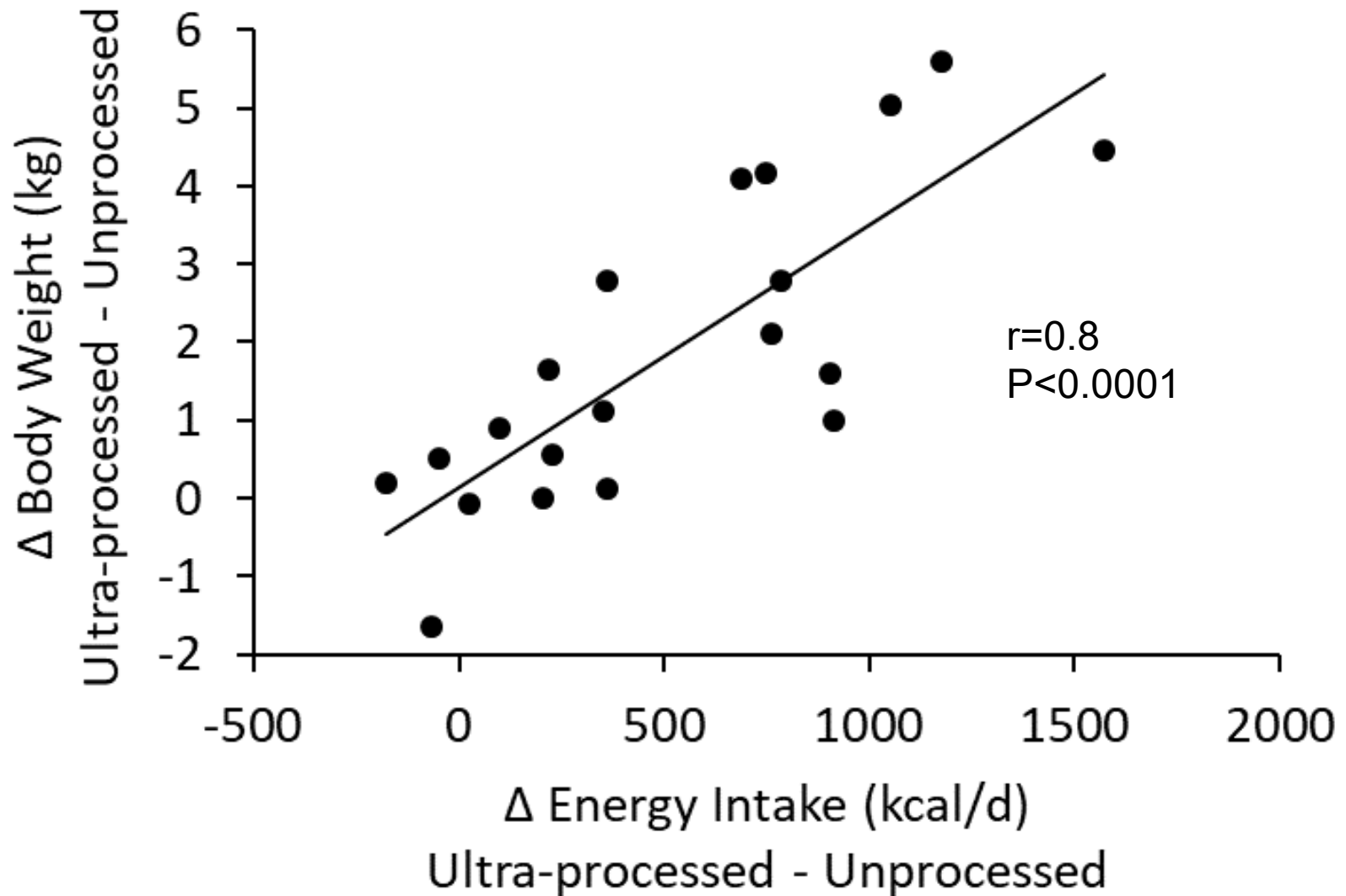
KD Hall et al. *Cell Metabolism* 30:1-11 (2019).

# Ultra-processed Diets Cause Fat Gain



KD Hall et al. *Cell Metabolism* 30:1-11 (2019).

# Substantial Individual Variability



KD Hall et al. *Cell Metabolism* 30:1-11 (2019).

# Mechanisms?



## Intramural NIH

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[Carla Prado](#)  
[Emma Preuschl](#)  
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[Irene Rozga](#)  
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Peter Walter  
[Laura Yannai](#)  
[Megan Zhou](#)

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Laurel Mayer (Columbia)  
Eric Ravussin (PBRC)  
Jennifer Rood (PBRC)  
Michael Rosenbaum (Columbia)  
Steven R. Smith (TRI)  
Jon Moon (MEI)  
B. Tim Walsh (Columbia)

one program  
many people  
infinite possibilities

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[irp.nih.gov](http://irp.nih.gov)

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**Intramural**  
**Research**  
**Program**

*Our Research Changes Lives*

## Special Thanks

Nursing Staff at the NIH MCRU  
Metabolic Kitchen Staff  
Volunteer Study Subjects  
Nutrition Science Initiative