



Clinical and Translational Research Grand Rounds: “Friends among Foes: The Very Long-Chain Saturated Fatty Acids”

Speaker: Rozenn N Lemaitre, PhD, MPH

Dr. Lemaitre is a Research Professor of Medicine at the Cardiovascular Health Research Unit, University of Washington. With expertise in epidemiology and biochemistry, she has spent decades leading innovative and highly collaborative research, funded by NIH, that intersects nutrition, genetics, and lipidomics with cardiovascular health and diabetes. Through leadership of several large research consortia and multidisciplinary projects, she has brought together teams of basic, clinical, and population health investigators. Their collective efforts have applied cutting edge methods to study fatty acids and fatty acids derivatives in the context of human health and disease. With her colleagues, she has measured individual sphingolipid species with different saturated fatty acids in several NHLBI-supported cohort studies. This research has revealed pronounced differences between sphingomyelins with different saturated fatty acids and the risks of incident heart failure, atrial fibrillation and total mortality, often with parallel findings for circulating ceramides.

Her presentation will focus on evidence that contrasts beneficial effects of circulating very long-chain saturated fatty acids on cardiometabolic health with those of the most prevalent, archetypal “bad guy” fatty acid: palmitic acid; and how these surprising findings opened the way to new understanding of ceramide and sphingomyelin biology that have direct and translatable implications for cardiometabolic health and disease.

Friday, November 3rd, 2023

Presentation: 12 NOON – 1 PM EST

Live Stream Link: <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/527229623>

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