

Plant & Food  
**RESEARCH**

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The New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Limited



## **Fruit Phytochemicals to Aid Exercise Recovery - A Platform of Research on New Zealand Blackcurrants**

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Food Innovation

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USA  
 Davis,  
 California

AUSTRALIA  
 Avoca Beach,  
 New South Wales  
 Bowna via Albury,  
 New South Wales

NEW ZEALAND

- Kerikeri
- Auckland
- Pukekohe
- Te Puke
- Ruakura
- Hawke's Bay
- Palmerston North
  
- Motueka
- Nelson
- Marlborough
- Lincoln
- Clyde
- Dunedin
- Gore

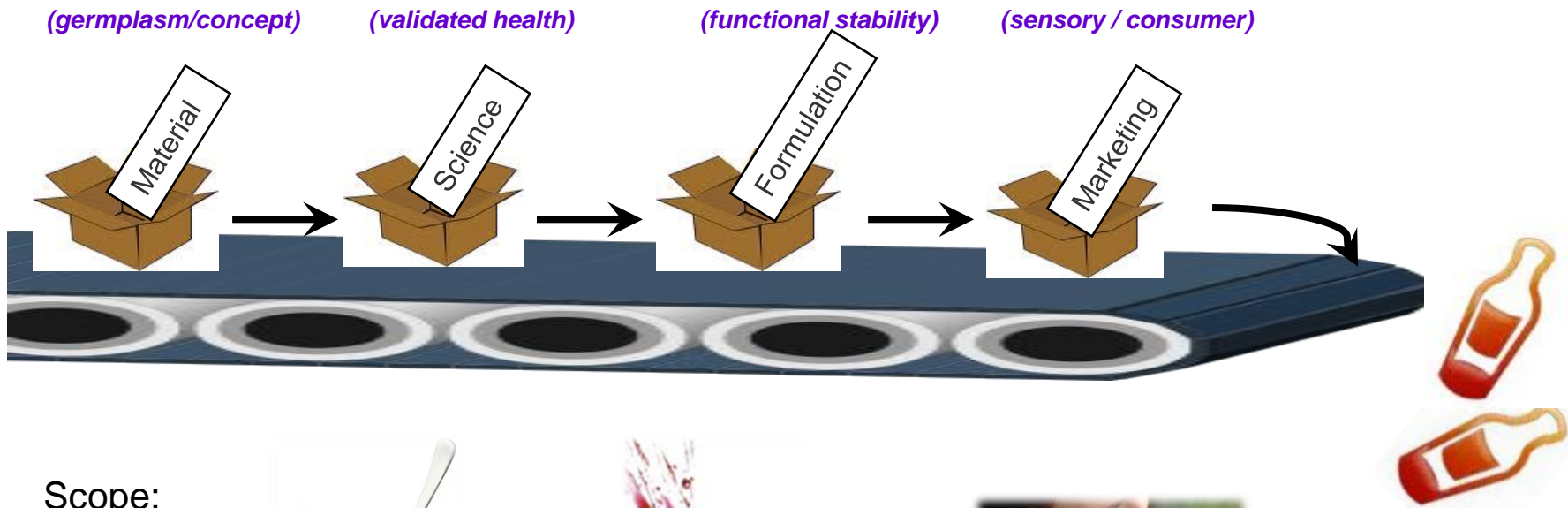


900 staff  
 600 scientists

- From Germplasm to Concept
- From Concept to Validation



Creation of concepts/prototypes based on our underpinning science



Scope:



Whole fruit (new cultivars)



Ingredients



Validated concept products

# Targeted Health Areas

Science discovering the goodness in fruits, vegetables and natives



- » Physical Fitness / Performance / Recovery / Energy and Enhanced Training from Exercise
- » Mental Health / Mood / Psychological Stress & Cognitive Performance
- » Inflammation – Gut, Airway, Skin

Aim: To understand the bioactivity of fruit & vegetable phytochemicals to produce fresh and processed functional foods with a proven health efficacy

Medium-High Health/Functional  
'Supportive' Evidence



# Approach



- **Chemical / compositional analysis**
- ***in vitro* model development for bioactive screening & discovery of mechanisms**
- **Animal feeding trials or *ex vivo* (tissue) analysis**
- **Human intervention trials (bioavailability/functionality)**

**Cultivar composition**



**Cellular Screening**



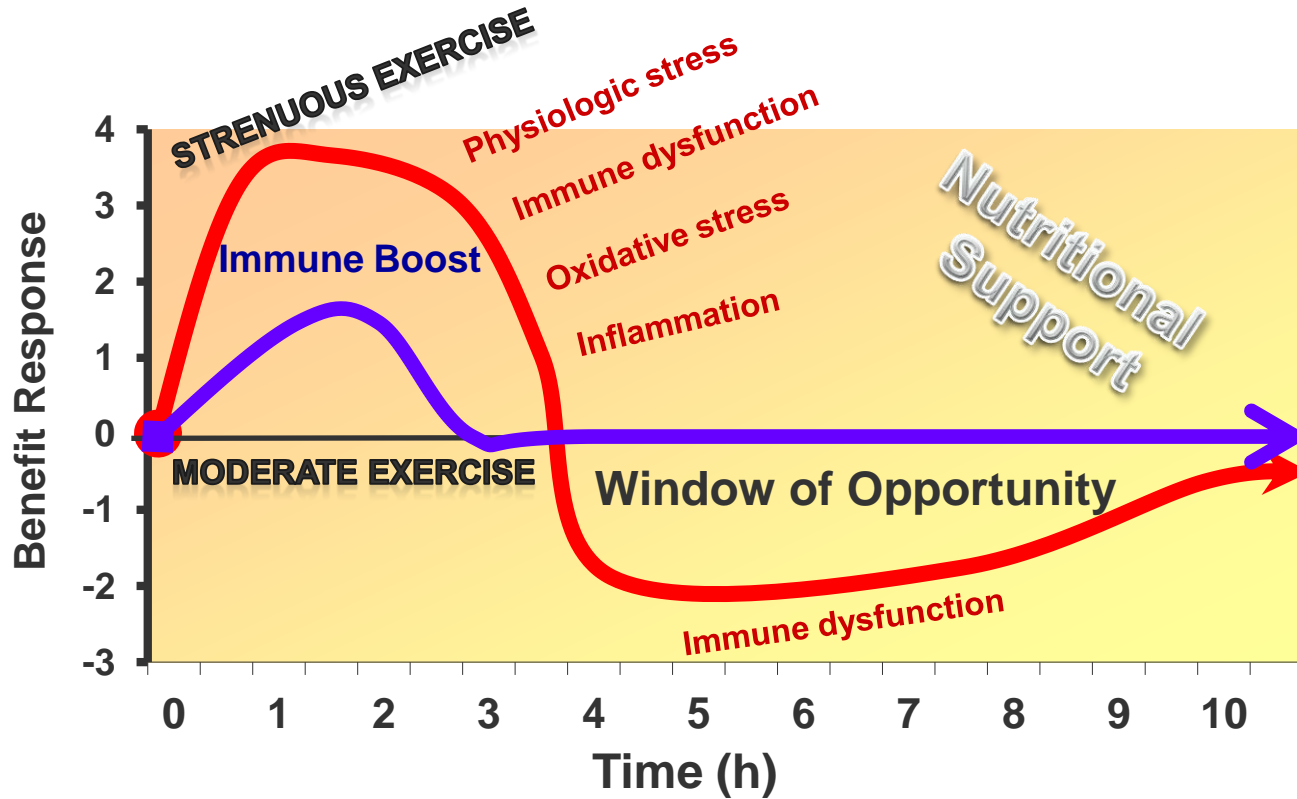
**Animal/Ex vivo feeding trials**



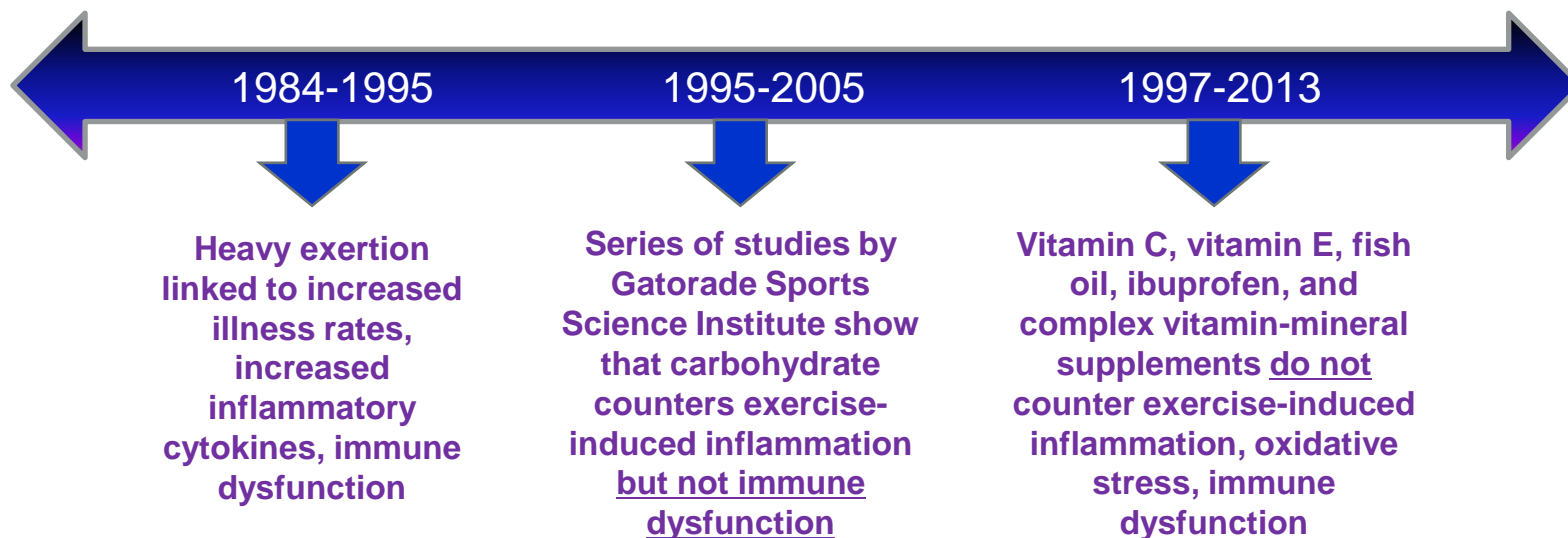
**Human Feeding Trials**



# Exercise Workout and Benefit - Relationship



# Nutritional Support for Exercise – the Evidence



## Vitamins ‘undo exercise efforts’

*Taking vitamins after exercise may undo some of the beneficial effects of the workout, research suggests. Some advocate taking antioxidants like vitamin C and E to help protect the body from harmful chemical by-products it creates in breaking into a sweat*



| NUTRITION SUPPLEMENT   | RATIONALE  | RECOMMENDATION BASED ON CURRENT EVIDENCE  |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Carbohydrate</b>  | Maintains blood glucose during exercise, lowers release of stress hormones; counters negative immune changes post-exercise   | <u>Recommended</u> ; up to 60 g per hour of heavy exertion  |
| <b>Fruit &amp; vegetable extracts rich in polyphenols &amp; flavonoids</b> | Act by modulating exercise induced inflammation; also decreases oxidative stress.  | <u>Recommended</u> , but most research focused on oxidative stress                                |
| <b>Quercetin</b>   | Strong anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidative, and anti-pathogenic effects; increase in mitochondrial biogenesis and performance. | <u>Recommended</u> when mixed with other flavonoids and nutrients                                 |
| <b>Bovine colostrums</b>   | Mix of immune, growth, and hormonal factors improve immune function and lower illness risk                                   | <u>Mixed results</u> , and more data needed   |
| <b>Probiotics</b>  | Improve intestinal microbial flora, and thereby enhance gut and systemic immune function                                     | <u>Mixed results</u> , and more data needed   |
| <b>β-glucan</b>  | Receptors found on intestinal wall immune cells interact with β-glucan improving innate immunity.                            | <u>Mixed results</u> : mushroom β-glucan may be effective, but more data needed                   |
| <b>Vitamin E</b>   | Quenches exercise-induced reactive oxygen species (ROS) and augments immunity  | <u>Not recommended</u> ; may be pro-oxidative and pro-inflammatory                                |
| <b>Vitamin C</b>   | Quenches ROS and augments immunity   | <u>Not recommended</u> ; not consistently different from placebo                                  |
| <b>Multiple vitamins and minerals</b>                                      | Work together to quench ROS and reduce inflammation  | <u>Not recommended</u> ; not different from placebo; balanced diet is sufficient                  |
| <b>Glutamine</b>   | Important immune cell energy substrate that is lowered with prolonged exercise   | <u>Not recommended</u> ; body stores exceed exercise-lowering effects                             |
| <b>N-3 PUFAs (fish oil)</b>  | Exerts anti-inflammatory and immune-regulatory effects post-exercise   | <u>Not recommended</u> ; no different from placebo  |
| <b>Herbal supplements (e.g., Ginseng, Echinacea)</b>                       | Contain bioactive molecules that augment immunity and counter infection  | <u>Not recommended</u> ; humans studies do not show consistent support within an athletic context |



# What can Berries Offer?



Current sports nutrition products focus on 'hydration', 'rehydration' and 'energy supply'

Berries may assist to promote physical wellbeing:

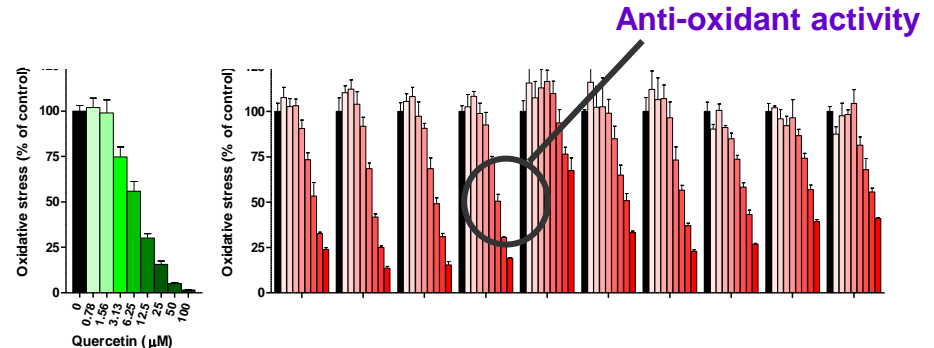
- » Modulating oxidative damage
- » Modulating inflammation
- » Assisting immune function
- » Aiding recovery and performance





## Physical health assays:

- » Direct toxicity to muscle cells
- » Oxidative stress protection
  - protection against ox stress
- » Integrity protection/recovery
  - heat shock protein expression
  - damage & recovery model
- » Oxidative protection
  - mitochondrial function
- » Anti-inflammatory assays
  - IL6 generation (multiple stimulators,
- » Adaptive anti-oxidative measures
  - e.g. SOD, catalase, GSH
- » Etc, etc



- R.D. Hurst, R.W. Wells, S.M. Hurst, T.K. McGhie, J.M. Cooney and D.J. Jensen (2009) Blueberry fruit polyphenolics suppress oxidative stress-induced skeletal muscle cell damage in vitro, *Mol. Nutr. Food Res.* 53, 1-11.
- Skinner, M.A., Hunter, D.C., Denis, M., Parlane, N., Zhang, J., Stevenson, L.M., & Hurst, R.D. (2007) Health benefits of ZESPRI GOLD Kiwifruit: effects on muscle performance, muscle fatigue and immune responses. *Proc. Nutr Soc of NZ*, vol 31, 49-59.
- Schrage, B., Stevenson, D., Wells, R., Lyall, K., Holmes, S., Deng, D., & Hurst, R. (2010) Evaluating the health benefits of fruits for physical fitness: A research platform. *J. Berry Res.* 1, 35-45.

# Human Exercise Models



Rowing

Repeat quadriceps squats

Repeat leg extensions

High intensity training



30 mins, 80% max heart rate

4 sets of 10 repeats  
- to failure -

3 sets of 100 repeats  
Resist arm

All out for 60 sec  
Ramping up repeats  
x3 /week over 4 weeks

*Oxidative Stress*

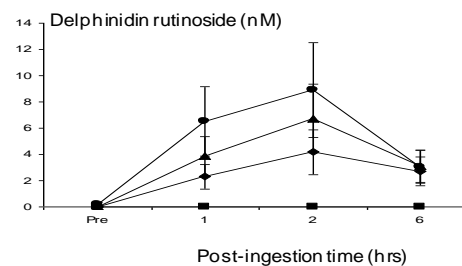
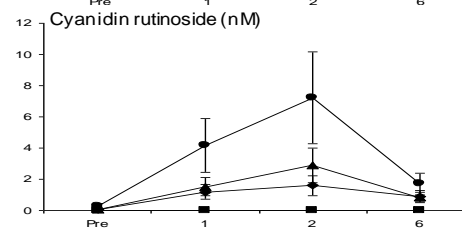
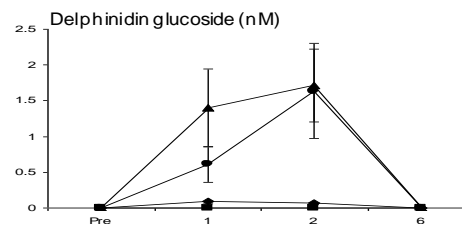
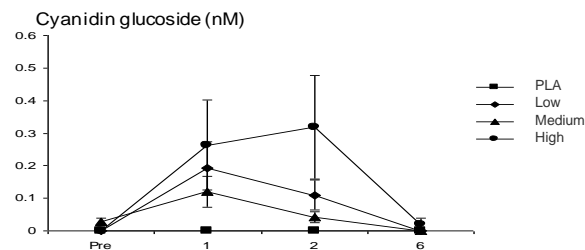
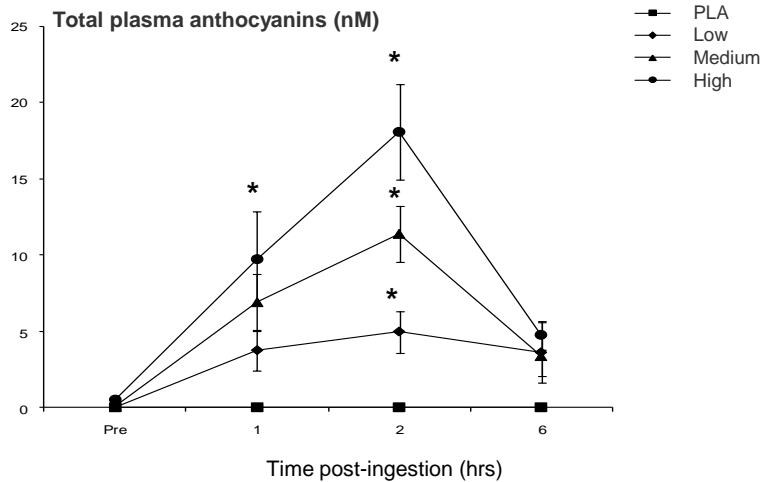
*Muscle damage*

*Muscle damage*

*Fatigue/endurance/training*



# Anthocyanin Bioavailability



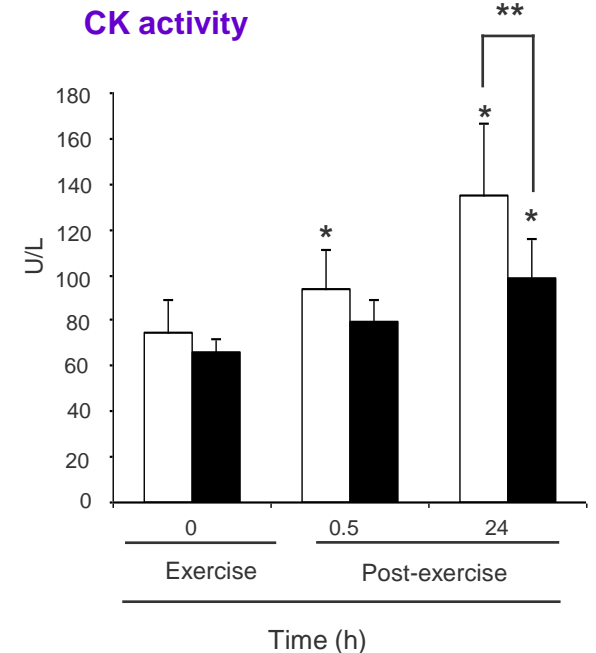
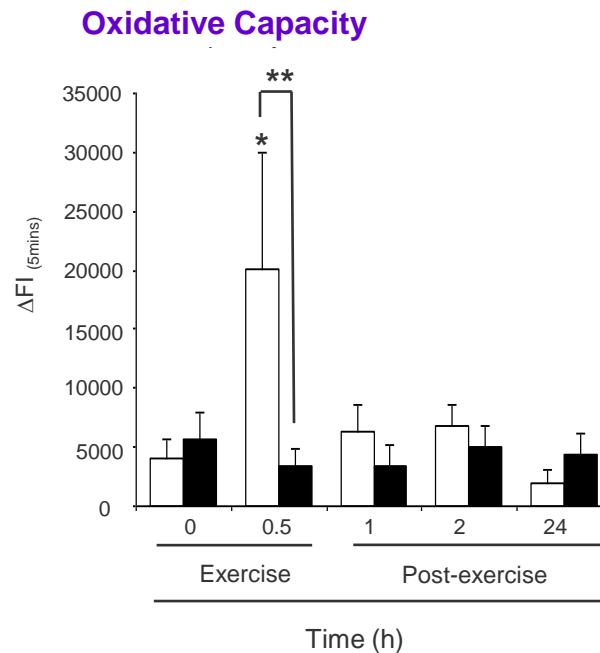
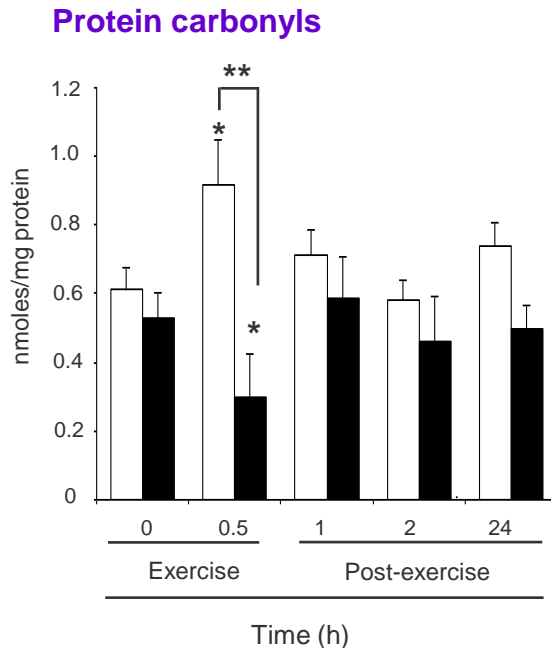
- » Optimum dose determined
- » Peak post consumption determined



# Human exercise – Blackcurrant - Oxidative stress model



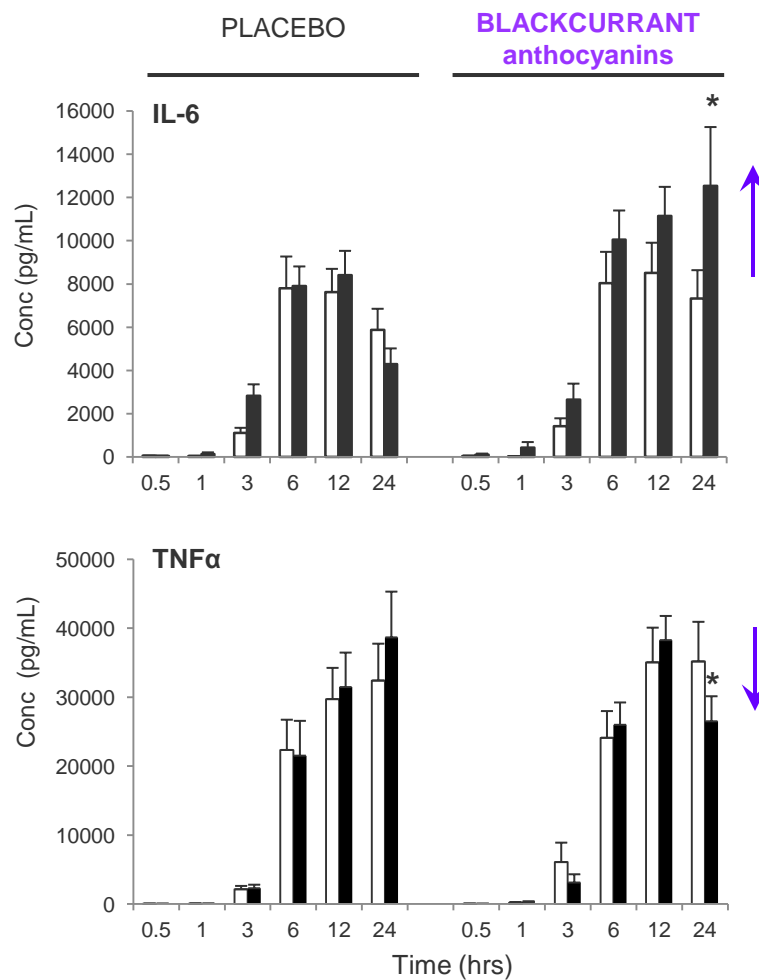
- N=8 volunteers
- Double-blind, cross-over
- 30 min rowing exercise at 80% max ♥ rate
- 240 mg total anthocyanin
- Placebo – sugar control



## Blackcurrant modulated exercise-induced oxidative stress and muscle damage

K.A. Lyall, et al., (2009) Short-term blackcurrant extract consumption modulates exercise-induced oxidative stress and lipopolysaccharide-stimulated inflammatory responses *Am. J. Physiol. Regul. Integr. Comp. Physiol.* 297, R70-81.

# Human exercise – Blackcurrant - Immunity

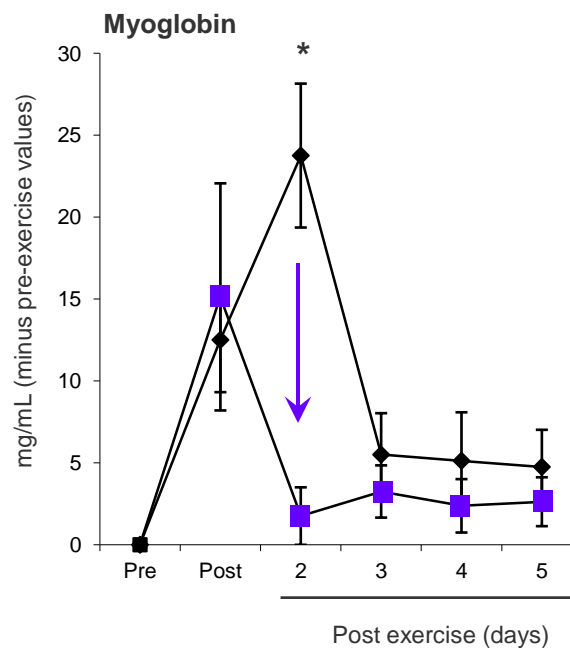
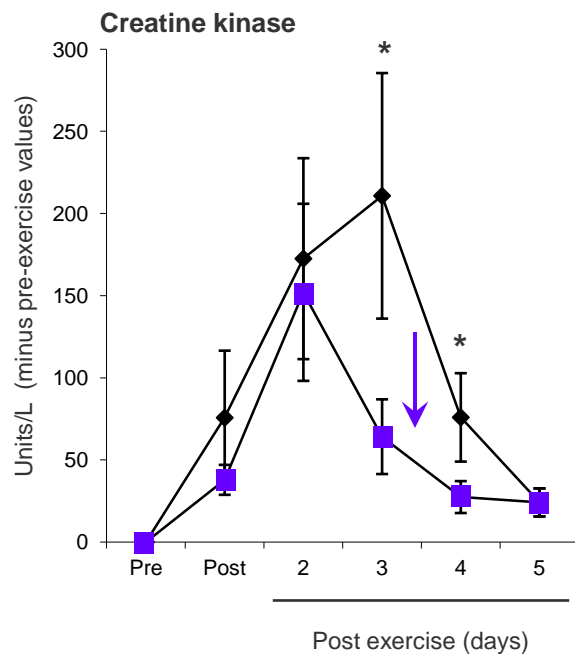


**Blackcurrant assists immunity to aid tissue repair**

S.M. Hurst & R.D. Hurst (2013) Anthocyanins, innate immunity and exercise. *In: Anthocyanins in Health & Disease*. Taylor C. Wallace (Ed), CRC Press.

K.A. Lyall, et al., (2009) Short-term blackcurrant extract consumption modulates exercise-induced oxidative stress and lipopolysaccharide-stimulated inflammatory responses. *Am. J. Physiol. Regul. Integr. Comp. Physiol.* 297, R70-81.

# Human exercise – Muscle damage model



## Muscle damage prevention by blackcurrant – long term action

S.M. Hurst & R.D. Hurst (2013) Anthocyanins, innate immunity and exercise. *In: Anthocyanins in Health & Disease*. Taylor C. Wallace (Ed), CRC Press.





# What is the Mechanism of Action?



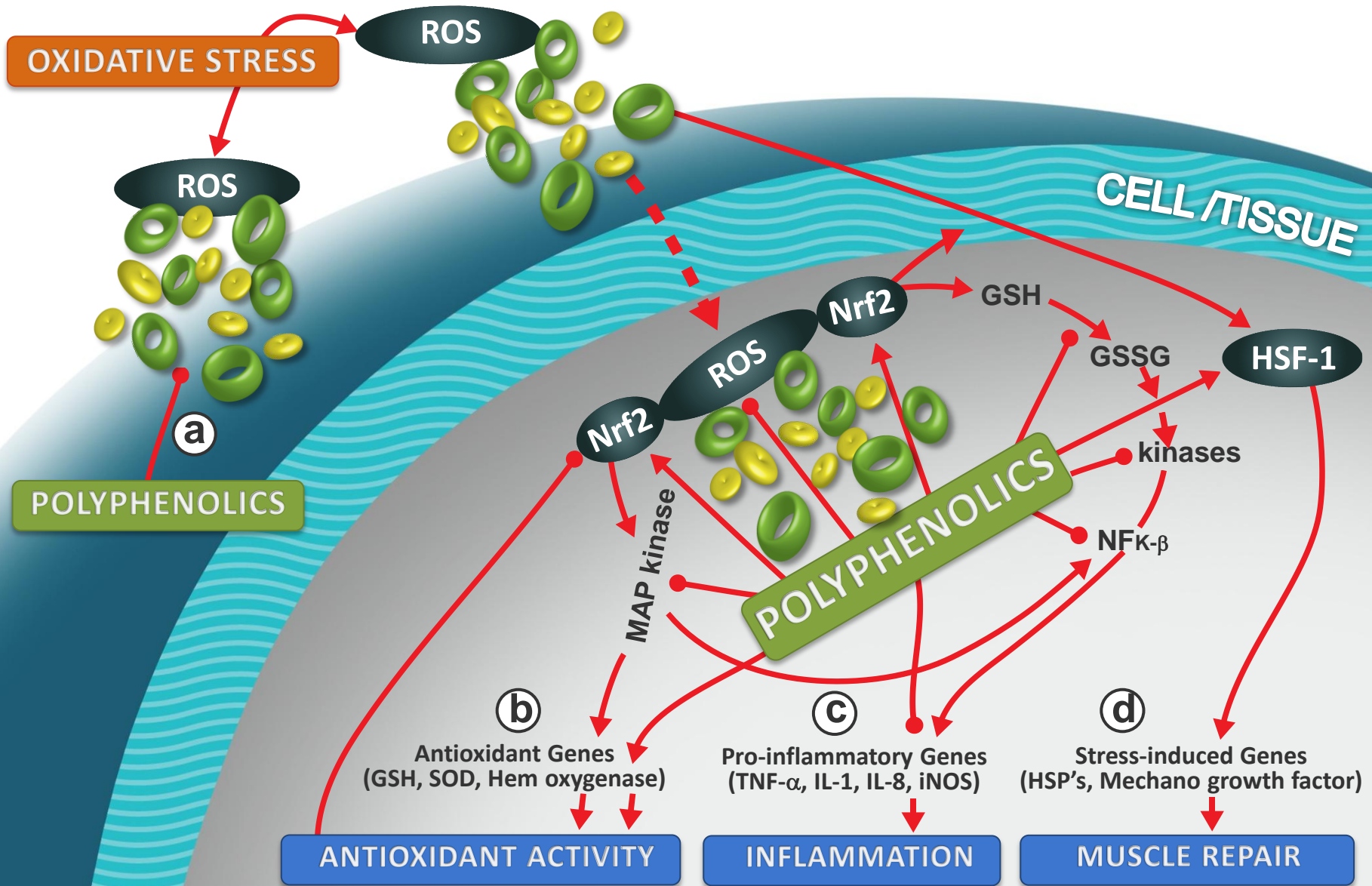
"This is no ordinary lemonade. It's a tart blend of fruit and green tea that is not only refreshing but sufficiently high in antioxidants. Plus it grows hair."



# Mechanisms

• Stevenson D, Scheepens A, & Hurst RD (2009) Bioavailability and metabolism of dietary flavonoids – much known – much more to discover. *International J. Med. Biol. Front.* 6: 3–4.

• Hurst, RD, & Hurst SM (2011) Fruits and vegetables for physical fitness and inflammation. In: *Bioactive Foods for Chronic Disease States*. Eds R. Watson. Elsevier Press, Oxford UK.



# Platform of Health Support - Sports

Platform of science evidence that NZ blackcurrant

‘Assists the Natural Benefits of Exercise & Sports’



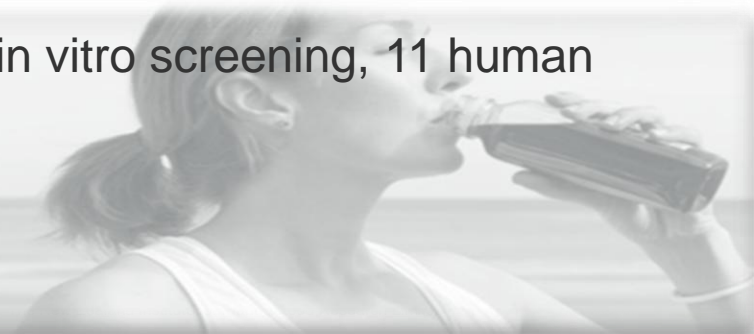
**Evidence = Specific fruit ; Dose ; Timing ; Actives ; Mode of Action**

Marketing backed by science:

- Controlled oxidative stress and inflammation
- Controlled muscle damage and soreness
- Assisted immune protection - enhanced immunity
- Speedier tissue repair, recovery and performance in exercise
- **Train/work harder .....again, and for longer**

– Health Claim in NZ

(6 yrs of research, fruit/product consistency, in vitro screening, 11 human intervention exercise trials)



# Acknowledgements

Plant & Food  
**RESEARCH**

RANGAHAU AHUMĀRA KAI



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