

REVIEW ARTICLE

Predicting disease onset in clinically healthy people

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ABSTRACT

Virtually all human disease is induced by oxidative stress. Oxidative stress, which is caused by toxic environmental exposure, the presence of disease, lifestyle choices, stress, chronic inflammation or combinations of these, is responsible for most disease. Oxidative stress from all sources is additive and it is the total oxidative stress from all sources that induces the onset of most disease. Oxidative stress leads to lipid peroxidation, which in turn produces Malondialdehyde. Serum malondialdehyde level is an additive parameter resulting from all sources of oxidative stress and, therefore, is a reliable indicator of total oxidative stress which can be used to predict the onset of disease in clinically asymptomatic individuals and to suggest the need for treatment that can prevent much human disease.

KEY WORDS: disease prediction; disease prevention; disease mechanism; environmental disease; infectious disease

Introduction

The incidence of disease world wide is continually increasing. Though people are living longer, we are also living sicker and with increasing numbers of multi-morbid diseases (Murray *et al.*, 2015; Zeliger, 2014; Wallace & Salive, 2013; 2012; Pritchard & Rosenorn-Lanng, 2015). As an example of this phenomenon, in the United States, the percentage of people with multi-morbid diseases has increased from 37.2% of the population in the year 2000 to 45.3% of the population in 2010 (Freid *et al.*, 2012).

Numerous diseases have reached epidemic and pandemic proportions in the past two generations. The dramatic increase of environmental disease prevalence with time can be seen from plots of disease percent increases versus time, from 1940s to 2010. Such plots produce hyperbolic curves such as that in Figure 1. Examples of diseases that fit this plot include autism and autism spectrum disorders (Zeliger, 2013b), type 2 diabetes (Zeliger, 2013), obesity (Wang & Beyoun, 2007) childhood cancers (Parkin *et al.*, 1988), onset of dementia and other neurological diseases (Zeliger, 2013b), and both male and female infertility (Colborn *et al.*, 1996). The slopes of these curves exactly correspond to those of plots for

chemical production and use versus time, as exemplified by data for synthetic chemical production (Neel & Sargis, 2011), increased pesticide use (Chen & McCarl, 2001), increased world wide energy production from combustion of fossil fuel use, increases in air and water pollution (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2014), and increases in pharmaceutical use (Kantor *et al.*, 2015).

Free radicals are essential for homeostasis and are generated as byproducts of normal metabolic cellular activities (Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2014). Oxidative stress (OS) ensues when the production of free radicals, reactive oxygen species (ROS) and reactive nitrogen species (RON) occurs at a pace faster than the body's antioxidant production. Exposures to toxins as well as the presence of disease results in increases in these free radical species and produce the oxidative imbalances in cells that produce OS. OS is, as is shown below, directly or indirectly, the cause of virtually all disease. It leads to attack on macromolecules, induction of cell death via apoptosis or necrosis and structural tissue damage, including lipid peroxidation (LP) (Lorente, 2013).

OS is directly responsible for non-communicable environmental disease (ENVVD) (Davies, 1995; Zeliger & Lipinski, 2015; Bhutia *et al.*, 2014), and indirectly responsible for the spread of infectious disease (INFD) via undermining of the immune system (Zaki *et al.*, 2005; Valyl-Nagy & Dermody, 2005; CDC, 2015). The many causes of oxidative stress in humans include: absorption of exogenous toxic chemicals and chemical mixtures (Zeliger, 2003; Zeliger & Lipinski, 2015); exposure to

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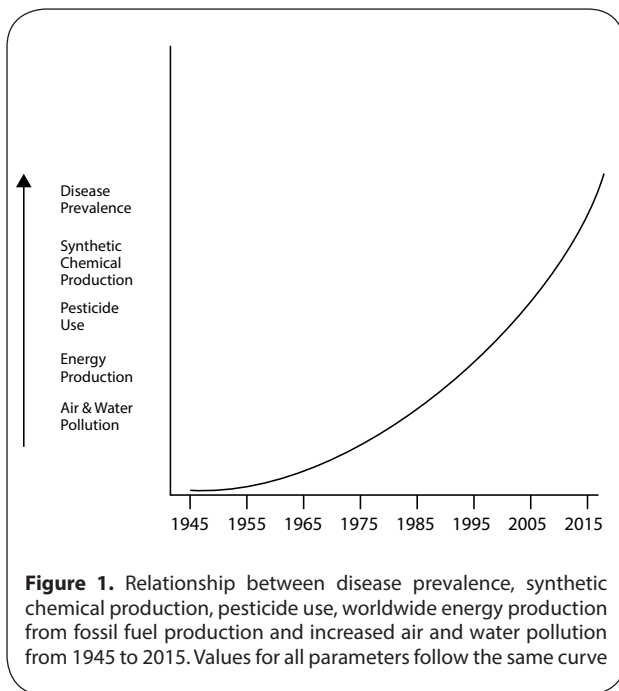
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ionizing, ultra violet and radio frequency radiation (Semenkov, 2015; Tominaga *et al.*, 2004; Dasdag *et al.*, 2012); diet, including fructose, triglycerides, processed and red meat, artificial flavors and colors, preservatives (Brkic, 2010; Cui *et al.*, 2012; Elgazar, 2013; Lustig *et al.*, 2015); tobacco use (Nielsen *et al.*, 1997; Pham-Huy *et al.*, 2008; Sudha *et al.*, 2015); alcohol consumption (Nielsen *et al.*, 1997; Deshpande *et al.*, 2014); pharmaceutical use (Kantor *et al.*, 2015; Dwyer *et al.*, 2014; Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2014); prior illness (Zeliger, 2014); obesity (Karbownik-Lewinska, 2014; Olusi, 2002; Jain & Chaves, 2011; Sankhka *et al.*, 2012); psychological stress (Chaput *et al.*, 2013; Halonen *et al.*, 2015; Aich *et al.*, 2009); and physical trauma (Miller & Sadeh, 2014; Faden & Loane, 2015).

The 10 leading causes of death in the United States in 2013, as reported by the Centers For Disease Control (CDC, 2015) and the percentages of each, are:

Heart disease	32%
Cancer	31%
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	8%
Accidents	7%
Stroke	7%
Alzheimer's disease	4%
Diabetes	4%
Influenza and pneumonia	3%
Liver disease	2%
Suicide	2%

Of these causes of death, 91%, of all the diseases on this list, (as is shown below) are directly attributable to OS. Though no data exist, one could argue that a sizable portion of the remaining 9% (accidents and suicide) could be attributed to psychological stress, a known cause of OS.

OS causes disease via one of 4 pathways. These are: protein oxidation, DNA oxidation, lipid peroxidation and oxidative modification of sugars (Ogino & Wang, 2007). Of these, lipid peroxidation is the most indicative, as cell penetration by toxic agents initially requires the breaching lipophilic cell membranes (Zeliger, 2003; Zeliger, 2011; Zeliger & Lipinski, 2015). Such reactions produce fatty acid degradation fragments that are biomarkers for the presence of OS. Malondialdehyde (MDA) is the biomarker most reliably used to indicate the presence of disease and toxic exposure (Nielsen *et al.*, 1997; Lorente *et al.*, 2013; Tangvarasittichai *et al.*, 2009; Sudha *et al.*, 2014). Elevated levels of MDA have been shown to be present in the serum of patients with elevated OS and increased concentration of MDA accordingly is widely used as an indicator of the presence of disease in humans, with the severity of disease being a function of MDA level in a dose response relationship (Nielsen *et al.*, 1997; Zhu *et al.*, 2005; Romeau *et al.*, 2008; Aflaniet *et al.*, 2015; Agarwal *et al.*, 1987; Ayala *et al.*, 2014).

As elevation of serum MDA can be caused by exposures as well as by disease, it is proposed here that serum MDA levels can be used to predict the onset of disease in people who are seemingly clinically healthy.

Methods

The hypothesis reported here is based upon a literature review of numerous published studies, both by this author and many others on oxidative stress and disease and on biomarkers for OS.

Results

Causes of OS

There are numerous causes of oxidative stress. These include: exposures to chemicals, heavy metals, particles, fibers, foods and food additives, pharmaceuticals, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, psychological stress, physical trauma and the presence of other disease (Zeliger & Lipinski, 2015). Table 1 contains a representative list of these causes of OS.

Chemicals

Chemicals that cause OS include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins and furans, widely distributed in the environment as a result of combustion, industrial processes and commercial applications; organochlorine pesticides such as DDT, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), commonly used as fire retardants in children's clothing and upholstery; phthalates, widely used in cosmetics and other personal care products; bis-phenol A, found in plastics used as eating utensils and food containers; by products in drinking water resulting from disinfection of potable water; polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, resulting from fossil fuel combustion and tobacco smoke; low molecular weight hydrocarbons such

as benzene, toluene, xylene and hexane from gasoline vaporization and incorporation into adhesives; alcohol; paints and other products; heavy metals, including mercury, cadmium, lead, chromium, copper and others arising from mining and industrial usage; and numerous other species. (Patterson *et al.*, 2009; Zeliger, 2014; Azeez *et al.*, Adedara *et al.*, 2014; Lodovici & Bigagli, 2011; 2015; Pan *et al.*, 1987; Kambia *et al.*, 2011; Yang *et al.*, 2009; Kaur *et al.*, 2014; Zeliger & Lipinski, 2015; Patil *et al.*, 2006; Li *et al.*, 2004; Zeliger, 2003; Zeliger, 2011; Pals *et al.*, 2013; Bhattacharyya *et al.*, 2014; Ayala *et al.*, 2014; Doi & Uetsuka, 2012; Lodovici & Bigagli, 2011; Gong *et al.*, 2013; PhamHuy *et al.*, 2008; Luongo *et al.*, 2015; Knaapen *et al.*, 2004; Donaldson *et al.*, 2005); (Veraldi *et al.*, 2006; Schneider *et al.*, 2008; Liu *et al.*, 2009; Banerjee *et al.*, 1999; Jeng *et al.*, 2011; Bagaiktar *et al.*, 2008).

Chemical mixtures

Until recently, the impacts of absorption of chemical mixtures have been largely limited to considerations of additive effects. It is now known, however, that exposures to mixtures of lipophilic and hydrophilic species facilitates the absorption of hydrophilic species that would otherwise not absorb and that exposures to such mixtures induces attacks on organs not known to be attacked by the individual components of such mixtures (Zeliger, 2003; Zeliger, 2011). It has been recently been reported that aromatic lipophilic species can also transport OS inducing heavy metals through lipophilic cell membranes (Zeliger & Lipinski, 2015). It is, therefore, to be anticipated that exposures to chemical mixtures will result in increased OS and in MDA serum levels in excess of those expected from exposure to the individual species that comprise such mixtures. An example of this phenomenon is the reported finding that exposures to mixtures of pesticides result in increased OS (Fukuyama *et al.*, 2014).

Another effect of exposure to mixtures is contributing to meeting the hallmarks necessary for the onset of disease. Multiple hallmarks of aging (Meiners *et al.*, 2014), cancer onset (Nahta *et al.*, 2015), type 2 diabetes (Thiering & Heinrich, 2015), asthma (Delfino *et al.*, 2013), cardiovascular disease (Li *et al.*, 2015) and Alzheimer's disease (Cabezas-Opazo *et al.*, 2015) have been identified. In these studies, the authors conclude that different chemical exposures affect different specific hallmarks and that exposures to mixtures can account for the onset of disease. All of the chemicals identified in these studies are known to induce OS. What remains to be addressed are the effects of specific chemical mixtures on individual hallmarks of disease and their effect on OS when compared to the effects of the individual components of such mixtures. Given the constant exposure of humanity worldwide to multiple chemical mixtures, the parameters of such studies require careful planning in order to produce meaningful results.

Particles and fibers

Particles and fibers that cause OS include asbestos, used in automobile brakes, fire-retardant materials, and

Table 1. Causes of oxidative stress.

CHEMICALS
Polychlorinated biphenyls
Organochlorine pesticides
Polybrominated diphenyl ethers
Dioxins
Furans
Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons
Low molecular weight hydrocarbons
Phthalates
Bis-phenol A
Heavy metal ions
Disinfection by products
Lipid peroxidation products
Mycotoxins
Air pollution
Tobacco smoke
Textile chemicals
Chemical mixtures
PARTICLES AND FIBERS
Asbestos
Silica
Fly ash
Synthetic mineral fibers
Nanoparticles
FOODS AND FOOD ADDITIVES
Animal fats
Processed meat
Red meat
Fructose
Artificial colors
Artificial flavors
Extraction solvents
Preservatives
RADIATION
Ionizing radiation
Ultraviolet radiation
900 MHz radio frequency radiation.
PHARMACEUTICALS
Antibiotics
Antidepressants
NSAIDs
TNF inhibitors
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS
Emotional stress, anxiety and depression
Sensory offenders
Circadian cycle interruption
Sleep deprivation and insomnia
Excessive heat exposure
PHYSICAL TRAUMA
Chronic traumatic encephalopathy

heat insulators; silica resulting from mining; concrete formulations and grinding; fly ash that emanates from combustion of coal; synthetic fibers used in clothing; and nanoparticles from industrial processes, combustion and the deliberate production for use in industrial, consumer and pharmaceutical products (Donaldson *et al.*, 1998; Ning *et al.*, 2003; Deshpande *et al.*, 2002; Browne *et al.*, 2011; Jaurand & Pairon, 2011; Steenland & Stayner, 1997).

Diet and food additives

Ingestion of some foods gives rise to OS. These include processed meats and red meat (Bovalino *et al.*, 2016; Bouvard *et al.*, 2015); fructose from refined sugar and high fructose corn syrup (Lustig *et al.*, 2015; Basaranoglu *et al.*, 2015; Park *et al.*, 2013); synthetic chemicals used as artificial food colors and flavors including preservatives such as butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), calcium propionate, triclosan, and parabens (Abdel-Salam *et al.*, 2012; El-Wahab & Moram, 2013; Stevens *et al.*, 2013; Cemek *et al.*, 2014); solvents such as toluene used to extract flavors and colors from natural products and to produce synthetic food additives; and chemicals such as phthalates and bisphenol A used in food packaging and which leach out into foods. (Zeliger, 2011).

Radiation

OS is caused by exposure to ionizing radiation from x-rays, exposure to radioactive isotopes, ultraviolet radiation and microwave radiation; as well as by exposure to non-ionizing radiation such as that from 900 MHz radio frequency waves commonly used for cell phone signal transmission (Esmekaya *et al.*, 2011; Semenkov *et al.*, 2015; Tominaga *et al.*, 2004; Dasdag *et al.*, 2012; Kim *et al.*, 2011).

Drugs and pharmaceuticals

Many pharmaceuticals, examples of which are: commonly prescribed antibiotics, antipsychotics, antidepressants, drugs used to combat hypertension and NSAIDs (including widely used acetaminophen), cause OS as do alcohol and recreational drugs (Kantor *et al.*, 2015; Rodayan, 2016; Knight, 2003; Dwyer *et al.*, 2014; Kalghatgi *et al.*, 2013; Nunes *et al.*, 2006; Deavall *et al.*, 2012; Benotti *et al.*, 2009; Bhattacharyya *et al.*, 2014; Neustadt & Pieczenik, 2006; Csoka and Szyf, 2009).

Psychological stress

Psychological stress is a common cause of OS (Ramanathan *et al.*, 2002), as are exposures to sensory offenders, circadian cycle interruption, sleep deprivation and insomnia and excessive exposure to heat (Chaput *et al.*, 2013; Halonen *et al.*, 2015; Noguti *et al.*, 2013; McEwen, 2006). Psychological stress is associated with reduced immune system function, higher incidence and greater severity of infectious disease (Aich *et al.*, 2009). Psychological stress and OS are bidirectional with each a cause of the other (Bouayed *et al.*, 2009). For example, increased OS makes one more susceptible to viral disease such as the common cold and infectious illness induces psychological stress

(Cohen *et al.*, 2015). Chronic psychological stress also induces chronic inflammation which mediates chronic disease and has been linked to cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular, neurological, respiratory and other diseases. (Salzano *et al.*, 2014; Reuter *et al.*, 2010; ; Khansari *et al.*, 2009; McEwen, 2006; Semenkov *et al.*, 2015).

Physical stress

Physical stress in the form of exposure to excess heat (Mujahid *et al.*, 2007; Reuter *et al.*, 2010; Kaldur *et al.*, 2014; Kim *et al.*, 2015), chronic inflammation (Khansari *et al.*, 2009; Tremellen, 2008) or chronic physical trauma, an example of which is chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) (Miller & Sadeh, 2014; Faden & Loane, 2015), all cause OS.

OS and disease

Oxidative stress has been associated with chronic inflammation and numerous diseases (Reuter *et al.*, 2010). Table 2 contains a representative list of diseases known to be caused by OS. These include non-contagious environmental diseases (ENVDs), examples of which are: metabolic (Bhutia *et al.*, 2014; Tangsvarasittichai *et al.*, 2009; Yang *et al.*, 2008; Zeliger, 2013), respiratory (Alsamarai *et al.*, 2009; Corradi *et al.*, 2003; Stupnytska, 2014; Zeliger *et al.*, 2012), neurological (Davies, 1995; Baipai *et al.*, 2014; Bulut *et al.*, 2007; Zeliger, 2013b; Zeliger, 2015), endocrine (Torun *et al.*, 2009; Vitale *et al.*, 2013; Colborn *et al.*, 1996), cardiovascular, (Boaz *et al.*, 1999; Davies, 1995; Zeliger, 2013a; Neustadt & Pieczenik, 2008; He & Zuo, 2015; Kayama *et al.*, 2015; Griendling & Fitzgerald, 2003), gastrointestinal (Mete *et al.*, 2013; Suzuki H *et al.*, 2012; Kim *et al.*, 2012), musculoskeletal, (Mete *et al.*, 2013; Suzuki H *et al.*, 2012; Kim *et al.*, 2012), urinary tract (Kurutas *et al.*, 2005). Merendino *et al.*, 2003; Aryal *et al.*, 2007), kidney (Forbes *et al.*, 2008; Adedara *et al.*, 2014; Galle, 2001), liver (Adedara *et al.*, 2014; Cichoz-Lach & Michalak, 2014; Webb & Twedt, 2008), skin (Bickers & Athar, 2006; Trouba *et al.*, 2002; Okayama, 2005), immunological and autoimmune (Hughes, 1991; Jeng *et al.*, 2011; Davies, 1995; Lou *et al.*, 2013; Lou *et al.*, 2013; Bashir *et al.*, 1993; Kumagai *et al.*, 2003; Kalkan *et al.*, 2014; Zeliger *et al.*, 2012; Zeliger *et al.*, 2015), eye (Williams, 2008; Kruk *et al.*, 2015), and periodontal diseases, (Liu *et al.*, 2014), as well as obesity (Olusi, 2002; Sankhla *et al.*, 2012; Jain & Chaves, 2011; Zeliger, 2014; Fernandez-Sanchez *et al.*, 2011; Manna & Jain, 2015), and numerous cancers (Federico *et al.*, 2007; Guven *et al.*, 1999; Brown & Bicknell, 2001; Dillioglu *et al.*, 2012; Chole *et al.*, 2010; Taysi *et al.*, 2003; Salzman *et al.*, 2009; Bitla *et al.*, 2011; Reuter *et al.*, 2010; Khansari *et al.*, 2009). The list also includes infectious bacterial and viral diseases (INFDS) which are indirectly caused as a result of the undermining of the immune system by OS (Hughes, 1998; Bouhafs, 1999; Cemek *et al.*, 2005; Zaki, 2005; Rajah & Chow, 2015).

OS does not directly cause infectious diseases, but does so indirectly by undermining the functioning of the immune system via immuno-suppression (Hughes, 1999; Akaike, 2001; Xu *et al.*, 2015; Splettstoesser & Schuff-Werner, 2002). It is to be noted that all the chemicals

listed in Table 1 are immuno-suppressants (Veraldi *et al.*, 2006; Patterson & Gerrmolec, 2006). These include: polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (Jeng *et al.*, 2011), dioxins (Schneider *et al.*, 2008), tobacco smoke (Arcavi & Benowitz, 2004), pesticides (Banerjee *et al.*, 1999) and heavy metals (Liu *et al.*, 2009). Phagocytes generated when the body responds to infectious agents cause further free radical generation resulting from lipid peroxidation, thus adding to OS (Bouhafs & Jastrand, 1999; Stossel *et al.* 1974). It has been reported that higher levels of OS further infectious disease in critically ill patients Andresen *et al.*, 2006).

OS also leads to infectious diseases by impacting the actions of gut microbia. The following examples illustrate this: Air pollution (Salim *et al.*, 2013;), PCBs (Choi *et al.*, 2010) and diets chronically high in fat (Qiao *et al.*, 2013) increase OS in the gut causing membrane damage that leads to increased permeability and translocation of gut bacteria with ensuing disease (Guarner & Soriano, 2005;). Though not a disease, malnutrition is also known to lead to OS and immune system malfunction (Darmon *et al.*, 1993; Katona & Katona-Apte, 2008; Ghone *et al.*, 2013).

Obesity

Obesity is a chronic low-grade inflammatory disease which gives rise to OS (Vandanmagasar *et al.*, 2011; Karbownik-Lewinska *et al.*, 2012; Liu *et al.*, 2014) and predisposes the onset of illness (Stokes & Preston, 2015). Obesity increases the risk for numerous diseases via impact on the immune system. For example, it is associated with increased susceptibility to infections such as the flu (Olusi, 2002; Falagas & Kompoti, 2006; Jain & Chaves, 2011) and promotes the onset of metabolic syndrome and diabetes (Furukawa *et al.*, 2004; Vu *et al.*, 2015). OBS is indirectly responsible for shortened life spans, with death coming from subsequent diseases. It is estimated that OBS shortens life by between 8 and 14 years (Kitahara *et al.*, 2014; Grover *et al.*, 2014). The world-wide obesity epidemic is a recent phenomenon that corresponds to the exponential production and wide-spread distribution of synthetic chemicals, essentially all of which are known to induce OS (Bailie-Hamilton, 2002).

Obesity plays a key role in multi-morbidity of disease. The quantity of white adipose tissue (WAT) is dramatically increased with obesity. WAT serves as a collector of absorbed exogenous lipophilic chemicals, all of which are known to cause OS, obesity and disease. Diseases such as type 2 diabetes cause the absorption of exogenous lipophiles. Obesity is known to cause ENVDs and ENVD's have been shown to cause obesity. This sets up what has been termed the OBESITY-LIPOPHILE-DISEASE triangle (Zeliger, 2014), which is depicted in Figure 2 and reproduced with permission. The interconnection between the three parameters of this triangle is as follows: Firstly, exogenous lipophilic chemical absorption causes environmental diseases. Conversely, environmental diseases, T2D, for example, cause the absorption of exogenous lipophiles. Secondly, obesity causes environmental diseases and environmental diseases cause

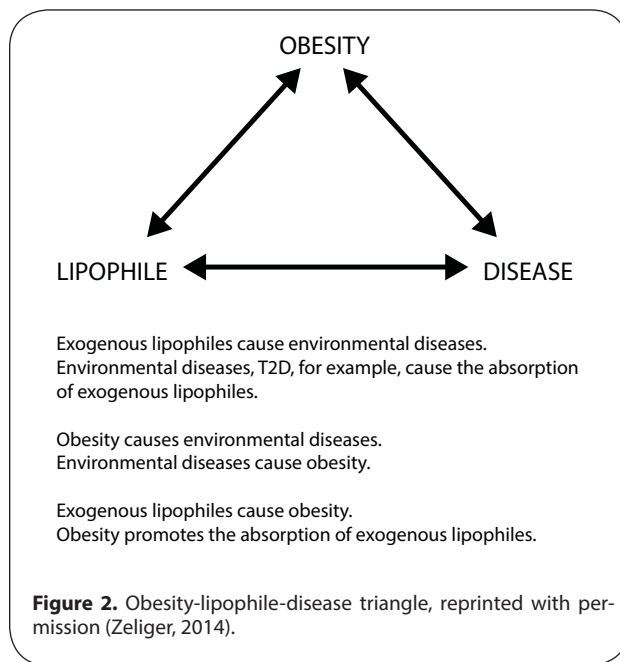


Figure 2. Obesity-lipophile-disease triangle, reprinted with permission (Zeliger, 2014).

T2D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CVD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NRD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NDV				X	X	X		X	X	X
NDG				X						X
MSK					X	X	X	X	X	X
IMM						X	X			
RES							X	X	X	
CMS								X		
OBS									X	
CAN										X

Figure 3. Co-morbidities of chemically induced environmental diseases, reprinted with permission (Zeliger, 2014). X denotes the existence of co-morbidity between the two diseases. Abbreviations: T2D - type 2 diabetes; CVD - cardiovascular disease; NRD - neurological disease; NDV - neurodevelopmental disease; NDG - neurodegenerative disease; MSK - musculoskeletal disease; IMM - immunological disease; RES - respiratory disease; CMS - chemical sensitivity; OBS - obesity; CAN - cancer.

obesity. Thirdly, exogenous lipophiles cause obesity and obesity promotes the absorption of exogenous lipophiles.

Multi-morbiidity

It has been definitively established that the onset of disease leads to multi-morbidity (Zeliger *et al.*, 2012; Zeliger, 2014). A preponderance of the diseases listed in Table 2 are co-morbid with each other. This is demonstrated by the co-morbidity diagram in Figure 3 (reproduced with permission) (Zeliger, 2014). The number of multi-morbidities a person can experience has been found to range between 4 and 10 in a study of multi-morbidities in chemically sensitive individuals. Figure 3 is demonstrative of this (Zeliger *et al.*, 2012). It is to be noted that the diseases listed in Table 2 are also causes of OS and that

Table 2. Environmental and infectious diseases caused by oxidative stress.

METABOLIC	KIDNEY
Type 2 diabetes	End stage renal disease
Metabolic syndrome	Renal vascular disease
Hyperlipidemia	Glomerulosclerosis
RESPIRATORY	LIVER
Allergic rhinitis	Cirrhosis
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Hepatitis
Asthma	Fatty liver disease
Chemical sensitivity	SKIN
NEUROLOGICAL	Psoriasis
Autism	Eczema
ADHD	SLE (lupus)
Alzheimer's disease	Dermatitis
Parkinson's disease	Acne
Major depression	IMMUNOLOGICAL AND AUTOIMMUNE
Motor skills	ALS
Cognitive ability	Acute urticaria
Learning disorders	Chronic fatigue syndrome
ENDOCRINE	Chemical sensitivity
Male infertility	Lupus
Female infertility	Sjogren's syndrome
Hypothyroidism	EYE DISEASES
Birth defects	Cataracts
CARDIOVASCULAR	Glaucoma
Heart attack	Macular degeneration
Stroke	Corneal and conjunctive diseases
Atherosclerosis	PERIODONTAL
Arteriosclerosis	Chronic periodontitis
Ischemic heart disease	OBESITY
Hypertension	CANCER
GASTROINTESTINAL	Virtually all cancers
Irritable bowel disease	Metastasis
Crohn's disease	VIRAL AND BACTERIAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Peptic ulcer	Herpes
MUSCULOSKELETAL	Influenza
Rheumatoid arthritis	Common cold
Osteoarthritis	TB
Osteoporosis	Herpes
Fibromyalgia	HIV and AIDS
URINARY TRACT	
Benign Prostate Hypertrophy	
Urethritis	
Urinary tract infection	

the onset of disease is a causative factor in the onset of co-morbidity (Zeliger, 2014).

People with ENVDS have high incidences of other ENVDS and INFDS as well. Those with INFDS have high incidences of INFDS as well as ENVDS. Thus, it has been reported that co-morbidities exist between most of the diseases in Table 2 (Zeliger, 2014) and between numerous INFDS (Andresen *et al.*, 2006). Examples of co-morbidities between ENVDS and INFDS include: the

flu and neurological disorders (CDC, 2015a; Blanton *et al.*, 2012); Alzheimer's disease and viral infections (Honjo *et al.*, 2009; Maheshwari & Eslick, 2015; Starakis *et al.*, 2011); HIV and type 2 diabetes (Moni & Lio, 2014); HIV tuberculosis and malaria with type 2 diabetes (Marais *et al.*, 2013); cardiovascular disease and COPD in a bidirectional manner (Oni & Unwin, 2015); chronic infections with heart disease (Madjid *et al.*, 2004); and type 2 diabetes with hepatitis C (Guo *et al.*, 2013).

OS and aging

Though a natural consequence of living, aging is accelerated by excessive OS. A widely held theory is that OS within mitochondria damages the mitochondria, which in turn leads to the production of increased quantities of ROS which cause further damage. Once it starts, this cycle leads to further damage and corresponding aging (Romano *et al.*, 2010). OS has been shown to shorten telomere length (Kawanishi & Oikawa, 2004; von Zglinicki, 2002;). Telomeres are repetitive DNA sequences at the ends of eukaryotic chromosomes that are shortened in each somatic cell division. Reduced telomere length is associated with aging and with the onset of cancer and other age-related diseases (Epel *et al.*, 2004; Hou *et al.*, 2015;). Lowering of OS, however, has been shown to delay the shortening of telomere length and thus prolong life and reduce cancer incidence (Crous-Bou *et al.*, 2014).

Nine hallmarks of aging have been identified (Lopez-Otin *et al.*, 2013; Meiners *et al.*, 2015). These are:

- genomic instability
- telomere attrition
- epigenetic alterations
- loss of proteostasis
- deregulated nutrient-sensing
- mitochondrial dysfunction
- cellular senescence
- stem cell exhaustion
- altered cellular communication

All of these hallmarks have been shown to be negatively impacted by OS (Kawanishi & Oikawa, 2004; von Zglinicki, 2002; Lopez-Otin *et al.*, 2013; Meiners *et al.*, 2015). These results suggest that oxidative stress be added to the list of hallmarks of aging.

It is beyond the scope of this paper to fully explore the subject of aging. Numerous papers have been written on this subject, with the following representative of these (Junqueira *et al.*, 2004; Andrioli-Sanchez *et al.*, 2005).

Biomarkers of lipid peroxidation

Biomarkers of specific diseases are typically found in blood, urine, saliva and exhaled breath. These biomarkers can be single component parameters such as blood glucose as an indicator of diabetes, or complex combinations of chemical species, examples of which are: a mixture of 8 different compounds present in set concentrations in exhaled breath as an indicator of gastric cancer (Amal, 2015); or a mixture of 6 serum biomarkers that predict the risk of developing type 2 diabetes (Kolberg, 2009). Disease biomarkers can also be individual chemical species including: F2-Isoprostanes, lipid hydroxides and hydroperoxides, hydroxycholesterols, aldehydes and ketones (Ogino & Wang, 2007; Niki, 2014; Dalle-Donne *et al.*, 2006; Milne *et al.*, 2005; Yoshida *et al.*, 2013). Of these, malondialdehyde (MDA) level in serum is the most commonly used biomarker of oxidative stress (Ayala *et al.*, 2014; Aflanin *et al.*, 2015). MDA is stable in serum and is readily and accurately analyzed (Hoving, 1992; Nielsen *et al.*, 2007; Grotto, 2009).

MDA from disease and exogenous exposure

Both ENVs and INFs result in the generation of MDA (Sonnerborg *et al.*, 1988). Thus high serum MDA values are predictive of pathogenic disease. People with INFs have high incidences of other INFs and with ENVs. Thus it has been reported that co-morbidities exist between most of the diseases in Table 2 (Zeliger, 2014); and between numerous INFs (Andresen *et al.*, 2006). Examples of co-morbidities between ENVs and INFs include: the flu and neurological disorders (CDC, 2015a; Blanton *et al.*, 2012); Alzheimer's disease and viral infections (Honjo *et al.*, 2009; Maheshwari & Eslick, 2015; Starakis *et al.*, 2011); HIV and type 2 diabetes (Moni & Lio, 2014); HIV tuberculosis and malaria with type 2 diabetes (Marais *et al.*, 2013); cardiovascular disease and COPD in a bidirectional manner (Oni & Unwin, 2015); chronic infections with heart disease (Madjid *et al.*, 2004); and type 2 diabetes with hepatitis C (Guo *et al.*, 2013).

Elevated MDA concentrations are also associated with all of the OS inducing stimuli presented above: toxic chemicals, particles and fibers, diet and food additives, radiation, pharmaceuticals, psychological stress and physical stress.

Table 3 lists the association of diseases and other stimuli with increased MDA serum levels. The data show the elevation of serum MDA as a function of disease or exposure to other OS increasing parameters. As can be seen from the data in Table 3, the presence of disease or exposure to other OS increasing stimuli elevates MDA levels. Though most commonly reported in micrograms per liter (mcg/L) other units are also reported. For purposes of comparison of affected individuals with healthy or unexposed individuals, all the data in Table 3 have been normalized to 1.0 for control, in each instance.

Discussion

Historically, most people who became ill with a single disease perished from it. With the progress made in modern medicine, however, this is no longer the case. Mankind has progressed to where many, if not most, diseases can be treated to prolong life. As a consequence of life prolongation, people are now more likely to have multi-morbidities and more likely to die as a result of a disease other than the first one to ail them (Murray *et al.*, 2015).

As can be seen from above, OS and subsequent disease onset as well as aging, is induced by multiple causes. These include environmental exposures, life style choices and requirements as well as the prior presence of disease. OS is directly responsible for the onset of both environmental and infectious diseases, which generate OS and lead to further disease. All of the chemicals in Table 1 cause OS and all of the diseases in Table 2. All of the diseases in Table 2 give rise to OS which triggers the onset of additional disease which, in turn, leads to more OS and multi-morbidities.

Table 3. Comparison of serum MDA levels of people with disease v. healthy controls and of those with OS-inducing exposures to ones not exposed.

Disease/ Exposure	MDA		Ratio	Reference
	affected	healthy		
Acute COPD	2.4	0.9	2.7	Tug <i>et al.</i> , 2004
Stable COPD	1.2	0.9	0.9	Tug <i>et al.</i> , 2004
COPD	1.3	0.6	2.2	Stupnytska & Fetiv, 2014
Adult ADHD	2.4*	0.4*	6.0	Bulut <i>et al.</i> , 2007
Sepsis	2.5*	1.1*	2.3	Lorente 2013 <i>et al.</i> , 2013
Sepsis	3.2*	1.1*	2.9	Lorente 2013a <i>et al.</i> , 2013
CVD	2.8	2.4	1.2	Boaz <i>et al.</i> , 1999
OBS	4.8	2.5	1.9	Olusi 2002
Stress	4.4	2.5	1.8	Chellappan <i>et al.</i> , 2008
Depression	2.0	0.4	5.0	Baipai <i>et al.</i> , 2014
AR	3.5	2.2	1.6	Alsamarai <i>et al.</i> , 2009
Asthma	4.4	2.2	2.0	Alsamarai <i>et al.</i> , 2009
AR + Asthma	7.2	2.2	3.3	Alsamarai <i>et al.</i> , 2009
Met-S	1.0	0.8	1.3	Moreto <i>et al.</i> , 2014
BPH	2.1	1.0	2.1	Merendino <i>et al.</i> , 2003
Stomach CAN	2.6	0.8	3.3	Bitla <i>et al.</i> , 2011
T2D	2.2	1.3	1.7	Tangvarasittichai <i>et al.</i> , 2009
T2D	2.7	0.9	3.0	Bhutia <i>et al.</i> , 2011
T2D + Smoker	3.2	0.9	3.6	Bhutia <i>et al.</i> , 2011
T2D + CVD	3.7	0.9	4.1	Bhutia <i>et al.</i> , 2011
T2D	3.5*	1.9*	1.8	Mahareen <i>et al.</i> , 2010
T2D + MI	5.5*	1.9*	2.9	Mahareen <i>et al.</i> , 2010
Obesity	2.0	0.6	3.3	Yesilbursa <i>et al.</i> , 2005
Malnutrition	2.9	1.2	2.4	Ghone <i>et al.</i> , 2013
E-coli infection	4.2	2.0	2.1	Karaman <i>et al.</i> , 2009
Stomatitis	3.0	2.7	1.1	Khademi <i>et al.</i> , 2014
TB	5.4*	2.1*	2.6	Kulkarni <i>et al.</i> , 2013
IBS	2.1	1.6	1.3	Mete <i>et al.</i> , 2013
IHD	4.2	2.4	1.8	Metta <i>et al.</i> , 2015
IHD + smoker	6.0	2.4	2.5	Metta <i>et al.</i> , 2015
Smokers	0.9	0.6	1.5	Bloomer 2007
Smokers	0.7	0.6	1.2	Nielsen <i>et al.</i> , 1997
Smokers	3.8	2.0	1.9	Shah <i>et al.</i> , 2015
Smokers	1.3	0.3	4.3	Sudha <i>et al.</i> , 2015
Healthy only data	*	0.6		Chakravarty & Rizvi 2011
		1.3		Hoving <i>et al.</i> , 1992
		0.8		Hu <i>et al.</i> , 2006
		0.9		Bhutia, <i>et al.</i> , 2011
Road tar fumes	1.5	0.3	5.0	Sudha <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Smoker + road tar	2.3	0.3	7.7	Sudha <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Artificial food color	2.6*	2.1*	1.2	Cemek <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Paint thinner	2.0	1.0	2.0	Halifeoglu <i>et al.</i> , 2000
900 MHz radiation	8.5	7.5	1.1	Dasdag <i>et al.</i> , 2012

* Data reported in other units, converted to mcmoles/liter. All data reported to 2 significant figures. Ratios of disease or exposure/controls are indicative of the relative impact of disease or exposure on MDA elevation. Abbreviations: COPD - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CVD - cardiovascular disease; OBS - obesity; AR - allergic rhinitis; Met-S - metabolic syndrome; BPH - benign prostate hypertrophy; CAN - cancer; T2D - type 2 diabetes; MI - myocardial infarction; TB - tuberculosis; IBS - irritable bowel syndrome; IDH - ischemic heart disease.

It is hypothesized here that the increase in disease incidence is not due to any one cause, but to all causes that increase OS and that OS from multiple causes is additive. Thus the slope of the curve in Figure 1 for the increase of the incidence of disease with time is directly related to the increases in environmental prevalence of numerous OS-inducing chemicals and the fact that people are living with increased numbers of multi-morbidities that are OS inducing (see below). People have tried to ascribe the increased prevalence of specific diseases to specific environmental causes – including increased exposure to mercury, PCBs, heavy metals, acetaminophen use, *etc.* – but this cannot be done – as it is the sum of OS from all causes that causes disease, and each OS causative agent increases the likelihood of disease onset.

It is further hypothesized that total serum MDA is a valid indicator of the level of oxidative stress in a body and a predictor of disease onset. Credence for these hypotheses comes from the following eight considerations:

1. Disease - exposure - MDA relationships

The data in Table 3 clearly show that all causes of OS-related disease induction result in increases in serum MDA levels. These causes include toxic environmental exposures as well as environmental and infectious diseases. As can be seen from the data in Table 3, serum MDA levels increase with disease as well as with other OS inducing exposures.

2. Additive serum MDA levels

The data in Table 3 show that those with multiple MDA increasing sources have higher serum MDA levels and that serum MDA levels are additive. The multiple sources can be 2 or more diseases (for example, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease (Bhutia *et al.*, 2011) or myocardial infarction (Mahareen *et al.*, 2010); in 2 or more environmental exposures as in (for example, cigarette smoking and road tar (Bhutia *et al.*, 2011); or a disease and a toxic exposure (for example, type 2 diabetes and cigarette smoking (Bhutia *et al.*, 2011).

Serum MDA data show that controls for different studies of the same disease may have a range of MDA values for “healthy” individuals. For example, the values for healthy subjects being compared to those with diabetes range from 0.9 to 1.9 mcg/L. This is so because the “healthy” people in the different studies most certainly had different exogenous exposures as well as different diets that would account for the range in MDA levels. Nielsen, for example, reported that the serum MDA levels for a healthy individual was found to vary up and down by as much as 19% over a six day period (Nielsen *et al.*, 1997).

3. Treatment lowers serum MDA

Lowering OS by administering antioxidants (Kontush *et al.*, 2001; Jain *et al.*, 2000; Coskun *et al.*, 2006); disease treatment (for example, treating asthma (Bartoli *et al.*, 2011) and diabetes (Wang *et al.*, 2014)) and avoidance of environmental OS inducing agents all lower serum MDA levels.

4. Dose response relationship

There is a dose response relationship (DRR) between exposure levels of OS-inducing chemical toxins and/or the presence of disease and serum MDA levels. This is illustrated by the following examples: There are DRRs between serum MDA levels and: the number of hours of smoking cigarettes (Nielsen *et al.*, 1997); exposures to trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene (Zhu *et al.*, 2005); exposure to air pollution (Romeau *et al.*, 2008); exposures to arsenic, cadmium and mercury (Aflanie *et al.*, 2015); and exposure to ultra violet radiation (Agarwal *et al.*, 1987).

5. Multi-morbidity

The multiple causes of OS predict disease multi-morbidity. Since each disease or toxic exposure raises the level OS, additional morbidity is to be anticipated since the incidence of all the diseases in Table 2 and all the chemicals and other exposures in Table 1 are known to be associated with higher OS. Accordingly, one ill with virtually any disease or continually exposed to an OS-inducing agent is at increased risk for additional disease.

Multi-morbidities are associated with stress as one of the co-contributors (Aich *et al.*, 2009). Psychological stress significantly increases infectious disease susceptibility via impact on immune function (Jemmott & Locke, 1984). Individuals under psychological stress have been shown to have a higher incidence and a greater severity of upper respiratory disease than those with lower stress levels (Aich *et al.*, 2009).

Multi-morbidities of ENVDS are bi-directional. The following examples are illustrative. In those ill with both with hypertension and type 2 diabetes, the first illness incidence was equally split between the two diseases (Sowers & Epstein, 1995). Diabetes was also found to be bi-directional with depression (Mayo, 2015), and data from multiple studies showed that depression was bi-directional with myocardial infarction (Chi *et al.*, 2014). A wide range of neurological diseases (including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease) are co-morbid and bi-directional with epilepsy, as are stroke, cardiac, gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases (Gaitatzis *et al.*, 2012). Asthma and anxiety are bi-directional (Lee *et al.*, 2016), as are metabolic syndrome and mental health disorders (including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism spectrum disorders (Nousen *et al.*, 2013). All of the diseases just mentioned are known to be caused by OS, indicating a common mechanism of induction.

It follows from the above that a chemical that "causes" a disease may only be part of the cause, since it may be only one of several OS contributors. It also follows that the disease that kills need not be the first disease, since an ensuing disease may be a more aggressive killer. For example, chemical sensitivity, which is rarely lethal but is a source of OS, may be followed by T2D, which can cause death. Another example of a primary disease that is generally not lethal is chronic fatigue syndrome.

Though high serum MDA is predictive of the onset of additional morbidity, it is not generally possible to predict a specific disease than can ensue based on serum MDA alone. This is so because there are thousands of different lipophilic cell membranes in the human body, all of which produce MDA upon lipid peroxidation. The disease that ensues depends upon which particular membrane type is attacked (Zeliger & Lipinski, 2015).

6. Chronic inflammation

Chronic inflammation can be caused by chronic disease, continual exposure to exogenous toxins, a regular regimen of some pharmaceuticals, smoking tobacco, living in an area of high air pollution and/or a western style diet. Oxidative stress induces inflammation and inflammation leads to OS, setting up a vicious cycle of chronic inflammation (Reuter *et al.*, 2010). Chronic inflammation increases cancer risk by impacting every step of tumorigenesis from initiation to tumor promotion and ultimately to metastatic progression (Ikemura *et al.*, 2013; Grivennikov *et al.*, 2009; Hanahan & Weinberg, 2011; Milara & Cortijo, 2012) and is considered a hallmark of cancer (Diakos *et al.*, 2014; Melnik, 2015; Liu *et al.*, 2014). This connection underscores the importance of limiting the factors that induce oxidative stress and inflammation in preventing the onset of further disease.

7. Late onset

Environmental diseases are accumulation disorders that strike as a result of significant contributory factors. These include: genetic predispositions; sequential absorption of OS-producing agents until toxic levels are reached and/or until all components of toxic mixtures are absorbed in sufficient levels to induce disease; the ability of the body to repair damage is exceeded and its defenses are compromised; or all hallmarks of disease onset are attained (Ayala *et al.*, 2014; Zeliger & Lipinski, 2015).

8. Disease prediction

Actual serum MDA levels are indicative of the presence of disease or disease promoting oxidative stress. A review of the data in Table 3 shows that serum MDA levels are elevated versus controls in those with illness of toxic exposures. Based on the data in Table 3 and numerous other studies, the following scale for serum MDA values in mcg/L as predictors of disease is proposed:

Less than 1.20	Indicative of a healthy state
1.20–1.40	Disease predicted
1.40–3.00	Disease onset probable
Greater than 3.00	Severe disease likely

These values suggest that asymptomatic individuals with serum MDA levels of 1.20 or greater be evaluated further for disease.

Though MDA predicts disease onset, it alone, cannot predict which disease will come because of the varying exposures, states of disease and the particular one of thousands of different lipophilic membranes in the body which can be attacked by free radicals, each of which may attack a different organ or system.

Disease prevention

The discussion above strongly suggests that the key to disease prevention is to eliminate as many of the causes of OS as is possible, for it is the total OS from whatever source(s) that causes disease onset. Such sources can include toxic chemical exposure, chronic inflammation from existing environmental and/or infectious disease and lifestyle choices such as diet and tobacco use. This, prevention can be accomplished by aggressively treating all diseases, by treating symptoms from conditions with intermittent or occasional manifestations such as allergic reactions and by limiting exposures via what are termed here as micro- and macro-preventative measures and the treatment of disease, be it environmental or infectious where possible. It is important that treatment include attention to all morbidities present as well as to all sources of exposures that contribute to OS. It should be noted that the body can recover from occasional high-dose acute levels of OS, but is subject to the onset of disease from chronic elevated levels of OS. Asymptomatic Patients who present with elevated serum MDA levels should be further evaluated to determine the source(s) of their high MDA levels and precautions taken to reduce such sources before the onset of disease, as disease onset will provide additional OS and can lead to further disease.

Micro-preventative measures include exposure-limiting steps that can be undertaken by the individual. These include: lifestyle actions such as adherence to a Mediterranean type diet that is high in antioxidant phytochemicals; carbon-filtering tap water; limiting intake of processed and red meats; avoidance of foods and personal care products that contain preservatives such as triclosan, butylated hydroxy anisole (BHA), butylated hydroxy toluene (BHT) and parabens; limiting exposures to exogenous toxins such as tobacco smoke and pesticides; exercising in times of high air pollution levels; avoiding packaging foods in plastics that exude phthalates and bisphenol A; limiting pharmaceutical use to those medically deemed essential; combating obesity; and seeking prompt medical help when disease strikes.

Macro-preventative measures are societal actions that lead to healthier living. These include: educational programs to produce awareness of environmental hazards to good health; regulatory control of hazardous chemical release, tobacco products, pesticides and chemical-containing products; encouragement of the production of organic foods; mandating strict warnings for hazardous materials; and stimulation of green energy production to reduce global warming, which enhances the volatilization of toxic chemicals, increases the rates of environmental chemical reactions which lead to higher levels of ozone and other air pollutants, as well as the increased risk of wildfires which spew large quantities of pollutants into the air.

It has been recently reported that the deleterious effects of obesity linger long after significant weight loss (Stokes & Preston, 2015). White adipose tissue (WAT) serves as a collector and bio-concentrator of exogenous lipophilic chemicals such as PCBs, chlorinated hydrocarbon

pesticides, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, other persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and chemicals that are found in air, water, food and everyday products (Arrebola *et al.*, 2013; Brown *et al.*, 2016). These chemicals partition from WAT to blood serum and serve as a constant supplier of OS-inducing toxins to the blood (Yu *et al.*, 2011; Lind *et al.*, 2013). Rapid weight loss, involving drastic reduction in WAT, results in the release of large quantities of toxic lipophiles with resultant significant systemic OS increase, an event that can lead to the onset of diabetes, cardiovascular, renal, liver and other diseases (Lind *et al.*, 2013; Olusi, 2002; Zeliger, 2013; Zeliger, 2013a; Zeliger, 2013b). Accordingly, gradual weight reduction is preferable to rapid weight loss, to allow for the metabolism and elimination of toxic lipophilic chemicals. It is to noted, however, that many POPs (such as PCBs, dioxins, furans and chlorinated pesticides such as DDT and its metabolite DDE) have very long half lives in the body and may linger up to 30 years or more (Gallo *et al.*, 2011; Yu *et al.*, 2011). This consideration offers an explanation of why the effects of initial obesity linger throughout one's life and the need to prevent obesity throughout life, particularly during childhood and early adulthood.

There are limitations to disease prevention for several reasons and it is not implied here that all disease can be eliminated for three reasons. First, there are genetic differences which protect some and put others at risk for the onset of disease. Second, ignorance, socio-economic status, lifestyle, peer pressure and economic interests of chemical manufacturers, mining operations and intentional polluters act counteractively to prevent chemical exposures. Third, there are conflicting situations where well meaning people on both sides of an issue can reasonably disagree. Two examples of such situations serve as illustrations of this point and the often difficult choices that need to be made. DDT and its metabolite DDE are persistent organic pollutants that are causative agents of OS and disease (Zeliger, 2011). DDT, however, is still in use in parts of the world to control malaria causing mosquitoes. Drinking water is routinely disinfected with chlorine to remove water-borne pathogens. Disinfection byproducts of chlorine treatment, however, are known human toxins that have associated with adverse reproductive effects and diseases including cancer (Tardiff *et al.*, 2006; Bove *et al.*, 2007).

Conclusions

Virtually all human disease is induced by oxidative stress. Total oxidative stress, from whatever source, be it toxic environmental exposure, the presence of disease, lifestyle choices or combinations of these, increases the incidence of OS. OS leads to lipid peroxidation of lipophilic cell membranes, which in turn produces MDA. Serum MDA level is an additive parameter resulting from all sources of OS and, therefore, is a reliable indicator of total oxidative stress that can be used to predict the onset of disease in clinically asymptomatic individuals and to suggest the

need for further clinical evaluation and treatment that can prevent much human disease. Routine MDA screening is recommended for addition to annual medical checkup blood work.

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