


I'm 32 and spent \$200k on biohacking. Became calmer, thinner, extroverted, healthier & happier.

Other deep-dive articles by Serge:

 Serge Faguet
Sep 25, 2017 · 29 min read

How I set and execute 50-year goals.

In my previous articles, I talked a lot about how to use biohacking to become more productive, healthier, and more...
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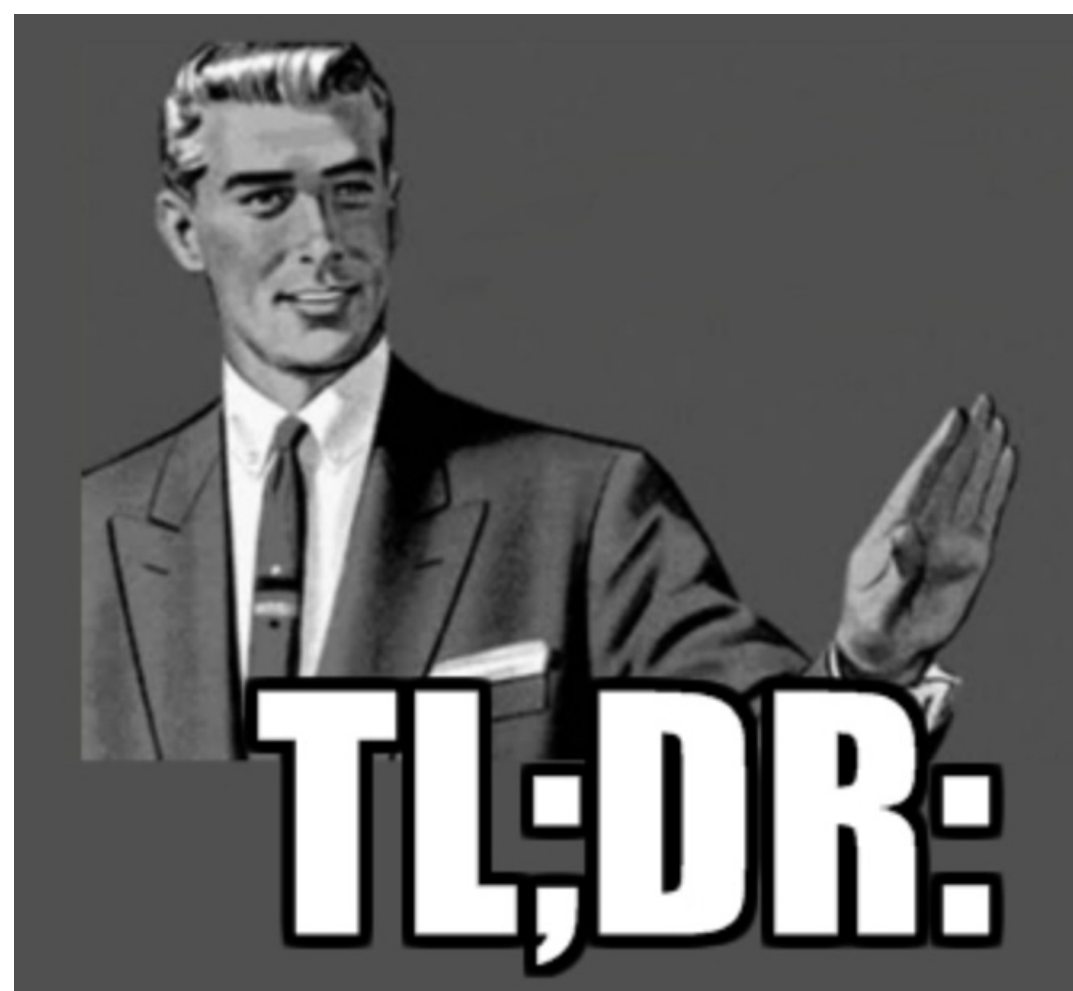
How to biohack your intelligence—with everything from sex to modafinil to MDMA

I had some free time over the holidays and wrote this article to showcase, on the basis of a personal story, many...
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Intro

This post is about how to use modern science and personalized medicine to make yourself healthier, more productive and happier. Every day.



Executive Summary (key points):

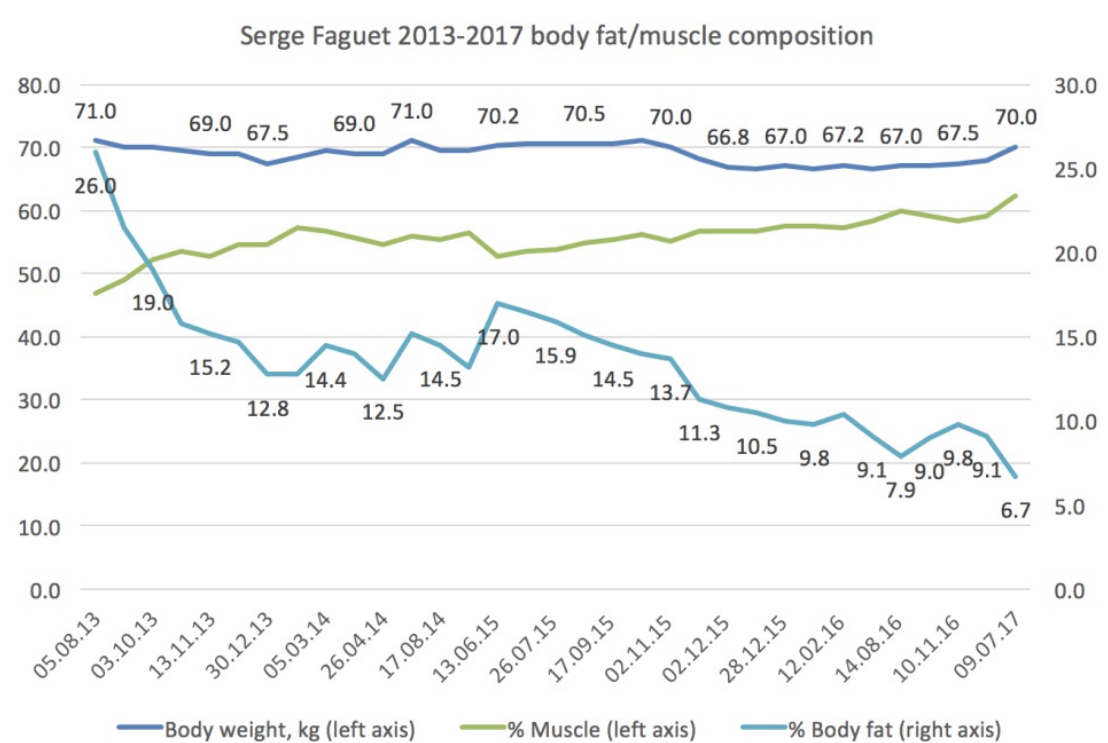
- I am a tech CEO who wanted to have better energy, mood, focus, happiness, confidence, willpower, intelligence, health and longevity.
- Over the last 4–5 years, my main hobby has been to get that by hacking my body and mind using a logical, science-based approach.
- As part of that I have optimized my sleep, nutrition and exercise, done thousands of tests, taken dozens of prescription drugs and hundreds of supplements (**part** of the pills I take **every day** below), worked with some amazing doctors, meditated >1000 times, did psychotherapy, took MDMA, and spent ~\$200,000 on all this.

MORNING

EVENING

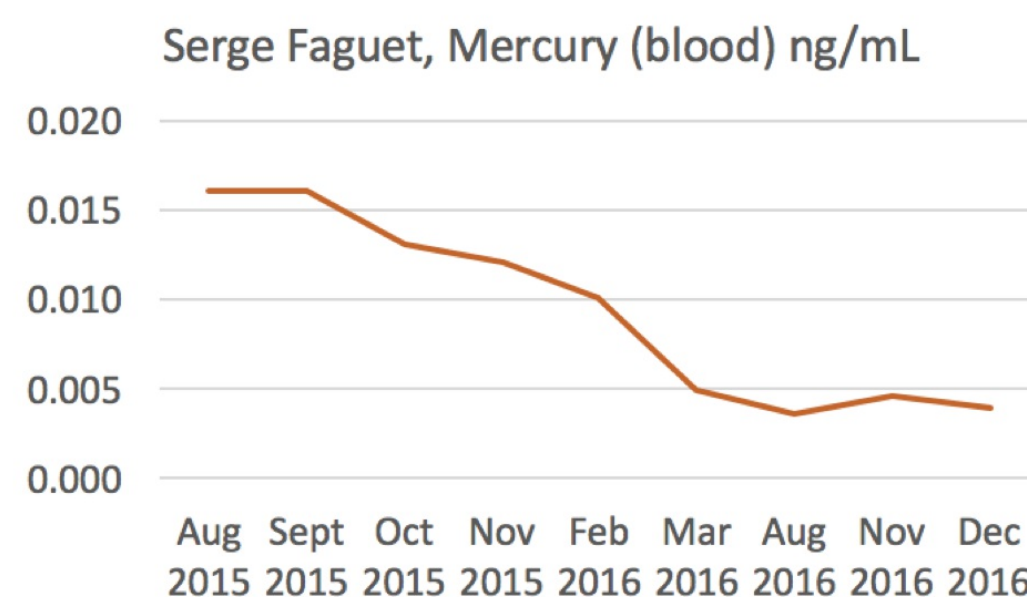


- The results have been awesome. Objectively I dropped body fat 26%=>10% (data below), got my VO2Max to ~70 (very high), improved lots of biomarkers (some examples also below, lots more here: <https://medium.com/@sergefaguet/hundreds-of-biomarkers-i-test-in-pursuit-of-focus-health-energy-confidence-and-happiness-dd01572c518b>). And subjectively I feel much happier, calmer, energetic, stable, confident, focused. And intelligent, if you think of intelligence as applied ability to solve complex problems.



	Before	After	% diff
LH	3.4	5.4	59%
Testosterone	608	1004	65%
Free-testosterone	8.1	14.7	81%

81% improvement in free testosterone in ~2 months



4x reduction in blood mercury in 1 year

- This blog post is an overview of what I do and why. From it I'll start a bunch of more detailed posts.
- I include a lot of personal health data, test files, what bacteria live in my poop (yes, really). Feel free to share all this. I don't care about my privacy.
- If you are a journalist or someone looking to discuss personalized health in a public way, I am happy to talk. I think this will have a huge impact on society (and especially significantly increase inequality—people like me will be able to enhance our performance, increase our wealth, and invest more and more into enhancing our performance further).

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU THINK CAREFULLY, EVALUATE YOUR OWN HEALTH, AND CONSIDER PROFESSIONAL ADVICE BEFORE YOU THINK ABOUT DOING ANY OF THE THINGS I DO. WE ARE ALL VERY DIFFERENT AND WHAT WORKS FOR ME MAY BE DANGEROUS OR USELESS FOR YOU. I AM NOT A DOCTOR. THIS IS NOT MEDICAL ADVICE. THIS IS JUST MY PERSONAL STORY.



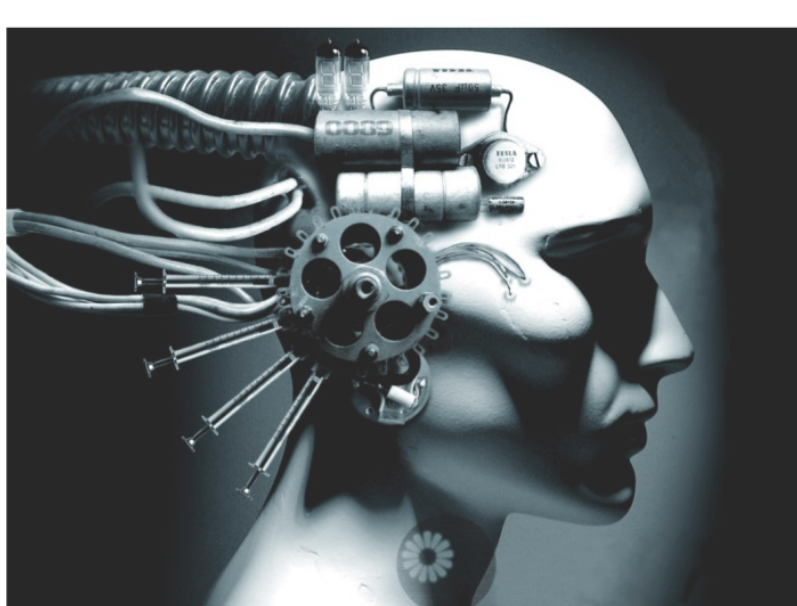


Briefly about me:

Serge Faguet, Russian, 32, Cornell undergrad / Stanford MBA-dropout, started some tech companies (TokBox—leading B2B video communication infrastructure company bought by Telefonica; Ostrovok—largest online travel co in Russia, profitable with ~\$500m gross turnover in 2017; new stealth-at-this-point AI co in Silicon Valley; been through Ycombinator; worked at Google very briefly).

Before all this I had a lot of challenges with anxieties, insecurities, introversion, weight, focus, anger management, bad moods, procrastination, and other things that many of us struggle with. Now all of them are effectively gone. I mean, I wrote these two huge posts in one weekend and didn't procrastinate for a minute.

Why I do this stuff:



We are (complex) robots.

Robots can be tuned and improved.

It seems obvious that whatever our goals are in life, certain things can help. I (and many others) want to be more energetic, have better willpower, not have bad moods, have the confidence to talk with the cute girl in the line at the supermarket.

All these things depend on transient mental states. And they in turn depend on your biochemistry (amongst other things). If you ever meditated, took drugs, had a bad night of sleep, or been sick you know this to be true: with these biochemical fluctuations your personality changes, and behaviors can become much easier or harder.

My goal is simple: manipulate my biochemistry to get more of the things I want, and less of the things I do not want.

What I want:

Good mood, confidence, focus, energy, willpower, stress resilience, brainpower, calm, health, longevity, removal of social anxieties/inhibitions. All the time. With minimal investment of time and minimal risk.

What I do—overview:

I attack 6 major blocks:



SLEEP HYGIENE



OPTIMAL NUTRITION



OPTIMAL EXERCISE



MENTAL HEALTH

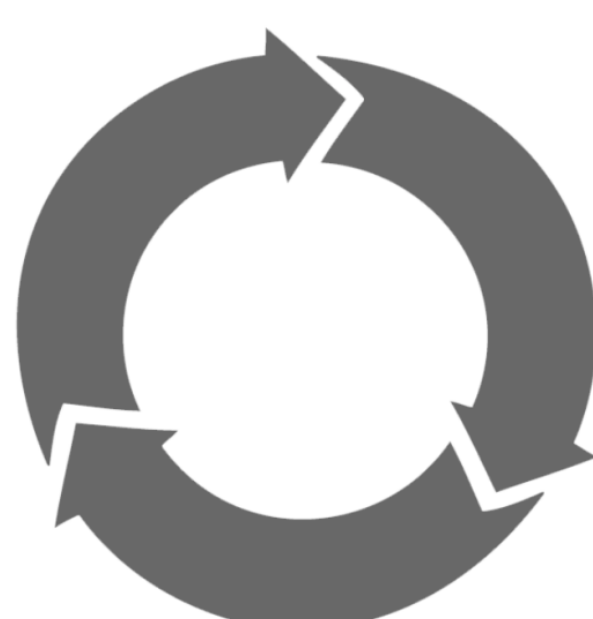


MEDICAL TESTS



SUPPLS & DRUGS

In this post I will give just an overview of things I feel are most important in each area, and then in future posts will dig in at length.



This all goes together.

Important note: all these go together. You cannot sleep well while eating like shit, not exercising, and stressing out. And you cannot exercise/eat well/not stress out if you sleep badly.



FRAMEWORK

In all these areas I use roughly the following framework to decide regarding specific tactics:

- Is it scientifically sound? (i.e. are there studies if such are feasible?)
- Is it logically sound? (i.e. is there a sound explanation behind the tactic?)
- Is the estimated cost (risk, money, time/energy) worth the estimated benefit?
- Do independent smart experts (e.g. doctors) agree with the approach? Do they actually practice the approach themselves and with their families?
- Do I track my objective/subjective metrics related to the tactic, if feasible?



I am actually very conservative and paranoid about these things. For example, I take months to research and talk with people before I decide to take a new compound, start with low doses, and consult with several independent experts. Be careful and don't screw yourself up with this kind of thing.



SLEEP HYGIENE

Objective:

Get plenty of restorative deep and REM sleep on a regular basis.

Key tactics:

- Measure stages. I heard from private individuals that they compared a lot of devices with a proper sleep lab and the best device for measuring appears to be the Oura Ring. <https://ouraring.com/>; an example of measurements they give is below. I'm quite happy with my metrics, it seems I get a lot of deep sleep although my RHR/HRV used to be better, not sure why.



- Block blue light 3–4 hours before sleep. Here is an example of glasses that do that. <https://gunnar.com/> (you want the orange-tinted versions)
- Have your bedroom dark (as dark as possible, maybe use an eye mask), cold (18–19 celsius) and humid. Consider Chilipad, very useful. <https://www.chilitechnology.com/>
- Wake at exactly the same time each morning. This is hard, but easier than going to sleep at the same time (which is just impossible).
- Evaluate things that seem to help or disrupt sleep. You won't be able to do a serious study but you can notice certain trends (e.g. for me even a small amount of alcohol is disruptive; late workouts lead to elevated heart rate etc.)

This book has more info if you'd like to really dig in <http://biohackingbook.com/> (you want the free chapter on sleep, I don't like the other ones as much)

Sleep is essential to willpower, which is essential to everything else here.

Keep in mind that things in other sections will help a lot. In a future post I will dig into a lot more detail and describe my personal journey to better sleep.



OPTIMAL NUTRITION

Objective:

Eat good stuff. Don't eat bad stuff. Habituate.

Objective (sciencey version):

minimize insulin levels, maximize glucose disposal, optimize various growth factors (IGF-1, mTOR etc.) towards things we want (e.g. muscle) and away from what we don't want (e.g. cancer).

Key tactics:



All the above are “sugar” (i.e. high glycemic index, spike insulin)

- Do not eat sugar in any form. Sugar is poison. This means no candy, fruit juices, bread, pasta, honey etc. There are many disagreements about nutrition science. That sugar is extremely bad for you is not one of them.
- Do not eat processed foods. Eat natural food instead.
- Do not eat cheap industrially-farmed animal products.
- Eat mostly plants although I feel going entirely vegetarian for health reasons is not justified.
- Eat organic when possible, especially when discussing animal products. Generally spend more money on food—the cheaper the food, the more “hacks” the producer used to be able to deliver that price. Many of these hacks are harmful—they inject saline solution to increase weight, feed dead animals to live animals, use antibiotics a lot etc.
- In my opinion one shouldn't drink any alcohol (screws up sleep) or add any salt (increases blood pressure) to food.
- I do intermittent fasting where for 3 days a week I eat only once a day. You can search for this online, there appears to be a lot of research that suggests this is a good idea. It is also surprisingly easy after the first couple times.
- I also try to eat ketogenic (high-fat-low-carb) but that is very, very hard to achieve



Definitely-good stuff



Probably-ok stuff

Nutrition compliance is generally incredibly hard and may take years to develop. Don't try to do this all at once, it is too hard. Just try to make small steps to improve. I still occasionally eat bread or pasta or have a glass of wine.

In a future post, I will describe how I gradually, slowly and very painfully improved in this regard.



OPTIMAL EXERCISE

Objective:

Maximize metabolic benefits (hormones, insulin sensitivity). Minimize time spent and risk of injury.

Key tactics:

- Warmup. I recommend these articles. Fortunate enough to know both Peter and Jesse and they describe it much better than I ever could.
<http://eatingacademy.com/personal/move-defines-live>
<http://eatingacademy.com/personal/move-defines-live-part-ii>
- Spend majority of your gym time on hip-hinge exercises—deadlift, squat, leg press. The logic is that this activates the largest muscles in your body => much more gain than exercising small muscles (e.g. biceps). Important: hip-hinge exercises should be first practiced with a good personal trainer. They are risky because you can damage your lower back.



- HIIT. Basically if you run, walk and do other constant-speed aerobics you should change to high-intensity intervals. They burn less muscle, spend less time, and deliver greater metabolic results. Look online, there is a lot of info about this.
- Minimize sitting. Get a standing desk or something.

I do the following:

1. 2–3x a week gym with 15 min warmup, 45 min hip-hinge exercise, 30–45 min other muscle groups in order of declining size.
2. 2–3x a week on non-gym days 20-min HIIT run: 5 min warmup, 8 sets of 20–30 sec all-out, 60–90 sec walking, 5 min warmdown. If you do it right, you feel close to sick after this.

I found gym to be one of the easiest routines to set up. Having personal trainers helped a lot. Now it is such an ingrained habit that I don't need them anymore.



MENTAL HEALTH

Objective:

Maximize stress resilience, social support, sense of purpose. Eliminate bad moods.

Key tactics:



- Meditation. It definitely works. This deserves a separate post. But in short, I meditate daily and found that it has significant benefits. The biggest is that recently

mediate daily, and found that it has significant benefits. The biggest is that recently I started to realize that the “self” and “free will” are cognitive illusions, and that makes it very easy to dissipate any negative moods, desires or emotions. I recommend the book *Waking Up* by Sam Harris here (as long as you are not an easily-offended religious person). <https://www.samharris.org/waking-up>



- Psychotherapy. Also a separate post. In short, I come to my therapist (who is also a Stanford/Harvard neurobiologist focused on helping high-performance people perform even better) with questions like “how do I enhance my intelligence?” “how do I eliminate bad mood days?” “how do I find it trivially easy to always chat with girls I find attractive?” etc. and we discuss concrete strategies based on research, other high-performer patients he sees etc. If you have not tried psychotherapy you really should, it is awesome.



- Never, ever lie about anything to anyone. Counterintuitive, but this seems to be a huge social hack and people like you a lot more if you always tell everyone the truth, no matter how embarrassing or hurtful. I used to lie a lot and am trying to completely stop. Also recommend the awesome short book “Lying” by Sam Harris which outlines this argument better than I ever could. <https://www.samharris.org/books/lying>



- For me, it took awhile to figure out what I want from sex. Eventually I realized there are two major disagreements I have with how society approaches it, and the key to mental health in my case is to say “fuck social norms,” and just do what you want (as long as all participants consent and nobody is hurt). Specifically:

1. I want to be public about my sexual habits, fetishes, porn preferences and the like because I believe they are nothing to be embarrassed of.
2. I want to be in relationships with awesome women I find extremely attractive, but at the same time openly (i.e. with everyone’s consent and participation) have sex with other women. Constant sexual novelty/excitement, emotional closeness and complete trust/transparency are all non-negotiable for me. Society says one can’t have it all in this regard. Personal experience and some knowledge of the intimate lives of other people clearly say otherwise.

I don’t talk much about sense of purpose because I never lacked it. I don’t know how to help discover that.

Mental health is the most complex of all the things listed here, and is helped by all other sections. So there will be a lot of extra posts on this.



MEDICAL TESTING

Objective:

Discover your bugs and fix them if possible. Everyone has bugs.

Key tactics:

- Blood testing.
- Genetic testing.
- Other (fat %, CIMT, heart tests, CGM, Toxins, microbiome, allergies). Some of these are useful already, some just fascinating but not clear in terms of actionables.

I wrote a very detailed separate post that includes a huge number of tests I have done, how I interpret them etc. Read it here, I promise it is very interesting, and it lists hundreds of metrics I consider. It is here: <https://medium.com/@sergefaguet/hundreds-of-biomarkers-i-test-in-pursuit-of-focus-health-energy-confidence-and-happiness-dd01572c518b>

Interpretation is hard. This is a new field, the data is very complex, and if you really want to get value out of this, you have to spend a lot of time and effort. It is just the way it is.



Examples of my “bugs”

Also if you look at the testing post, you will see that:

1. I have not screwed myself up despite all this stuff I do. My health seems to be exceptionally good across a large number of tests I have done, and in fact I appear to biologically be significantly younger than 32 if we use biomarkers as proxies for aging (interesting idea, but not enough data yet for rigorous predictions).
2. There is a lot of data out there that can help you understand your risks and how to fix them. It is important to know your metrics.



SUPPLEMENTS & DRUGS

Objective:

Depends on the specific intervention.

Key tactics I use:



- Metformin. This is an anti-diabetes drug that lowers blood sugar without causing hypoglycemia. It appears to be beneficial in preventing cancer and heart disease and is currently in an FDA-approved trial as the first ever treatment for aging. It is extremely safe. I take 1gr morning / 1gr evening of the extended release version.



- Lithium. I use it as a mood stabilizer + as something that may have beneficial cognitive effects. I take ~100–150mg/day lithium carbonate in the evening. Lower doses are unlikely to have noticeable effects. Higher doses may start having negative effects. Lithium is toxic in high doses so something to be careful about.

A Safe Drug to Boost Brainpower

Rigorous analysis shows the drug modafinil significantly enhances cognition

By Melinda Wenner Moyer on March 1, 2016



- Modafinil. Excellent cognitive enhancer. I take 100–200mg/day. Just read this overview in Scientific American: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-safe-drug-to-boost-brainpower/>; I have also taken Adderall for many years and found it to cause a lot of problems (anxiety and over-focus on the wrong things) so stopped.



- SSRI antidepressants. I take 10mg escitalopram daily. It makes everything just a little bit nicer and more enjoyable. That is worth a lot to me.



- Thyroid hormones. I take 25mcg T4 + 20mcg T3. I have below-average thyroid hormones and had a noticeable improvement in mood, energy and cognitive function after I started.
- Growth hormone. I take 0.5 ml of somatropin per day as morning injection. My IGF-1 is naturally very low (115–125) and this boosts it to a below-average 160–180. This is controversial because many people try to lower their IGF-1 in order to enhance cancer resistance. The reason I take it is that I decided I have more to gain by raising it a bit and getting better muscle growth/fat disposal. It also may have some cognitive and neuroprotective benefits.
- Estrogen blocker. I take 50mg clomid 3x per week and cycle it on and off. The reason is that I have below-average-ish testosterone with very low LH/FSH. So that part is clearly a bottleneck, and voila—clomid significantly raises testosterone. I feel more energy and better mood. Also incredibly horny all the time :)
- Phenibut (GABAph). Just started this and don't really have any data, but subjectively it seems to make sleep a bit more restorative and enjoyable. docparsley.com is the supplement I use.



Yes, you are right, i could have come up with a better image for MDMA. H-A is more associated with other drugs.

- MDMA. I will write a whole post about this later. I have only taken it once, and it has

been a truly transformative experience that helped me get rid of a lot of social anxieties and become more extroverted and sexually liberated—all things I really wanted. The effects persist. MDMA is legal in a couple places in the world (e.g. Portugal) plus the FDA is currently running a trial on it for PTSD. It really ought to be legalized.

- **LEGAL DISCLAIMER: DO NOT TAKE DRUGS THAT ARE ILLEGAL IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY. DO NOT DO ANYTHING ILLEGAL.**
- **MEDICAL NOTE: CHECK FOR DRUG INTERACTIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH MDMA. IN PARTICULAR, MAO INHIBITOR ANTIDEPRESSANTS + MDMA IS LETHAL.**
- Supplements. I take a bunch of other compounds that are non-pharmaceuticals. The general idea is that I try to take things that may be beneficial and are unlikely to be harmful. Many of these are likely useless, I just don't know which ones.

Supplement
Bacopa monieri
Creatine
Olive leaf extract
Trimethylglycine (for homocysteine effects)
Magnesium Threonate
R-Lipoic Acid
Curcumin
Vitamin K2 MK4/7
Ashwagandha
Garlic
Omega-3 (high DHA, mercury-free)
B12 (Methylcobalamin)
Coenzymate-B complex
Vitamin D
CoQ10 (ubiquinol)
Glycine
Elysium basis
Milk Thistle
Probiotics
Prebiotics
Green Tea Extract
Life Extension Mix Capsules
Carnitine
Carnosine
Phospatidylcholine
N-Acetyl-L-Cysteine
Acetyl-Glutathione
Saccharomyces boulardi
Quercetin
Oxaloacetate
BioPQQ

Above are some of the supplements (not including pharmaceuticals) I currently take. A top-notch medical research team I work with went through a large number of studies related to most of these and felt the ones at the top are quite likely useful, the middle probably useful, and no opinion on the ones at the bottom. None of these supplements were thought at all likely to be harmful.

Keep in mind: pharmaceuticals act very differently on different people. Some of these may be useless of harmful for you, even if they benefit me. I have gradually phased these in over years of self-experimentation and deep understanding of how they work.



LEGAL DISCLAIMER: I AM NOT RECOMMENDING YOU TAKE ANY MEDICINE WITHOUT PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION. PRESCRIPTION DRUGS SHOULD ONLY BE TAKEN BY PRESCRIPTION FROM A REPUTABLE DOCTOR. I AM NOT A DOCTOR.

Closing thoughts:

- This is a long journey. If you want to get value out of this it will take years. The earlier in life you start, the more compound return benefits you will get.
- All this goes together and reinforces each other. For example if you sleep badly, you can't do the other things well. You just won't have the willpower.
- People think of medicine as "healing the sick." But actually because who is sick is subjective, medicine can also upgrade healthy people on key dimensions. Simple example: I use nearly-invisible hearing aids despite having ok hearing. They boost my hearing to levels significantly above the average human. This can help formulate better responses in conversation, be more persuasive because you hear voice tones better, and many other things that give the user social advantages over others.

Viewpoint: Is inequality about to get unimaginably worse?

© 28 April 2017 | World

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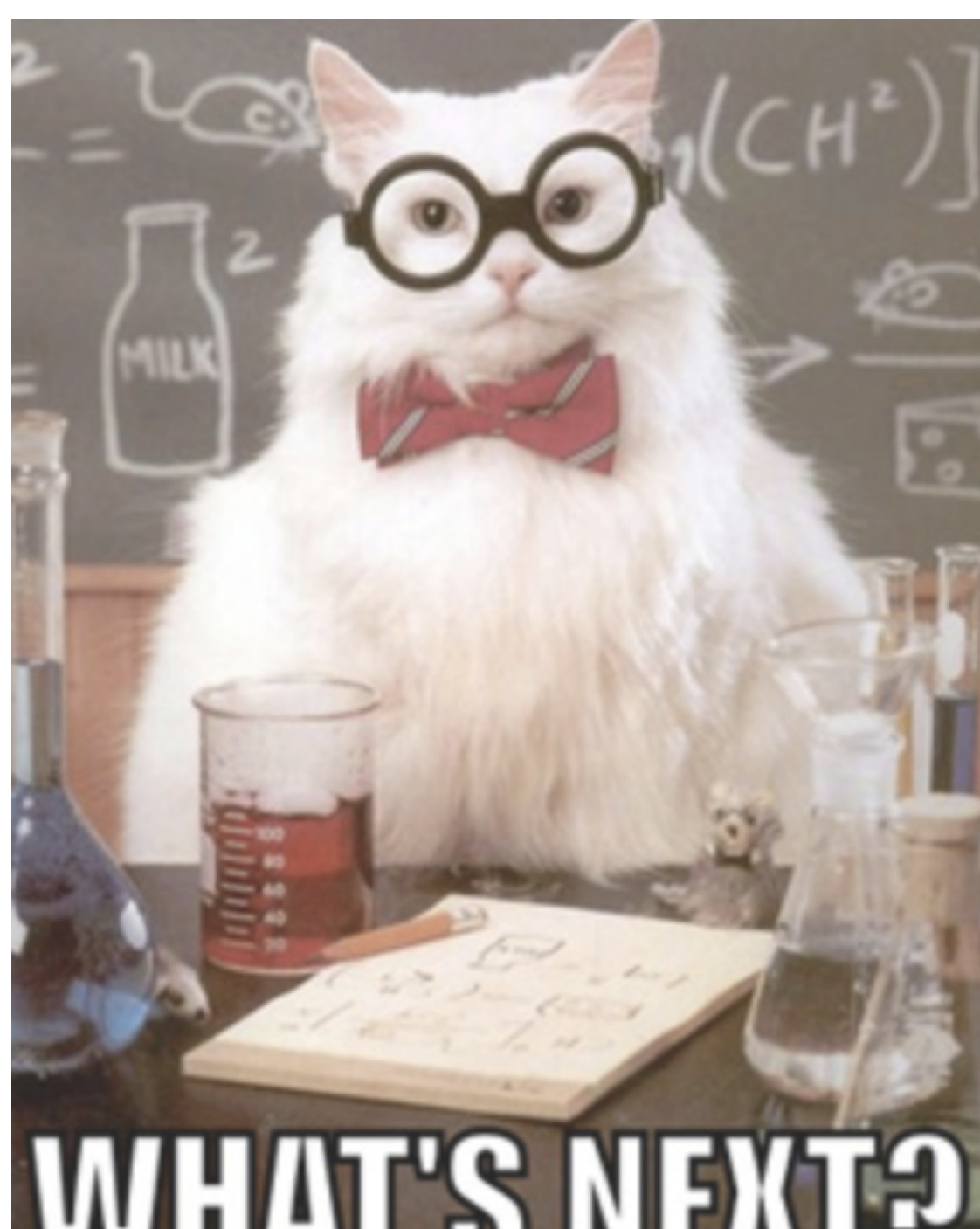


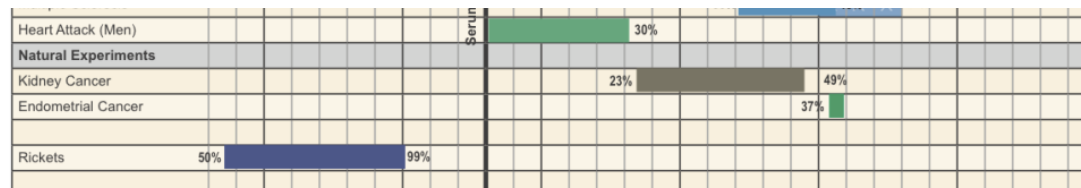
Could advances in technology, genetics and artificial intelligence lead to a world in which economic inequality turns into biological inequality? asks the historian and writer Yuval Noah Harari.

On that note. I think given the way healthcare is organized today, this kind of personalized medicine could significantly increase social inequality beyond where it is now.

People like me will be able to pay for this out of pocket and use off-label prescriptions from private doctors who focus on upgrading and prevention rather than merely healing. Downstream the extra mood, energy, focus, health, willpower and social skills—enhanced over decades—will accrue further and further advantages to people who upgrade themselves, which will lead to a cycle of further concentration of wealth.

I don't have any suggestions on this, just pointing out that this will be a far bigger problem than many other social-justice issues that get attention today.





(credit www.marksdailyapple.com—a great blog about health!)

The screen above shows data compiled from a bunch of studies suggesting that relatively high levels of Vitamin D are protective against a number of diseases. It is very unlikely you will get to these levels without supplementing unless you are a lifeguard on a beach in Israel.

Laboratory Test	Notes	High Risk	Intermediate Risk	Optimal	High Risk Range	Intermediate Risk Range	Optimal Range	Previous Results
Metabolic								
COQ10 (µg/mL)*			1.75		< 1.11	1.11 - 2.00		1.00
<small>*Not analyzed using reagents from Roche Diagnostics by electrochemiluminescence immunoassay. These values should not be used in conjunction with values from other reagent manufacturers or methodologies.</small>								
Metabolic								
Cortisol (µg/dL)			12.2			Morning hours 6-10 a.m.: 5.5-19.8 Afternoon hours 4-8 p.m.: 2.7-10.5 Other or unknown collection time: 2.7-19.8		11.7
Renal								
Cystatin C (mg/L)					≥ 1.04	0.96 - 1.03	≤ 0.95	0.68
Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR, mL/min/1.73m2)					< 60	60 - 89	≥ 89	> 150
Microalbumin (urine) (mg albumin/g of creatinine)					≥ 30		≤ 29	3
Creatinine, serum (mg/dL)			1.0		> 1.2		0.7 - 1.2	1.0

Here the most important thing is that I have exceptional kidney function (eGFR and Cystatin-C)—in the top 5–10% of people in my age group. Especially important for me because all my supplements add workload on kidneys. eGFR is one of the key markers evaluated to calculate people's "true biological age."

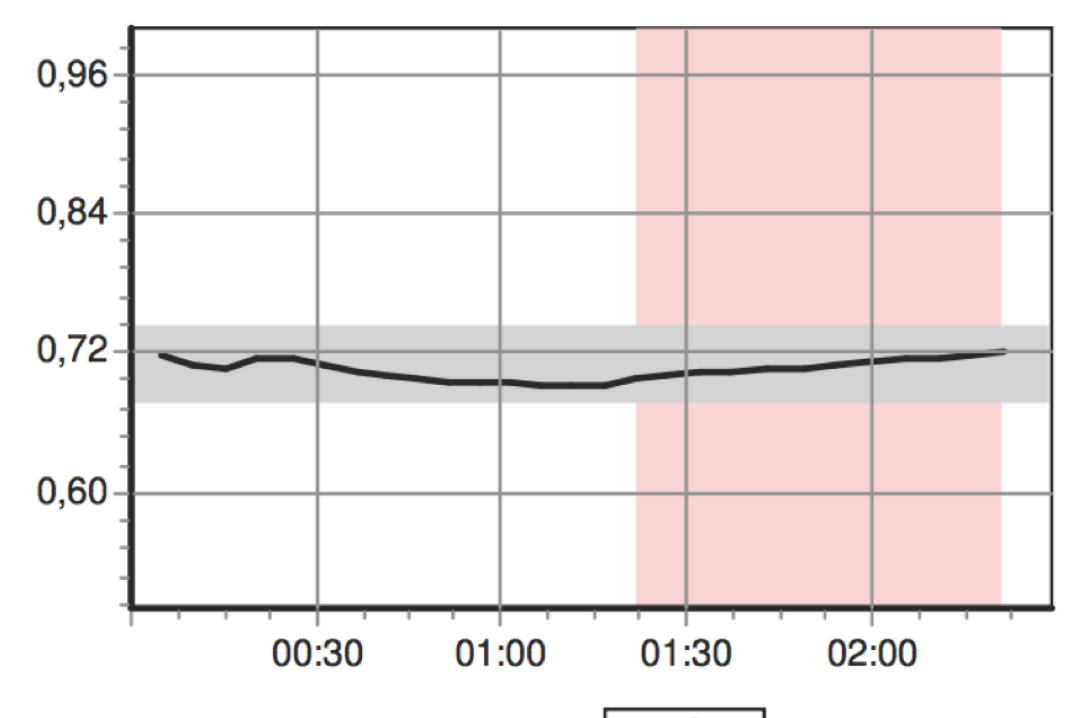
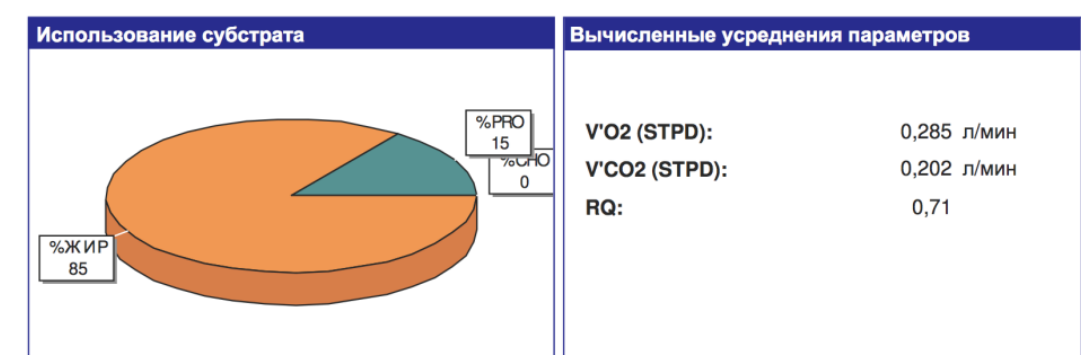
Laboratory Test	Notes	High Risk	Intermediate Risk	Optimal	High Risk Range	Intermediate Risk Range	Optimal Range	Previous Results		
Glycemic Control										
Glucose (mg/dL)				83	> 125	100-125	70 - 99	85		
HbA1c (%)				5.2	≥ 6.5	5.7 - 6.4	≤ 5.6	5.4		
Estimated Average Glucose (mg/dL) (calculated)				102.5	≥ 139.9	116.9 - 139.8	≤ 116.8	108.3		
Fructosamine (µmol/L)		347			> 346	302 - 346	≤ 302	289		
Glycation Gap				-2.51	> 0.77	0.45 - 0.77	< 0.45	-1.21		
Postprandial Glucose Index		12.8			> 7.9	6.0 - 7.9	< 6.0	15.2		
Insulin Resistance										
Leptin (ng/mL)				< 2	> 43	20 - 43	< 20	< 2		
Adiponectin (µg/mL)				31	< 10	10 - 14	> 14	33		
Free Fatty Acid (mmol/L)				0.47	> 0.70	0.60 - 0.70	< 0.60	0.45		
Ferritin (ng/mL) *				25	> 252	147 - 252	< 147	40		
α-hydroxybutyrate (µg/mL)**		8.6			> 5.7	4.5 - 5.7	< 4.5	7.1		
Oleic Acid (µg/mL)**				40	> 79	60 - 79	< 60	41		
Linoleoyl-GPC (µg/mL)**				47.5	< 10.5	10.5 - 13.0	> 13.0	56.4		
HOMA-IR (calculated)				1.0	> 4.2	2.6 - 4.2	< 2.6	0.9		
CLIX-IR (calculated)				12.8	< 4.3	4.3 - 5.2	> 5.2			
CLIX-Beta Cell (calculated)				18.9	< 4.3	4.3 - 5.2	> 5.2			
Beta Cell Function										
Insulin (µU/mL)				5	≥ 12	10 - 11	3 - 9	4		
Proinsulin (pmol/L)				4	> 16	8 - 16	< 8	7		
C-peptide (ng/mL)				1.1	> 4.6	3.1 - 4.6	1.0 - 3.0	1.4		
Proinsulin:C-peptide Ratio				3.4	> 4.9	3.6 - 4.9	< 3.6	4.7		
Anti-GAD (IU/mL)				< 5	> 5	Positive	≤ 5	Negative		
Postprandial Evaluation										
Glucose (mg/dL)	Baseline	1/2 hour	1 hour	1.5/2 hour	2 hour	Baseline Range	1/2 hour Range	1 hour Range	1.5/2 hour Range	2 hour Range
Insulin (µU/mL)	83	95	46			70 - 99	< 200	< 200	< 160	< 140
Free Fatty Acid (mmol/L)	0.47	0.26	0.15			< 0.60	< 0.50	< 0.40	< 0.30	< 0.25
C-peptide (ng/mL)	1.1	6.4	3.5			1.0 - 3.0	< 16.0	< 16.0	< 15.0	< 11.0

This all mostly has to do with insulin sensitivity which is one of the most key pathways in the body in terms of staving off aging and disease. My baseline glucose, insulin and HbA1c are actually not that great, but they don't matter as much.

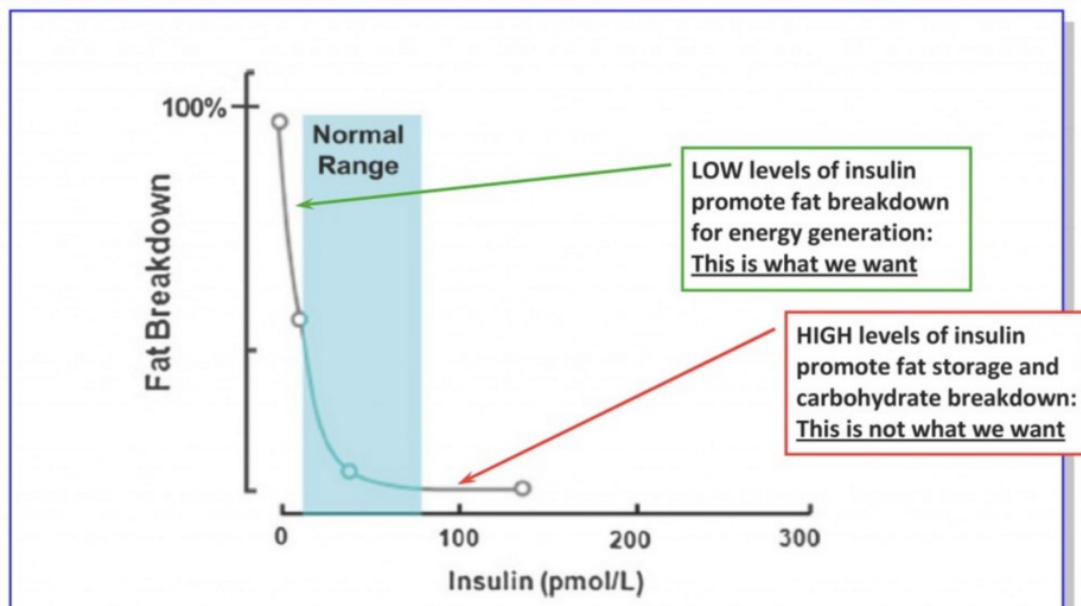
What matters the most is the OGTT ("Postprandial Evaluation" in the image above)—a test where you measure markers, then ingest a lot of fast sugar, then measure again couple more times after defined periods. This test shows the dynamics of how efficiently your body gets rid of sugar. In my case, it is extremely good—basically drinking 75mg of a very sugary solution has barely elevated my sugar, and then a small amount of insulin removed a huge amount of glucose out of my blood, taking me down to 46mg/dl. Most people would feel quite hypoglycemic here but I don't because my sugar is constantly low and my body is used to it.

Alpha-hydroxybutyrate is raised because of my ketogenic diet.

Ferritin is fairly low because I eat well and give blood to do all these tests! This is quite key, especially for men. Lower iron is hypothesized to be one of the reasons why women live longer.

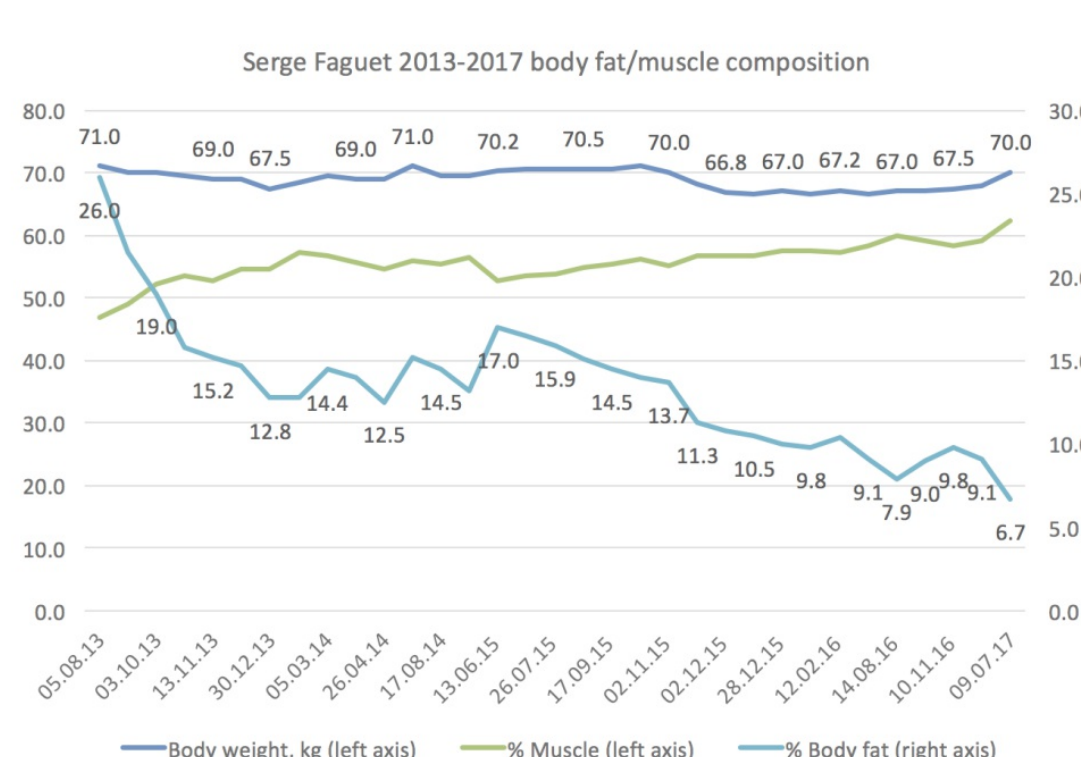


OK, so more on insulin/glucose pathways. Sorry about the Russian in the images. Above is a test called RQ (respiratory quotient) of how much oxygen/co2 you process at rest (you basically put on a gas exchange mask that is also used for VO2max tests below, and sit calmly). What it tells me is that my body runs 85–100% entirely on fat, a little on protein, and not at all on carbs. Which is exactly what you want. I start using the carbs in my body as a dominant energy source only after I get to >150 heartbeats/minute. This enhances athletic performance since glucose storage in the body is limited.



(credit Peter Attia @ <http://eatingacademy.com>—great blog by one of the most knowledgeable people about preventative medicine in the world, in particular about insulin resistance and ketogenic diets)

If you read up about how cancer cells preferentially eat sugar, how ketogenic diets are more metabolically efficient and generate less waste byproducts per unit of energy etc., you will see that keeping your insulin/glucose pathways extremely optimized is an interesting opportunity for material life and healthspan extension. Not to mention body fat % reduction. This also deserves a whole separate post.



On that note, here is my body fat graph. This was done in 33 separate measurements by the same personal trainer with the same equipment via measuring ~15 different sites for subcutaneous fat with calipers. This is error-prone. DEXA scans are better, but we didn't have easy equipment access on a constant basis.

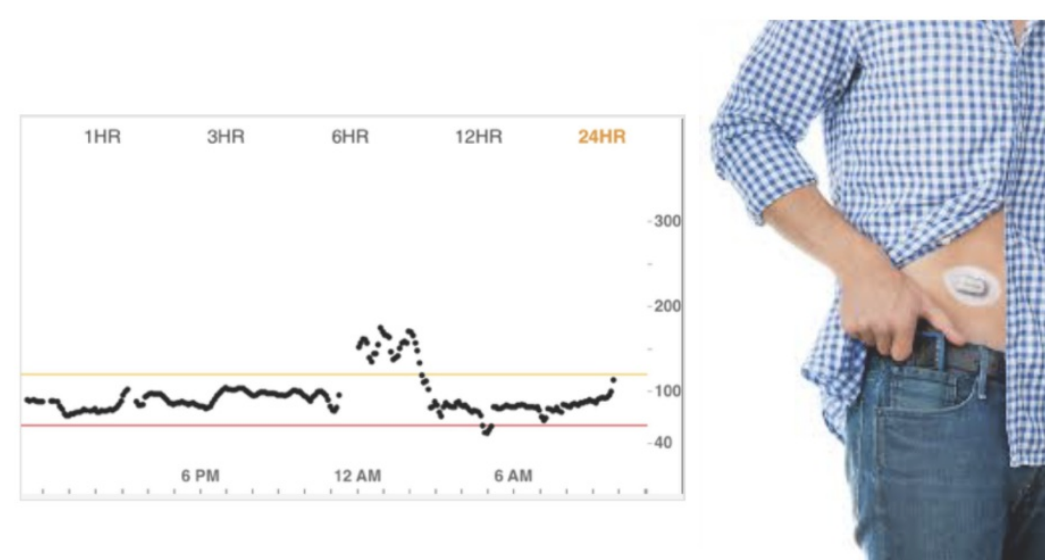
I think the absolute values are suspect, and bioimpedance suggests I am in the 10–11% range right now rather than ~7%. But the directional trend is very clear and encouraging. Also cool that I actually barely lost any weight, so I added a lot of muscle which has major health benefits (if you want a great detailed book on how muscle

ennals your neatn, read <https://www.amazon.com/Body-Science-Research-Program-Results-ebook/dp/B001NLL38S/>.

I don't good have before-and-after pics but I definitely used to be chubby, as all my friends and employees are delighted to keep reminding me :)



Also for those that are interested in ketogenic diets, you measure them via glucometers + ketometers similar to mine above. Be warned that keto blood strips are quite expensive. And that actually getting to a level of ketosis like mine above (after a ~16hr fast) will take a long time and a lot of work.



Also you can use CGM—an implant that tracks your glucose in real-time and sends data to your iphone. This can help figure out which exact foods, activities etc. alter your glucose and are harmful. The above image is from a night a couple years ago when I was stressed, stayed up late, and ate a lot of chocolate while sitting in a bathtub. Note how big the late-night jump is relative to the increase with good food around 6pm. This graph very clearly and unambiguously tells me "hey dude, you are fucking yourself by eating this sugary garbage. Like you just fucked yourself right now—look, let me show you in real-time how you are damaging your health!" Motivational stuff.

CGMs are very cool, but expensive (the Dexcom G5 I used was >\$4,000) and a huge hassle. I do think this is the future and plan to use them a lot though. Imagine real-time monitoring of testosterone connected to a pump that keeps it at optimal levels depending on time of day or activity! This is already feasible (albeit not with all molecules), someone just needs to engineer it.

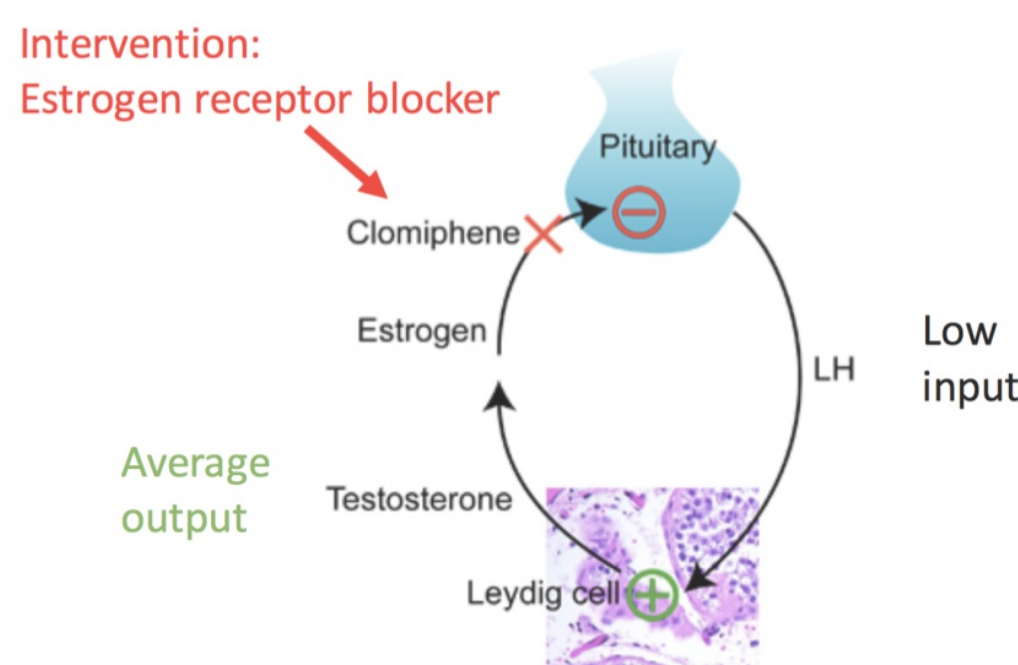
Electrolytes	Result	Flag	Reference Interval	Others	Result	Flag	Reference Interval
Na+ (mmol/L)	140		133 - 145	Albumin (g/dL)	4.5		3.7 - 5.1
K+ (mmol/L)	4.4		3.5 - 5.3	% Albumin (calculated)	65		54 - 71
Cl- (mmol/L)	104		98 - 110	Globulin (g/dL) (calculated)	2.4		1.9 - 3.5
CO ₂ (mmol/L)	25		19 - 31	Albumin:Globulin Ratio (calculated)	1.89		1.15 - 2.50
Anion Gap (calculated)	11		6 - 18	Total Protein (g/dL)	6.8		6.1 - 8.0
Calcium (mg/dL)	9.5		8.8 - 10.5				
Liver	Result	Flag	Reference Interval	Thyroid	Result	Flag	Reference Interval
ALT / GPT (U/L)	18		< 42	TSH (µU/mL)	2.24		0.27 - 4.20
AST / GOT (U/L)	27		< 41	T4 (µg/dL)	6.1		4.5 - 11.7
ALP (U/L)	65		< 18 years: 86 - 410 16 - 20 years: 89 - 210 21 - 30 years: 92 - 121 > 30 years: 98 - 140	T4, free (ng/dL)	1.13		0.93 - 1.70
Total Bilirubin (mg/dL)	0.4		Up to 1.2	T3 (ng/dL)	84		80 - 200
				T3, free (pg/mL)	2.4		> 1.9 yrs - 2.0 - 4.4
				Reverse T3 (ng/dL) ^a	13		8 - 24
Renal	Result	Flag	Reference Interval	Male and Female Hormones	Result	Flag	Reference Interval
Creatinine, serum (mg/dL)	1.0		0.7 - 1.2	Dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (µg/dL)	616	H	15 - 19 yrs: 70 - 492 20 - 24 yrs: 211 - 492 25 - 34 yrs: 89 - 427 35 - 44 yrs: 44 - 191 45 - 54 yrs: 52 - 295 55 - 64 yrs: 34 - 269 > 64 yrs: 14 - 123
BUN (mg/dL)	15		6 - 20	Estradiol (pg/mL)	23.9	L	25.8 - 60.7
BUN:Creatinine Ratio (calculated)	15		< 11 years: 14 - 34 11 - 15 years: 30 - 30 16 - 20 years: 8 - 20 21 - 30 years: 10 - 27 > 30 years: 10 - 25	FSH (mIU/mL)	4.5		1.5 - 12.4
Creatinine, urine (mg/dL)	54		20 - 400	LH (mIU/mL)	5.4		1.7 - 8.6
				Progesterone (ng/mL)	0.27		< 0.48
Anemia	Result	Flag	Reference Interval	Human sex hormone-binding globulin (nmol/L)	68		10 - 80
Iron (µg/dL)	73		59 - 158	Testosterone (ng/dL)	1004		< 1 year: 12 - 21 1 - 4 years: 12 - 21 5 - 12 years: 22 - 68 13 - 19 years: 28 - 110 > 17 years: 348 - 1197
Direct TIBC (µg/dL)	461	H	250 - 450				
Transferrin Saturation (%) (calculated)	16		15 - 50				
Ferritin (ng/mL)	25	L	30 - 400				

Male and Female Hormones	Result	Flag	Reference Interval
Free Testosterone (ng/dL) (calculated)	14.65		4.7 - 24.4
Dihydrotestosterone (ng/dL) ^a	53		Adults: 30 - 85 Prepubertal: < 1 Tanner Age: 1: 0-8.9 2: 8.9 - 14.6 3: 14.6 - 24.4 4: 24.4 - 34.1 5: 34.1 - 43.8 6: 43.8 - 53.5 7: 53.5 - 63.2 8: 63.2 - 72.9 9: 72.9 - 82.6 10: 82.6 - 92.3 11: 92.3 - 102.0 12: 102.0 - 111.7 13: 111.7 - 121.4 14: 121.4 - 131.1 15: 131.1 - 140.8 16: 140.8 - 150.5 17: 150.5 - 160.2 18: 160.2 - 169.9 19: 169.9 - 179.6 20: 179.6 - 189.3 21: 189.3 - 199.0 22: 199.0 - 208.7 23: 208.7 - 218.4 24: 218.4 - 228.1 25: 228.1 - 237.8 26: 237.8 - 247.5 27: 247.5 - 257.2 28: 257.2 - 266.9 29: 266.9 - 276.6 30: 276.6 - 286.3 31: 286.3 - 296.0 32: 296.0 - 305.7 33: 305.7 - 315.4 34: 315.4 - 325.1 35: 325.1 - 334.8 36: 334.8 - 344.5 37: 344.5 - 354.2 38: 354.2 - 363.9 39: 363.9 - 373.6 40: 373.6 - 383.3 41: 383.3 - 393.0 42: 393.0 - 402.7 43: 402.7 - 412.4 44: 412.4 - 422.1 45: 422.1 - 431.8 46: 431.8 - 441.5 47: 441.5 - 451.2 48: 451.2 - 460.9 49: 460.9 - 470.6 50: 470.6 - 480.3 51: 480.3 - 490.0 52: 490.0 - 499.7 53: 499.7 - 509.4 54: 509.4 - 519.1 55: 519.1 - 528.8 56: 528.8 - 538.5 57: 538.5 - 548.2 58: 548.2 - 557.9 59: 557.9 - 567.6 60: 567.6 - 577.3 61: 577.3 - 587.0 62: 587.0 - 596.7 63: 596.7 - 606.4 64: 606.4 - 616.1 65: 616.1 - 625.8 66: 625.8 - 635.5 67: 635.5 - 645.2 68: 645.2 - 654.9 69: 654.9 - 664.6 70: 664.6 - 674.3 71: 674.3 - 684.0 72: 684.0 - 693.7 73: 693.7 - 703.4 74: 703.4 - 713.1 75: 713.1 - 722.8 76: 722.8 - 732.5 77: 732.5 - 742.2 78: 742.2 - 751.9 79: 751.9 - 761.6 80: 761.6 - 771.3 81: 771.3 - 781.0 82: 781.0 - 790.7 83: 790.7 - 800.4 84: 800.4 - 810.1 85: 810.1 - 819.8 86: 819.8 - 829.5 87: 829.5 - 839.2 88: 839.2 - 848.9 89: 848.9 - 858.6 90: 858.6 - 868.3 91: 868.3 - 878.0 92: 878.0 - 887.7 93: 887.7 - 897.4 94: 897.4 - 907.1 95: 907.1 - 916.8 96: 916.8 - 926.5 97: 926.5 - 936.2 98: 936.2 - 945.9 99: 945.9 - 955.6 100: 955.6 - 965.3
Insulinlike Growth Factor 1 (ng/mL)	181		14 - 15 years: 114 - 499 16 - 17 years: 114 - 499 18 - 19 years: 114 - 499 20 - 24 years: 114 - 415 25 - 29 years: 114 - 415 30 - 34 years: 114 - 415 35 - 39 years: 114 - 415 40 - 44 years: 114 - 415 45 - 49 years: 114 - 415 50 - 54 years: 114 - 415 55 - 59 years: 114 - 415 60 - 64 years: 114 - 415 65 - 69 years: 114 - 415 70 - 74 years: 114 - 415 75 - 79 years: 114 - 415 80 - 84 years: 114 - 415 85 - 89 years: 114 - 415 90 - 94 years: 114 - 415 95 - 99 years: 114 - 415 100 years: 114 - 415

OK, back to more blood testing! Some notes:

- My liver markers are great, which is also important in my case because of all the load my supplements and meds put on the liver. People often ask me how I know all these pills don't screw up my liver. This is how I know.
- Hormones deserve an entire separate post. Mine are not great, the hypothesis is that this is due to a childhood head trauma interfering with the pituitary's function. For example my brother has very similar Lp(a), homocysteine etc problems, but he is much taller than me, which suggests childhood environmentally-driven growth hormone disruption.

As I mention in my main framework post, I boost thyroid hormones, IGF-1 and testosterone.



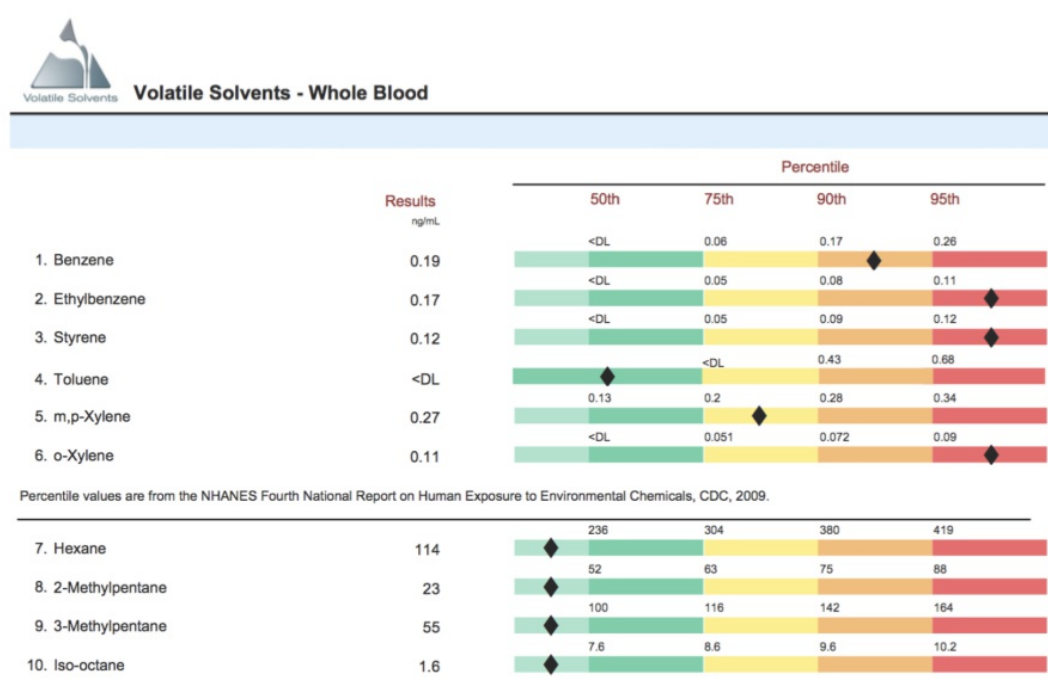
I had avg testosterone and low precursors. Opportunity!

	Before	After	% diff
LH	3.4	5.4	59%
Testosterone	608	1004	65%
Free-testosterone	8.1	14.7	81%

Testosterone deserves a special mention. In short, I have average-ish testosterone but low LH/FSH (which serve as inputs to testosterone). What controls FSH/LH is binding of estrogen at the pituitary gland. And because estrogen is a testosterone downstream product, there is a feedback loop.

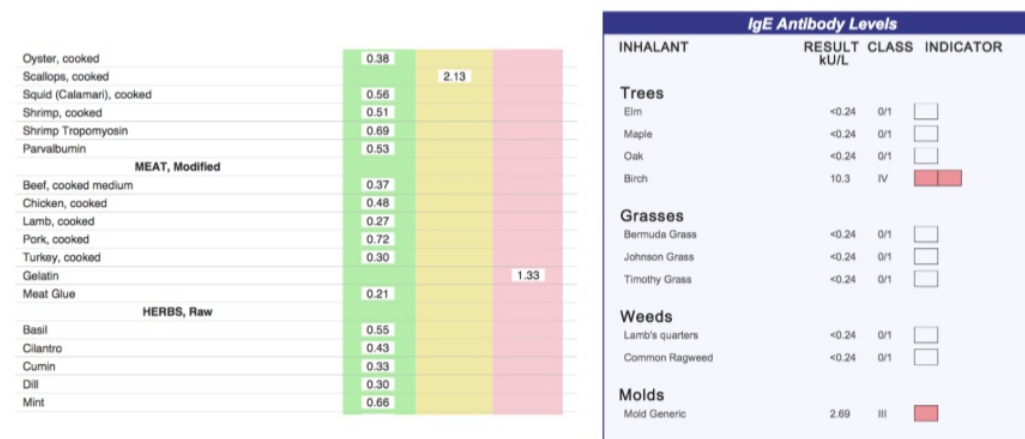
So what I did is take an "estrogen blocker" which competitively occupies the same sites estrogen occupies at the pituitary, without inhibiting FSH/LH. The result can clearly be seen above—in a very short period of time (2 months), free testosterone jumped a lot. This has a noticeable effect on mood and energy. Also very noticeable effect on wanting to have sex all the time:)

CBC with Automated Differential / Platelet	Result	Flag	Reference Interval
WBC (x10 ³ /µL)	5.2		4.0 - 10.5
RBC (x10 ⁶ /µL)	4.4		4.1 - 5.6
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	13.7		12.5 - 17.0
Hematocrit (%)	41		36 - 50
MCV (fL)	94		80 - 98
MCH (pg)	32		27 - 34
MCHC (g/dL)	34		32 - 36
RDW (%)	12.8		11.7 - 15



This is an interesting test (Genova Diagnostic Toxic Effects) that suggests somewhere I was getting significant exposure to VOCs (which are definitely bad for you). The actions I took were to enhance office/home ventilation, not eat/drink from plastic containers, not stand next to people who smoke.

On that last note, one time I took this test after smoking some pure-weed joints (which I do very rarely), and the toxins went off the charts high. If you can't stop smoking, at least vape. Inhaling burned weed or tobacco is incredibly bad for you, I was shocked by the levels of toxic chemicals I saw in myself after just one evening of several joints.



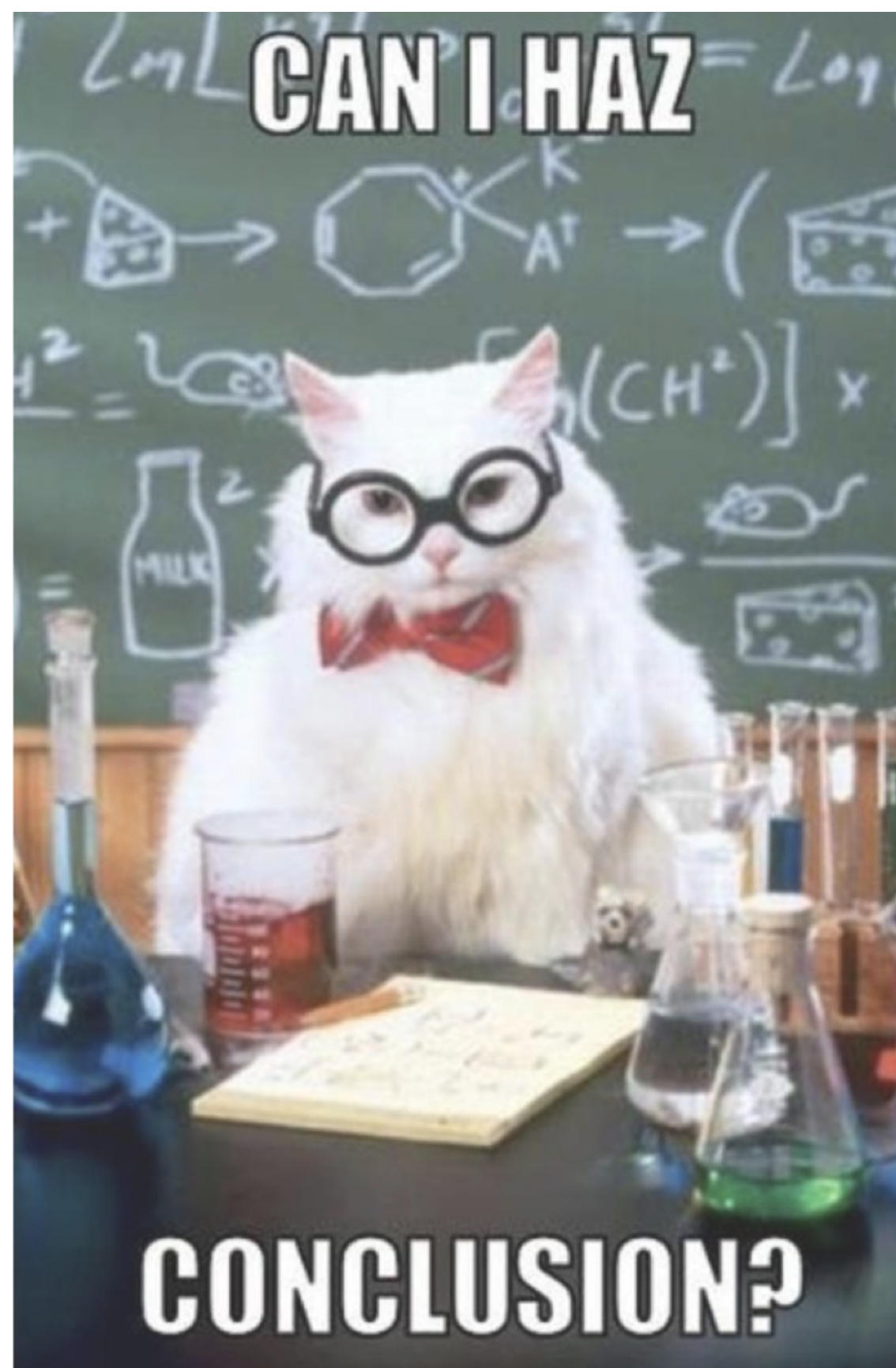
This is from two tests of allergies/sensitivities by Cyrex. The reason I took it is that if you eat products you are sensitive to, you may increase inflammatory activity in the body which we do not want.

My takeaways are that I shouldn't eat tuna or scallops, and that I am allergic to certain molds. Also that I appear to have a clearly-acquired gelatin sensitivity because of all the capsules I take. Fascinating.

Other interesting tests/metrics:

- Resting heart rate at night. You can measure via the Oura ring or many other devices. Mine is around 55 which is ok, but not great. Kind of irritates me that it isn't better :)
- heart rate variability is an interesting metric that appears to be correlated with health even more than RHR, although I have no idea how to interpret it at this point.
- Blood pressure. Should ideally be on the low end. Mine is typically around 100/60. Can be improved by eating less salt + drinking hibiscus tea, as well as by a lot of the other lifestyle things I list.

There are many other tests I have done, but this is already an incredibly long post.



The key takeaways are that:

1. I have not screwed my health up despite all this crazy stuff I do. In fact, my health seems to be exceptionally good across a large number of tests I have done—a lot of age-correlated markers suggest I am closer to 20 years old, even though I am 32. The markers are also continuing to improve. This suggests I am doing something right.
2. There is a lot of data out there that can help you understand your risks and how to fix them. It is important to know your metrics.

Also here is a framework I like using. Below are all-age causes of death in the US. My markers suggest that I am at extremely low risk for a large number of them, **even in my age group**. So if I maintain a similar set of behaviors (and actually I keep improving every year) I should have low risks in my age group when I am 80 as well unless something screws up.

CAUSE OF DEATH RANKING	All Ages	
	Rnk	Deaths
CORONARY HEART DISEASE	1	207,302
LUNG CANCER	2	84,000
LUNG DISEASE	3	67,770
STROKE	4	55,400
DIABETES MELLITUS	5	41,110
HYPERTENSION	6	34,000
SUICIDE	7	30,110
ALZHEIMER	8	28,360
PROSTATE CANCER	9	28,343
COLON-RECTUM CANCERS	10	27,303
POISONING	11	27,021
INFLUENZA & PNEUMONIA	12	26,346
KIDNEY DISEASE	13	24,026
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	14	24,732
LIVER DISEASE	15	24,641
PANCREAS CANCER	16	20,754
ENDOCRINE DISORDERS	17	19,197
LYMPHOMAS	18	18,804
BLOOD POISONING	19	18,332
INFLAMMATORY HEART	20	17,678

My cardio markers, CIMT and insulin resistance are extremely good, which takes care of a number of key drivers of death.

I don't smoke (reduces lung cancer risk >80%) although clearly toxic exposure still exists

Suicide: I take very good care of mental health.

AD unlikely to be an issue for me (ApoE 3/3), low inflammation, great insulin resistance.

Poisoning = alcohol & hard drugs. Likely not issue for me.

If you take certain precautions, risk of road accidents drops 80-90%

Have v good kidney/liver tests. Also liver is all about alcohol and obesity.

With the above framework I also identified that my key risk is cancer—which is why I am so focused on low sugar and insulin (which appear to feed cancer preferentially, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warburg_hypothesis) and my immune system which is somewhat weaker due to CMV, so very interested in iP stem cell therapies that could replenish naive lymphocytes.

I expect that even without major medical progress, I will be in excellent mental/physical condition at 100 and will live longer than any human who has ever lived as of 2017. With tech progress, it seems likely that immortality is reachable.



I could be wrong, but I suspect that today there are fewer than 1000 people out of 7 billion who know as much about their own health as I do. Because of how onerous, expensive, and non-intuitive this is.

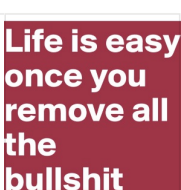
But this should become much more mainstream. It really does give you a significant advantage in life across very many areas—thanks to this, I often feel "superhuman" because of how much control I have over my health and behavior relative to what I see in other people. And humans tend to adopt things that enhance their social competitiveness.

I am happy to speak at high-quality events/podcasts, talk with journalists about

personalized patient-driven medicine etc. —tee! tree to reach out! Best way to reach me is to send me a message on Facebook Messenger (<https://www.facebook.com/sergef>) or Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/sergefaguet/>).

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