Open Soul Mind

A FEEL-GOOD CHALLENGE TO SUPPORT YOUR MIND AND MOOD

with

NUTRITIONAL PSYCHIATRIST DR. UMA NAIDOO 66

A happy gut is a happy & calm mood

-DR. UMA NAIDOO

JOIN THE CHALLENGE:

Each week in September, we'll introduce a simple daily habit designed to strengthen the gut microbiome and the gut-brain connection—central to quieting anxiety, balancing mood and boosting mental clarity.

COLOR WEEK

Include at least 5 different colors of plant foods each day—such as fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices.

WEEK O2

Begin gradually increasing your intake of fiber to reach the daily recommended amount.

OMEGA-3 WEEK

Focus on prioritizing omega-3 fatty acids.

FERMENTS
WEEK

Incorporate at least one fermented food per day.

COLOR WEEK

Include at least 5 different colors of plant foods each day—such as fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices.

Why? Each color-rich food offers a unique set of nutrients and prebiotics that nourish the diverse beneficial bacteria in your gut. Brightly colored foods are also packed with polyphenols, powerful antioxidants that help fight inflammation and reduce oxidative stress, supporting overall health and well-being.

COLOR INSPIRATION TO GET YOU STARTED

Reds: Beets, strawberries, raspberries, red peppers & tomatoes

Orange & Yellows: Sweet potatoes, carrots, mango, pineapple & turmeric

Greens: Kale, spinach, broccoli, Brussels sprouts & fresh herbs

Blues & Purples: Açaí, blueberries, blue-green algae & purple cabbage

LOG HOW YOU ARE FEELING BEGINNING THIS CHALLENGE (click or tap to place an X on each spectrum below) MOOD ENERGY STRESS ANXIETY PRODUCTIVITY PRODUCTIVITY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR LIFE ALIVE'S COLORFUL MEAL OPTIONS & RECIPES FROM DR. NAIDOO:

TRACK YOUR PROGRESS EACH DAY

(log each color & plant, plus any food or behavior that impacted your mind & mood)

TUES, SEPT 2 5 COLORS / PLANT FOODS	WED, SEPT 3 5 COLORS / PLANT FOODS
NOTES	NOTES
THURS, SEPT 4	FRI, SEPT 5
5 COLORS / PLANT FOODS	5 COLORS / PLANT FOODS
NOTES	NOTES
SAT, SEPT 6	SUN, SEPT 7
5 COLORS / PLANT FOODS	5 COLORS / PLANT FOODS
NOTES	NOTES



Begin gradually increasing your intake of fiber to reach the daily recommended amount.

Why? Although we don't digest fiber ourselves—since it passes through our digestive system largely intact—fiber serves as one of the most valuable prebiotics. It feeds the beneficial bacteria in your gut, providing their favorite fuel to promote a healthy and balanced microbiome.

HOW MUCH FIBER DO	WE NEED EACH DAY?	
Women 50 or Younger: 25 grams	Men 50 or Younger: 38 grams	
Women 51 or Older: 21 grams	Men 51 or Older: 30 grams	
LOG HOW YOU ARE FEELING, NOTE ANY CHANGES SINCE WEEK 1 (click or tap to place an X on each spectrum below) MOOD		
ENERGY		
STRESS		
ANXIETY		
FOCUS		
PRODUCTIVITY		

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR LIFE ALIVE'S FIBER-RICH MEAL OPTIONS & RECIPES FROM DR. NAIDOO:

TRACK YOUR PROGRESS EACH DAY

(log the grams of fiber you eat each day, noting any foods that impact your gut or mood)

MON, SEPT 8 GRAMS OF FIBER BREAKFAST LUNCH SNACKS DINNER TOTAL NOTES	TUES, SEPT 9 GRAMS OF FIBER BREAKFAST LUNCH SNACKS DINNER TOTAL NOTES
WED, SEPT 10 GRAMS OF FIBER BREAKFAST LUNCH SNACKS DINNER TOTAL NOTES	THURS, SEPT 11 GRAMS OF FIBER BREAKFAST LUNCH SNACKS DINNER TOTAL NOTES
FRI, SEPT 12 GRAMS OF FIBER BREAKFAST LUNCH SNACKS DINNER TOTAL NOTES	SAT, SEPT 13 GRAMS OF FIBER BREAKFAST LUNCH SNACKS DINNER TOTAL NOTES
SUN, SEPT 14 GRAMS OF FIBER BREAKFAST LUNCH SNACKS DINNER TOTAL NOTES	 DR. NAIDOO'S TIPS FOR INCREASING YOUR FIBER INTAKE GRADUALLY: Start slowly—fiber fermentation can initially cause more hydrogen & methane gas than the gut is used to handling. Add one or two servings daily, then increase gradually as your gut adjusts. Drink plenty of water to help fiber move through your system. Listen to your body—slow down if

symptoms feel too strong.

LIFESTYLE FACTORS THAT CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT MIND & MOOD

DAILY MOVEMENT

HYDRATE, HYDRATE, HYDRATE CONSISTENT SLEEP PATTERN

SOCIAL

MIND & MOOD BOOSTERS

GRATITUDE | PRACTICE

BREATHWORK, MEDITATION OR JOURNALING & SNACKS
THROUGHOUT
THE DAY

SUNLIGHT &
TIME IN NATURE

LIFESTYLE FACTORS THAT CAN NEGATIVELY IMPACT MIND & MOOD

SITTING ALL DAY

RELYING TOO HEAVILY ON CAFFEINE OR ENERGY DRINKS

SCREEN TIME BEFORE BED

PROCESSED FOOD & ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS

MIND & MOOD DEPLETORS

REFINED CARBS & UNHEALTHY FATS

CHRONIC STRESS HIGH SUGAR INTAKE

SKIPPING MEALS

Focus on prioritizing omega-3 fatty acids.

Why? Humans should be eating a ratio close to 1:1 to 4:1 omega-6 to omega-3 but the typical Western diet has a ratio of 15:1 to 20:1, largely due to a high consumption of processed seed oils (soy, corn, sunflower) and a low intake of omega-3-rich foods. High omega-6 intake without enough omega-3s can tilt the balance toward a pro-inflammatory state.

OMEGA-3 SOURCES **Plants:** Avocados, seaweed, algae Fatty fish: Salmon, mackerel, herring and sardines Nuts and seeds: Flaxseeds, chia seeds, pumpkin seeds, cashews and walnuts Plant Oil: Avocado oil, olive oil and flaxseed oil LOG HOW YOU ARE FEELING. NOTE ANY CHANGES SINCE WEEK 2. (click or tap to place an X on each spectrum below) MOOD ENERGY STRESS ANXIETY FOCUS PRODUCTIVITY

NEXT, TRACK YOUR PROGRESS EACH DAY

(log the omega-3-rich foods you eat, noting any that impact your gut or mood)

MON, SEPT 15 OMEGA-3-RICH FOODS NOTES	TUES, SEPT 16 OMEGA-3-RICH FOODS
WED, SEPT 17 OMEGA-3-RICH FOODS NOTES	THURS, SEPT 18 OMEGA-3-RICH FOODS
FRI, SEPT 19 OMEGA-3-RICH FOODS NOTES	SAT, SEPT 20 OMEGA-3-RICH FOODS OMEGA-3-RICH FOODS OMEGA-3-RICH FOODS
SUN, SEPT 21 OMEGA-3-RICH FOODS NOTES	 WAITARE OMEGA-6 FATTY ACIDS, LIKE SEED OILS, BAD FOR ME? THE ANSWER IS "NO," BUT IT'S NUANCED: Omega-6s are essential nutrients needed for proper brain function and metabolism. Processing Matters: Minimally processed oils retain more beneficial nutrients and antioxidants than highly refined oils. Balance Matters: Seed oils in moderate amounts as part of a healthy overall diet can support your wellbeing when balanced with an adequate amount of omega-3s.

FERMENTS W E E K

Incorporate at least one fermented food per day.

Why? Fermented foods introduce beneficial probiotics that help maintain a healthy, diverse gut microbiome, reducing inflammation and promoting smooth communication between your gut and brain. New to fermented foods? Dr. Naidoo suggests starting slowly—add them to one meal every few days for the first 3-4 days, then work up to daily if you're feeling good.

FERMENTED FOODS		
Dairy: Yogurt, kefir, aged cheeses, buttermilk		
Vegetables: Sauerkraut, kimchi, pickles, olives		
Soy: Miso, tempeh		
Grains: Sourdough bread, kombucha, vinegar		
LOG HOW YOU ARE FEELING, NOTE ANY CHANGES SINCE WEEK 3 (click or tap to place an X on each spectrum below)		
MOOD		
ENERGY		
STRESS		
ANXIETY		
FOCUS		
PRODUCTIVITY		

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR LIFE ALIVE MEALS & RECIPES FROM DR. NAIDOO HIGHLIGHTING FERMENTED FOODS:

NEXT, TRACK YOUR PROGRESS EACH DAY

(log the fermented foods you eat each day, noting any foods that impact your gut or mood)

MON, SEPT 22 FERMENTED FOODS NOTES	TUES, SEPT 23 FERMENTED FOODS
WED, SEPT 24 FERMENTED FOODS NOTES	THURS, SEPT 25 FERMENTED FOODS
FRI, SEPT 26 FERMENTED FOODS NOTES	SAT, SEPT 27 FERMENTED FOODS
SUN, SEPT 28 FERMENTED FOODS NOTES	FERMENTED FOODS ARE A GUT GAME-CHANGER Stanford researchers discovered that just 10 weeks of fermented foods supercharge your microbiome diversity and boost immune function. Bonus: They also reduce chronic inflammation—a major contributor to diseases like anxiety, depression, diabetes and heart disease.

A NOTE FROM DR. NAIDOO ON HOW YOU'LL FEEL DURING THIS MONTH-LONG CHALLENGE



You may expect that adding more colors, fiber, omega-3s and fermented foods to your diet will make you feel immediately happier, lighter and less bloated.

In reality, it's more like introducing new roommates to your gut microbiome. There's a brief adjustment period—sometimes with a little extra digestive noise—before everyone settles in.

The bottom line? These temporary changes are normal and a sign that your gut is adjusting in a healthy way. Stick with it, go slowly and your body will thank you in the long run.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE

If you have a gut condition like IBS, IBC, SIBO, Crohn's or ulcerative colitis, consult your healthcare provider—you may take this even more slowly to see how your gut adapts.

The information provided during this challenge is for general knowledge and informational purposes only, and does not constitute medical advice. It is essential to consult with a qualified healthcare professional for any health concerns or before making any decisions related to your health or treatment.

DAY 2

You may feel more satisfied after meals with fewer cravings for sweets or fried foods.

A watch-out: you could also notice mild bloating or gas as you adjust to the new foods you're eating. These symptoms are temporary and show your gut microbiome is adapting in a healthy way.

DAY 7

Most digestive symptoms subside as your gut adapts. You may notice more stable energy, better sleep and improved mood as beneficial bacteria in the gut microbiome increase. Many also notice better alertness and contentment.

By day 30, beneficial shifts in your gut microbiome start to unlock lasting energy, better mood and enhanced mental clarity. You may experience decreased stress and supercharged motivation.

DAY 30 & BEYOND Consistent omega-3 consumption actively protects your heart and brain, which may improve blood pressure.

And overall, you're likely to experience a confidence boost in your personal health status and healthy eating habits.



ALL SEPTEMBER, GET WEEKLY MOOD-BOOSTING TIPS, RECIPES AND LIVE EVENT INVITES:

1) IN YOUR INBOX

2) ON SOCIALS @LIFEALIVECAFE