JOEL FUHRMAN, MD

Soup: A high-nutrient diet essential

Soups, along with salads, are an essential part of my high-nutrient (Nutritarian) diet, and for good reason. Vegetable and bean soups and stews are nutrient-rich, flavorful and easy to prepare. They can be served as a complement to a meal or as the centerpiece. Soups can easily be cooked in bulk to provide several days' worth of leftovers, convenient to have on hand at home or to take along to work or school.

Soups and stews are warming, satisfying and satiating, and can widen your nutrient diversity. They can be made from a variety of fresh, frozen or even leftover ingredients and allow for experimentation in a pot, pressure cooker, slow cooker or even right in a Vitamix or other high-powered blender.

Since soups are gently cooked with a liquid base, nutrients are retained and some are made more absorbable. Many nutrients, like folate, other B vitamins, vitamin C and a range of minerals, are water soluble. Normally, with water-based cooking, like boiling, watersoluble nutrients are leached into the cooking water and discarded.

However, with soups, the liquid and the water-soluble nutrients are retained and consumed.

Cooking soup heats, moisturizes and softens vegetables and beans, which dramatically increases the potential digestibility and absorption of the nutritious compounds contained within them.

Recent studies confirm that the body absorbs more of the

beneficial anti-cancer compounds, carotenoids in particular, especially lutein and lycopene, from cooked vegetables as compared to raw vegetables.

Scientists speculate that the increase in absorption of these antioxidants after cooking may be attributed to the destruction of the cell matrix or connective bands to which these compounds are bound.

For superior nutrition, become an expert at making great soups.

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Make your soups with some

of the G-BOMBS, like greens, beans, onions and mushrooms, which are some of the most nutritious foods on the planet and combine so well in a big pot for a super nutritious and savory meal.

Start your soups with a base of water, heating on the stove with your dried beans, as they take the longest to cook. Then add the fresh vegetable juice, like carrot, celery or tomato juice or a no-salt-added vegetable broth.

Then, add a bit of liquid to the blender, to blend the

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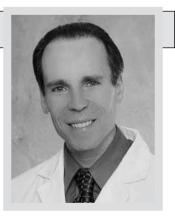
pets, Oceanside Veterinary Hospital will

onions, leeks or other members of the Allium family and your cruciferous leafy green vegetables into a smooth purée.

Always include some cruciferous vegetables into the mix, such as kale, mustard greens, collards, bok choy or cabbage.

Soups can keep well in the refrigerator for five days or longer in the freezer.

Soup's on! Quick, hot, tasty and nutrient dense-soups in all of their varieties are a great way to experience the pleas-



ures of the Nutritarian diet.

Dr. Fuhrman is a New York Times best-selling author and board certified family physician specializing in lifestyle and nutritional medicine.

Visit his website at Dr Fuhrman.com, or submit questions and comments to news questions@drfuhrman.com.

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Jim Hoberg is a Florence native, and has been working in Real Estate since 1989. He has served as a Principal Broker for 20 years, and is the "founding father" of West Coast Real Estate Services, Inc. He has obtained several designations that require continuing education, which keeps him on the cutting edge of the industry and he is constantly looking for ways to expand his areas of expertise. Jim enjoys helping people find solutions to their real estate needs and discovering why Florence is such a great place to live.

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