



**Karolinska  
Institutet**

# **Muskelfysiologi och fysisk aktivitet hos barn och unga vuxna med cerebral pares**

**Ferdinand von Walden, MD, PhD**

**Assistant Professor**

**Neuropediatrics unit, Dept of Women's and Children's health**

**Karolinska Institutet**

## This is me:

- Resident in Pediatrics  
Assistant Professor of muscle Physiology
- Education:
  - Msc human Physiology 2007
  - MD 2009
  - PhD 2015
- Postdoc Cerebral palsy & muscle 2015-2019
- University of Kentucky 2019-2020
- Interest: muscle adaptation to exercise and neuropediatrics (CP, DMD, SMA)

# Agenda



- Short introduction to Cerebral palsy
- Skeletal muscle in CP
- Frame running as a tool to study exercise physiology
- Ongoing research

# Cerebral palsy (CP)

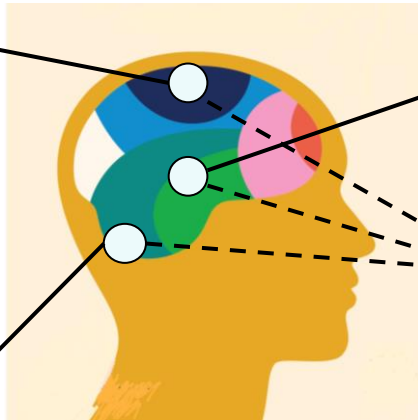
- CP is the most common motor disorder in kids.
- 2 kids in a 1000 have cerebral palsy.
- Approx. at least 17 million people have CP world wide.
- Limited access to physical activity (adapted physical activity).
- At an increased risk of poor health.

# What is cerebral palsy?

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is a heterogenous group

## Motor types

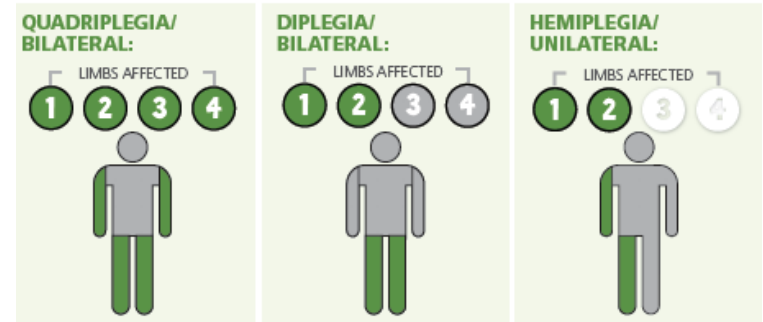
**Spastic**  
~80%  
stiff  
muscles



**Dyskinetic:**  
~10%  
involuntary  
movements

**Mixed  
types**

## Parts of the body



**Ataxic:** ~6%

Shaky movements

poor balance

Poor sense of positioning in  
space

## Associated impairments

### ASSOCIATED IMPAIRMENTS

Children with cerebral palsy may also have a range of physical and cognitive impairments.

**1 in 3**  
is unable  
to walk



**1 in 4**  
is unable  
to talk



**3 in 4**  
experience  
pain



**1 in 4**  
has  
epilepsy



**1 in 4**  
has a  
behaviour  
disorder



**1 in 2**  
has an  
intellectual  
impairment



**1 in 10**  
has a severe  
vision  
impairment



**1 in 4**  
has  
bladder  
control  
problems



**1 in 5**  
has  
sleep  
disorder



**1 in 5**  
has  
saliva  
control  
problems

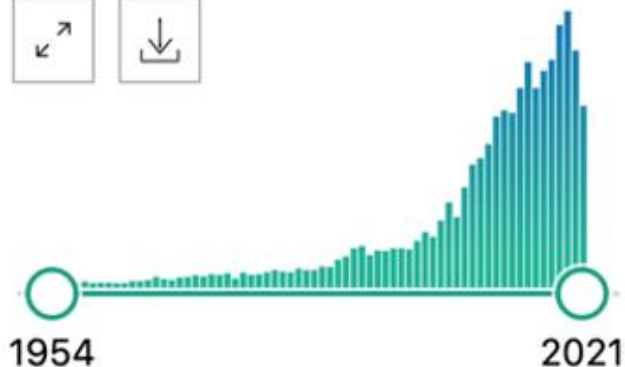


# Tradition - physical activity in CP

(physical function) AND (cerebral palsy)

6489 results

RESULTS BY YEAR



(physical fitness) AND (cerebral palsy)

257 results

RESULTS BY YEAR



# The reality when having CP?

Review > [Disabil Rehabil.](#) 2013 Apr;35(8):647-55. doi: 10.3109/09638288.2012.715721.

Epub 2012 Oct 17.

## Differences in habitual physical activity levels of young people with cerebral palsy and their typically developing peers: a systematic review

Stacey L Carlon <sup>1</sup>, Nicholas F Taylor, Karen J Dodd, Nora Shields

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 23072296 DOI: 10.3109/09638288.2012.715721



[Clin Orthop Surg.](#) 2020 Mar; 12(1): 107-112.

Published online 2020 Feb 13. doi: [10.4055/cios.2020.12.1.107](#)

PMCID: PMC7031426

PMID: [32117546](#)

## Correlation between Accelerometer and Questionnaire-Based Assessment of Physical Activity in Patients with Cerebral Palsy

Ki Bum Kwon, MD, Young Choj, MD,\* Ki Hyuk Sung, MD,<sup>2</sup> Chin Youb Chung, MD, Kyoung Min Lee, MD,

Seok Park, MD

[Information](#) [Disclaimer](#)



## Research in Developmental Disabilities

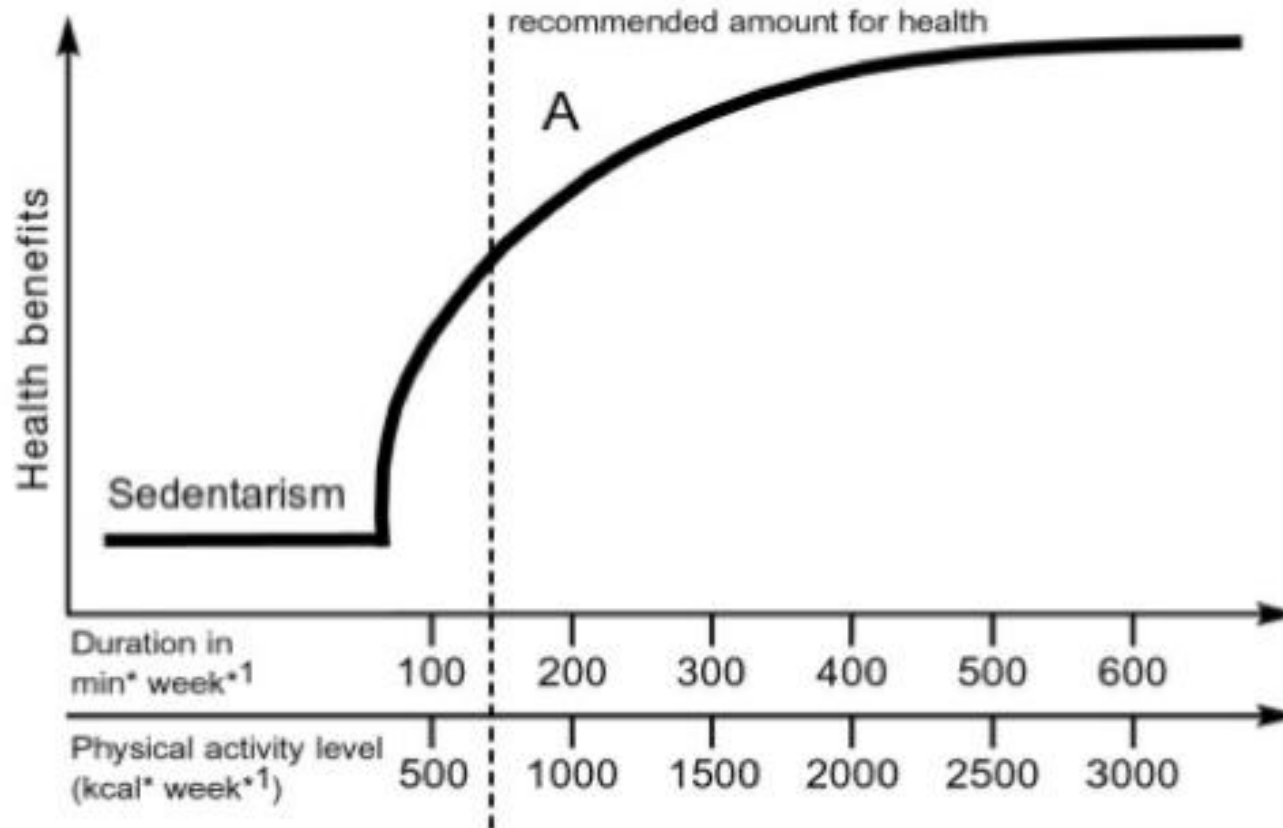
Volume 34, Issue 1, January 2013, Pages 157-167

## Physical activity in a total population of children and adolescents with cerebral palsy

Katarina Lauruschkus <sup>a, 2, 3</sup>, Lena Westbom <sup>b</sup>, Inger Hallström <sup>a</sup>, Philippe Wagner <sup>c</sup>, Eva Nordmark <sup>a</sup>

- 13% to 53% less habitual physical activity than their peers
- The higher GMFCS – the less active and lower degree of physical activity during leisure time.
- GMFCS IV and V were offered the least opportunities to participate in PA e.g. in school sports.

# Huge Health Benefits of Even Small Increases in Physical Activity



Bouchard C. Physical activity and health: introduction to the dose-response symposium. *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* 2001; 33: S347-350

**Pucher: Walking and Cycling for Health**



# The reality when having CP?

## Musculoskeletal and Endocrine Health in Adults With Cerebral Palsy: New Opportunities for Intervention

A. Trinh, P. Wong, M. C. Fahey, J. Brown, A. Churchyard, B. J. Strauss, P. R. Ebeling, P. J. Fuller, and F. Milat

Department of Endocrinology (A.T., P.W., P.R.E., P.J.F., F.M.), Monash Health, 3168 Melbourne, Australia; Hudson Institute of Medical Research (A.T., P.W., M.C.F., P.J.F., F.M.), Clayton 3168, Melbourne, Australia; Department of Medicine (A.T., J.B., A.C., B.J.S., P.R.E., P.J.F., F.M.), Monash University, 3800 Melbourne, Australia; and Department of Paediatrics (M.C.F., J.B.), Monash Health, 3168 Melbourne, Australia

J Clin Endocrinol Metab, March 2016, 101(3):1190–1197

- **50% of men and almost 80% of women have lower skeletal muscle mass**
- **38% had a previous history of fracture due to osteoporosis**



December 1, 2015

# Chronic Conditions in Adults With Cerebral Palsy

Mark D. Peterson, PhD, MS<sup>1</sup>; Jennifer M. Ryan, PhD<sup>2</sup>; Edward A. Hurvitz, MD<sup>1</sup>; [et al](#)

	Without CP (n = 206 600) <sup>b</sup>	With CP (n = 1015) <sup>b</sup>	P Value <sup>c</sup>
<b>Dependent Variables<sup>e</sup></b>			
Diabetes	6.3 (6.1-6.5)	9.2 (7.4-11.1)	<.001
Asthma	9.4 (9.1-9.7)	20.7 (17.3-24.2)	<.001
Hypertension	22.1 (21.8-22.4)	30.0 (26.1-33.5)	<.001
Other heart conditions	9.1 (8.9-9.3)	15.1 (12.9-17.4)	<.001
Stroke	2.3 (2.2-2.4)	4.6 (3.5-5.7)	<.001
Emphysema	1.4 (1.3-1.5)	3.8 (2.6-4.9)	<.001
Joint pain	28.0 (27.5-28.5)	43.6 (39.4-47.7)	<.001
Arthritis	17.4 (17.1-17.7)	31.4 (28.3-34.5)	<.001

Increased risk for chronic diseases in CP!

**Inactivity,**  
**↓ VO<sub>2</sub>,**  
**↓ muscle health**

# What stands out with CP muscle?

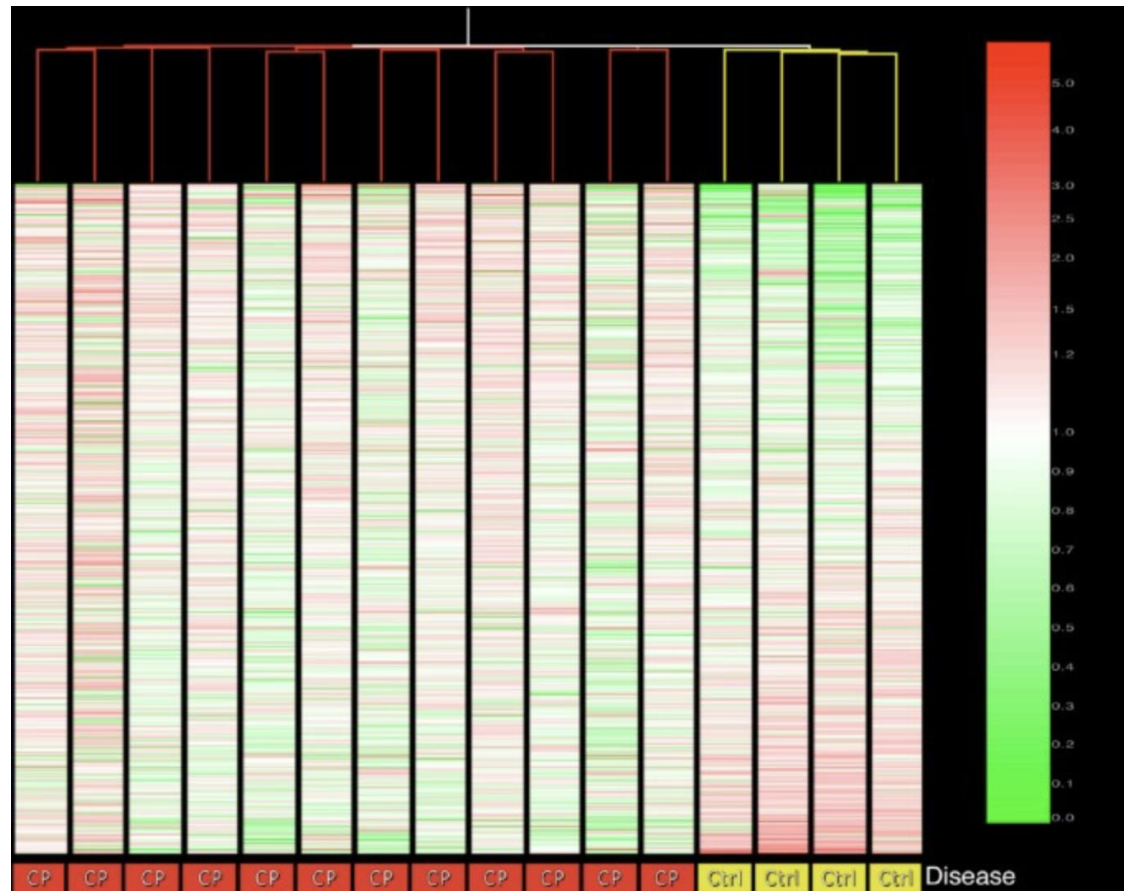
- Thin and stiff
- Contractures are common
- Why contractures develop are not clear

## Multiple processes altered

- Extracellular matrix
- Capillaries
- Muscle stem cells
- Mitochondria
- Growth machinery (ribosomes)



# Global gene expression is altered in CP skeletal muscle



*Smith, Pontén et al 2009. BMC Genomics*

# Dysregulation of metabolism related skeletal muscle gene expression in CP

Neuromuscular Junction		Calcium Handling		Muscle Contraction		Cytoskeleton		Extracellular Matrix	
Gene	FC	Gene	FC	Gene	FC	Gene	FC	Gene	FC
UTRN	0.52	ASPH	0.70	TCAP	0.76	UTRN	0.52	MMP9	0.85
CHRN	0.70	DHPR	0.78	MYH	0.80	EMD	0.59	COL4	1.02
MUSK	0.70	CALM1	0.80	TNNT	0.84	NOS1	0.73	P4H	1.04
COL4	0.76	SLN	0.84	MYBPC	0.84	VCL	0.85	PLOD3	1.11
GABP	0.81	PLN	0.85	TMOD	0.85	SGC	0.87	DCN	1.15
ERBB	0.89	ATP2A	0.87	CAPZ	0.86	DMD	0.88	TGFB1	1.22
RAPSN	0.93	TRDN	0.87	TNNI	0.89	LDB3	0.89	LTBP4	1.31
AGRN	0.94	PVALB	0.89	TTN	0.90	SYNM	0.89	SDC	1.39
ITGB1	1.00	SCN4A	0.89	TPM	0.96	DTN	0.90	BGN	1.42
LRP4	1.08	PPP3CA	0.90	MYOT	0.96	SNT	0.90	LAM	1.43
LAMA5	1.10	S100A1	0.92	NEB	0.96	SYNC	0.90	HSPG2	1.43
ACHE	1.12	CAMK2	0.98	TNNC	0.97	LARGE	0.95	COL6	1.57
LAMB2	1.17	FKBP1A	1.01	MYL	1.00	DES	0.96	LOX	1.57
HSPG2	1.43	RYR1	1.02	MYOM	1.09	TLN1	0.99	FNL1	1.77
NID1	1.56	CAPN	1.06	ACT	1.27	ITGB1	1.00	MMP2	1.90
COLQ	1.76	CASQ	1.14	ACTN	1.29	ITGA7	1.00	CTGF	2.09
CHRN	#N/A	TRPC	1.22	MYH8	1.49	OBSCN	1.01	TIMP1	2.26
YWHAQ	#N/A	RYR3	2.37	MYH3	6.14	DYSF	1.03	TNC	2.32
NRG1	#N/A	SYPL2	#N/A	MYPN	#N/A	DAG1	1.05	COL3A1	2.74
		JPH1	#N/A			ANK	1.08	COL1	2.79
						CSRP3	1.09	MMP14	#N/A
						LMNA	1.18	TIMP2	#N/A
						FLNC	1.31	MMP1	#N/A
						SPT	1.34		
						VIM	1.37		
						MYO22	1.79		
						FKRP	#N/A		

Metabolism		Inflammation		Muscle Signaling	
Gene	FC	Gene	FC	Gene	FC
AMPK	0.55	HSF2	0.61	MAPK8	0.45
TFAM	0.73	HSF1	0.79	MSTN	0.50
LIPE	0.77	MAPK14	0.87	ACVR2B	0.59
SDH	0.80	NFKB1	1.08	RPS6KB1	0.66
PFKM	0.81	CASP1	1.22	FOXO3	0.73
LDHA	0.82	TGFB1	1.22	MYOG	0.73
CREB1	0.83	IGF1	1.37	IGF1R	0.77
ATF2	0.85	IL1B	#N/A	CALM1	0.80
VEGFA	0.86	TNF	#N/A	EIF4E	0.82
MAPK14	0.87	IL6	#N/A	MAPK14	0.87
PPARGC1A	0.87	IL10	#N/A	GSK3B	0.89
TFB	0.88	IL1RN	#N/A	PPP3CA	0.90
PDH	0.89	SOC3	#N/A	MEF2	0.91
CS	0.89	IFNG	#N/A	MYF6	0.93
MB	0.89	IL8	#N/A	PIK3R	0.93
CKM	0.89	PTGS2	#N/A	MYOD1	0.94
CYC	0.90	IKBKE	#N/A	MYF5	0.96
COX	0.91	TRIM63	#N/A	FRAP1	0.96
NDUF	0.91	FBXO32	#N/A	CAMK2	0.98
PYGM	0.92	SLC2A4	1.06	MAPK1	1.01
ATP5	0.94	NFATC1	1.07	HDAC	1.03
PNPLA2	0.94	HADH	1.10	EIF2B4	1.03
MEF2	0.95	TP53	1.12	MAP2K1	1.04
FABP3	0.95	GYS1	1.12	NFATC1	1.07
CAMK2	0.98	CPT1B	1.24	EIF4EBP1	1.10
NRF1	0.99	HK2	1.47	AKT1	1.18
NFE2L2	1.00	IFN	1.87	IGF1	1.37
MLYCD	1.03	CAMK4	#N/A	PSY	1.62
CD36	1.05	GPAM	#N/A	PGF2	2.12

Fiber Type Isoforms			
Slow Isoform		Fast Isoform	
Gene	FC	Gene	FC
MYH7	0.97	MYH1	0.70
		MYH2	0.89
MYL2	0.94	MYL1	0.87
MYL3	1.09		
MYBPC1	0.92	MYBPC2	0.77
TNNT1	0.95	TNNT3	0.73
TNNI1	0.99	TNNI2	0.81
TNNC1	0.96	TNNC2	0.90
TPM3	1.08	TPM1	0.87
TMOD1	0.85	TMOD4	#N/A
CASQ2	1.41	CASQ1	0.92
ATP2A2	0.94	ATP2A1	0.80
PVALB	0.89		

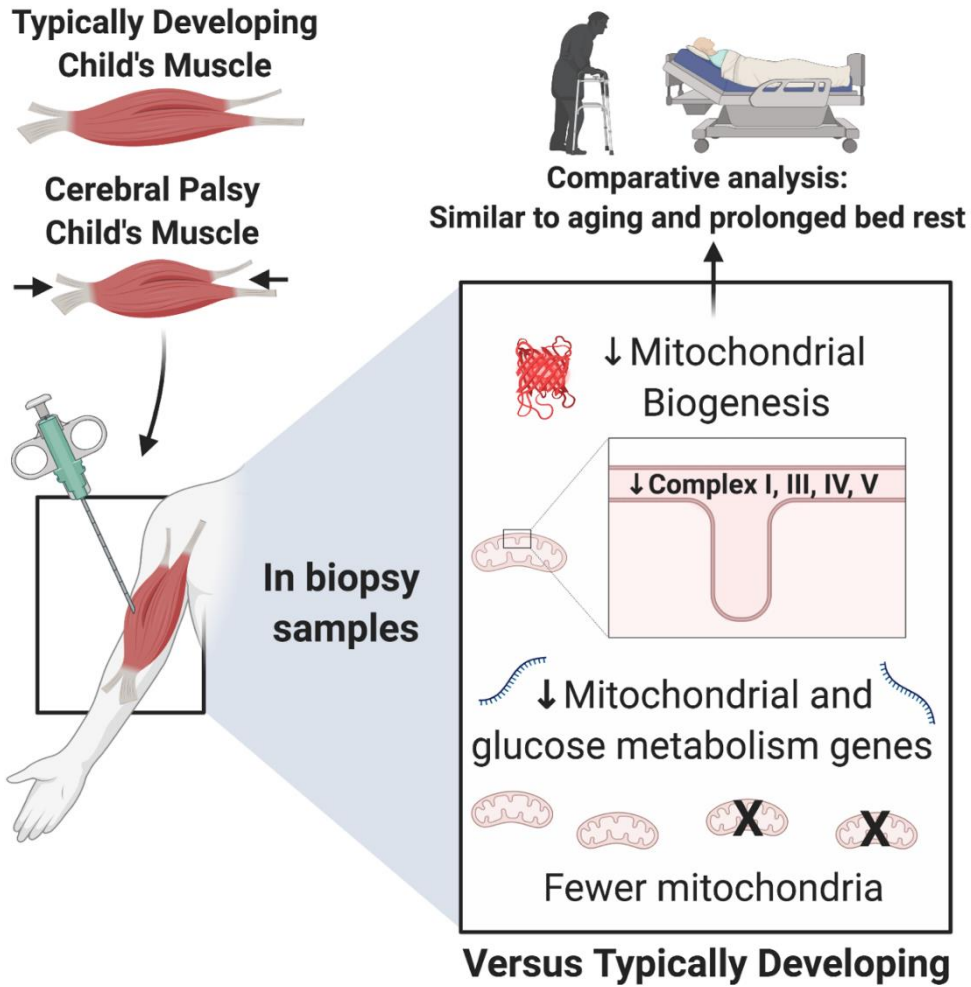
RPTOR	#N/A
PKD1	#N/A
CDKN1A	#N/A
HGF	#N/A

Smith et al 2012. PLOS One

# Reduced mitochondrial DNA and OXPHOS protein content in skeletal muscle of children with cerebral palsy

FERDINAND VON WALDEN<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>  | IVAN J VECHETTI JR<sup>2,3,4,\*</sup>  | DAVIS ENGLUND<sup>3,5</sup>  |  
VANDRÉ C FIGUEIREDO<sup>2,3</sup>  | RODRIGO FERNANDEZ-GONZALO<sup>6,7</sup>  | KEVIN MURACH<sup>3,5</sup>  |  
JESSICA PINGEL<sup>8</sup>  | JOHN J MCCARTHY<sup>2,3</sup> | PER STÅL<sup>9</sup>  | EVA PONTÉN<sup>1</sup> 

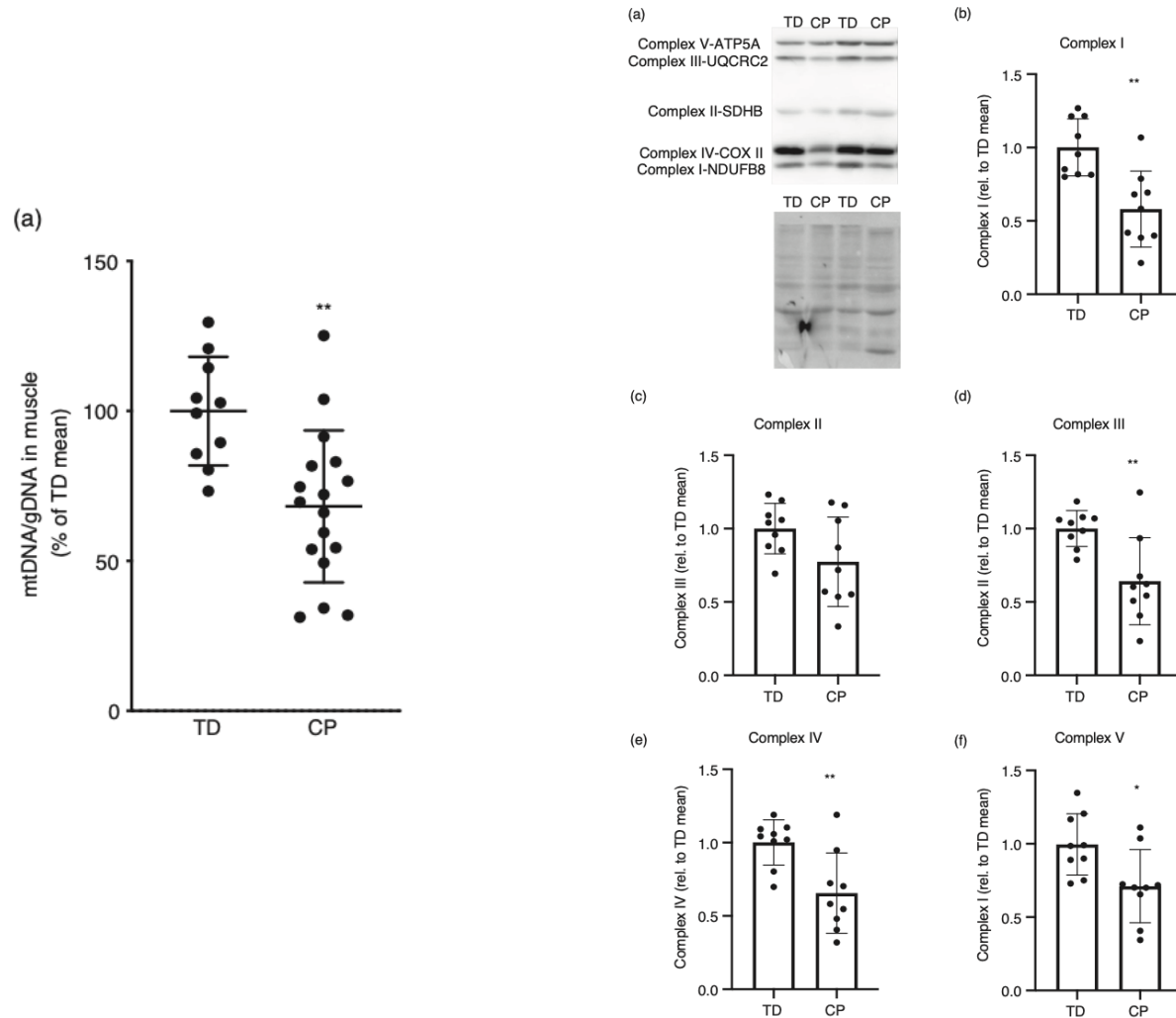
# Reduced expression of key factors in mitochondrial biology



*Von Walden et al 2021. DEV MED*

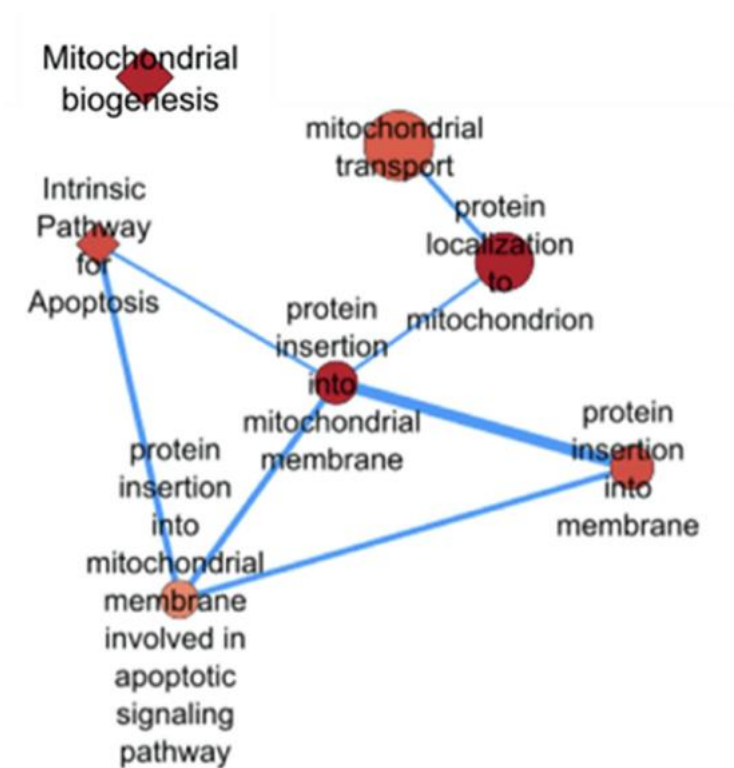


# Reduced mtDNA content and OXPHOS protein content in CP muscle



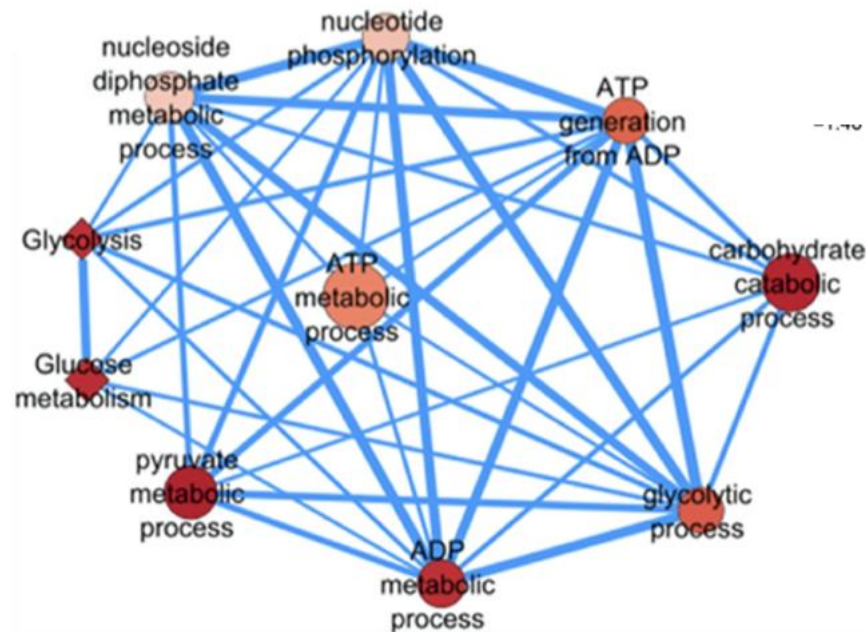


# Reanalyzed data – down regulated genes



*Von Walden et al 2021. DEV MED*

# Reanalyzed data – down regulated genes



*Von Walden et al 2021. DEV MED*

# Aging and disuse atrophy data sets

*Journals of Gerontology: BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES*

Cite journal as: *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci* 2013 September;68(9):1035–1044

doi:10.1093/gerona/glt015

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Advance Access publication February 15, 2013

## Microarray Analysis Reveals Novel Features of the Muscle Aging Process in Men and Women

Dongmei Liu,<sup>1</sup> Maureen A. Sartor,<sup>1</sup> Gustavo A. Nader,<sup>2</sup> Emidio E. Pistilli,<sup>3</sup> Leah Tanton,<sup>4</sup> Charles Lilly,<sup>4</sup> Laurie Gutmann,<sup>3</sup> Heidi B. IglayReger,<sup>1</sup> Paul S. Visich,<sup>5</sup> Eric P. Hoffman,<sup>6</sup> and Paul M. Gordon<sup>1</sup>

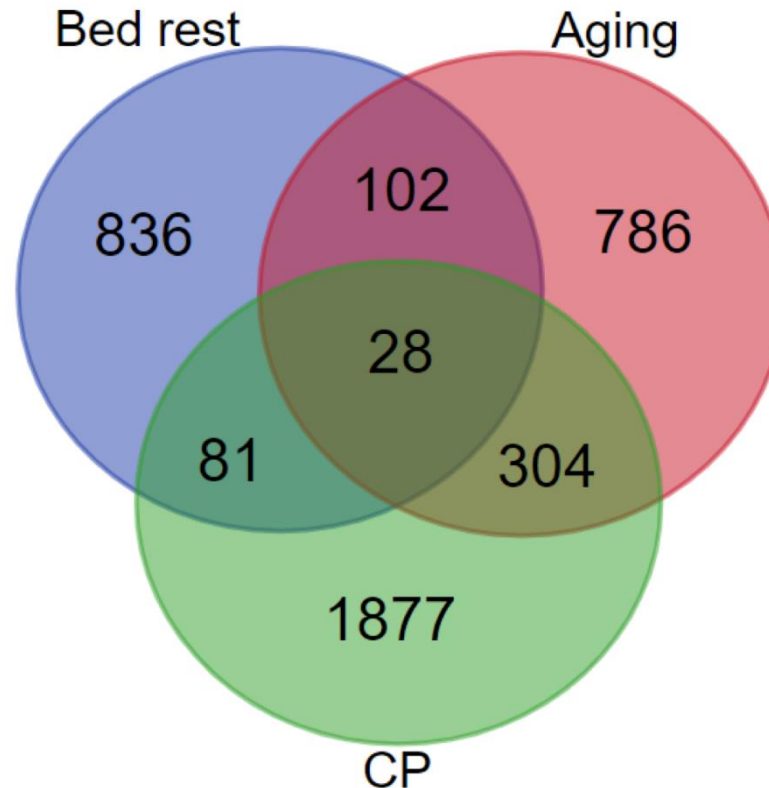
RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE  
**FASEB**  
JOURNAL  
The Journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

## Three months of bed rest induce a residual transcriptomic signature resilient to resistance exercise countermeasures

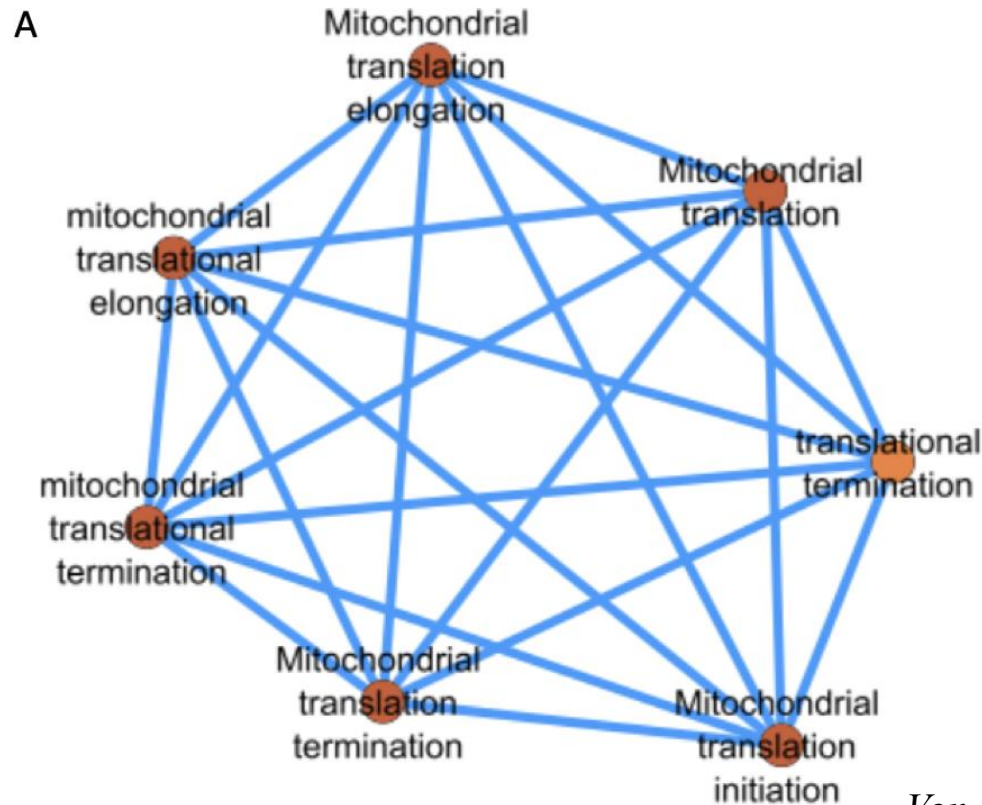
Rodrigo Fernandez-Gonzalo<sup>1</sup> | Per A. Tesch<sup>2</sup> | Tommy R. Lundberg<sup>1</sup> |  
Björn A. Alkner<sup>3,4</sup> | Eric Rullman<sup>1</sup> | Thomas Gustafsson<sup>1</sup>

# Comparative analysis - CP vs aging vs disuse



*Von Walden et al 2021. DEV MED*

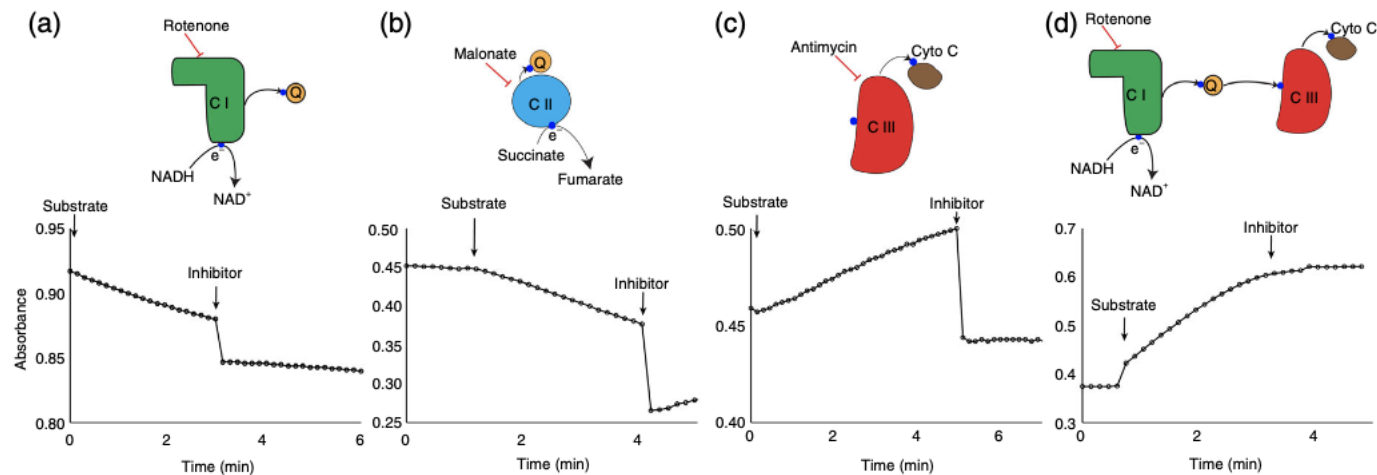
# Downregulated mitochondria related gene expression common for all conditions






*Von Walden et al 2021. DEV MED*

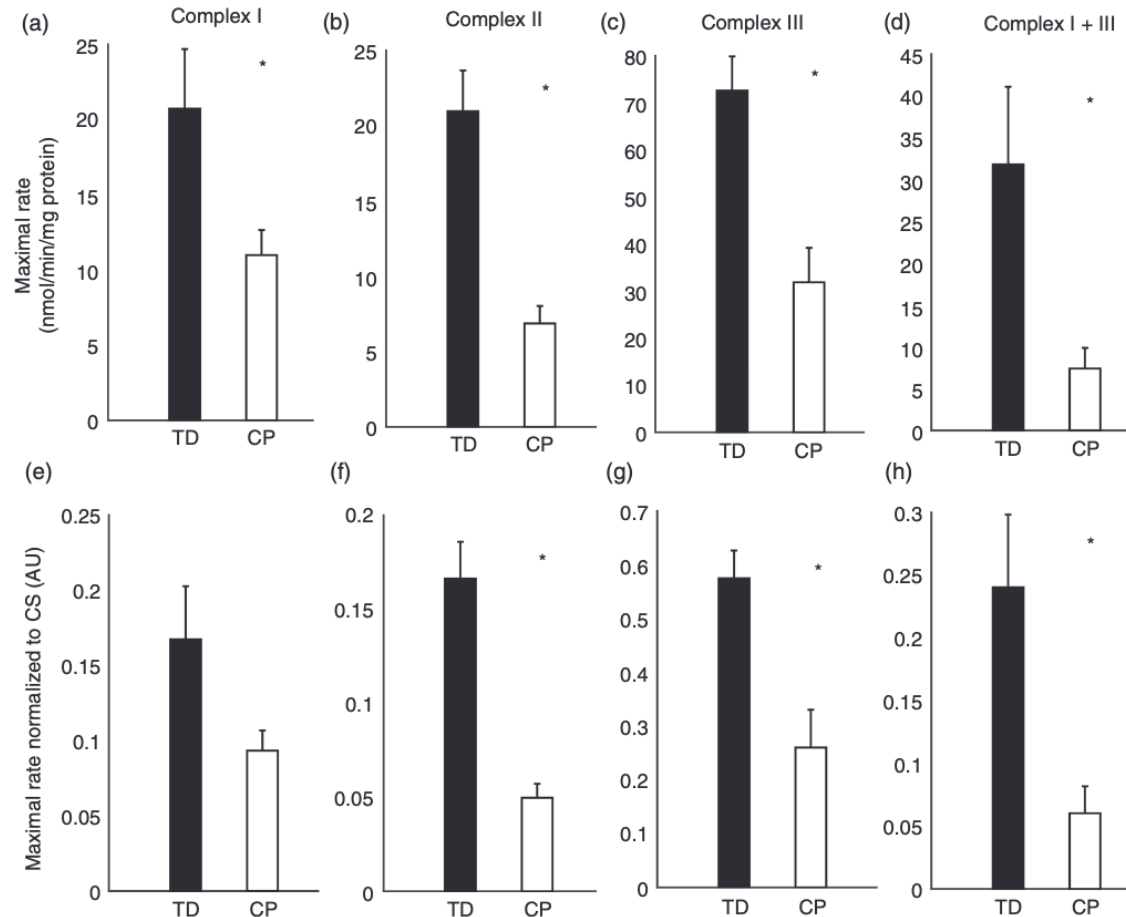
# Skeletal muscle maximal mitochondrial activity in ambulatory children with cerebral palsy

SUDARSHAN DAYANIDHI<sup>1,2,3</sup>  | ELISA H BUCKNER<sup>1,4</sup> | ROBIN S REDMOND<sup>3</sup> | HENRY G CHAMBERS<sup>1,5</sup>  | SIMON SCHENK<sup>1,4</sup> | RICHARD L LIEBER<sup>1,2,3,6</sup> 



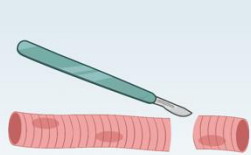
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SIMON SCHENK<sup>1,4</sup> | RICHARD L LIEBER<sup>1,2,3,6</sup> 

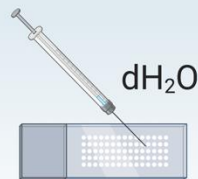




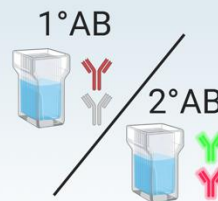
# THRIFTY - high THROUGHput Immunofluorescence Fibre TYping



① Cut off 0.5 mm segment



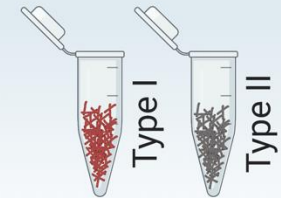
② Mount fibre segment on slide



③ Fluorescent antibody staining



④ Classify fibre segment



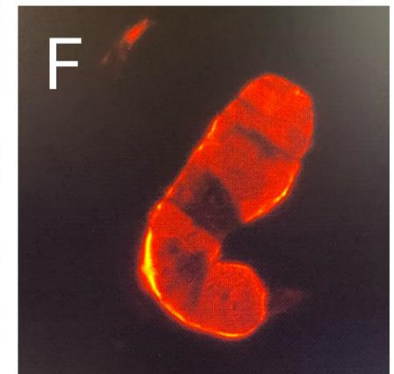
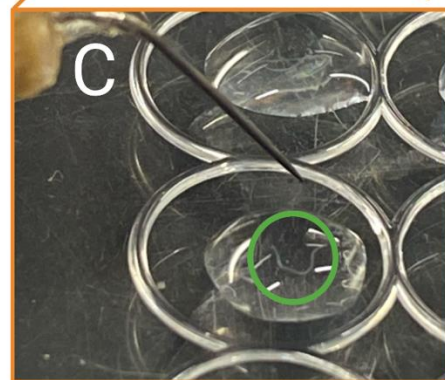
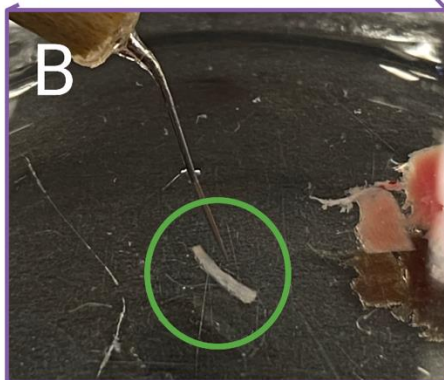
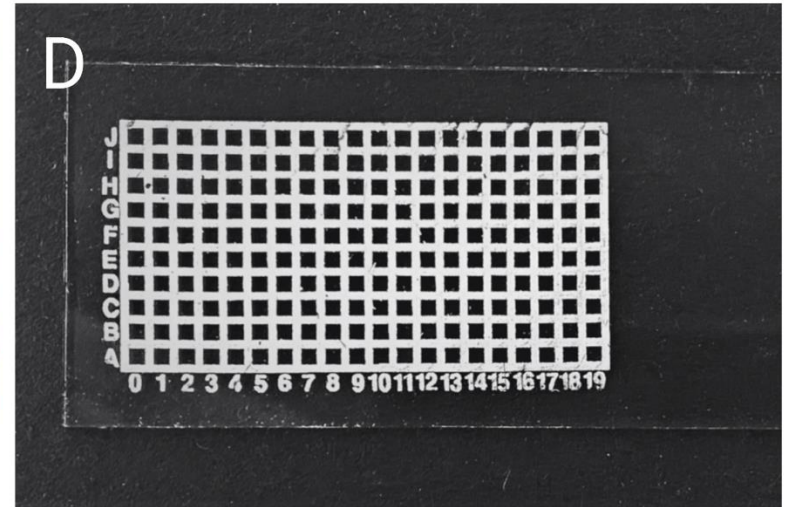
⑤ Pool remaining piece of fibre

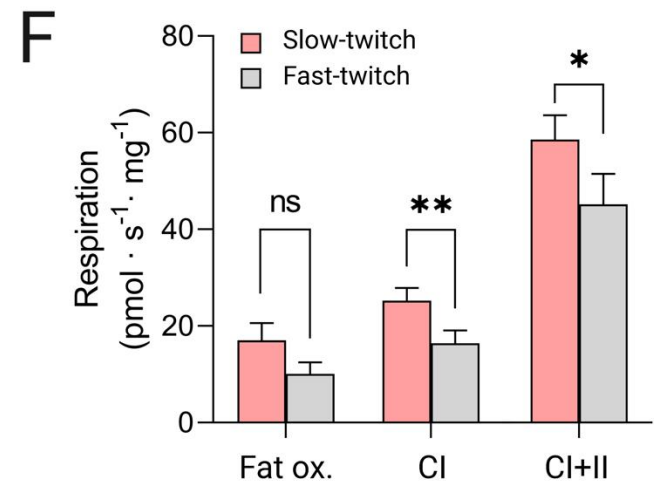
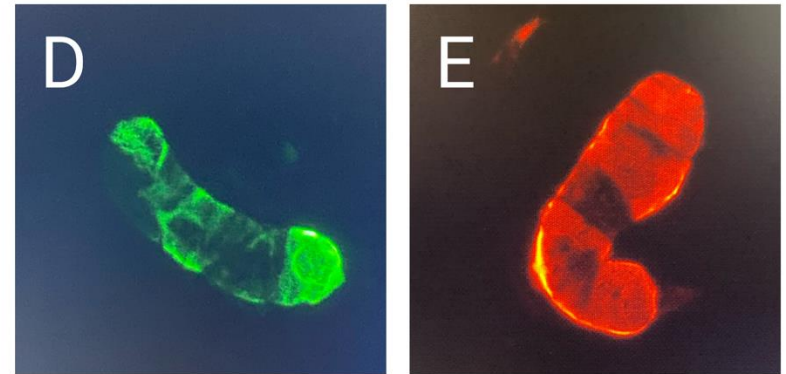
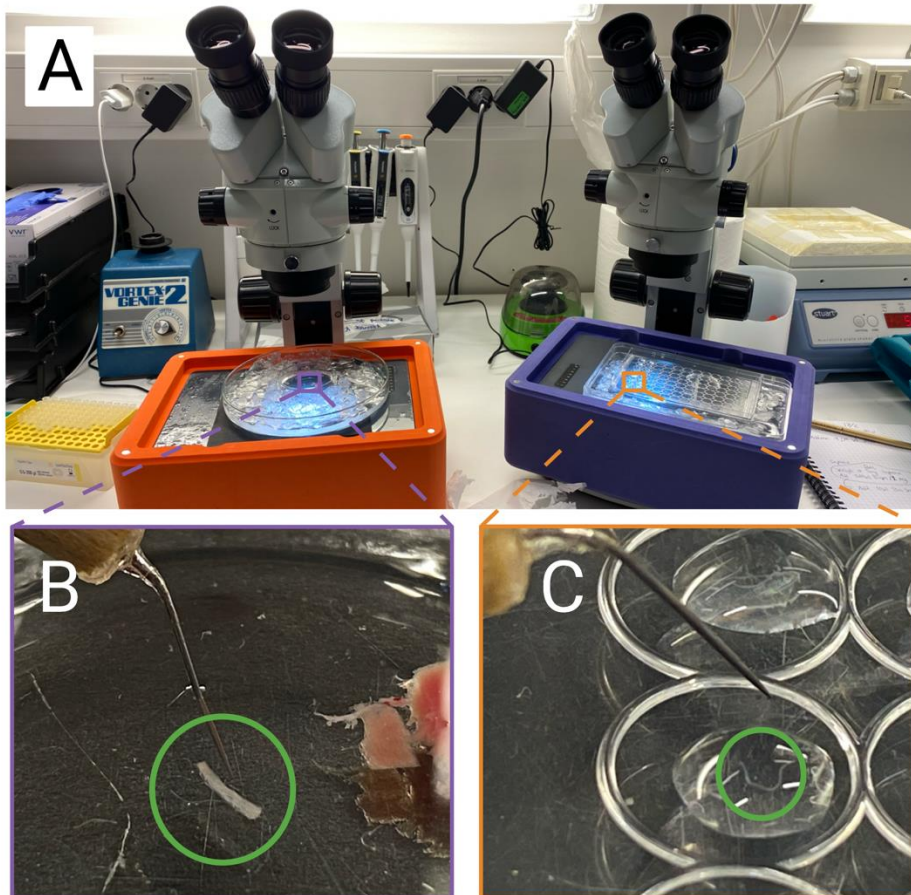


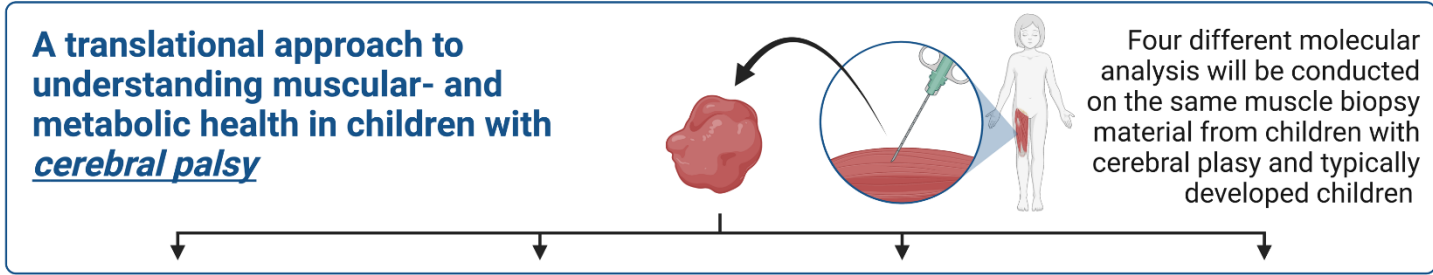
Sebastian Edman, new postdoc











**Muscle piece 1. Muscle fiber type specific respiration**

Muscle fiber isolation and fiber type identification prior to downstream analysis

Slow-twitch fiber pool      Fast-twitch fiber pool

**Oroboros**

**Muscle piece 2. Muscle fiber type specific RNA-seq**

Muscle fiber isolation and fiber type identification prior to downstream analysis

Slow-twitch fiber pool      Fast-twitch fiber pool

**RNA sequencing**

**Muscle piece 3. Satellite cell isolation and screen for insulin resistance**

Satellite cell isolation prior to downstream analysis

**PCR**

**Seahorse**

**Muscle piece 4. Immunohistochemistry**

**Fiber type composition & size**

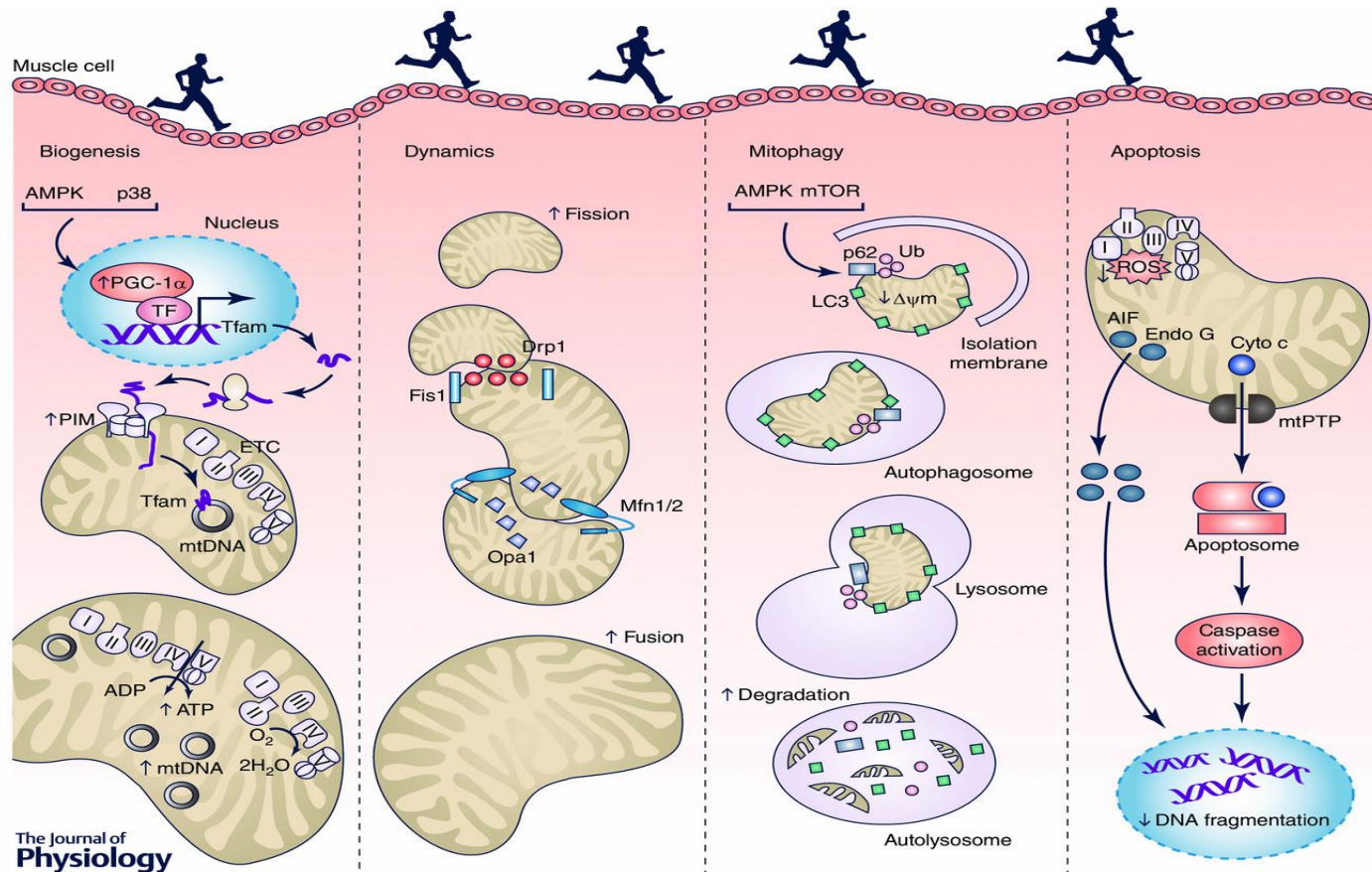
Slow-twitch      Fast-twitch

**Fiber type specific capillary density & satellite cell count**

Capillaries      Satellite cells      Myonuclei



# Exercise as a countermeasure for reduced mitochondrial content/function with aging



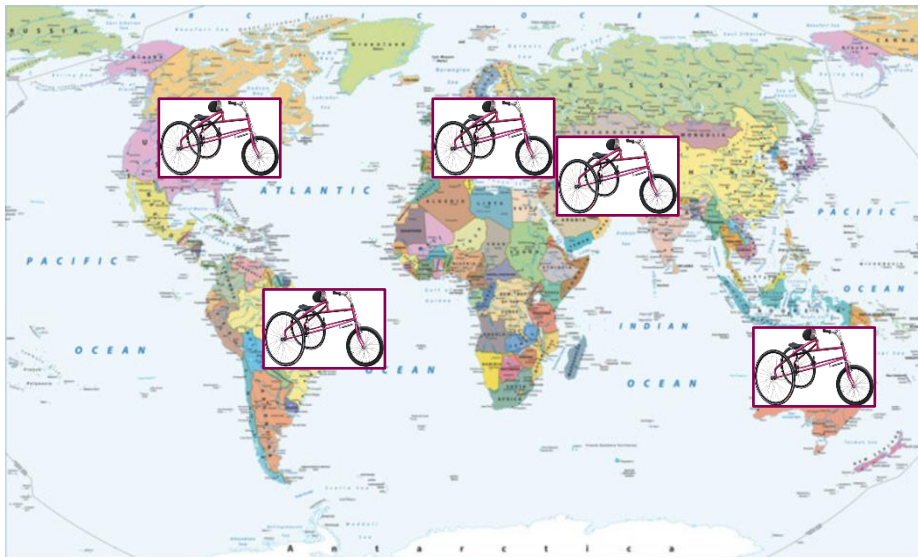
Joseph et al 2015. *J Phys*

# Frame Running /RaceRunning

**Innovative option to physical activity for motor impaired people.**

**Invented in Denmark 1990s**

(Connie Hansen and Mansoor Siddiqi)





*”RaceRunning is the fastest growing para athletics disciplines and one of only few sports for the most severely disabled and athletes with an impaired balance”*

*Mansoor Sadiqi, CPISRA Head of RaceRunning Development*



# Frame Running /RaceRunning

## What?

- Locomotion in daily life
- Recreation
- Aerobic exercise
- Competitive athletic parasport: 40-5000m

## Who?

- People with impaired posture, balance and motor control.
- No running ability.





RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



# RaceRunning training improves stamina and promotes skeletal muscle hypertrophy in young individuals with cerebral palsy

Emma Hjalmarsson<sup>1,2</sup>, Rodrigo Fernandez-Gonzalo<sup>3</sup>, Cecilia Lidbeck<sup>1,4</sup>, Alexandra Palmcrantz<sup>2</sup>, Angel Jia<sup>1</sup>, Ola Kvist<sup>5,6</sup>, Eva Pontén<sup>1,4</sup> and Ferdinand von Walden<sup>1\*</sup>

## Abstract

**Background:** Individuals with cerebral palsy (CP) are less physically active, spend more time sedentary and have lower cardiorespiratory endurance as compared to typically developed individuals. RaceRunning enables high-intensity exercise in individuals with CP with limited or no walking ability, using a three-wheeled running bike with a saddle and a chest plate for support, but no pedals. Training adaptations using this type of exercise are unknown.

**Methods:** Fifteen adolescents/young adults (mean age 16, range 9–29, 7 females/8 males) with CP completed 12 weeks, two sessions/week, of RaceRunning training. Measurements of cardiorespiratory endurance (6-min RaceRunning test (6-MRT), average and maximum heart rate, rate of perceived exertion using the Borg scale (Borg-RPE)), skeletal muscle thickness (ultrasound) of the thigh (vastus lateralis and intermedius muscles) and lower leg (medial gastrocnemius muscle) and passive range of motion (pROM) of hip, knee and ankle were collected before and after the training period.

**Results:** Cardiorespiratory endurance increased on average 34% (6-MRT distance; pre  $576 \pm 320$  m vs. post  $723 \pm 368$  m,  $p < 0.001$ ). Average and maximum heart rate and Borg-RPE during the 6-MRT did not differ pre vs. post training. Thickness of the medial gastrocnemius muscle increased 9% in response to training ( $p < 0.05$ ) on the more-affected side. Passive hip flexion increased ( $p < 0.05$ ) on the less-affected side and ankle dorsiflexion decreased



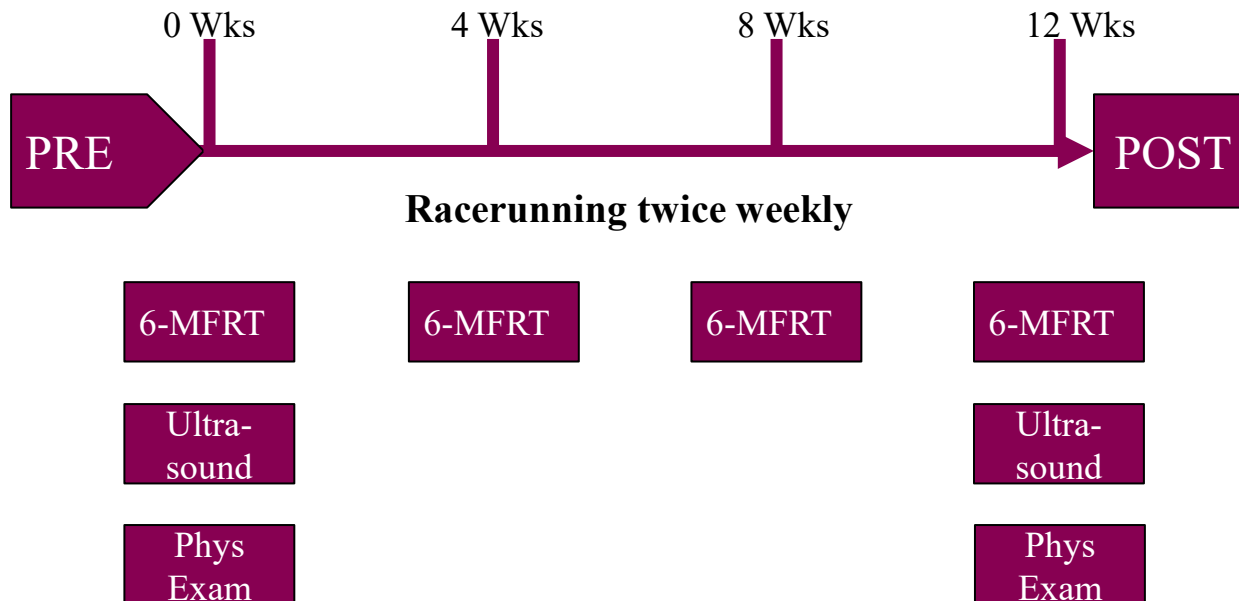
# Study I

## Purpose:

Determine the effect of Frame running training on:

- Cardiovascular adaptation
- Skeletal muscle thickness

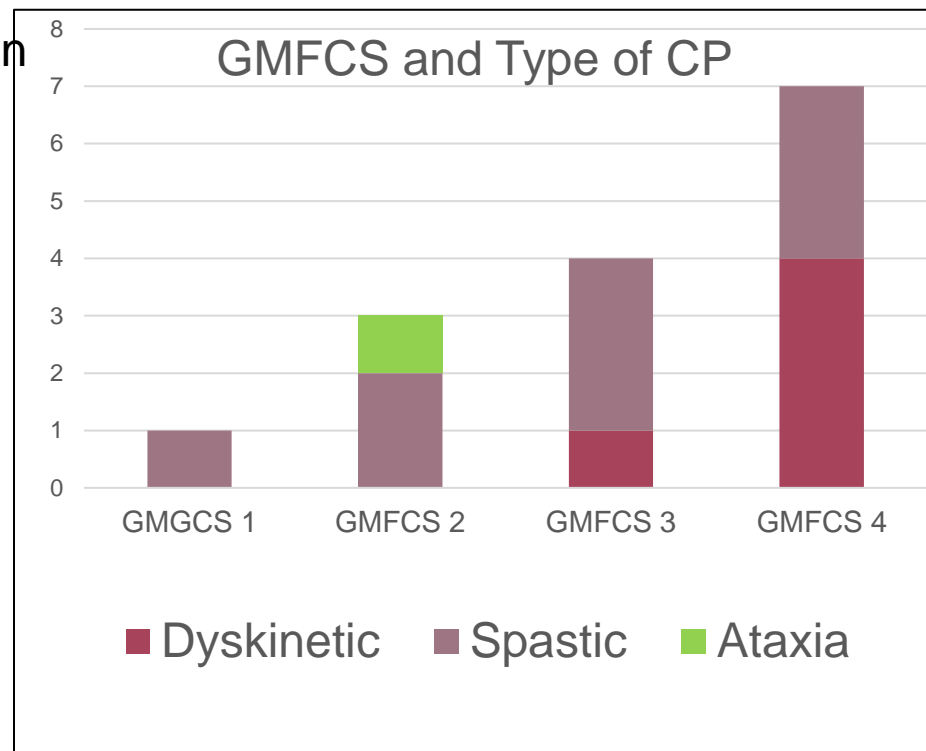
## Experimental study design



6-MFRT = 6 minute Frane running Test

## Participants

- Collaboration with Racerunning clubs in Stockholm, Västerås and Uppsala.
- 15 participants.
- Mean age 16, range 9-29,
- 8 males / 7 females
- Types Spastic 9 / Dyskinetic 5 / Ataxia 1.
- GMFCS I-IV; 1-3-4-7



## Pre- and post measurements



- **Cardiorespiratory endurance**  
6-min RaceRunning test (6-MRT) ,
  - Average and maximum heart rate measurement,
  - Borg RPE scale (rated physical exertion).
  - Trip computer with speed sensor.



- **Muscle thickness**  
Ultrasound of
  - thigh (vastus lateralis and intermedius muscles)
  - calf muscles (medial gastrocnemius muscle).



- **Physio exam and classification**
  - Passive range of motion (hip, knee and foot)
  - Spasticity (Modified Ashworth Scale) (hip, knee and foot).
  - Classification GMFCS and FMS (Functional Mobility Scale).

## Intensity during training;



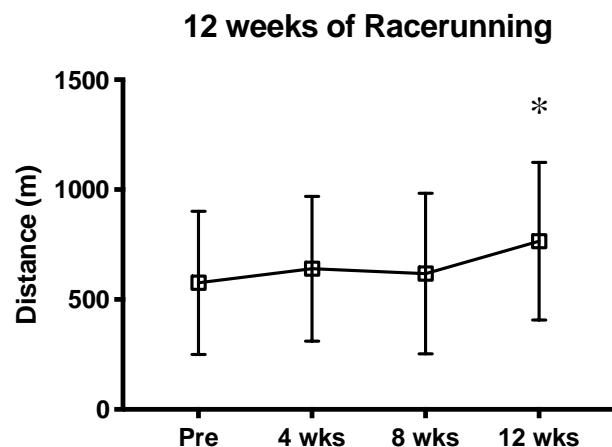
Average time in motion per 60 min session = **25 min**

Average **HR 136 bpm** = **69%** of estimated HR max.

Average **max HR 168 bpm** = **85%** of estimated HR max

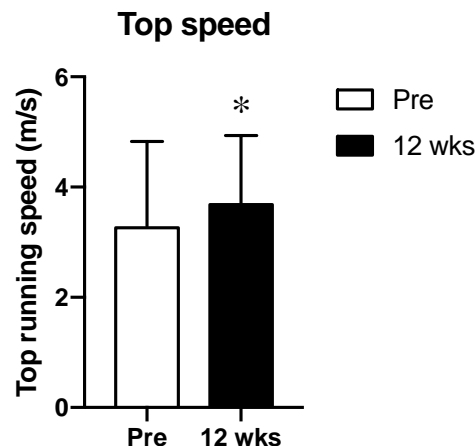
# Cardiorespiratory endurance (6-MRT)

A



34% improvement

B



21% improvement

Equal effort

no change pre vs post

- heart rate

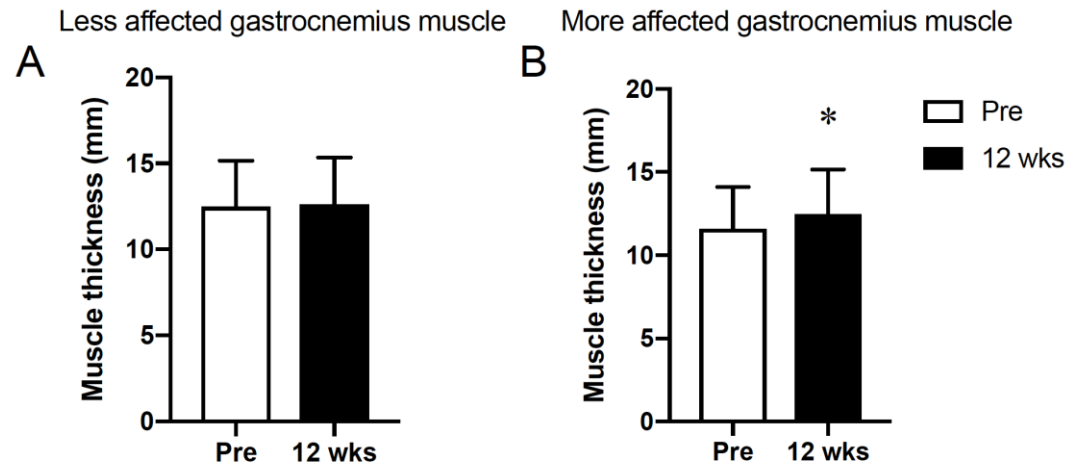
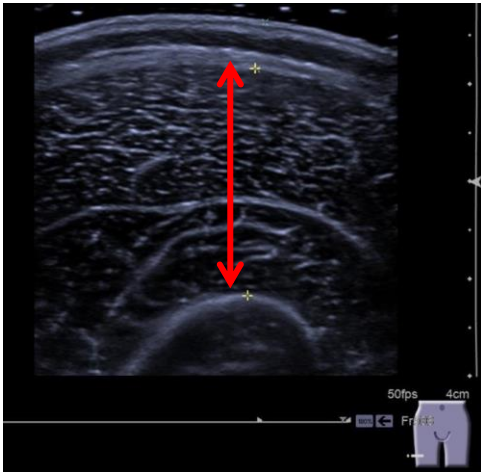
- Borg RPE

## Results

### Muscle thickness

Thigh: No change

Calf: **+ 9%** on more aff. side



(Week 0: mean 11,6 mm, SD 2,7. Week 12: mean 12,6 mm, SD 2,6. ( $p < 0.05$ ))

# Conclusion

12 weeks of Frame running training:

**Clear effects of training on both central (stamina) and peripheral level (muscle).**

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# How can we measure VO<sub>2</sub> max in individuals with CP?





# Purpose

- To determine the physiological response to the 6-Minute RaceRunning Test (6-MRT) in persons with cerebral palsy (CP)
- To investigate whether the distance covered on the 6-MRT correlates to peak oxygen uptake ( $VO_{2peak}$ ).

## RESEARCH REPORT

### Physiological Response to the 6-Minute Frame Running Test in Children and Adults With Cerebral Palsy

*Arnoud M. M. Edelman Bos, MSc; Emma Hjalmarsson, PT, MSc; Annet J. Dallmeijer, PhD; Rodrigo Fernandez-Gonzalo, PhD; Annemieke I. Buizer, PhD, MD; Jessica Pingel, PhD; Eva Pontén, PhD, MD; Ferdinand von Walden, PhD, MD; Petra E. M. van Schie, PT, PhD*

### Study-design, setting and recruitment:

Cross-sectional observational study.



- 6-MRT - total distance covered (m),

$HR_{peak}$

- peak heart rate

$RER_{peak}$

- peak Respiratory Exchange Ratio

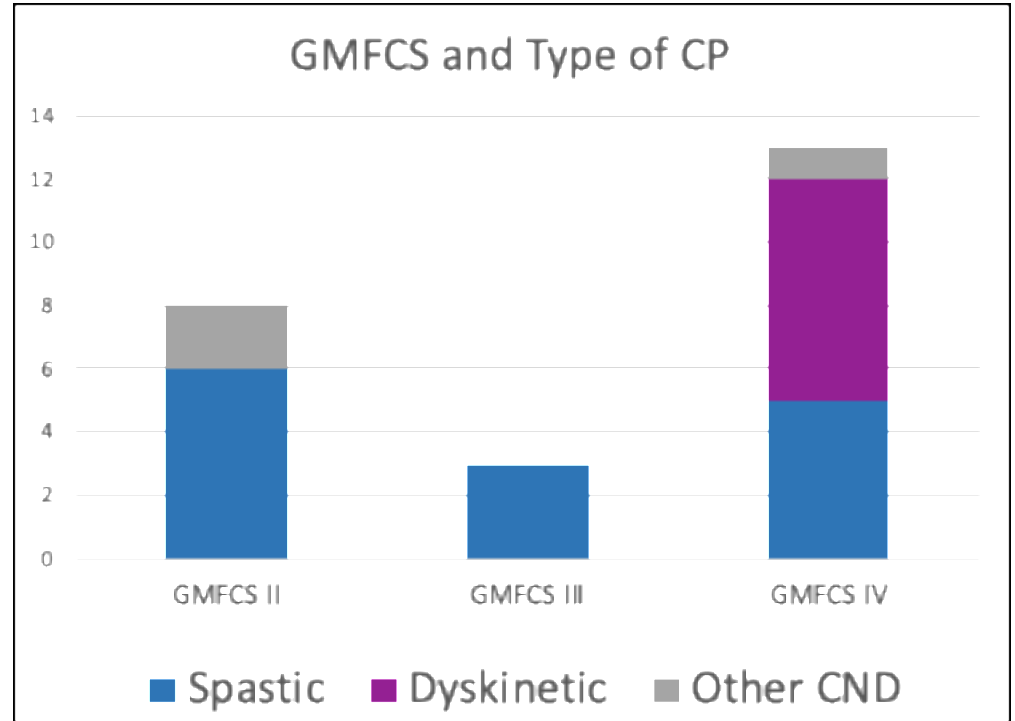
$VO_{2peak}$

- peak oxygen uptake



## Participants

- 24 participants.
- Mean age 19y range 8-37y,
- 14 males / 10 females
- Types Spastic 14 / Dyskinetic 7 / Other CND 3.
- GMFCS II-III-IV; 8-3-13



## Results

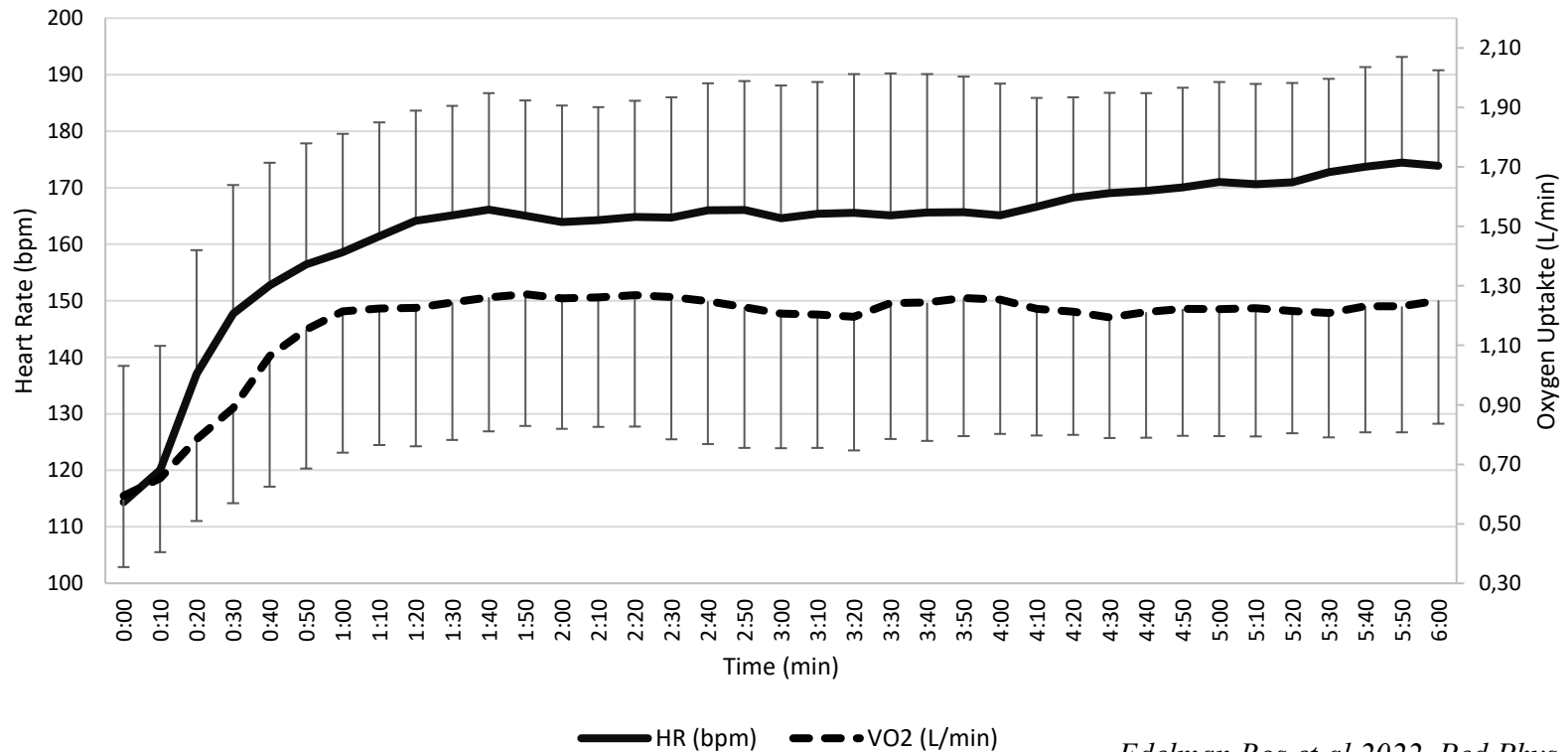
	Total (24) Mean $\pm$ SD
$\dot{V}O_{2 \text{ peak}}$ (ml/kg/min)	29.3 $\pm$ 7.3
$\dot{V}O_{2 \text{ peak}}$ (L/min)	1.40 $\pm$ 0.48
HR <sub>peak</sub> (bpm)	180.7 $\pm$ 14.3
RER <sub>peak</sub>	1.16 $\pm$ 0.16
6-MRT distance (m)	707 $\pm$ 244

*Edelman Bos et al 2022. Ped Phys Ther*

# Results

Average heart rate and oxygen uptake with error bars (SD) of all participants during 6-minute RaceRunning Test

Mean HR (bpm) and  $\dot{V}O_2$  (L/min) VS Time (min)



*Edelman Bos et al 2022. Ped Phys Ther*

Figure 1. Average heart rate (—) and oxygen uptake (L/min) (- -) with error bars (SD) of all participants during the 6-Minute RaceRunning Test.

# Results

Significant correlation between 6-MRT (distance) and  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  ( $\rho=0.75$ , 95% CI: 0.50 to 0.89).

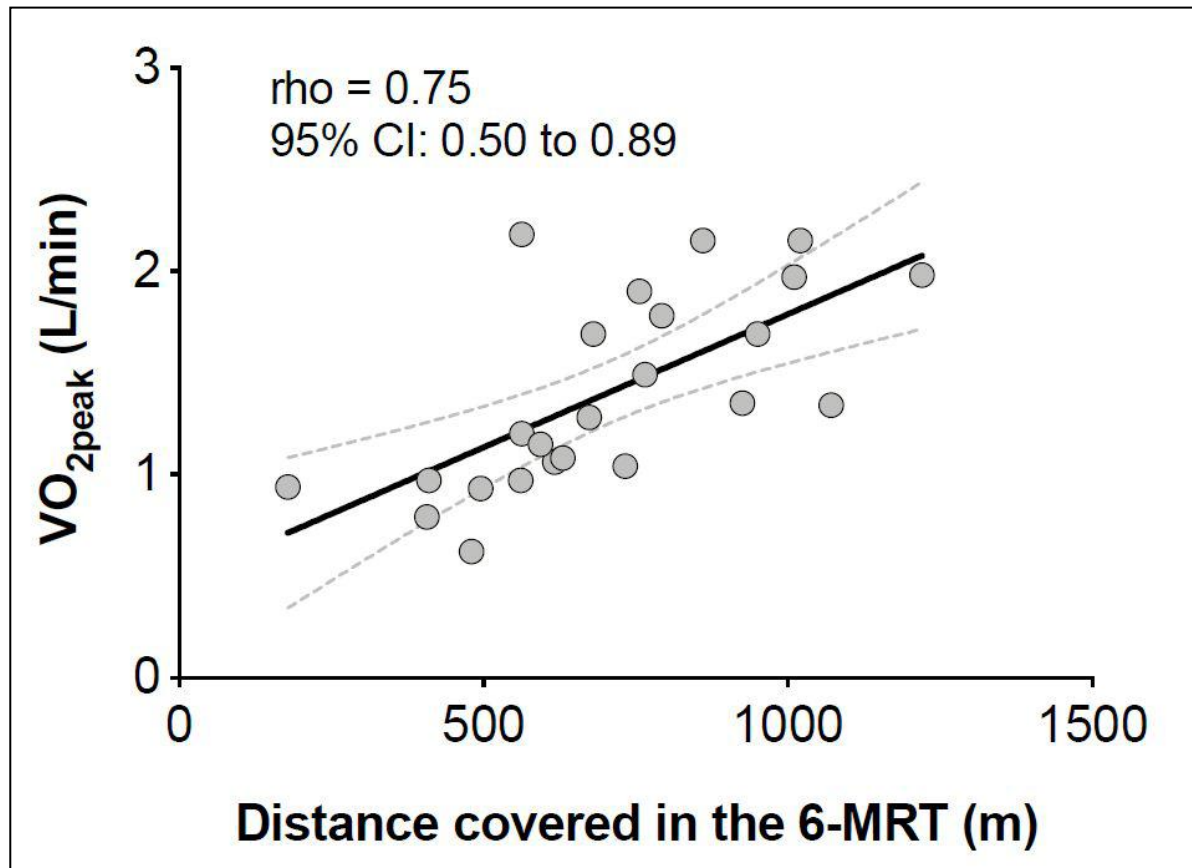


Figure 2. Scatterplot with  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  (L/min) and distance covered in the 6-Minute RaceRunning Test (m). The dotted lines represent 95% confidence interval (95% CI: 0,50 to 0.89)

Edelman Bos et al 2022. Ped Phys Ther

# Conclusions

- The response to 6-MRT indicates a (near) maximum effort for 75% (n=18) of the participants.
- The positive correlation between  $VO_{2peak}$  and distance on the 6-MRT suggests that the 6-MRT can serve as an estimation of oxygen consumption on an individual basis.

# Ongoing work – $VO_{2max}$ in CP





# Material & Method

- Cross-sectional study
- VO<sub>2</sub> max test
- Lactate threshold test

## Population

- 14 (6 male) CP
- 30 (14 male) TD
- 13-40 years

- GMFCS II (1)
- GMFCS III (5)
- GMFCS IV (7)
- GMFCS V (1)



*Experimental set up with a Frame Runner and a wide treadmill used for the lactate threshold test in individuals with CP*



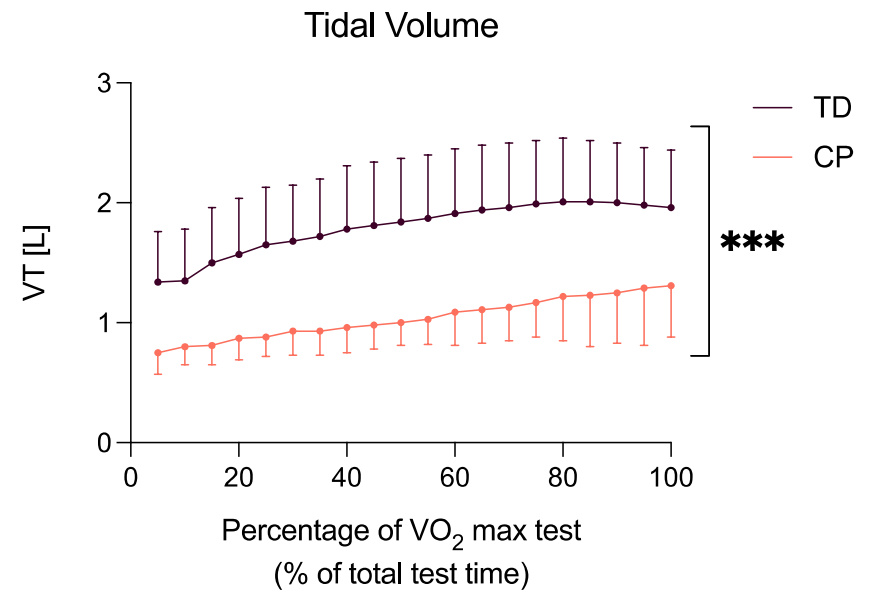
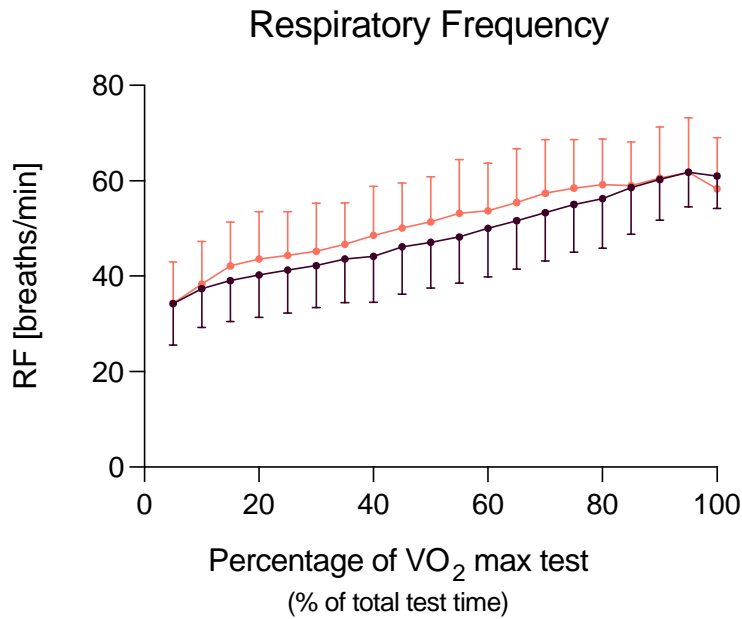
*Example of an athlete performing Frame Running*



*Face mask used for gas exchange analysis*

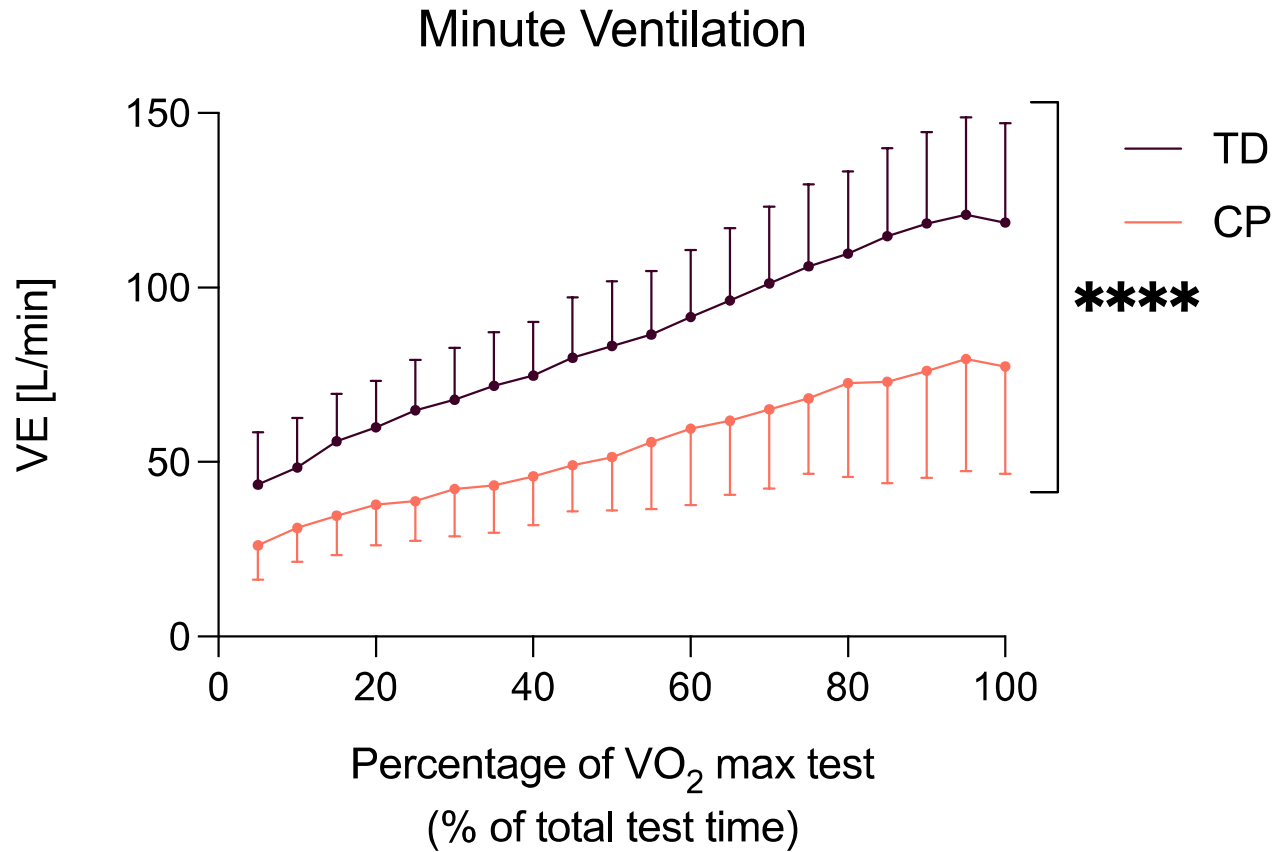
# VO<sub>2</sub> maximal test

*A maximal incremental exercise test*



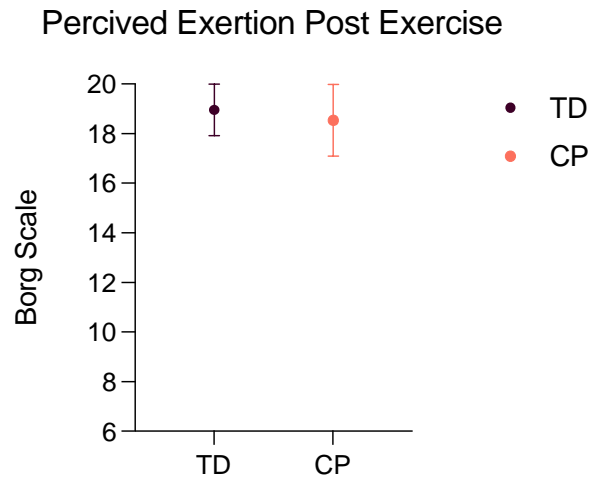
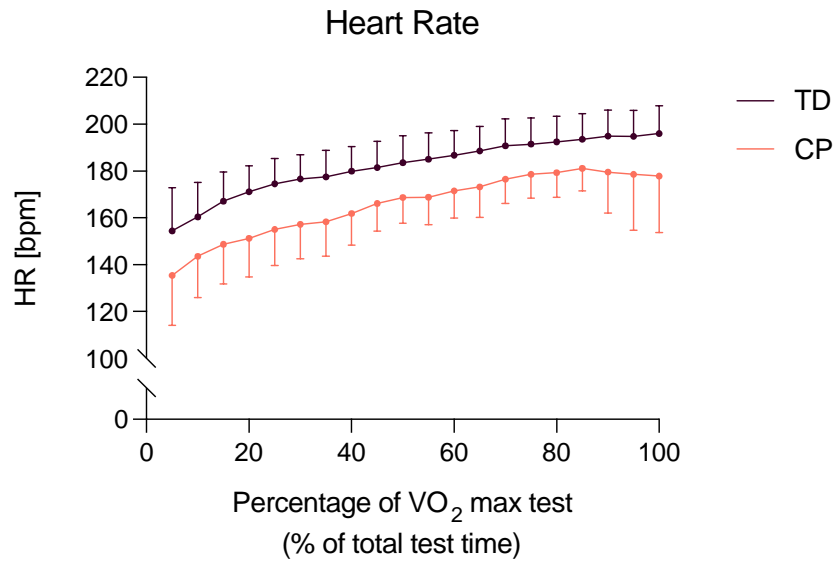
# VO<sub>2</sub> maximal test

*A maximal incremental exercise test*



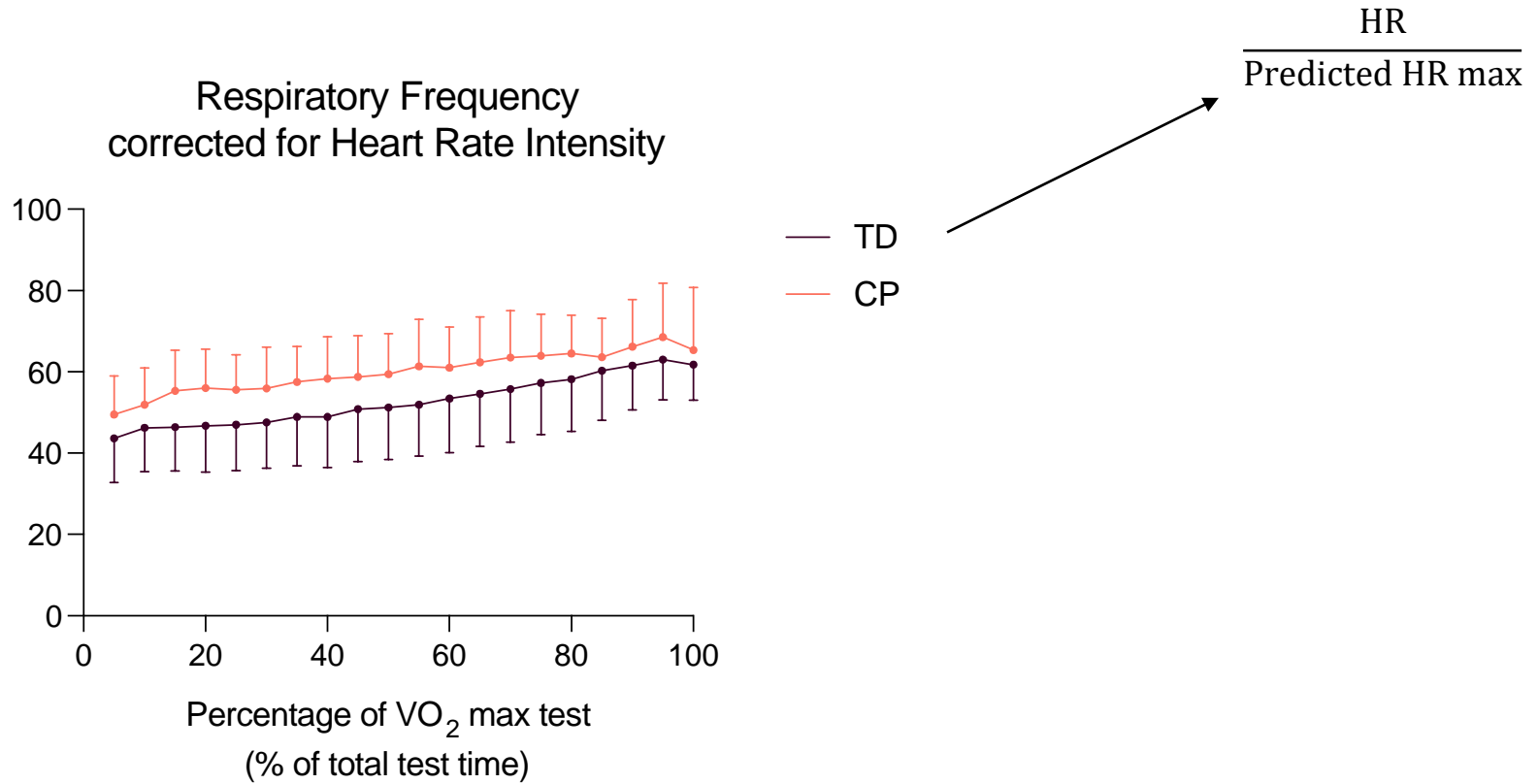
# VO<sub>2</sub> maximal test

*A maximal incremental exercise test*



# VO<sub>2</sub> maximal test

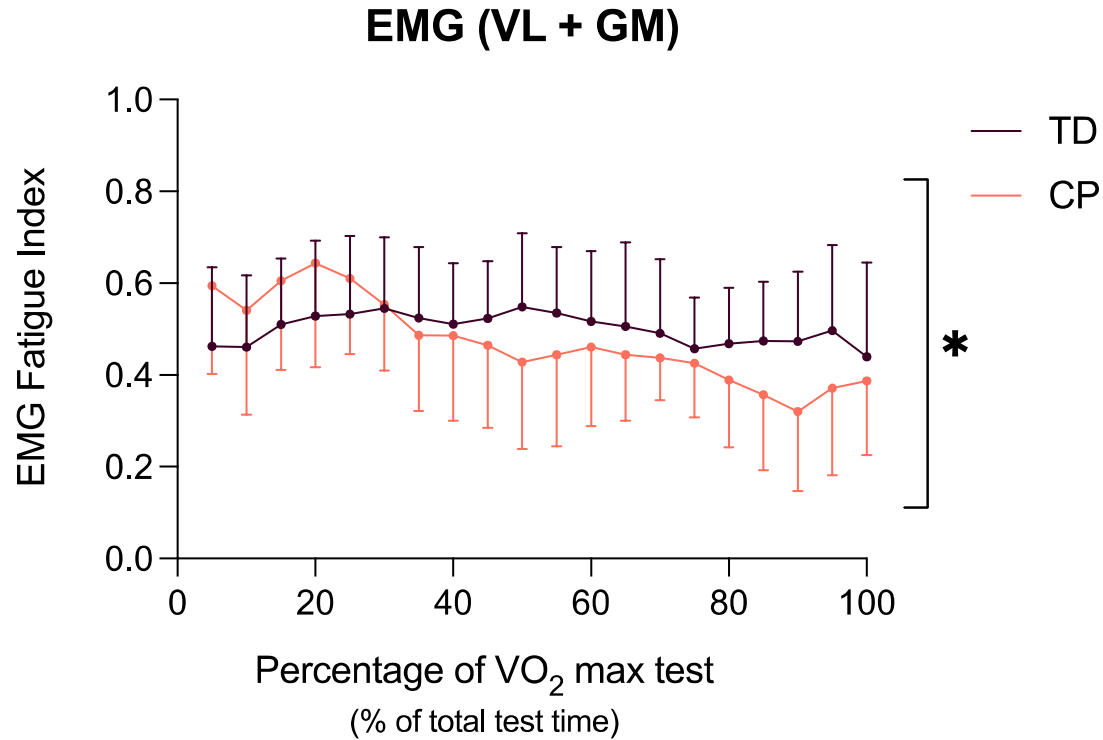
*A maximal incremental exercise test*



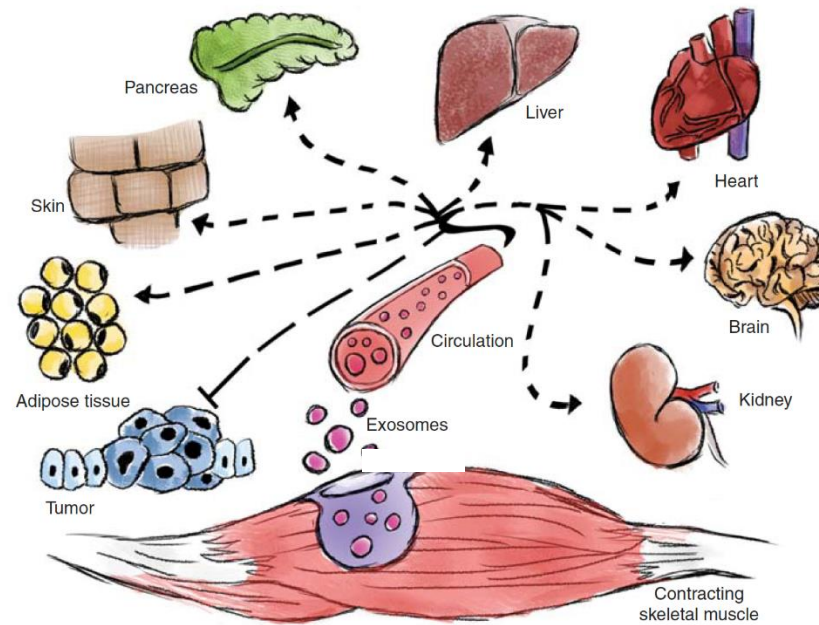
**Respiratory frequency "corrected" for heart rate intensity**

# VO<sub>2</sub> maximal test

## Electromyography



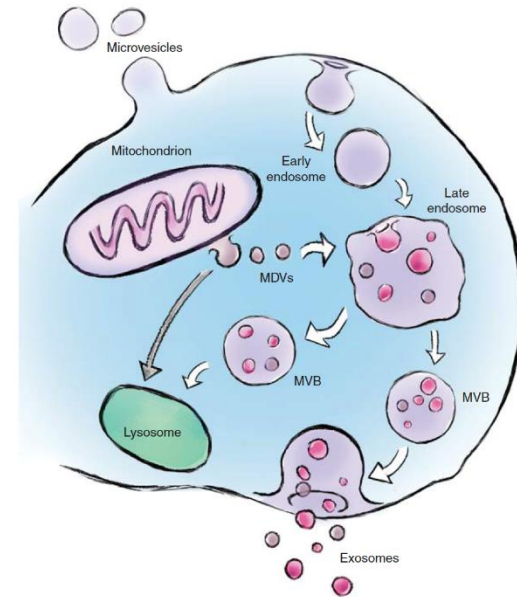
# Muscle as a secretory organ



Safdar & Tarnapolsky 2017. CSH Perspectives in Medicine

# Extracellular vesicle characteristics and microRNA content in cerebral palsy and typically developed individuals at rest and in response to aerobic exercise

Ivan J. Vechetti<sup>1</sup>, Jessica Norrbom<sup>2</sup>, Björn Alkner<sup>3</sup>,  
Emma Hjalmarsson<sup>4</sup>, Alexandra Palmcrantz<sup>4</sup>, Eva Pontén<sup>4,5</sup>,  
Jessica Pingel<sup>6</sup>, Ferdinand von Walden<sup>4†</sup> and  
Rodrigo Fernandez-Gonzalo<sup>7,8\*†</sup>



Safdar & Tarnapolsky 2017. CSH Perspectives in Medicine

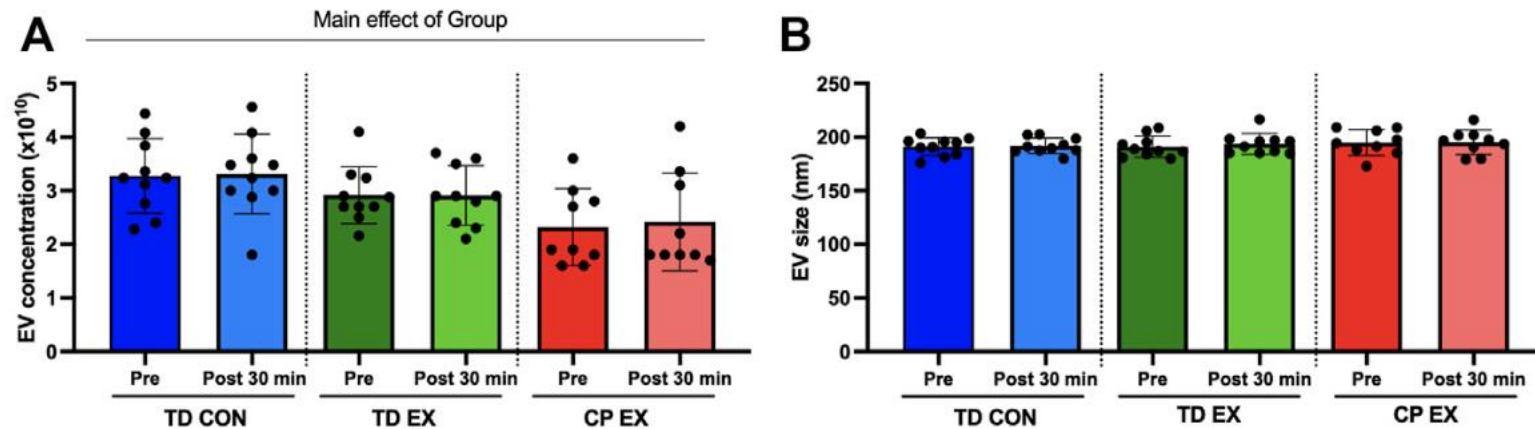


# Acute endurance exercise



Group	Mean age	Weight (kg)	Height (cm)	BMI	Sex
TD PVC control	30±8	81.4±15.5	178±0.1	25.5±4.0	6 men/4 women
TD Exercise	28±7	78.7±17.0	176±0.1	25.2±4.7	6 men/4 women
CP Exercise	27±9	53.8±16.2	161±6.1	22.8±5.9	6 boys/4 girls

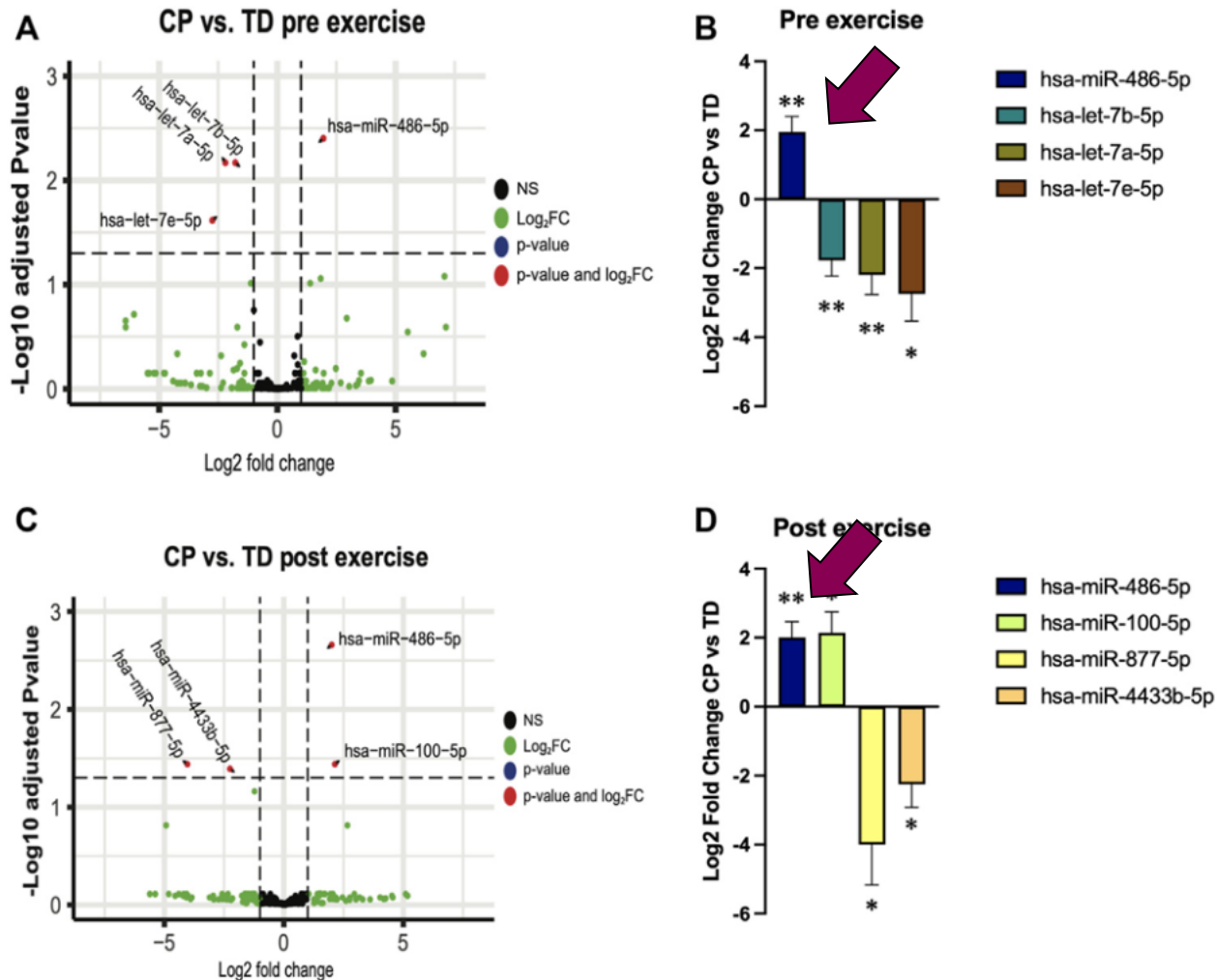
# Lower concentration of extracellular vesicles in CP



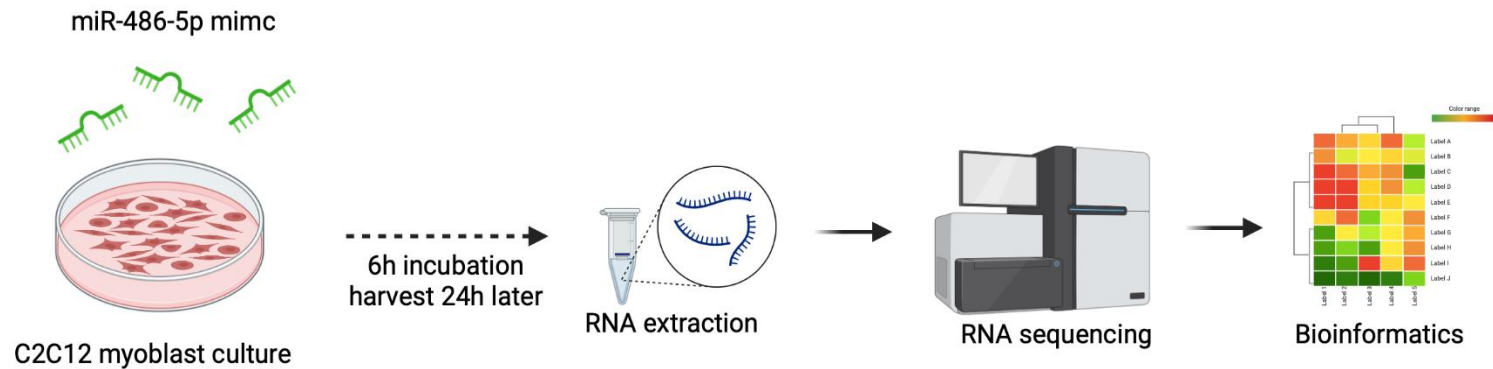
**FIGURE 1**

Extracellular vesicle (EV) characterization in typically developed (TD) and cerebral palsy (CP) individuals and its response to exercise. **(A)**; EV concentration (particles per mL of plasma) before (Pre) and after (Post) 30 min of aerobic exercise (EX) or control (CON). **(B)**; EV size before (Pre) and after (Post) 30 min of EX or CON condition.

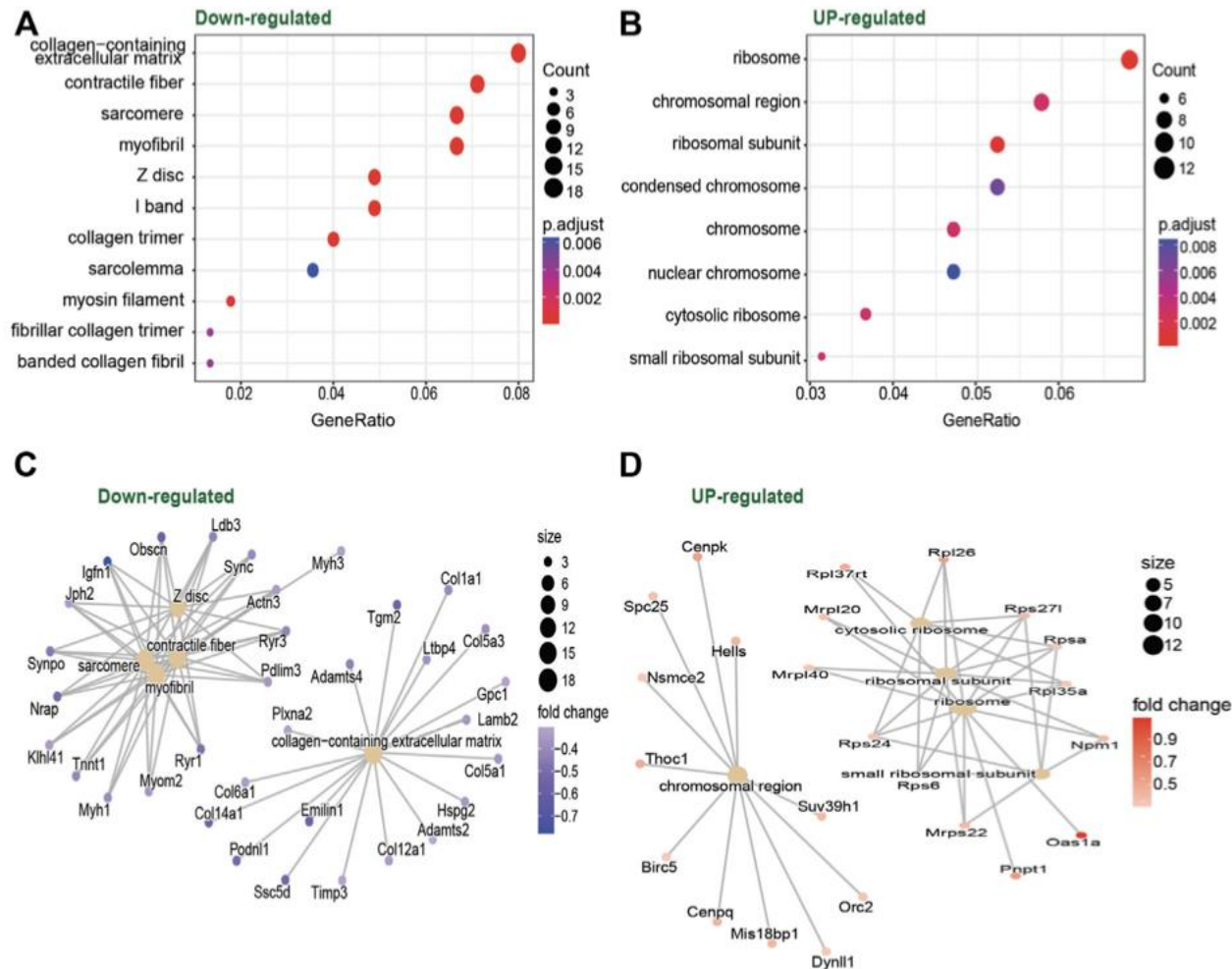
# Extracellular vesicle miRNA levels in CP



# In vitro experiments with synthetic miR486 on myogenic cells



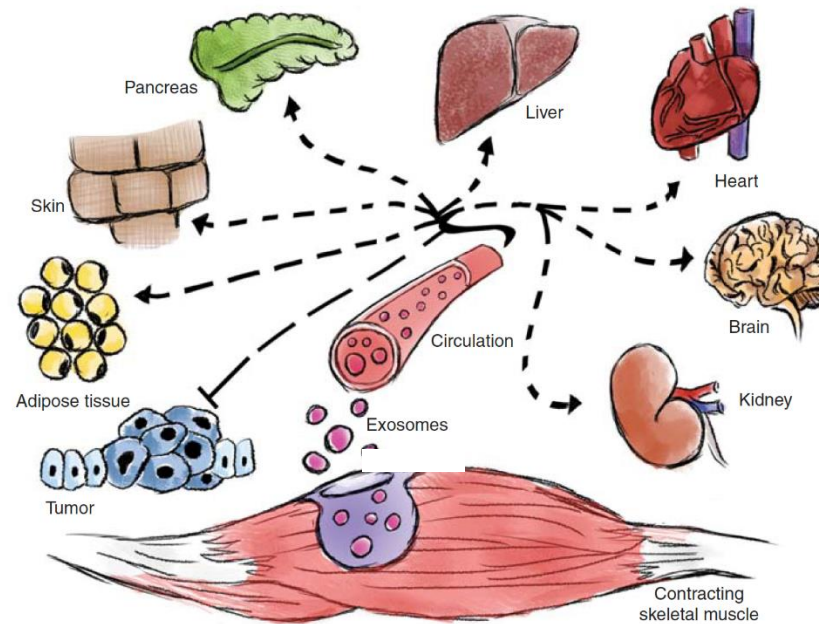
# Influences ECM and growth pathways



## Conclusions

- Plasma extracellular vesicle number is smaller in subjects with CP but size is the same.
- Extracellular vesicle miRNA content differs in subjects with CP.
- miR-486 is elevated in plasma Evs from individuals with CP.
- miR-486 influences ECM and growth related genes.

# Muscle as a secretory organ



Safdar & Tarnapolsky 2017. CSH Perspectives in Medicine

# Take home message

- Cerebral palsy is fairly common, 2/1000 kids.
- Skeletal muscle is macro/microscopically altered.
- Gene expression altered.
- Mitochondria fewer and less efficient?
- Physical fitness is low
  
- BUT trainable!
- Frame running is an efficient tool for moderate-high intensity exercise
- Ongoing research into aerobic capacity and metabolic function.



# Acknowledgement



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Stiftelsen Sunnerdahls  
Handikappfond



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Eva Pontén, Associate professor  
Rodrigo Fernandez-Gonzalo, Associate Professor



## University of Nebraska, USA

Ivan Vechetti, Assistant Professor



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AnneMieke Buizer, Professor  
Petra van Schie, PhD  
Arnoud Edelman Bos, PhD-student



Vetenskapsrådet





**Thank you!**

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