



## Removing the Kid Gloves in Neurologic Rehabilitation

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#### Removing the kid gloves . . . .

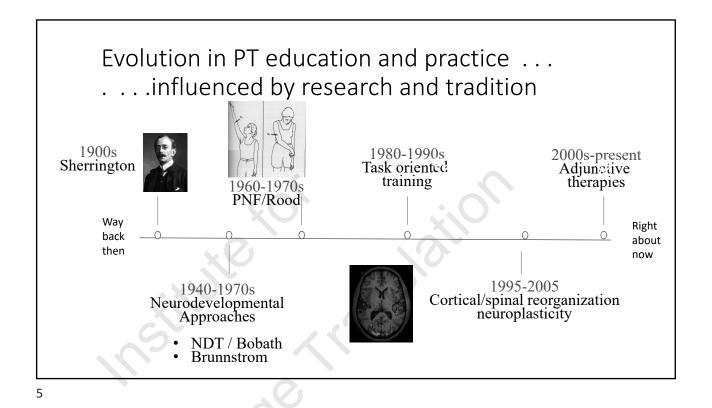
- Introduction T. George Hornby, PT, PhD
- Removing the gloves in neurological rehabilitation Chris E. Henderson, PT, PhD, NCS
- Application to the real-world environments Maghan Bretz, MPT, NCS
- Summary

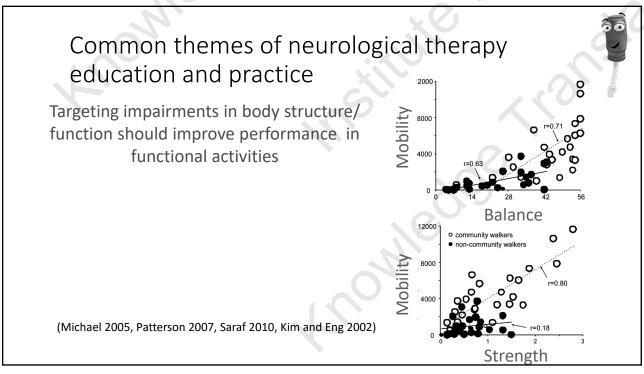
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#### Removing the kid gloves . . . .

- Introduction identifying the problem
- Removing the gloves in neurological rehabilitation—Chris E. Henderson, PT, PhD, NCS
- Application to the real-world environments Maghan Bretz, MPT, NCS
- Summary

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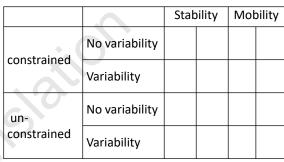




## Common themes of neurological therapy education and practice

Targeting impairments in body structure/
function should improve performance in
functional activities

Standardized progression of taskdifficulty in preparation for advanced mobility tasks



(Gentile 1987)

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## Common themes of neurological therapy education and practice

Normalizing movement practice can best promote functional recovery

sensory information retrains motor output

"perfect practice makes perfect"



risk of injury

Lower intensities/difficulty (spasticity, cardiovascular risk)



# Common themes of neurological therapy education and practice





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Our problems are not unique . . . Efficiency

Cost-effectiveness

Moneyball - Oakland A's professional baseball team ("small market team"), 2001 one win away from league championship



General manager

Billy Beane

Key players with expiring contracts heading to "large market" teams



Johnny Damon

Value



Jason Isringhausen

Jason Giambi

How to replace players without the same resources?

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#### Replacing players in a "small market"?

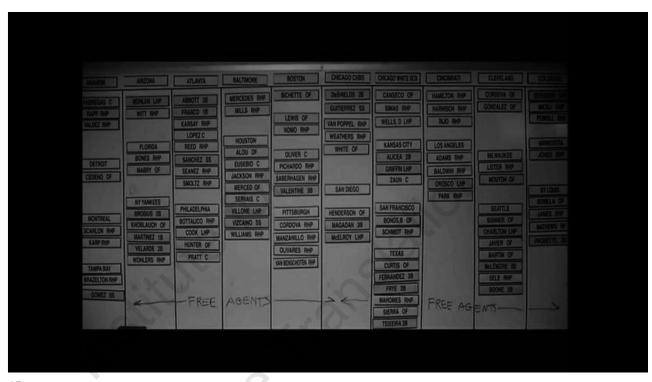
Traditional methods of player evaluation

Batting Average (BA)

Home runs (HR) Runs Batted In (RBIs)

"Intangibles"

- mechanics
- contact
- other (attitude, focus, hustle, confidence)





#### "Sabermetrics" in rehabilitation?

Principles of Experience-dependent Neural Plasticity (Kleim and Jones 2008)

city (Kleim and Jones 2008) practice?

- 1. Use It or Lose It
- 2. Use It and Improve It
- Specificity
- 4. Repetition Matters
- Intensity Matters
- 6. Time Matters
- 7. Salience Matters
- 8. Age Matters
- 9. Transference
- 10. Interference

< 500 steps/session (Lang 2009, Kimberley 2010, Zbogar 2016)

Traditional physical therapy

Rarely reach aerobic thresholds (MacKay-Lyons 2002, Kuys 2006, Prajapati 2013, Zbogar 2017)

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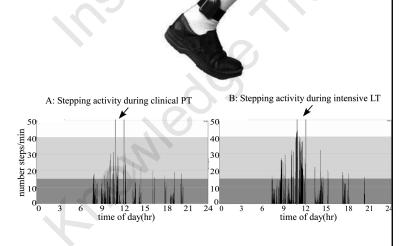
#### Moore Stroke 2010 – why do patients plateau?

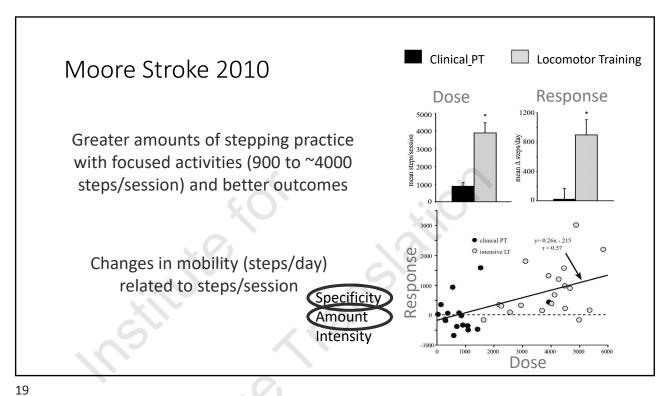
Patient activities and outcomes during last 4 weeks of clinical PT

versus

Activities/outcomes with 4 weeks high-intensity treadmill walking

- Assist-as-needed
- Targeting ~85% Hr<sub>max</sub>





\_-

#### What about those walking trials that failed?

 LEAPS trial? (Duncan NEJM 2011) - No difference between walking vs non-walking training

Heart rates (HRs) purposely kept < 110 beats/min; lower than 6 min walk tests (Woodward PTJ 2019)





#### What about those walking trials that failed?

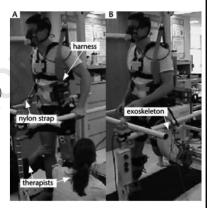
 LEAPS trial? (Duncan NEJM 2011) - No difference between walking vs non-walking training

Heart rates (HRs) purposely kept < 110 beats/min; lower than 6 min walk tests (Woodward PTJ 2019)

• Robotic locomotor devices? (Hornby Stroke 2008, Hidler NNR 2009)

VO<sub>2</sub>/ HRs lower during robotic vs PT assist-as-needed (Israel PTJ 2006, Hornby PTJ 2012, Lefeber NNR 2018)





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#### Putting the principles into practice?

Outcomes good but not great (Macko Stroke 2005, Moore Stroke 2010, Globas NNR 2012) Gains in 6 min

Limited gains in speed, balance, transfers, steps/day

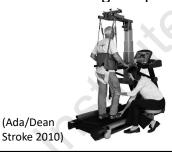
#### Principle

- 1. Use It or Lose It
- 2. Use It and Improve It
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#### Putting the principles into practice?

Outcomes good but not great (Macko Stroke 2005, Moore Stroke 2010, Globas NNR 2012) Gains in 6 min Limited gains in speed, balance, transfers, steps/day

#### Rethinking the principles??

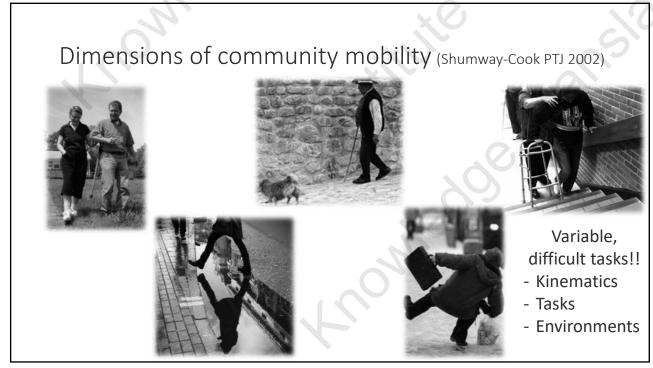


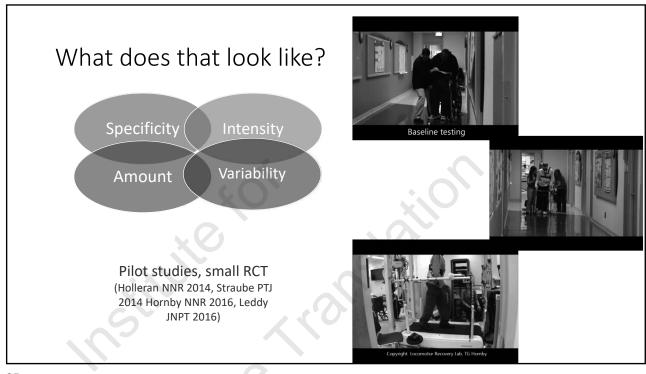
(Miller Clin Rehabil 2014)

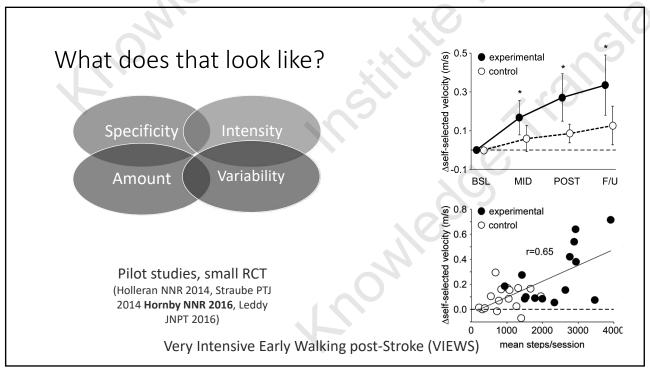


#### **Principle**

- 1. Use It or Lose It
- 2. Use It and Improve It
- Specificity
  - 4. Repetition Matters
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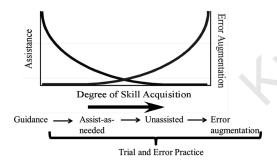


# Targeting Biomechanical Subcomponents in Gait Training



#### **Protocol**

- Biomechanical demands of walking (Kuo/Donelan PTJ 2010)
  - Propulsion
  - Limb swing advancement
  - Stance control
  - Lateral/frontal stability



- Define successful walking (Holleran NNR 2014)
  - Directional advancement
  - Positive step length
  - Limited limb/trunk collapse
  - · Maintain upright
    - Success = Continuous stepping
    - Failure = 3-5 consecutive errors
    - Gait kinematics not a primary concern

Progressing Biomechanical Subcomponents of Walking

Limb Advancement

Stance Stability

Propulsion

**Lateral Stability** 



# Contributions of Stepping Intensity and Variability to Mobility in Individuals Poststroke

Chris Henderson, Abbey Plawecki, Emily Lucas, Jennifer Lotter, Molly Holthus, Gabrielle Brazg, Meghan Fahey, Jane Woodward, Marzieh Ardestani, Elliot Roth, T
George Hornby

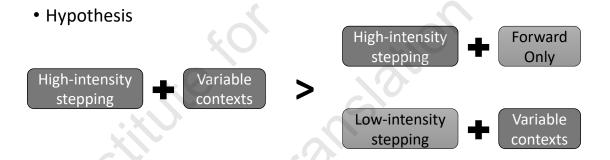






#### Background and Motivation

- Purpose of current study
  - Examine the relative contributions of stepping <u>intensity</u> and <u>variability</u> on mobility outcomes in ambulatory individuals with chronic stroke

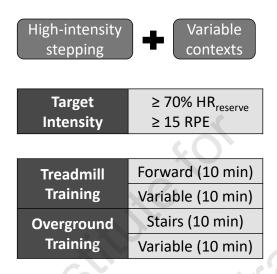


#### Methods

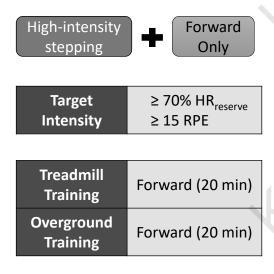


- Randomly assigned to 1 of 3 training groups
- Up to (30) one hour training sessions in ≤ 9 weeks

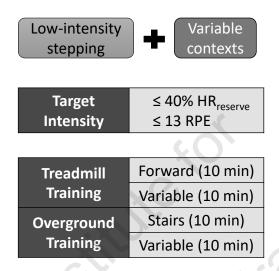
#### High Intensity Variable Training



## High Intensity Forward Training

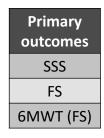


#### Low Intensity Variable Training



#### Outcomes

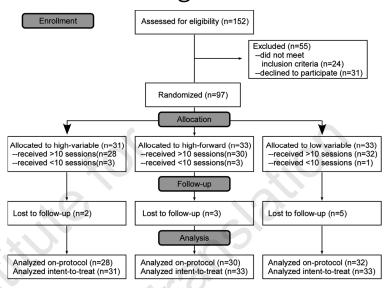
• BSL, POST, 3 month f/u



	Secondary outcomes					
	Temporal symmetry = % SLS					
Spatio-	Spatial symmetry =					
temporal	$100\% \times \left(1 - \left  \left(1 - \frac{\text{nonparetic step length}}{\text{paretic step length}}\right) \right  \right)$					
	FGA					
Clinical	5XSTS					
	ABC Scale					

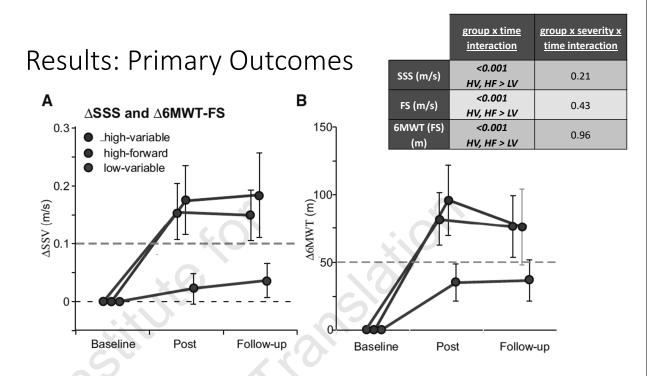
• Adverse events (serious vs minor)

#### Results: CONSORT Diagram



## Results: Demographics and Trainings

	High-Variable (n=28)	High-Forward (n=30)	Low-Variable (n=32)	group effects
Sessions	27 (26-29)	27 (25-28)	27 (25-29)	0.79
Duration/session (min)	34 (33-35)	33 (32-35)	37 (36-38)	<0.001 LV > HV, HF
%HRR (predicted HR <sub>max</sub> )	67 (61-72)	61 (54-67)	40 (35-44)	<0.001 HV, HF > LV
RPE	16 (16-17)	17 (16-18)	14 (13-14)	<0.001 HV, HF > LV
Steps/session	2675	3156	2164	<0.001
	(2368-2982)	(2822-3491)	(1798-2530)	<i>HF &gt; HV &gt; LV</i>
Steps/min	62 (57-66)	75 (71-80)	48 (42-54)	<0.001
Steps, IIIII	02 (37 00)	, 5 (, 1 00)	.5 ( .2 54)	<i>HF &gt; HV &gt; LV</i>



## Results: Spatiotemporal Outcomes

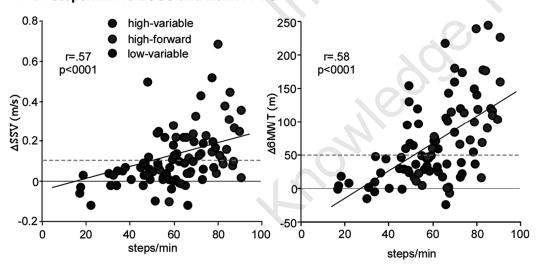
		High-Variable	High-Forward	Low-Variable	group x time interaction	group x severity  x time interaction
Single limb	BSL	21 (19-24)	22 (19-24)	22 (19-25)	<0.001	<0.001
stance-SSS (%	ΔPOST	2.1 (0.7-3.4)	3.5 (1.9-5.0)	0.5 (-0.4-1.4)		HV/HF-severe>
gait cycle)	ΔF/U	2.6 (0.9-4.3)	3.8 (2.0-5.5)	0.9 (-0.4-1.6)	HV, HF > LV	others
Step length	BSL	72 (60-83)	76 (68-83)	69 (60-78)		
asymmetry-	ΔPOST	4.9 (-1.1-11)	1.7 (-6.2-9.7)	2.4 (-5.4-10)	0.95	0.45
SSS (%)	ΔF/U	3.9 (-4.3-12)	3.6 (-4.2-11)	3.8 (-4.3-12)		

## Results: Secondary Clinical Outcomes

		High-Variable	High-Forward	<u>Low-Variable</u>	group x time interaction	group x severity x time interaction
	BSL	13 (11-15)	12 (9.9-14)	11 (9.2-13)		
FGA	ΔPOST	2.2 (1.1-3.3)	0.7 (-0.6-2.0)	1.8 (0.3-3.4)	0.06	0.46
	ΔF/U	2.6 (1.2-3.9)	1.4 (0.3-2.5)	0.4 (-0.9-1.6)		
	BSL	61 (51-70)	53 (46-61)	49 (40-57)		0.03
<b>ABC Scale</b>	ΔPOST	10 (4.9-16)	4.1 (-0.1-8.4)	7.4 (3.3-11)	0.13	HV-severe >
	ΔF/U	9.6 (3.4-16)	2.6 (-1.4-6.7)	4.0 (-1.1-9.1)		others

## Results: Dose/Response Relationships

#### C-D: steps/min vs $\triangle$ SSS and $\triangle$ 6MWT-FS



#### Results: Adverse Events

- Serious adverse events not observed in any group
- Minor adverse events not different between groups (p = 0.73)

	High-Variable	High-Forward	Low-Variable
Musculoskeletal pain	27	20	18
Falls w/o injury	8	10	16
HTN, angina, SOB	6	4	8
Dizziness/LOC	2	3	0

#### Discussion and Conclusions

- Contributions of intensity of training are clear
- Contributions of task variability and difficulty are less clear
- Spatiotemporal differences despite limited focus on kinematics
- No group differences in adverse events

#### Potential Role of Task-Specific Training on Locomotor Recovery Following Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury

Jennifer K. Lotter, DPT, Christopher E. Henderson, PT, PhD, NCS, Abbey Plawecki, MPT, Molly E. Holthus, DPT, Emily H. Lucas, SPT, Marzieh M. Ardestani, PhD, Brian D. Schmit, PhD, T. George Hornby, PT, PhD





#### Background and Motivation

- Stepping practice not emphasized in inpt PT (Zbogar 2016)
  - ~100 steps/session in ambulatory iSCI
  - ~200 non-walking leg movements
- Intensity may be important
  - High intensity strengthening (Gregory 2007; Jayaraman 2013)
  - · Aerobic cycling (McLeod 2019; DiPiro 2016)
  - Circuit training (Gant 2017)

Does greater amounts of stepping practice improve stepping, or do we just need to work hard?

#### Background and Motivation

<u>Purpose</u>: investigate the role of specificity of training on locomotor outcomes in iSCI

#### **Hypothesis:**



#### Methods

## Inclusion Criteria > 1 year post iSCI

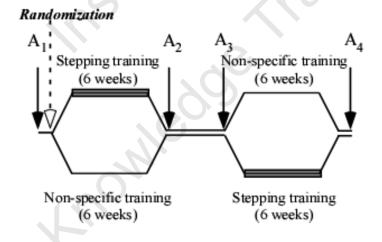
Motor iSCI T10 or higher

Able to walk ≥ 10m at speeds < 1.0 m/s with customary AD and below knee bracing PRN

#### **Exclusion Criteria**

Additional neurologic or orthopedic injury that limits ambulation

Currently participating in PT



## Task-Specific Training



Target	≥ 70% HR <sub>reserve</sub>
Intensity	≥ 15 RPE

Treadmill	Forward (10 min)
Training	Variable (10 min)
Overground Training	Stairs (10 min)
	Variable (10 min)

## Non-Specific Training



Target	≥ 70% HR <sub>reserve</sub>
Intensity	≥ 15 RPE

	LE strengthening (10 min)
Intomiontions	Balance (10-15 min)
Interventions	Aerobic training (10 min)
	Transfer training (5 min)

## Outcomes + Analysis

#### **Primary Outcomes**

Fastest walking speed

Peak TM Speed

#### **Secondary Outcomes**

Self-selected speed

6MWT

Berg Balance Scale

**5XSTS** 

**ABC Scale** 

Peak RST Power

## Results

- N=16
- No group differences in demographics

	Non-specific	Task-specific	p-values
Number of sessions	18±3.0	18±1.5	0.84
Steps per sessions	693±437	2206±988	<0.001
% HRR Average	57±10	70±11	<0.001
RPE Average	18±1.3	17±1.2	0.20

## Results: Outcomes

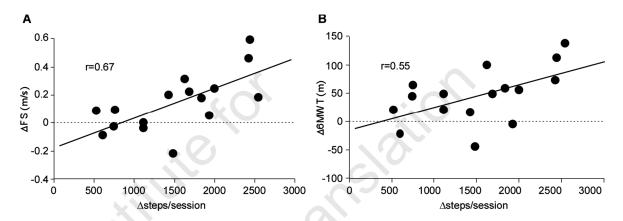
		Non- Specific	Task- Specific		time	time x group
	FS (m/s)	0.02±0.08	0.14±0.18		<0.01*	0.01*
	Peak TM speed (m/s)	0.01±0.09	0.20±0.15		<0.01*	<0.01*
ES (m/s)  1.0	■ task-specific first	· ·	ecific training ecific training	1.2 1.0 0.8 0.6		

## Results: Outcomes

	Non-specific		<u>Task-s</u>	<u>pecific</u>	<u>p-values</u>	
	BSL	POST	BSL	POST	time	time X group
SSS (m/s)	0.53±0.28	0.53±0.25	0.51±0.26	0.58±0.30	0.10	0.12
6MWT (m)	192±97	195±94	191±110	239±123	<0.01*	<0.01*
BBS	32±12	33±11	32±14	35±14	0.03*	0.39
ABC	55±21	57±21	48±22	58±23	0.02*	0.01*
Peak RST power (W)	103±43	134±48	110±45	110±43	0.10	0.04*

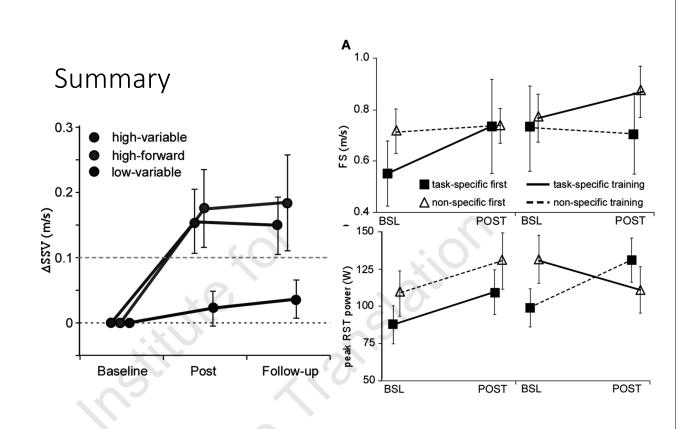
#### Results: Correlations

#### $\Delta$ = task-specific training – non-specific training



#### Discussion and Conclusions

- Greater gains in locomotor outcomes in task-specific versus nonspecific training
- Limited walking gains with impairment-based strategies, but gains in recumbent stepping power



# Implementation of high intensity gait training

Real world application

Maghan Bretz, PT, MPT, NCS
Ascension St. Vincent Evansville
Evansville, Indiana

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#### Ascension St. Vincent

- Community-based hospital system located in southwestern Indiana
- Trials and tribulations of implementing HIT



#### PT Practice in 2012

#### Two approaches:

- NDT/ traditional strategies:
  - Movement quality
  - Handling
  - Simpler → complex tasks
- · Impairment-based interventions

#### Hindsight 20/20 . . but . . .

- · Amount?
- Intensity?
- · Outcome measures?





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#### The turning point

## Planned presentation

- Focus on post-stroke rehabilitation
- Attention to NDT principles

## Consultation with colleague

- Observation of high intensity training in lab
- Attendance at "Walk the Walk"



Kleim and Jones, 2008

"The time has come to let go of the neurophysiologic approaches as a basis for neurologic physical therapy education and practice.

Instead, we should discuss the therapeutic principles that drive the nervous system to respond and adapt"

K. Sullivan JNPT 2009 editorial

#### Changing direction

- Prioritize walking
- Monitor vitals and target high intensities
- Decrease focus on movement quality and isolated impairments
- Start utilizing outcome measures



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#### Early years: figuring it out

- Knowledge sharing
  - "Active ingredients"
  - Biomechanical subcomponents
  - · Safety, feasibility, translation



TASK SPECIFICITY
REPETITION
INTENSITY

#### Early years: figuring it out

- Knowledge sharing
  - "Active ingredients"
  - Biomechanical subcomponents
  - · Safety, feasibility, translation
- Clinician resources and guides





Date	Pre vitals	Post vitals	Intensity	Gait Subcomponents				DF	Speed	Rest	Total feet
				Limb Adv	Stance	Propulsion	Post Stab	assist	range	breaks	Total time
	-	**	Martin.					1	-	1	
			Mrt.								
	-	-	No. III			1	-				
	40		101	-							-

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#### Early years: figuring it out

- · Modeling myself
- Team skepticism
- · New clinician mentoring
- More equipment
  - · Lift system upgrades
  - New walking harnesses
  - · Overhead ceiling harness





#### Early years: figuring it out

- 35 y.o. female
  - Infection → spinal cord injury
  - Categorized as a C4 ASIA B
  - · Total assist with all self care and mobility
- 2-week reassessment: flickering LE movement

Old way:

Bed mobility, the for w/c mobility

Sitting → standi ce-gait → gait

Not measuring HR

New way:
Prioritized gait
Targeted high intensity HR
range

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Early years: figuring it out



## Early years: figuring it out





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Early years: figuring it out





#### Over the next several years...

Integrating knowledge early . ..

- Adjunct faculty position
- · Training future colleagues

#### Knowledge seeking

- Mentors
- ANPT Locomotor CPG Task Force

#### Knowledge sharing

- Mentoring and modeling
- Staff presentations
- Hospital symposiums
- Local district meetings
- INAPTA Fall Conference





#### **INTENSITY MATTERS**



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#### Over the next several years...

#### Leadership role

- Clinical practice leader with KT responsibilities
- Moving to outpatient setting & using what we have
- Residency development

#### Equipment and processes

- · New treadmill, new site
- Continuous HR monitoring
- · Measuring outcomes

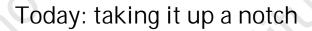


#### Today: taking it up a notch

	Admission
Transfers	Dependent x 2
Gait	N/A
Stairs	N/A
10MWT	0 m/s
6MWT	0′
Berg Balance Scale	3/56

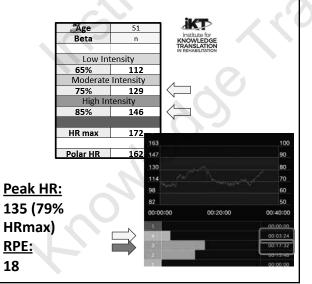
- 51 y.o. male
- Motor vehicle accident  $\rightarrow$ spinal cord injury
- Categorized as a C4 ASIA D (LEMS 33/50)
  - Total assist with self care & mobility

15



RPE: 18





## Today: taking it up a notch





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## Outcomes

	Admission	Discharge
Transfers	Dependent x 2	Min assist
Gait	N/A	>1000 feet, RW/min
Stairs	N/A	Flights, mini assist, rail
10MWT	0 m/s	0.52 m/s SSV 0.88 m/s FV
6MWT	0′	669′
Berg Balance Scale	3/56	29/56

#### What's changed?

- Intensity of practice
- Clinician efficiency
- Clinician confidence and skill
- Patient education



	ADM	D/C
Berg	23	45
10mWT	0.26 m/s	1.1 m/s
6MWT	211'	781′

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## What's changed?





#### Take Home Messages

- · Recognizing the gap
- Actually doing something about it
- Realizing that change takes time and effort
- Leadership support is huge



#### Push back . . . .

Society for American Baseball Research



General manager Billy Beane



Asst general manager "Peter Brand"

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Push back . . . .

I've been practicing physical Everyone does it this way . . . therapy for 23 years . . .

This is how I learned to do it . . .

... so I know because I know

. . . and I was taught by experts

... I've rehabilitated And my patients get better . . . thousands of patients . . .

#### "I don't want to hurt my patient"





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#### "I don't want to hurt my patient"



**No increased risk** of cardiovascular/ orthopedic injury with high intensity training (Pang J Stroke Cerebrovas Res 2013; Hornby NNR 2015, Moore Stroke 2020)

#### **Strategies**

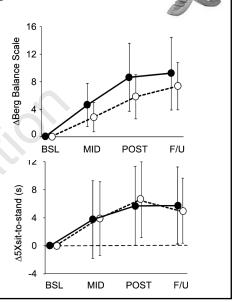
- ACSM guidelines (< 85% HR<sub>max</sub>, measure BP)
- MD approval with concerns
- AFO, taping, knee cage and gait belts



#### "You're ignoring their impairments"

Strength, balance, transfers improve with high intensity variable stepping

Controlled interventions (Straube PTJ 2014; Hornby NNR 2016)
Clinical studies (Horn APMR 2005; Hornby NNR 2015)



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## "Well ... they aren't ready for walking"

Impairment-based interventions often don't improve walking function (CPG Locomotor Function JNPT 2020)

#### Winstein APMR 1989 – "failure of part-whole practice"

".... appealing to think that practice of an element of a complex skill will enhance performance, research has found little support..."

". . . elements when practiced separately may not be the same when performed within the entire skill"



"Pre-gait" is neither "pre" nor "gait" . . . discuss

"Fine, but I can't facilitate normal kinematics alone"

## Practicing "normal" may result in limited gains in function or kinematics

(Dobkin Neurol 2006, Hornby Stroke 2008, Hidler NNR 2009, Lewek PTJ 2009 Duncan JAMA 2011)

Practicing normal is not sufficient

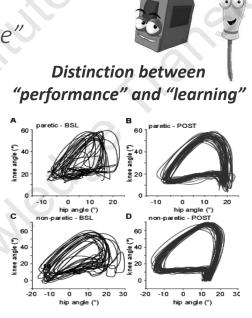
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#### "Their gait patterns look horrible"

Gait quality improves with high intensity variable training (Hornby NNR 2016, Mahtani PTJ 2017, Ardestani NNR 2019, J Neurotrauma 2019)

Effects of errors/variability (Schmidt and Lee 2003, Bastian Curr Opin Neurol 2006, Reisman PTJ 2010),

Practicing normal is not necessary





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#### Removing the kid gloves . . . .

- Introduction why do we do what we do? T. George Hornby, PT, PhD
- Removing the gloves in neurological rehabilitation Chris E. Henderson, PT, PhD, NCS
- Application to the real-world environments Maghan Bretz, MPT, NCS
- Summary