

# London 2012

## The Science Behind the Medals

Dr Ken van Someren

Director of R&D, GSK Human Performance Lab.



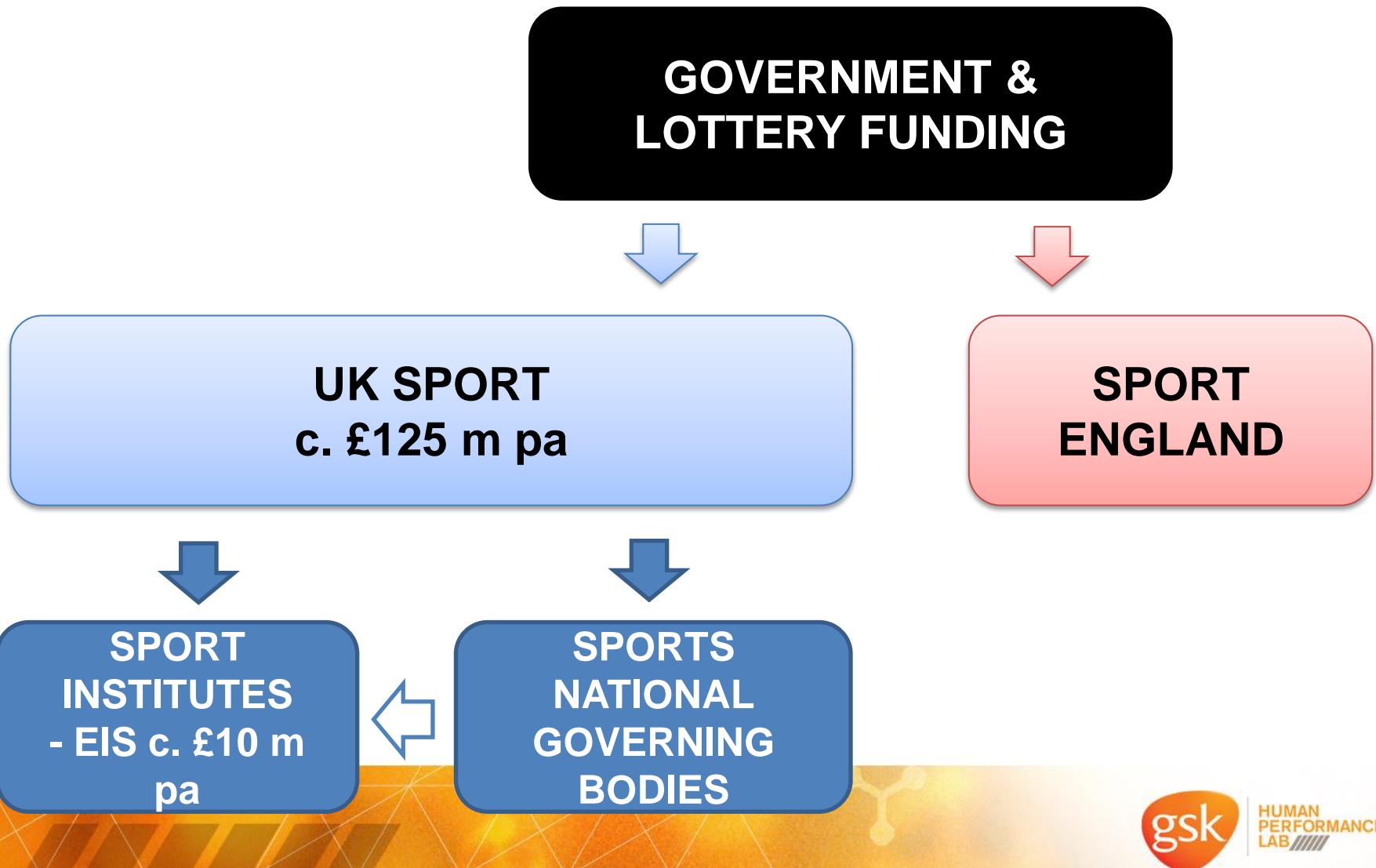


July 2005: London bid for 2012

7 years of increased investment, focus  
and development

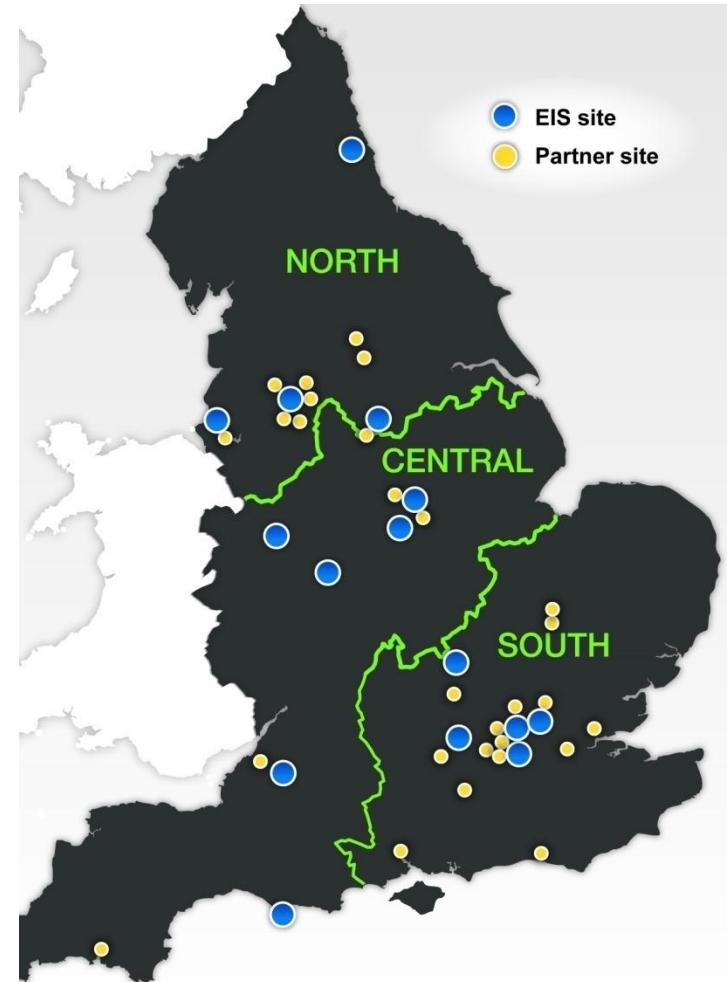


# High Performance Sport in the UK



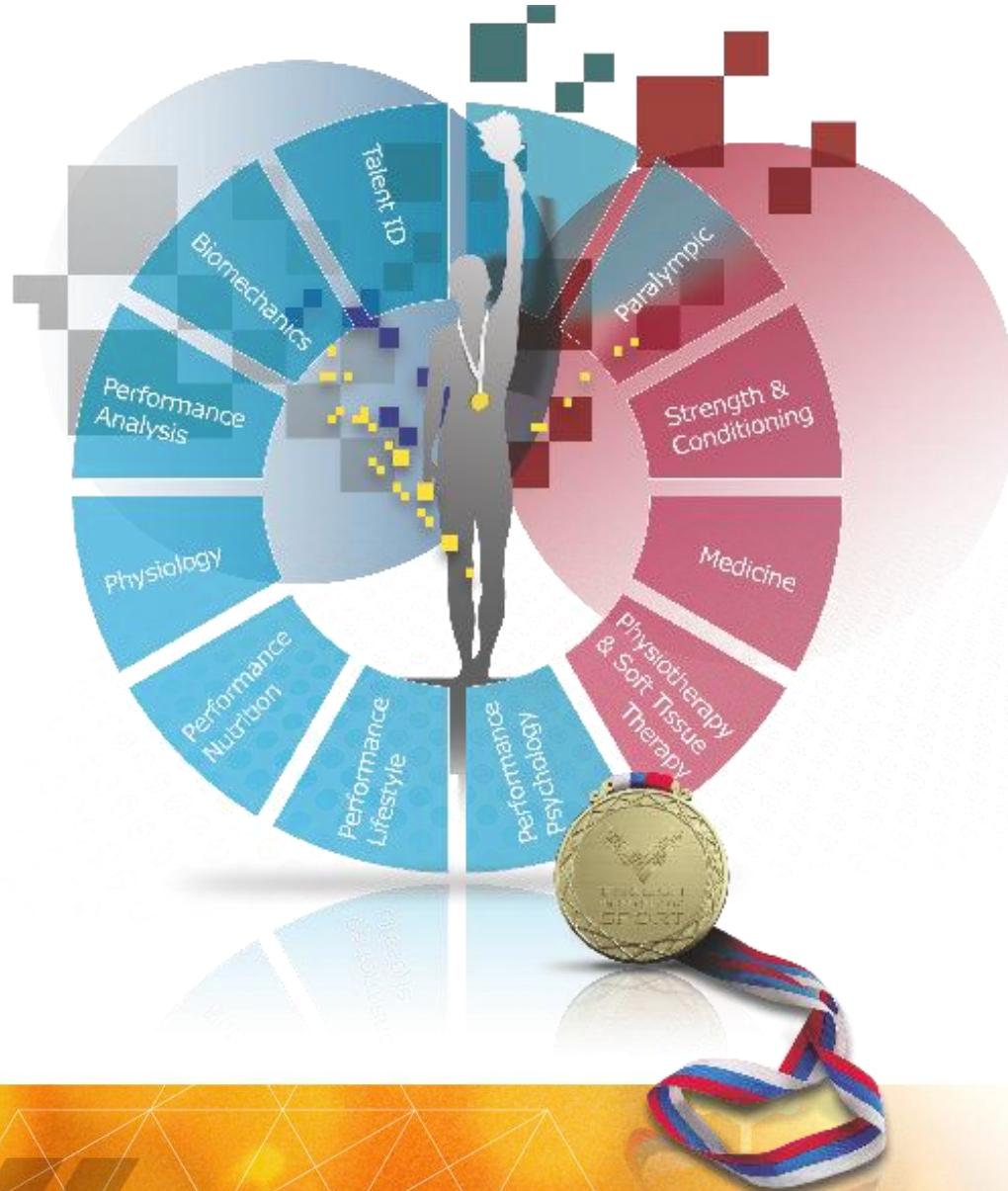


- Supporting 1,500 elite athletes from over 40 sports
- 4,000 hours per week of service delivery
- Nearly 250 employees across the network
- Delivering out of 15 EIS High Performance Centres and additional partner sites
- In collaboration with UK Sport and HCSIs





ENGLISH  
INSTITUTE OF  
**SPORT**





		Gold	Silver	Bronze
Olympic	3rd	29	17	19
Paralympic	3rd	34	43	43



		Gold	Silver	Bronze
Olympic	4 <sup>th</sup>	19	13	15
Paralympic	2 <sup>nd</sup>	42	29	31



		Gold	Silver	Bronze
Olympic	10 <sup>th</sup>	9	9	12
Paralympic	2 <sup>nd</sup>	35	30	29



		Gold	Silver	Bronze
Olympic	10 <sup>th</sup>	11	10	7
Paralympic	2 <sup>nd</sup>	41	43	47

# Pathway to Podium

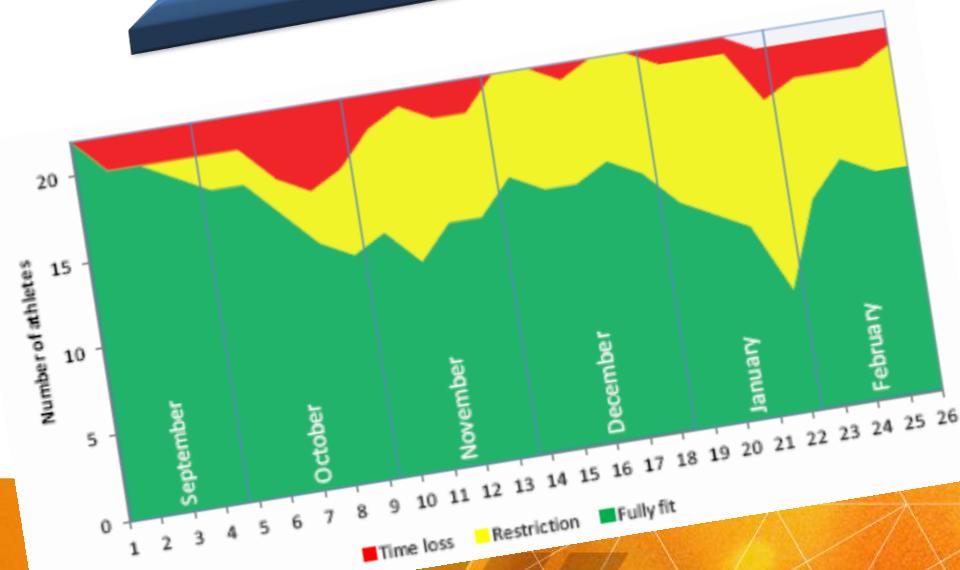
Competition  
Strategies

Training &  
Preparation

Health &  
Robustness



# Health & Robustness





# Health & Robustness



# Health & Robustness

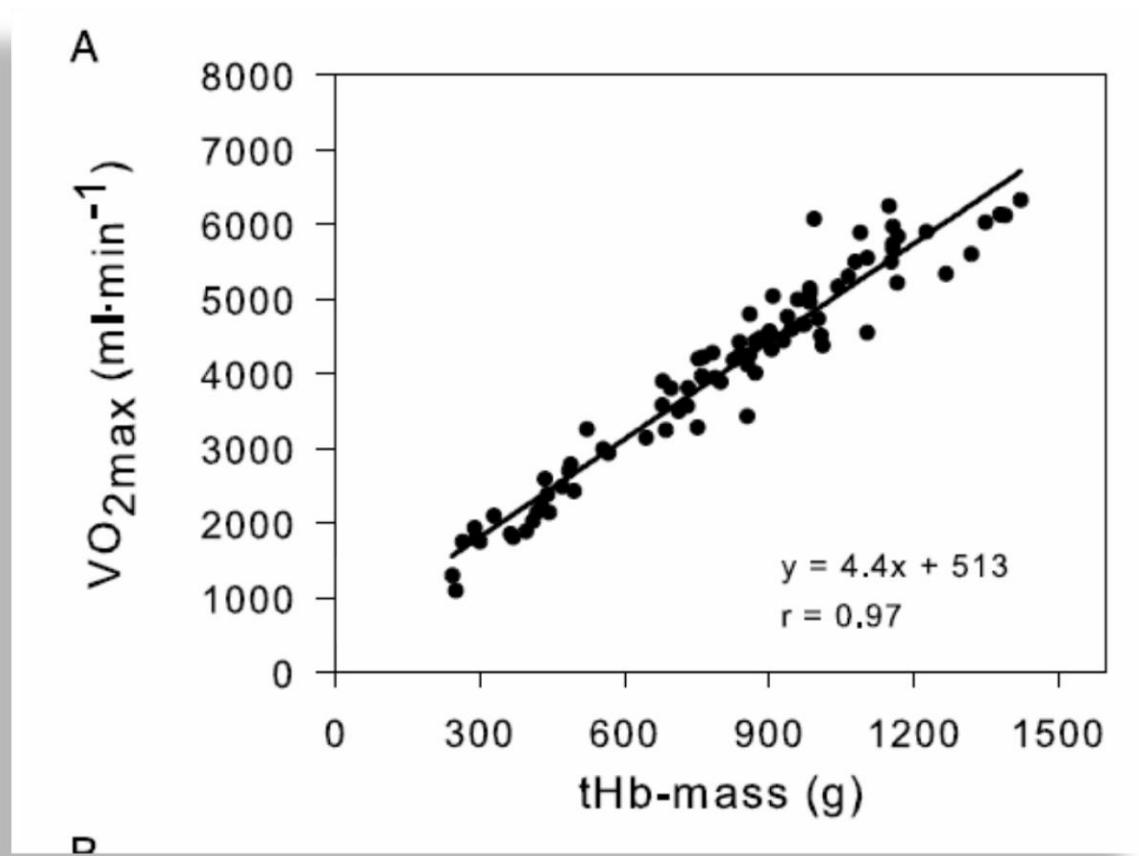


# Training & Preparation

- Training quantification
- Athlete 'readiness'
- Skill acquisition – visual tracking
- Occlusion
- Hypoxia and altitude
- Recovery and adaptation

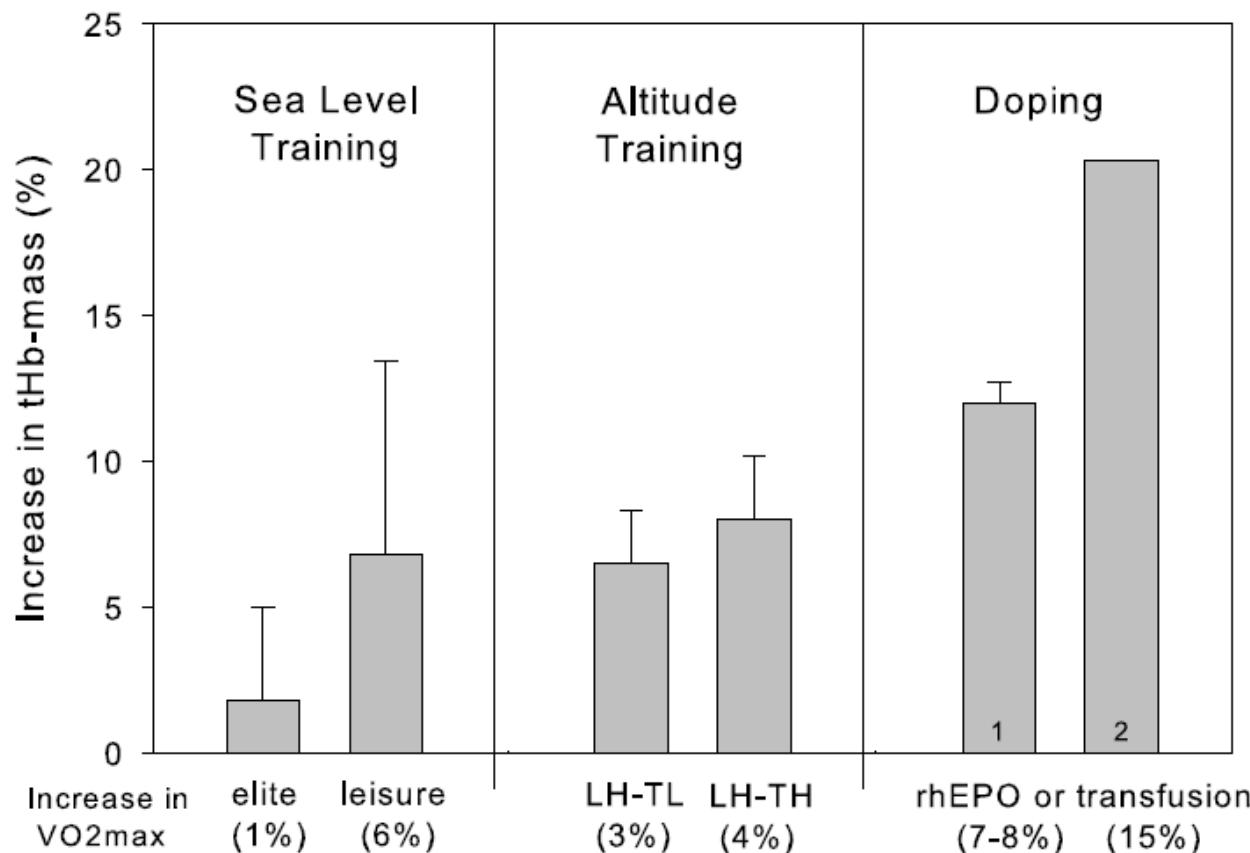


# Haemoglobin Mass



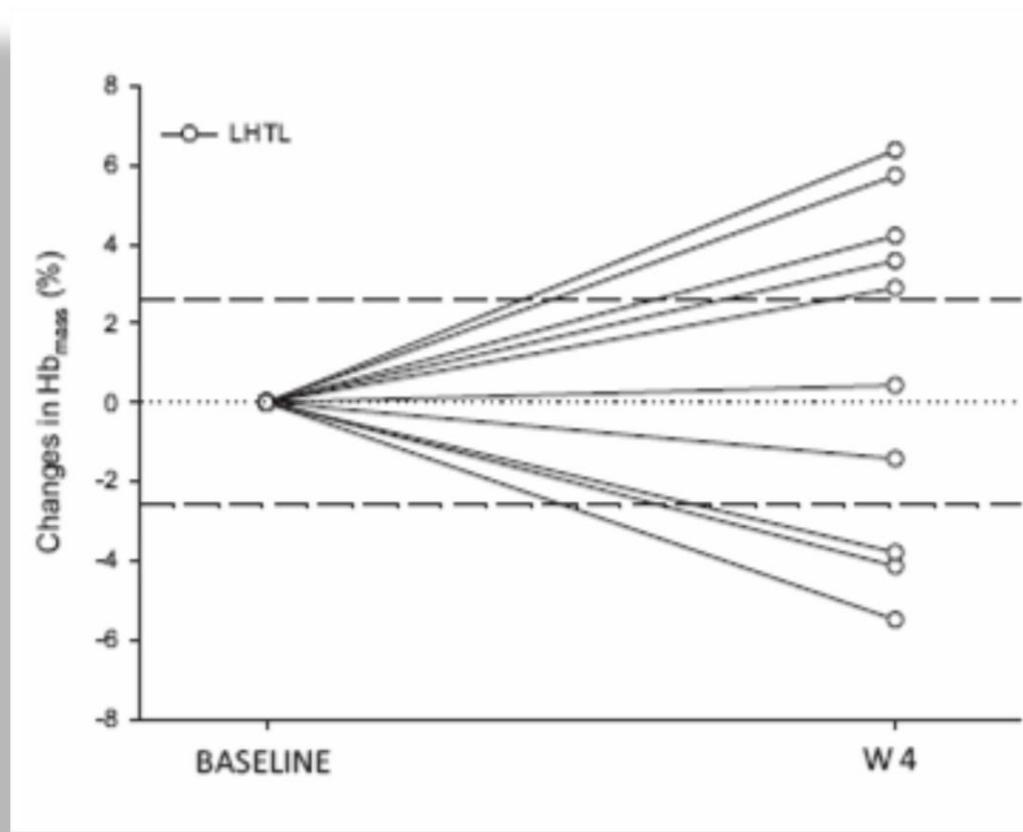
Schmidt & Prommer (2010) Impact of Alterations in Total Hemoglobin Mass on VO<sub>2</sub>max. Exerc Sport Sci Rev. Apr;38(2):41.

# Increasing Hb Mass



Schmidt & Prommer (2010) Impact of Alterations in Total Hemoglobin Mass on VO<sub>2</sub>max. Exerc Sport Sci Rev. Apr;38(2):41.

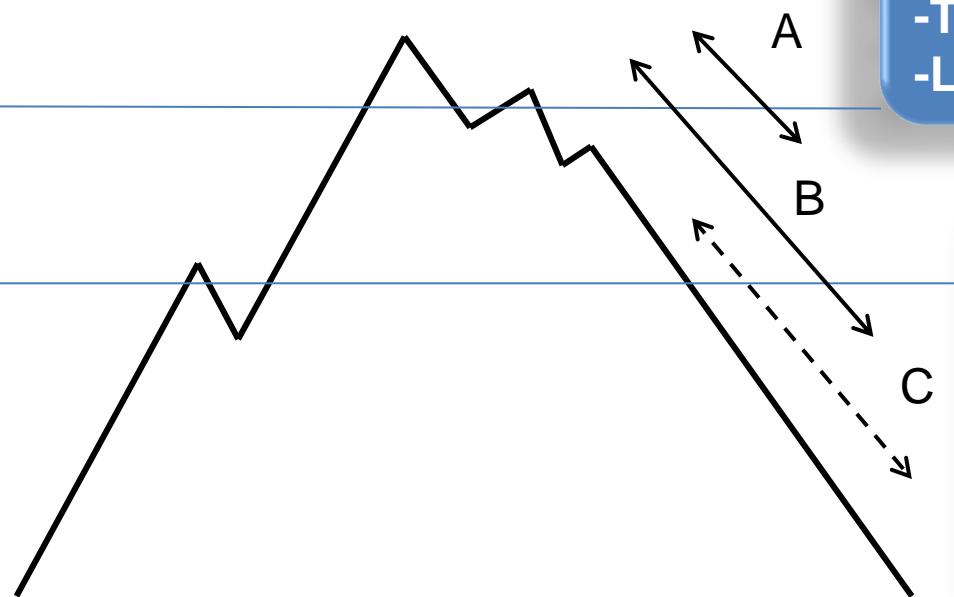
# Responders and Non-responders



Siebenmann et al (2012) "Live high-train low" using normobaric hypoxia: a double-blinded, placebo-controlled study. J Appl Physiol Jan;112(1):106-17.



# Optimal Camp Venues



Iten, Kenya

2350m (8000ft)

- Typically winter camp
- Live high train high



Font Romeu, France

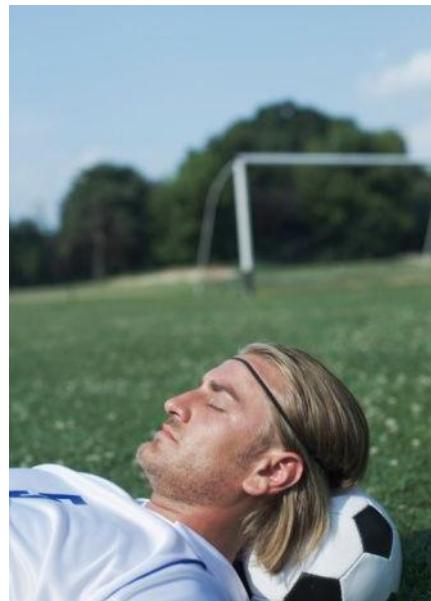
1800m (6000ft)

- Typically spring/summer camp
- Live high train high
- Live high train low



Type	Aim	Duration
A	Improve general fitness – especially aerobic capabilities	21-28 days
B	To prepare for high intensity training following altitude	21-28 days
C	Improve competitive performance	17-21 days

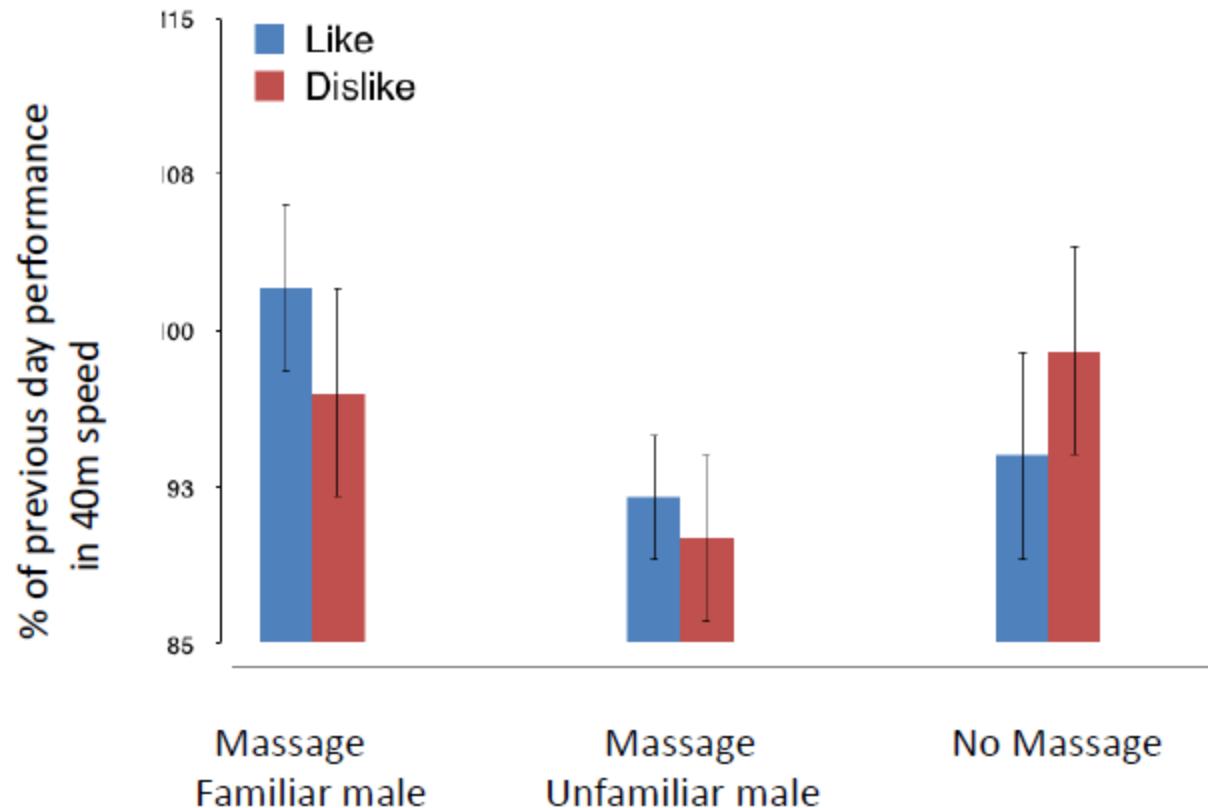
# Recovery Strategies



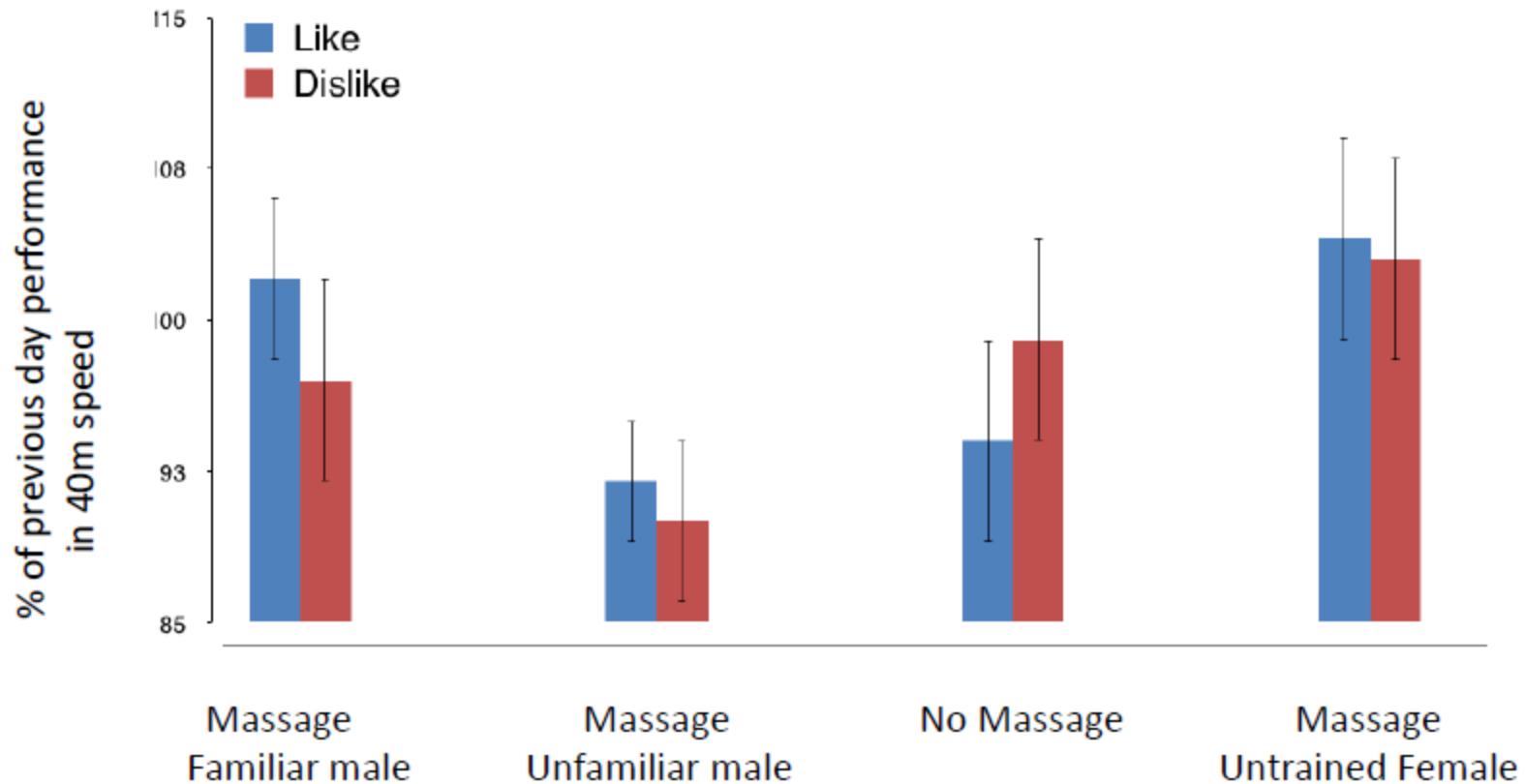
# Recovery Strategies



# Massage



# Massage



Cook, C. Unpublished

# Massage

115

- █ Like
- █ Dislike

**REVIEW ARTICLE**

Sports Med 2009; 39 (4): 313-329  
0112-1642/09/0004-0313/\$49.95/0

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## The Placebo Effect in Sports Performance A Brief Review

*Christopher J. Beedie and Abigail J. Foad*

Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury, UK

*Cook, C. Unpublished*

# Competition Strategies

- Warm-up
- Pacing
- Nutritional
- In-competition recovery
- Psychological / motivational

# Effect of an Intense, Prolonged Warm-up

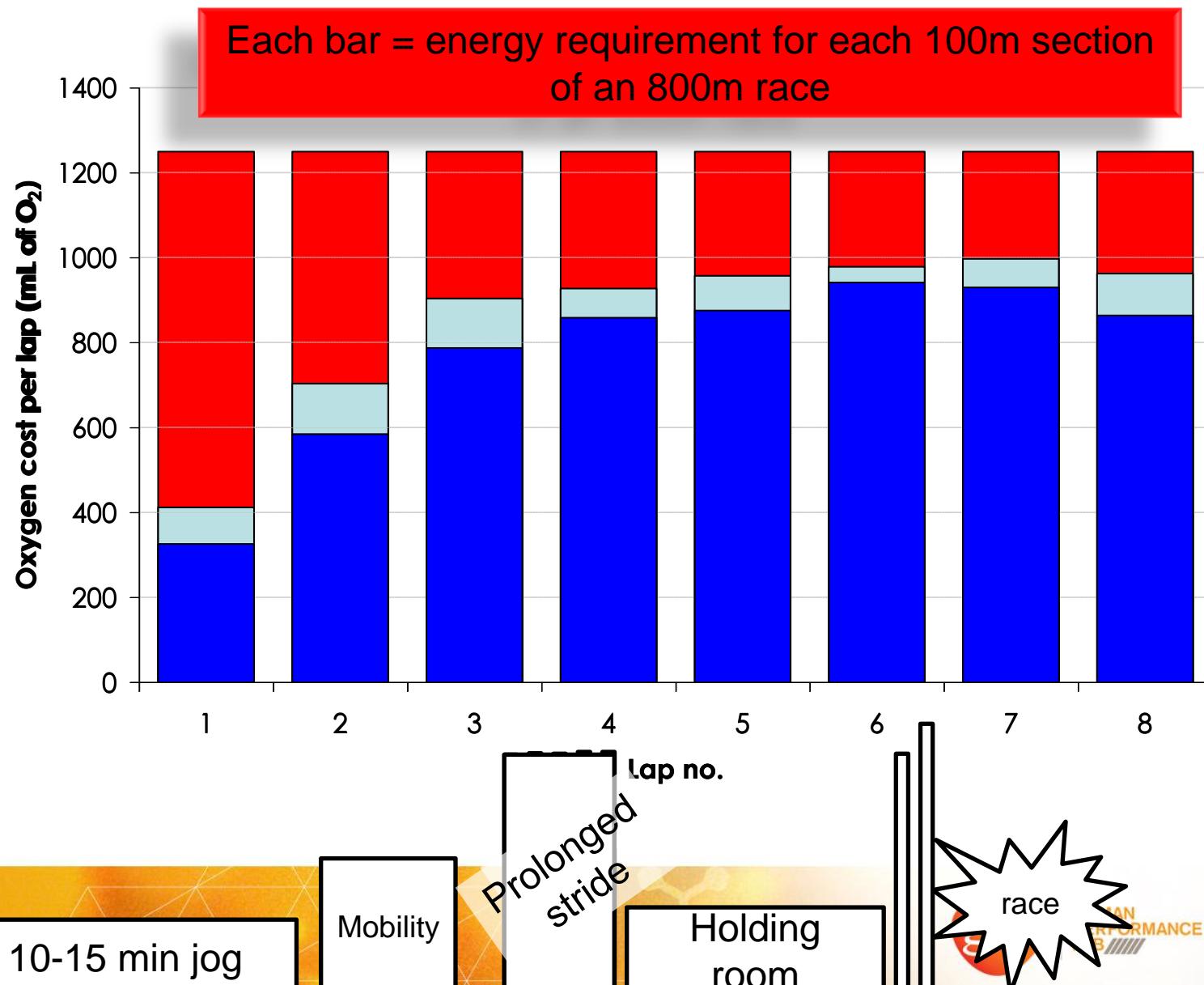
25



Prolonged effort  
~30-40s



Short efforts  
5 x 5 s

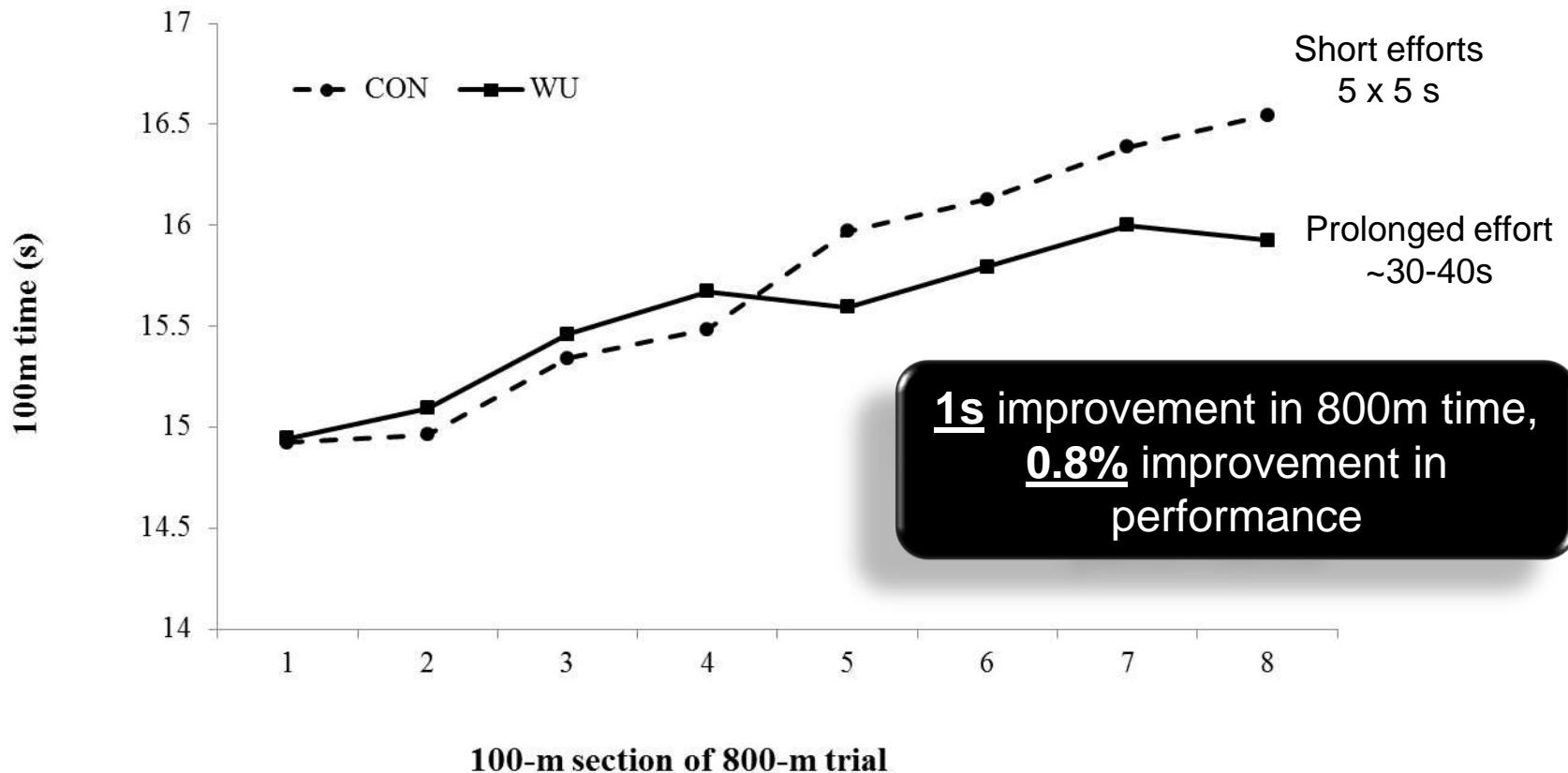


10-15 min jog

Holding room

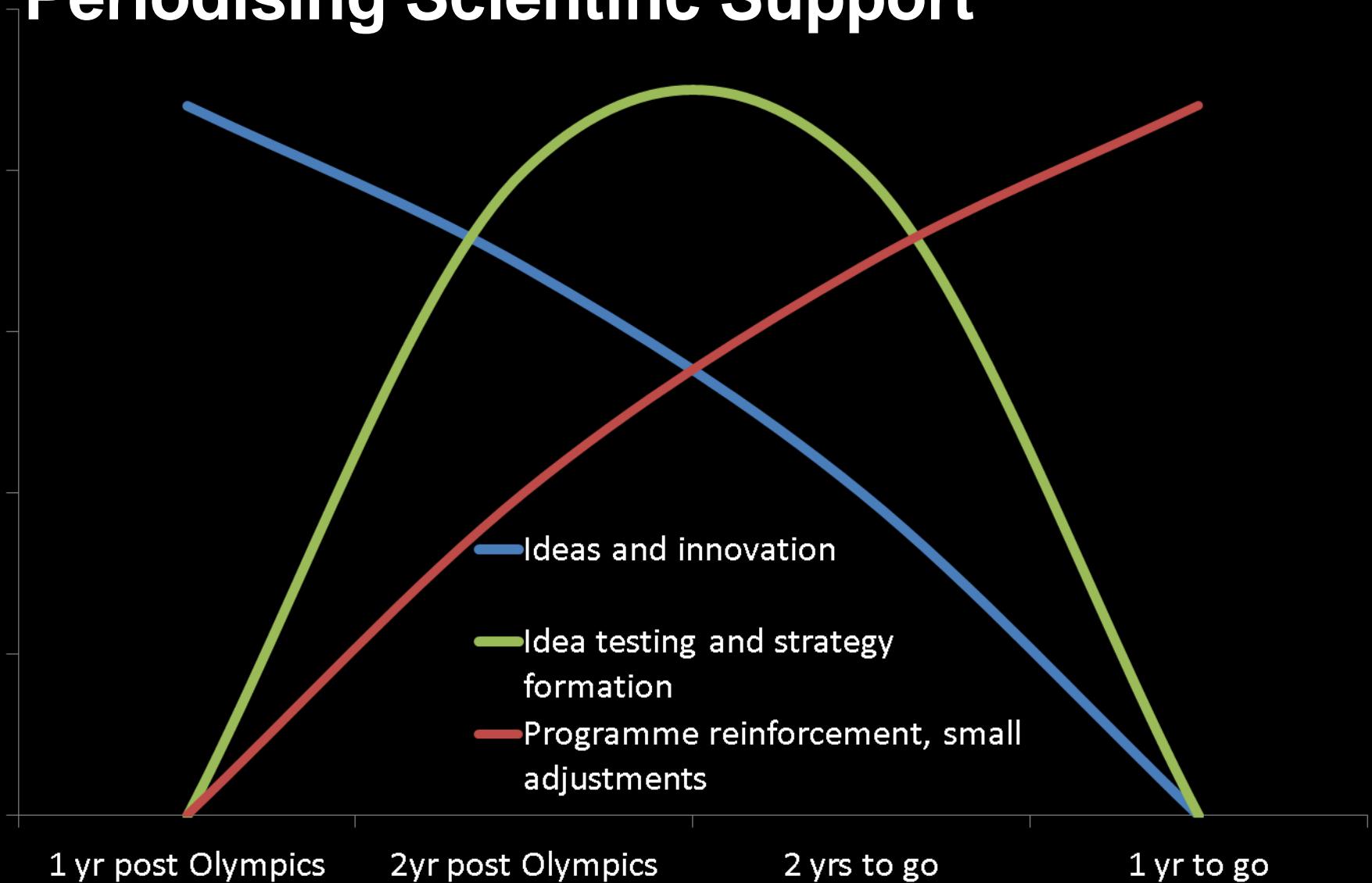
MAN  
PERFORMANCE  
3

# Effect on Performance



Ingham SA, Fudge BW, Pringle JS. & Jones AM (2013) Prior high-intensity exercise improves 800-m running performance. Int J Sports Physiol Perform.

# Periodising Scientific Support



# Coordinated Performance Solutions



# Collaboration & Partnership

- London 2012 stimulated collaboration between high performance sport, industry and academia in the UK
- UK Sport invests c. £1.5million pa into collaborative projects
  - training science,
  - performance medicine,
  - equipment and coaching technologies



**uk sport**  
*innovation partner*

# 'Best of British'



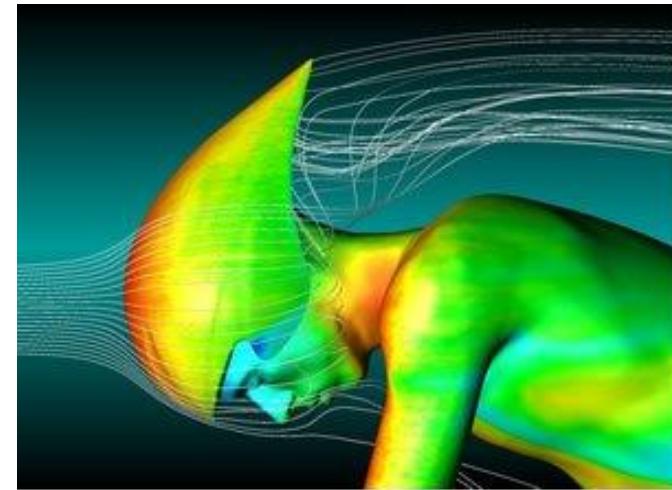
**BAE SYSTEMS**

**epm: technology group**



**SIEMENS**





# Looking Ahead

- A sustainable system
- Government and lottery funding now confirmed until 2017
- Investment in athlete development pathways



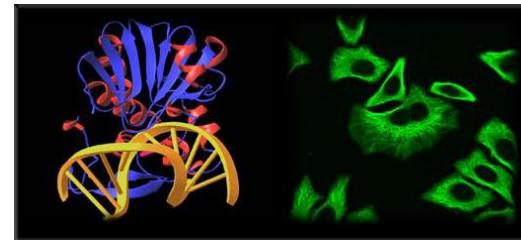
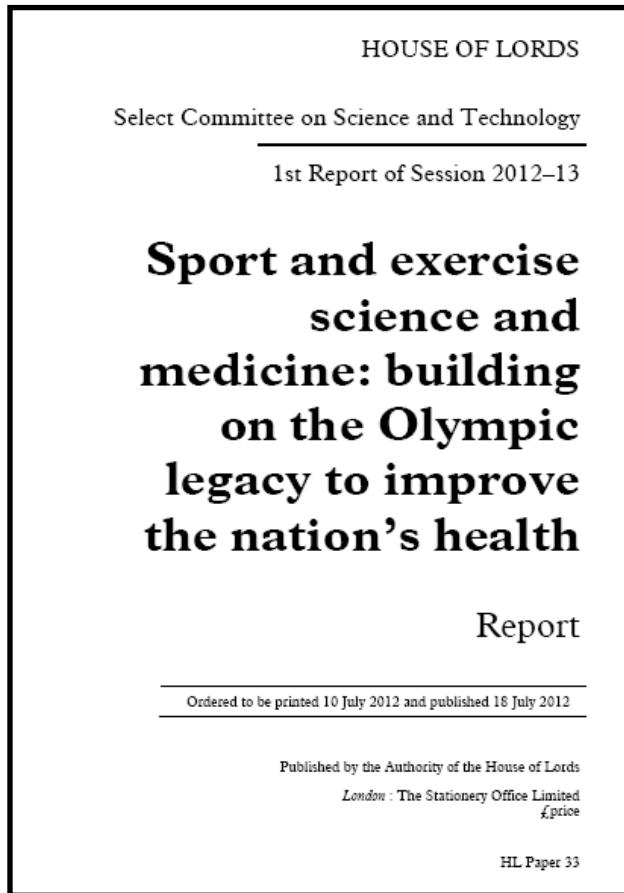
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40%



# Sports Science in the UK – The Future



# Thank you