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Innovations in hypoxic training

Raphael Faiss, PhD

Senior Scientist

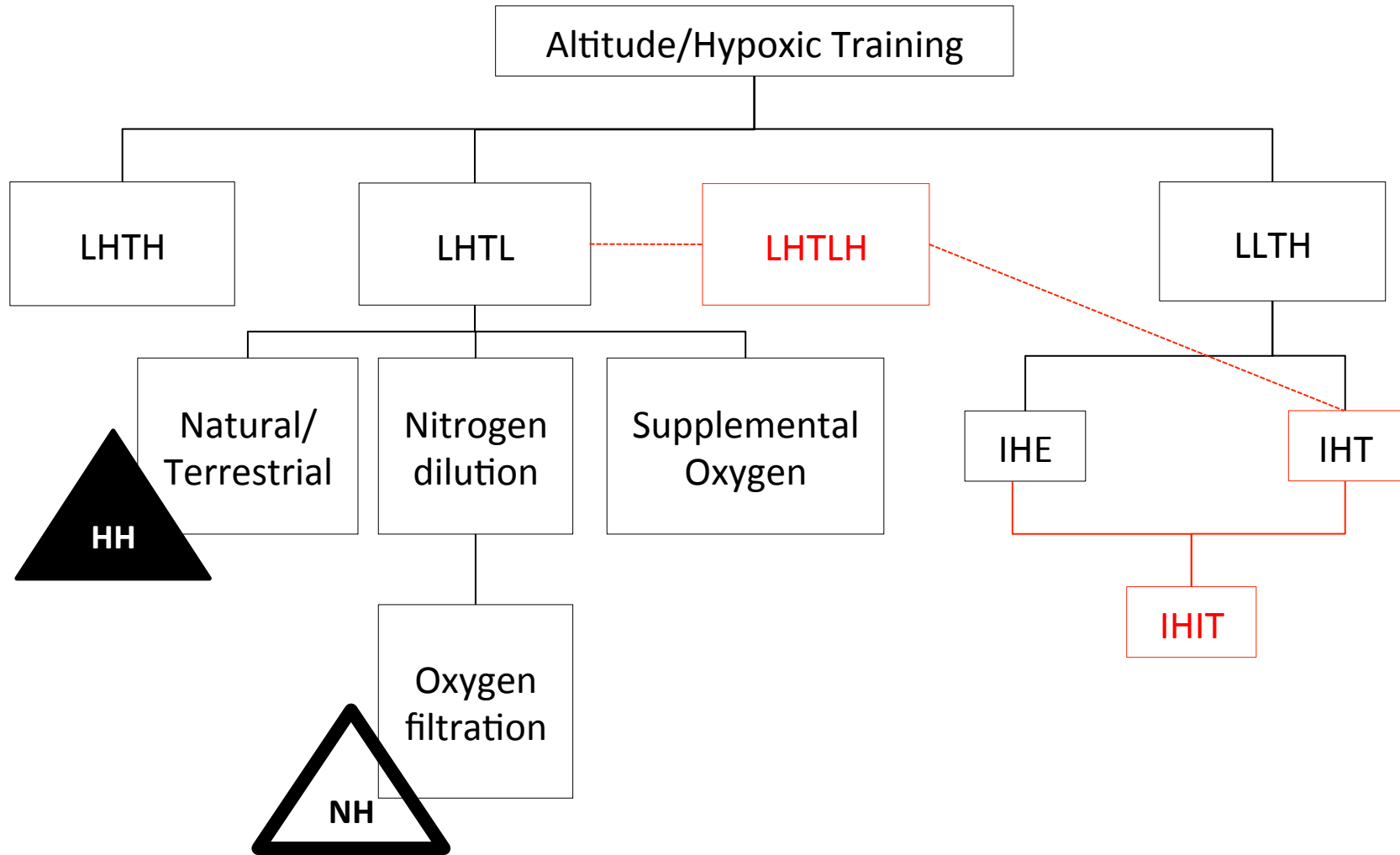
Endurance Physiology Group (Cycling), Section for Elite Sport

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 [@wattsnow](#)



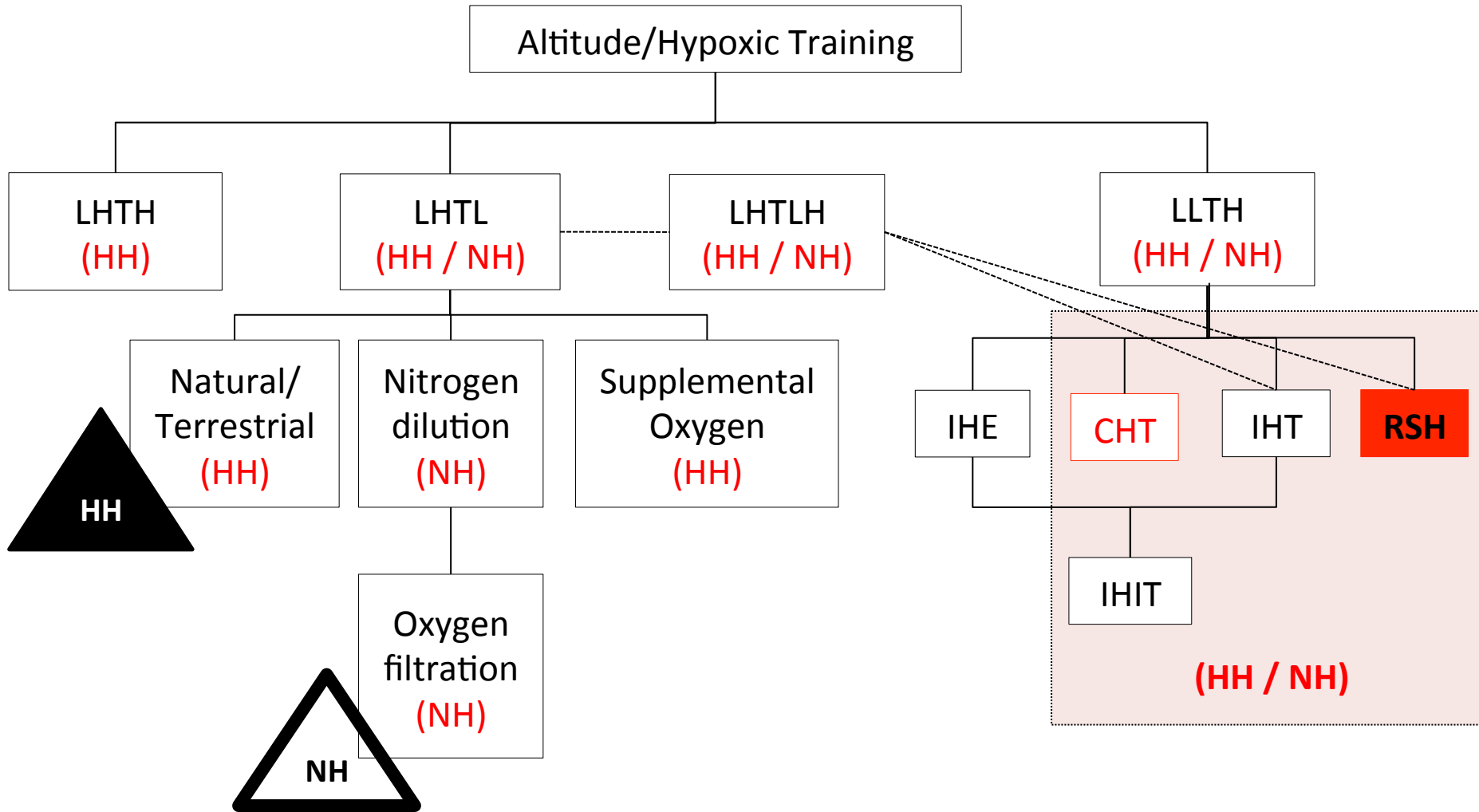
Panorama of contemporary altitude training strategies



Millet et al (2010) Combining hypoxic methods for peak performance. Sports Med

Wilber (2007) Application of altitude/hypoxic training by elite athletes. Med Sci Sports Exerc

 **Updated** panorama of contemporary altitude training strategies



Millet, Faiss et al (2013) Hypoxic training and team sports: a challenge to traditional methods? Br J Sports Med

Millet et al (2010) Combining hypoxic methods for peak performance. Sports Med

Wilber (2007) Application of altitude/hypoxic training by elite athletes. Med Sci Sports Exerc

Hypobaric vs. Normobaric Hypoxia

HH vs. NH

Ventilatory responses

Performance ?

Bonetti & Hopkins (2003)
Meta-analysis

V_t & V_E lower in HH

Savoirey et al. (2003) 40 min @ 4500 m
Loeppky et al. (1997) 10 h @ 4770 m
Tucker et al. (1983) 120 min @ 4750 m

Conkin & Wessel (2008) Critique of the
EAA model

Richard & Koehle (2012) Review

Exhaled Nitric oxide

**NO decrease at altitude
and lower in HH**

Donnelly et al. (2011) 12 h @ 5050 m
Hemmingsson & Linarsson (2009)

10 min @ 5000 m

Brown et al. (2006) 180 min @ 4200 m
Duplain et al. (2000) 48 h @ 4559 m

Oxidative stress (OX)

Hypoxia -> increased OX

Pialoux et al. (2009)
12h @ 3000 m

**Increased OX associated with decreased
NO**

Pialoux et al. (2009) 4x6 h @ 3000 m

HH vs. NH study: 2 x 24 h hypoxic exposure



HH
Hypobaric Hypoxia

at 3000m &
randomized



NH
Normobaric Hypoxia

PRE
🚴

H+1
🚴

H+8
🚴

H+16
🚴

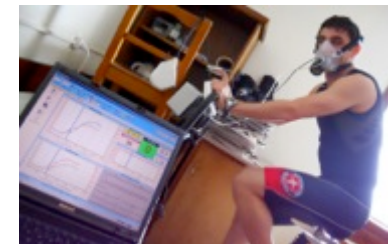
H+24
🚴

5 min at rest -> 6min cycling at 50% of normoxic PPO -> 10min at rest

Normoxia

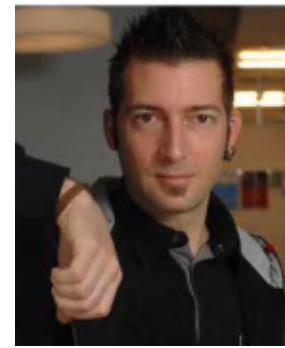
Hypoxia

HH vs. NH





Normobaric Hypoxia (NH) vs. Hypobaric Hypoxia (HH)



Jonas Saugy

Performance alteration

HH (Jungfrauoch, 3540 m) vs. NH and NN (hypoxic chamber) during 26 h





HH vs. NH : published articles

1. **Ventilation, Oxidative Stress and Nitric Oxide in Hypobaric vs. Normobaric Hypoxia** Faiss R, Pialoux V, Sartori C, Faes C, Deriaz O & Millet GP. (2013). *Med Sci Sports Exerc*; 45(2):253-60
2. **Evidence for differences between hypobaric and normobaric hypoxia is conclusive.** Millet G, Faiss R & Pialoux V. (2013). *Exerc sport sci rev*;41(2):133
3. **Point:Counterpoint Hypobaric hypoxia induces different physiological responses from normobaric hypoxia.** Millet GP, Faiss R & Pialoux V. (2012). *J Appl Physiol*; 112, 1783-1784.
4. **Last word on Point: Counterpoint: Hypobaric hypoxia induces different responses from normobaric hypoxia.** Millet GP, Faiss R & Pialoux V. (2012). *J Appl Physiol*; 112, 1795.
5. **Hypoxic conditions and exercise:rest ratio are likely paramount.** Millet GP & Faiss R, *Sports Med.* 2012 Dec 1; 42(12):1081-3.
6. **Responses to exercise in normobaric hypoxia: comparison between elite and recreational ski-mountaineers.** Faiss R., von Orelli C., Dériaz O., Millet G.P. (2014) *Int J Sports Physiol Perf*; 9, 978 – 984
7. **Hypobaric versus normobaric hypoxia: same effects on postural stability?** Degache F, Larghi G, Faiss R, Deriaz O & Millet G. (2012). *High Alt Med Biol*; 13:40-45.



HH vs. NH

Ventilatory responses

Saugy et al., in prep

Performance ?

Bonetti & Hopkins (2003)
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Faiss et al. 2013

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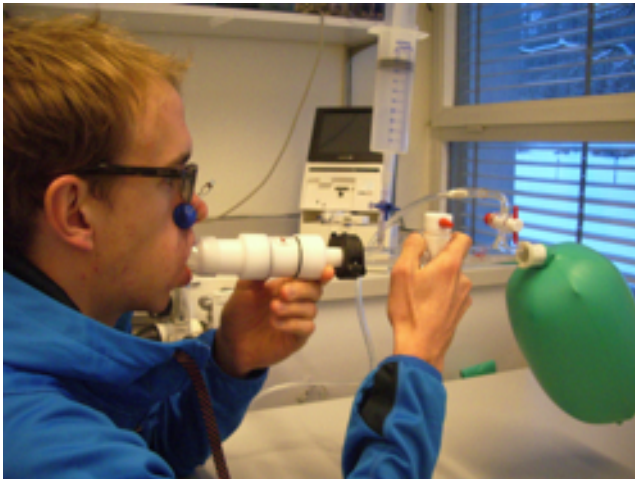
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**Increased OX associated with decreased
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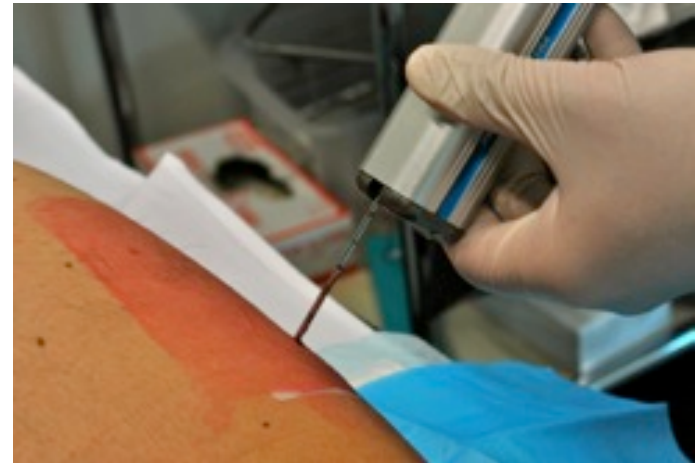
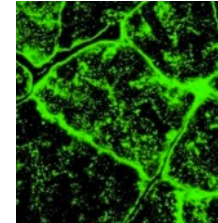
Pialoux et al. (2009) 4x6 h @ 3000 m

Altitude training: vectors for performance improvement

Augmented hemoglobin mass?



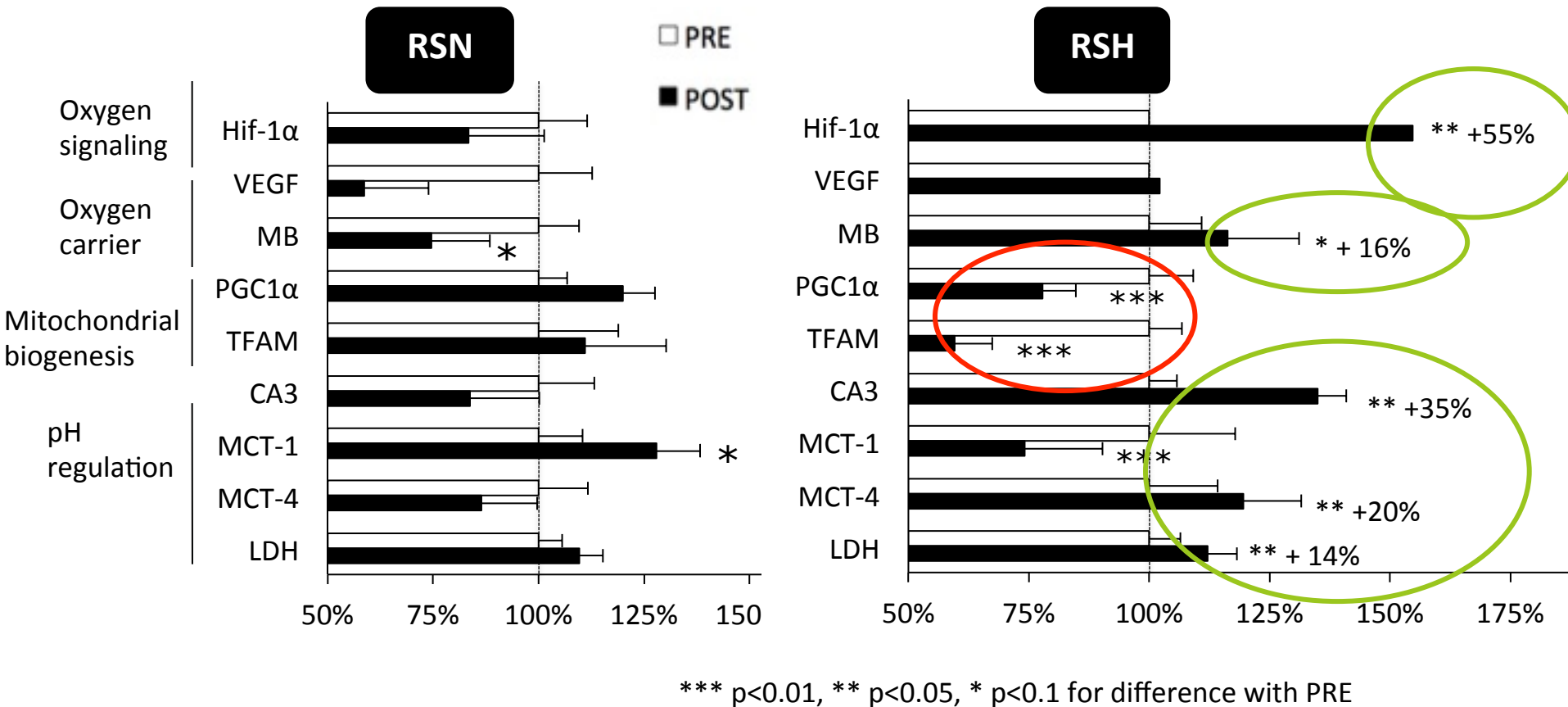
Modifications at the muscular level ?



Point:Counterpoint Positive effects of intermittent hypoxia (live high: train low) on exercise performance are/are not mediated primarily by augmented red cell volume. Levine vs. Gore J Appl Physiol 2005 Nov; 99 (5): 2053-5



Muscle biopsies mRNA expression levels : significant modifications at muscular level after repeated sprint training in hypoxia (RSH)



Specific molecular adaptations: shift towards increased glycolytic activity

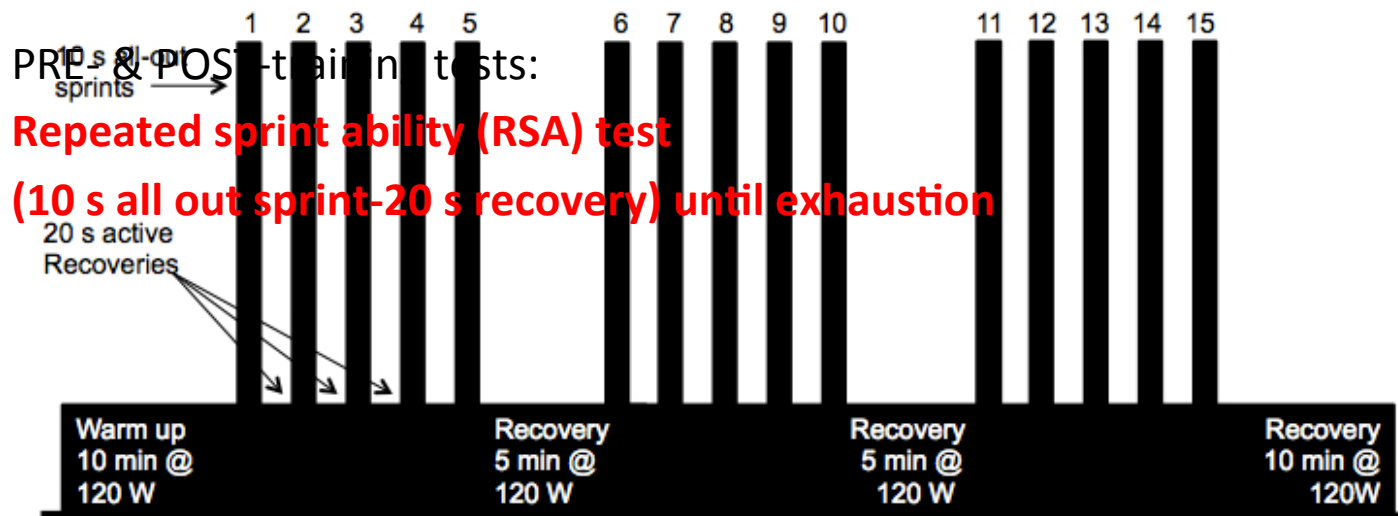
Hoppeler & Vogt. 2001 ; Dufour *et al.* 2006; He *et al.* 2011

Innovation: Repeated sprint training in hypoxia (RSH)

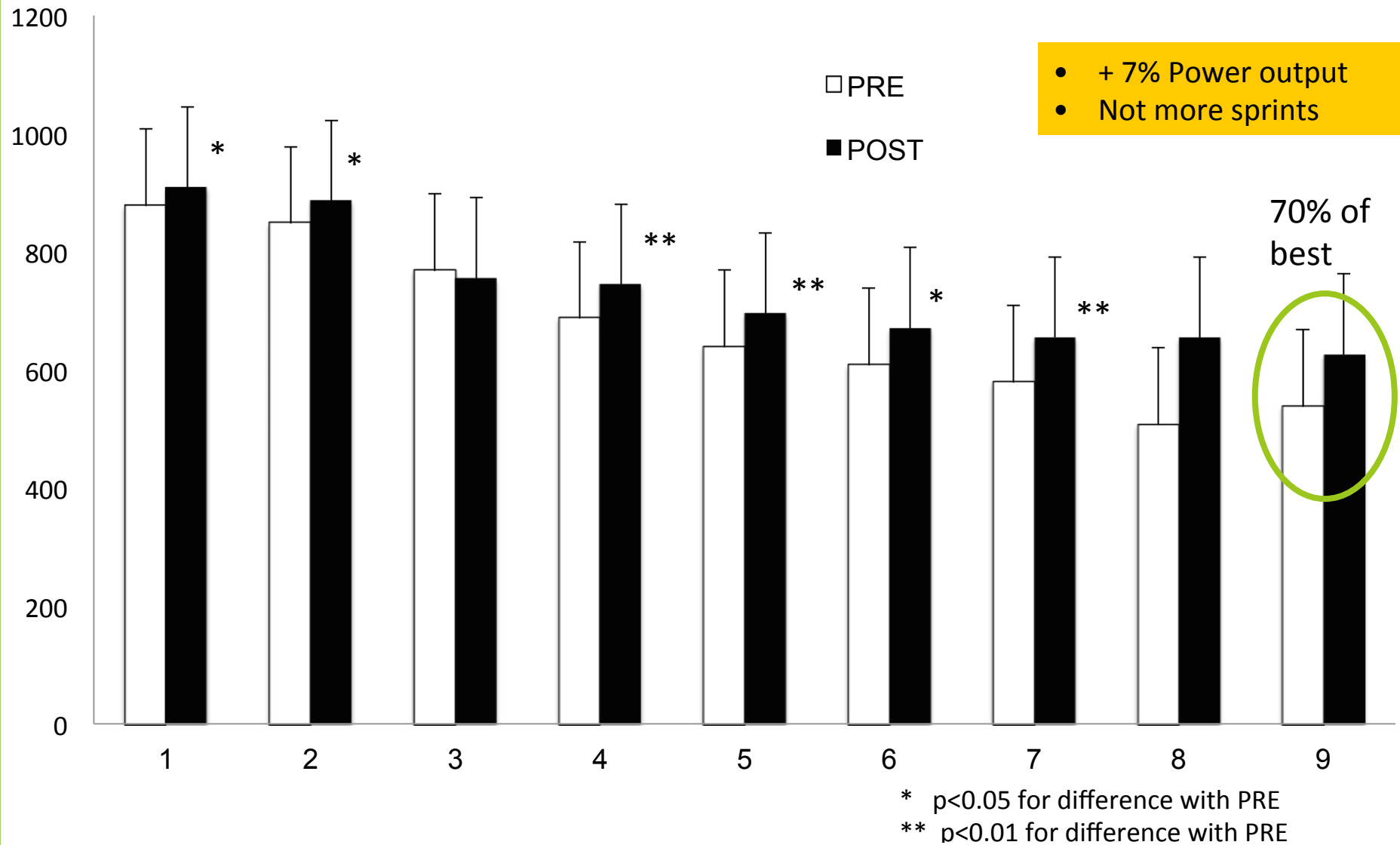
- 50 male cyclists
- Normobaric hypoxic chamber

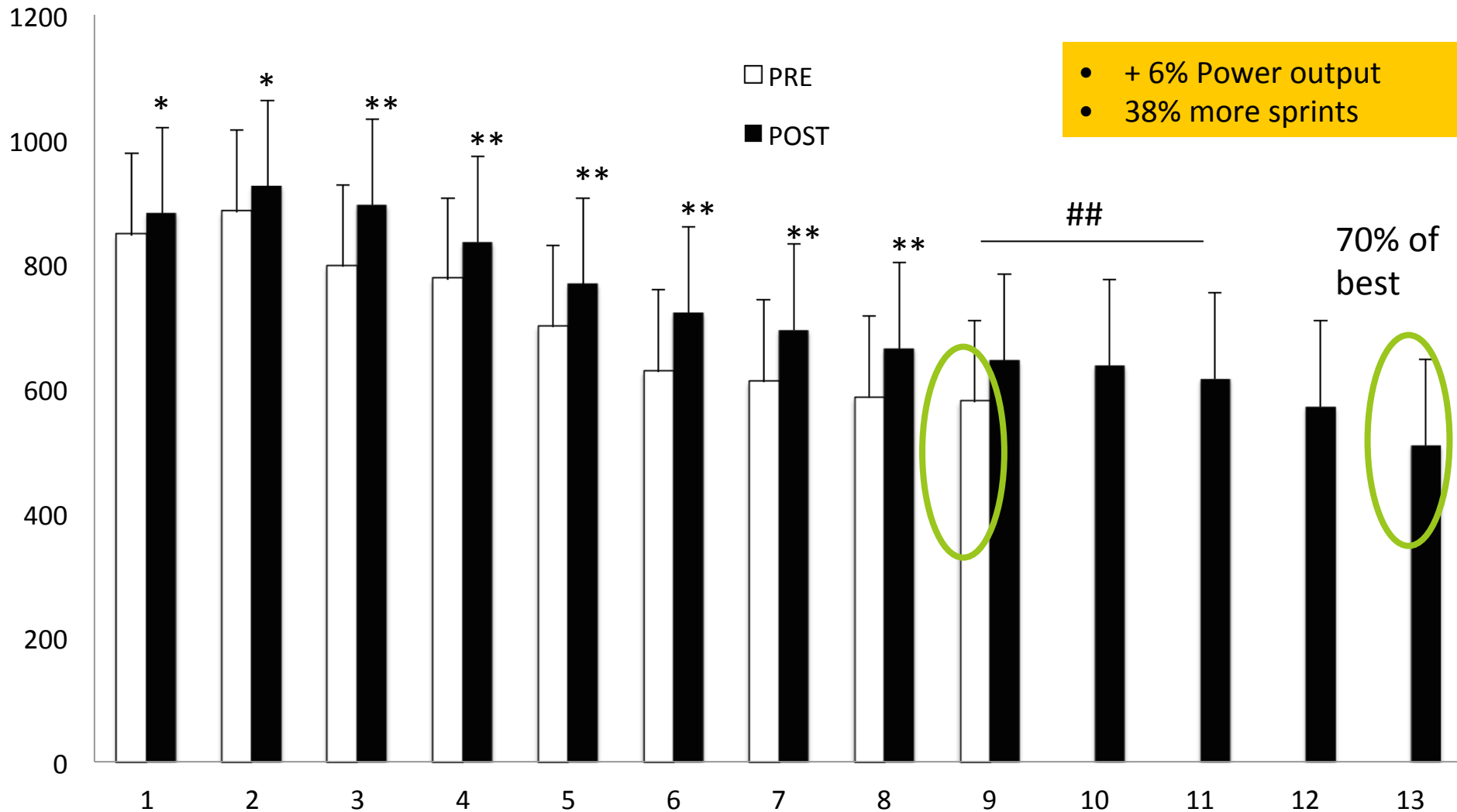
Hypoxic group (n=20, 3000 m, F_{iO_2} =14.7%) RSH
Normoxic group (n=20, 485 m, F_{iO_2} =20.9%) RSN
Control group (n=10, no training)

- 4 weeks of cycling training
- 120 sprints in 8 sessions



Significant molecular and systemic adaptations after repeated sprint training in hypoxia. Faiss R. et al. (2013) PLoS One





- + 6% Power output
- 38% more sprints

** p<0.01, * p<0.05 for difference with PRE

p<0.01 for difference with last sprint in PRE sprint #9



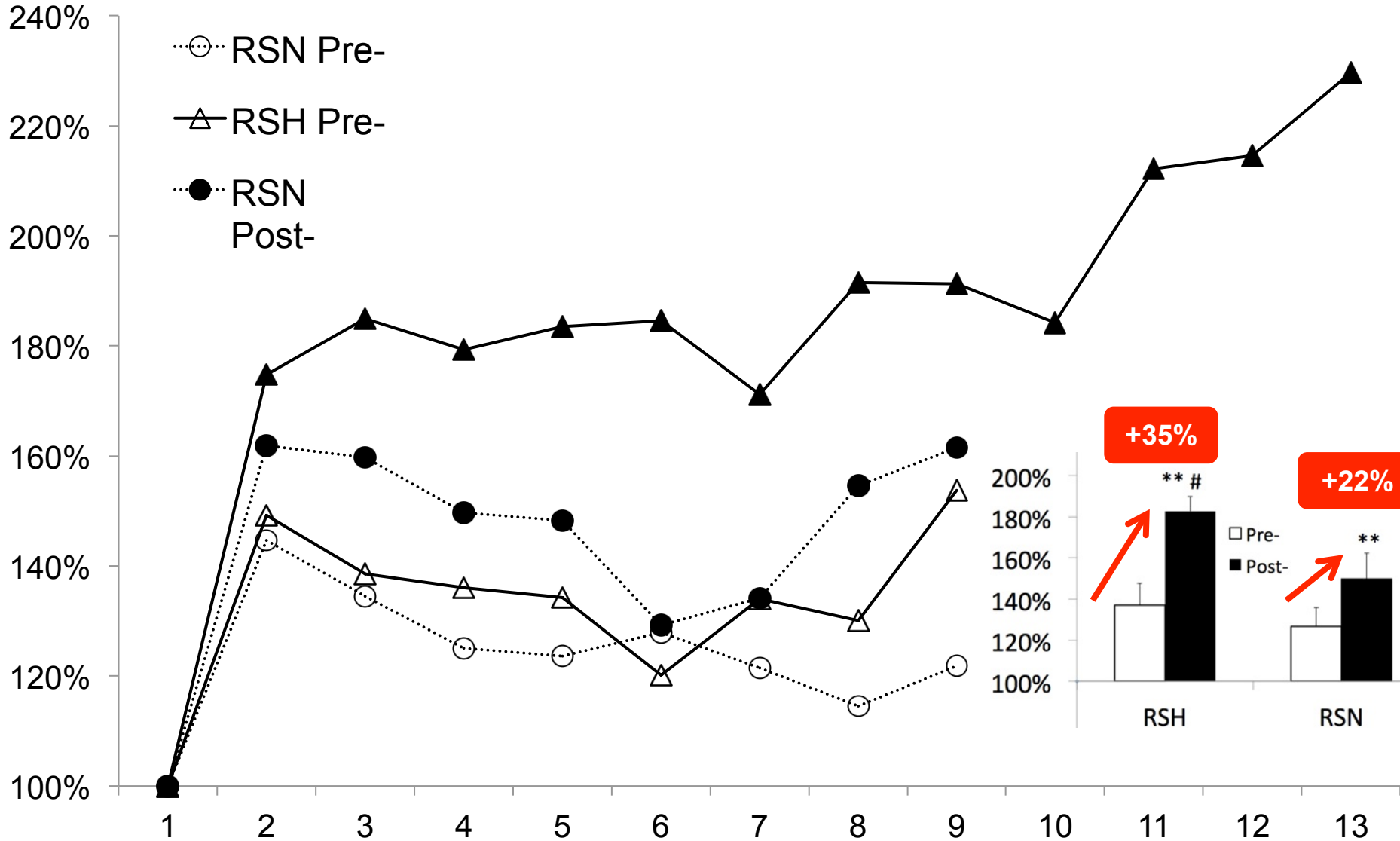
Muscle oxygenation





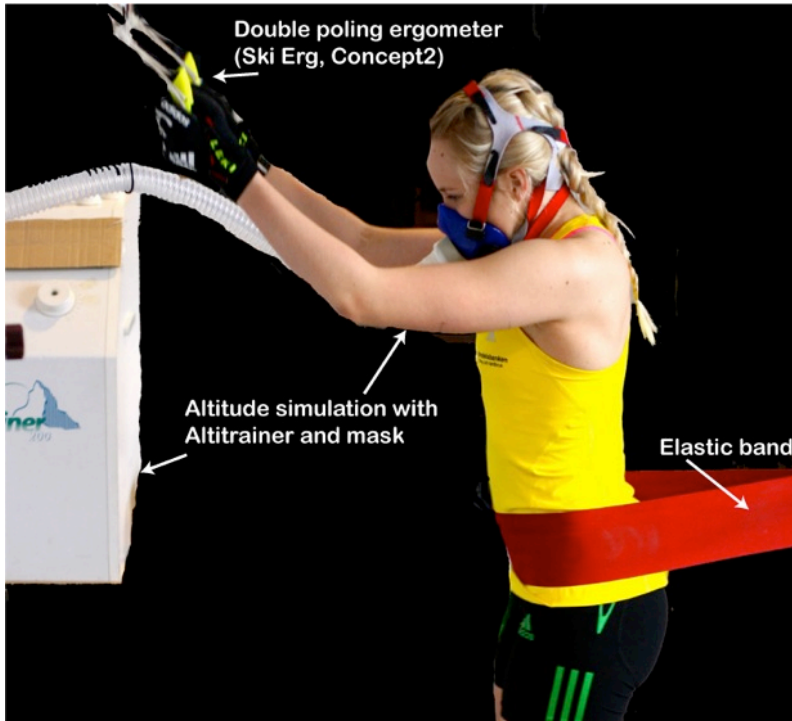
Muscle oxygenation during the successive sprints

->variations in total hemoglobin ΔtHb





RSH in elite cross-country skiers



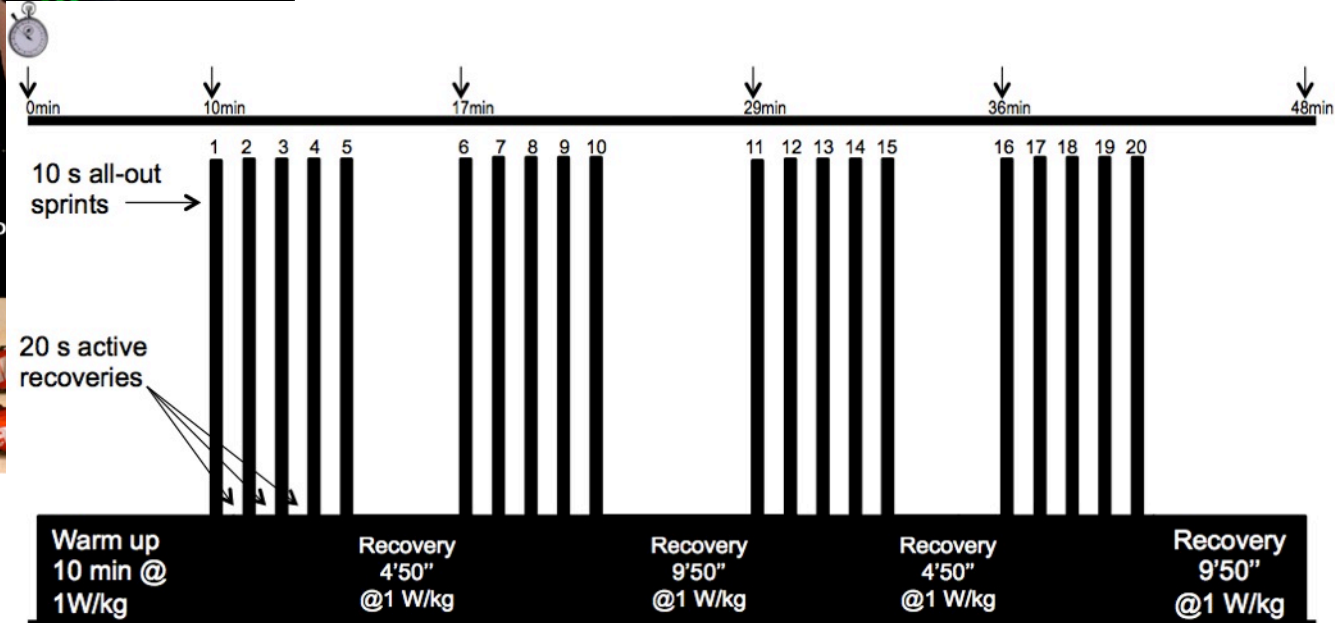
2 weeks of double poling training (6 sessions)
= 120 sprints

2 groups :

Repeated sprint training in normoxia (RSN, n=8)

Repeated sprint training in hypoxia (RSH, n=9)

Altitude simulated (double blinded): 350 m or 3000 m
Normobaric hypoxia (Altitrainer 200®)



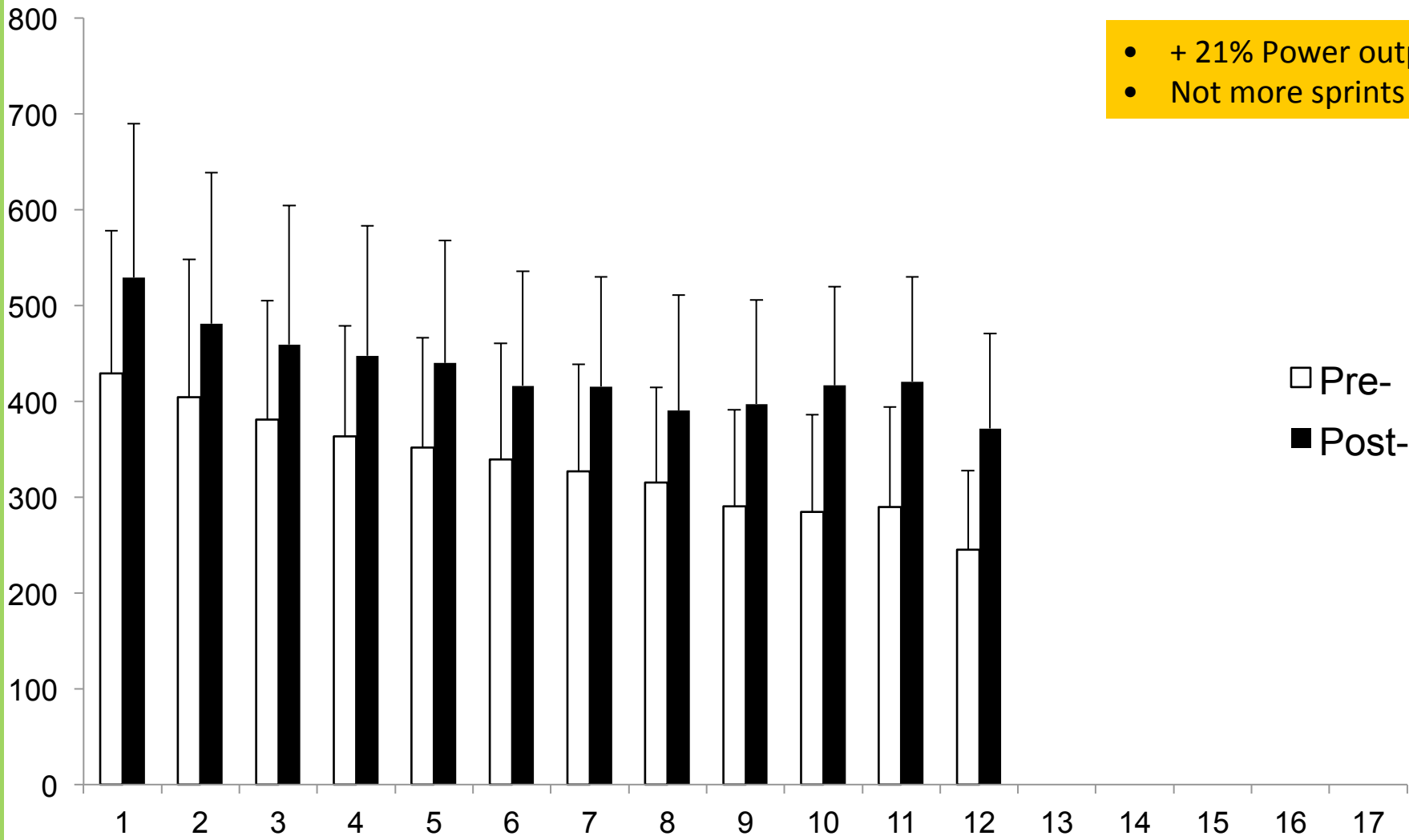


RSH in elite cross-country skiers





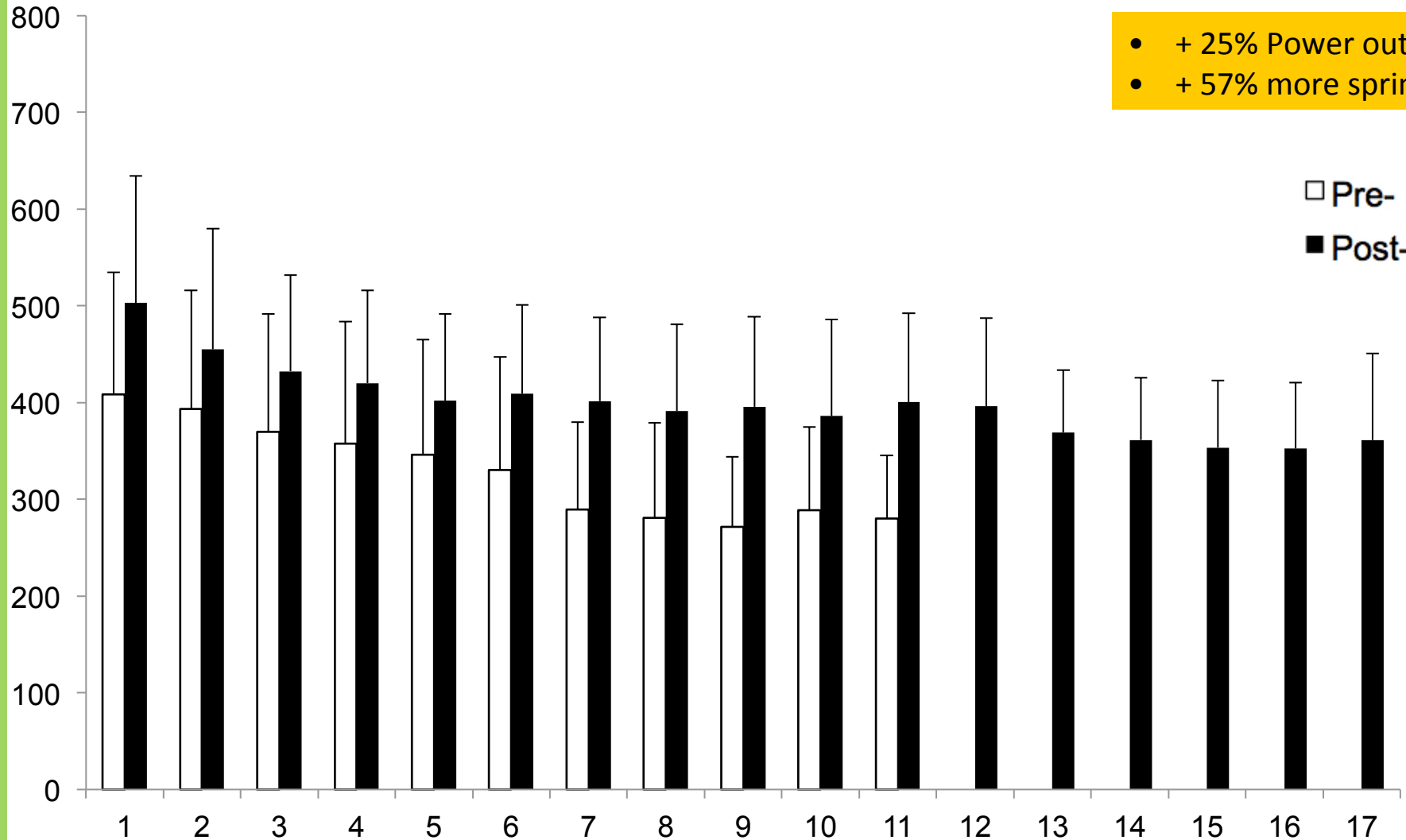
- + 21% Power output
- Not more sprints





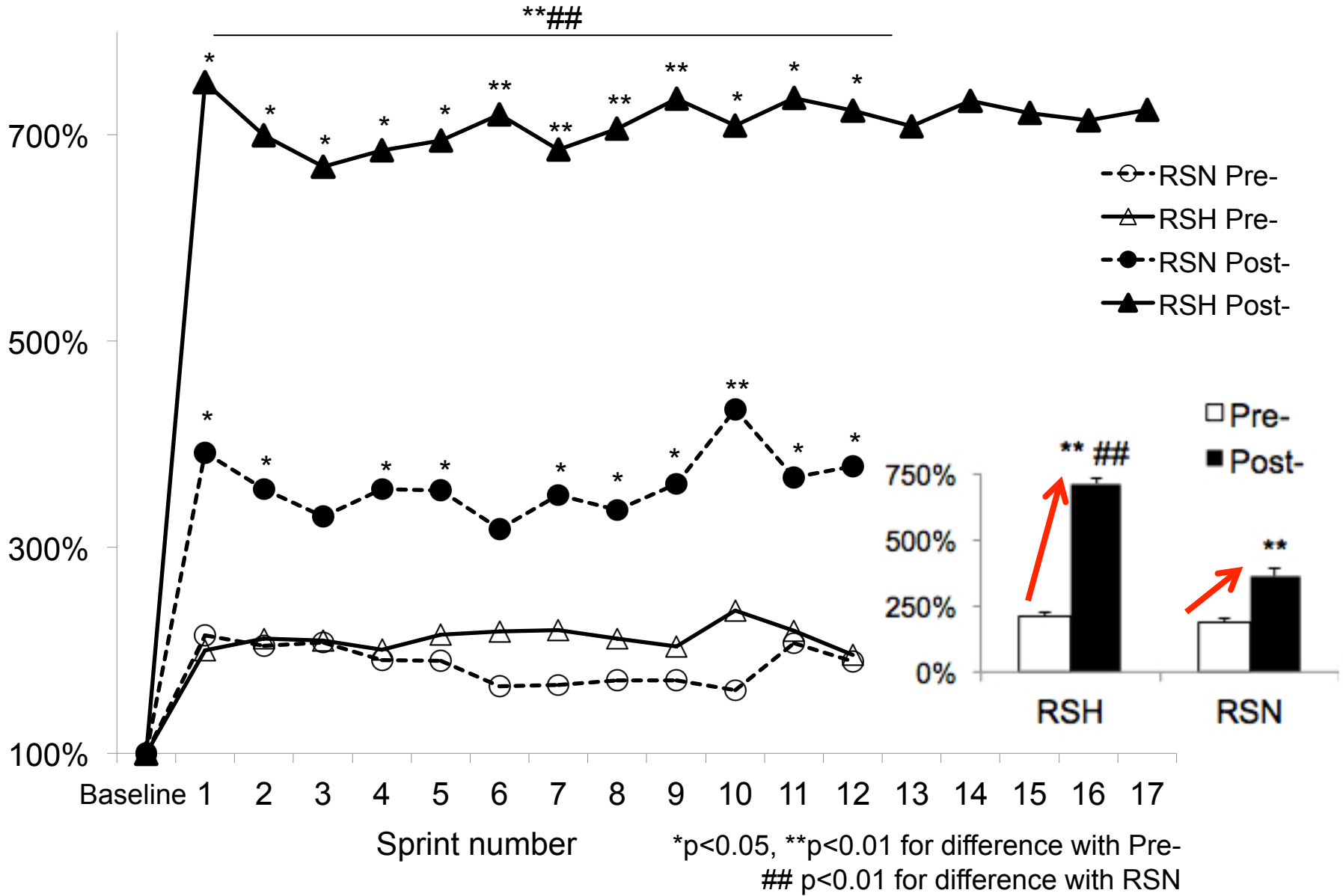
- + 25% Power output
- + 57% more sprints

□ Pre-
■ Post-

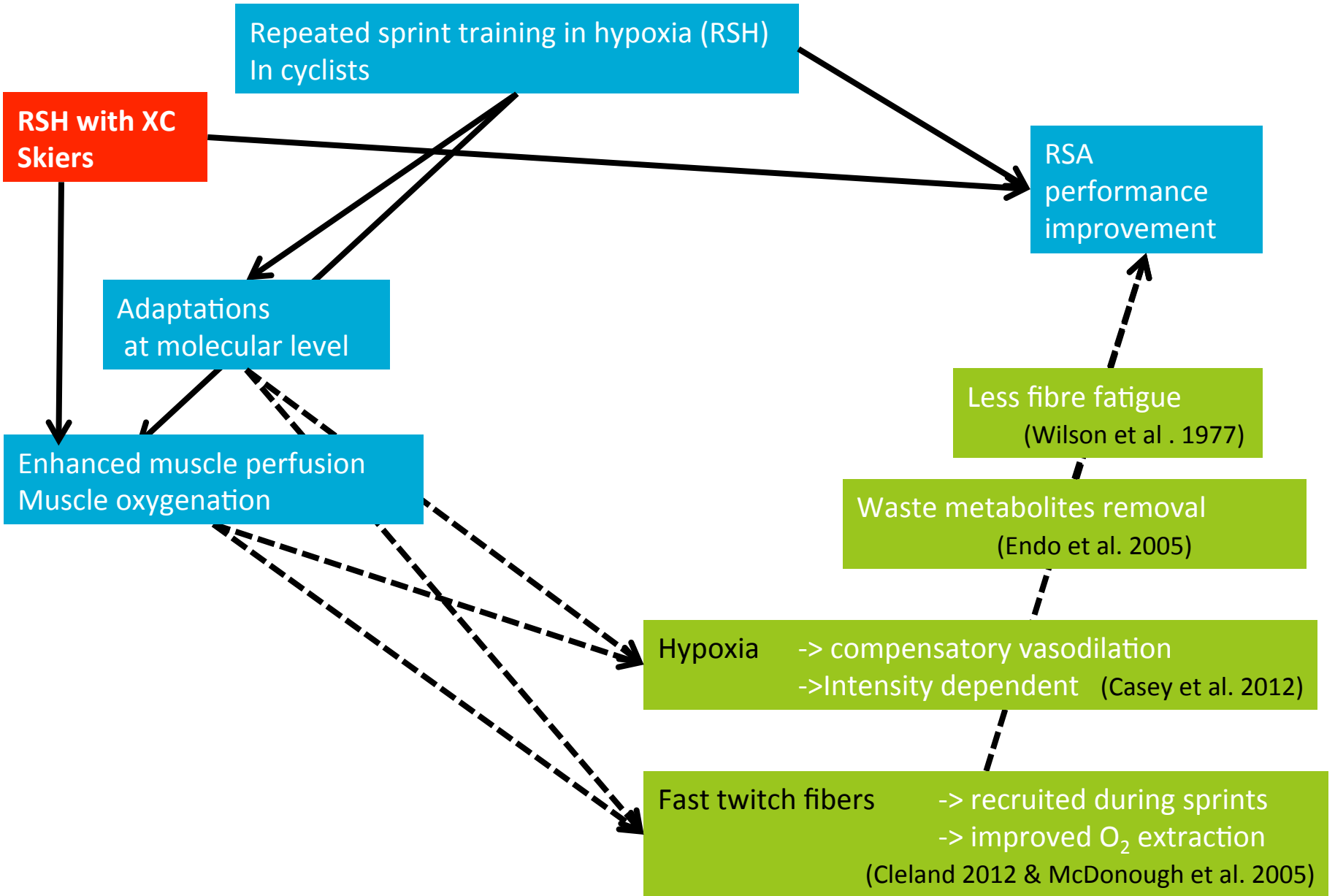




Muscle oxygenation during the successive sprints ->variations in total hemoglobin ΔtHb



Conclusions after 2 RSH studies



RSH vs. IHT

- Review of hypoxic training studies

Additional benefits in

4 / 21 IHT studies
5 / 5 RSH studies

- RSH differ from IHT
- RSH more potent than RSN!
- RSH efficiency : fiber-type dependent

- Proposed mechanisms for further investigations

- [PCr] resynthesis
Hypoxic stimulus + training => modulation of [PCr] (Holliss et al. 2013)
- Exercise:rest ratio and direct application in team sports





RSH and innovation in altitude training: published articles

8. **Significant molecular and systemic adaptations after repeated sprint training in hypoxia.** Faiss R, Leger B, Vesin JM, Fournier PE, Eggel Y, et al. (2013) *PLoS One* 8: e56522.
9. **Hypoxic Conditions and Exercise-to-Rest Ratio are Likely Paramount.** Millet GP, Faiss R (2012) *Sports Medicine*; 42:1081-1083.
10. **Advancing hypoxic training in team sports: from intermittent hypoxic training to repeated sprint training in hypoxia?** Faiss R, Girard O, Millet GP (2013) *Br J Sports Med*; 47 Suppl 1:i46-50
11. **Hypoxic training and team sports: a challenge to traditional methods?** Millet GP, Faiss R, Brocherie F, Girard O (2013) *Br J Sports Med*; 47 Suppl 1:i6-7
12. **High-intensity intermittent training in hypoxia: a double-blinded, placebo-controlled field study in youth football players.** Brocherie F., Girard O., Faiss R., and Millet G.P. (2014) *J Strength Cond Res*. [Epub ahead of print]



SPORT ET VIE
n° 142 - janvier février 2014

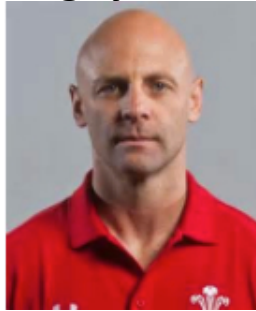
Immediate perspectives: RSH in team sports

Football



Franck Brocherie

Rugby

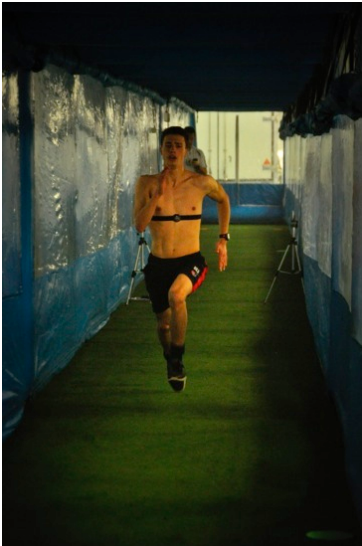


Adam Beard

Basketball



Orlando Magic (NBA)



W Sport Rugby Rugby News Wales Rugby Team

Warren Gatland plans Wales training trips to Qatar and Switzerland before picking Rugby World Cup squad

Sep 10, 2014 11:52 | By Delme Parfitt

Rugby News

Wales' World Cup hopefuls will face gruelling heat and altitude training before the World Cup, being held in England and Wales

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A photograph of Warren Gatland, a man in a red polo shirt and blue shorts, standing on a grass field with his arms outstretched.



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Thank you for your attention!

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 @wattsnow