# **Exercise and a Brain Health;**

# What's the Connection?



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#### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

#### **Robert Sallis**

- Has no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this presentation
- Will be discussing the use an off-label and unapproved drug called Exercise in this presentation



#### **Exercise and Health**

- Physical inactivity has an astonishing array of harmful health effects.
- Exercise is a powerful tool for both the treatment and prevention of chronic disease and obesity, as well as premature death.
  - There is a linear relationship between physical activity and health status.
  - The association between disease and an inactive and unfit way of life persists in every subgroup of the population.
- Physical inactivity is THE major public health problem of our time.



# Boris Lushniak, MD, MPH Acting United States Surgeon General



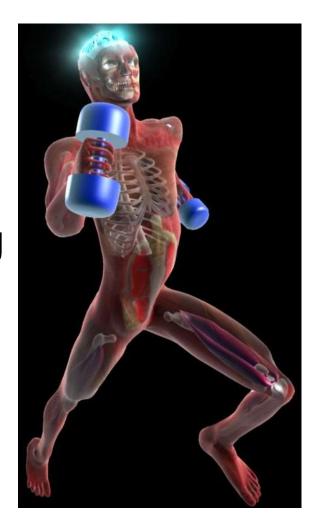


ACSM Annual Meeting Orlando, Florida; May 30, 2016



# Most Powerful Effect of Exercise May be on the Brain!

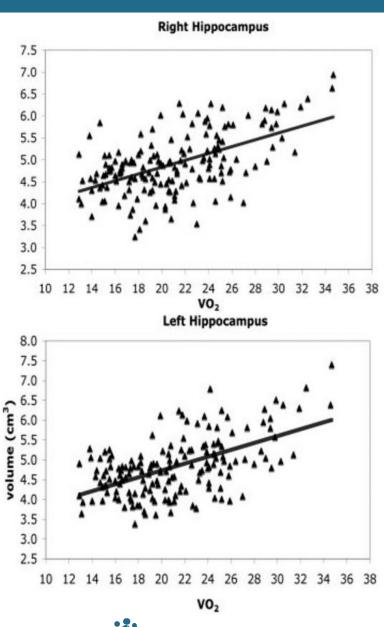
- Observational studies showed:
  - More physically active are less likely to show cognitive decline & dementia.
  - Improvements in cognitive scores, psychomotor speed and info processing seen after exercise intervention.
  - Improvements in executive function seen after regular exercise.
  - Both aerobic and resistance exercise show benefits.





## Aerobic Fitness Associated with Hippocampus Volume

- 165 healthy older adults (age 59-81) tested VO2 with max treadmill.
- Brain MRI done with volumetric analysis of hippocampus.
- Higher VO2 associated with;
  - Larger hippocampus volume.
  - Better spatial memory.
  - Higher levels of BDNF.
  - Similar studies in kids and middleaged adults.



#### Can Exercise Overcome Genetic Propensity? Twins Study; One exercises, Other Does Not

- Finland twin's data base; 10 sets male twins in early to mid-30's; Divergent exercise patterns (avg ~3 yrs).
  - Compared active vs sedentary identical twins.
  - Diets were very similar.
- Measured endurance capacity, body comp, insulin sensitivity and brain MRI; Sedentary twin had:
  - Lower endurance capacities, higher body fat percentages, and signs of insulin resistance.
  - Less grey matter, especially areas involved in motor control and coordination.



#### **Benefits of Physical Activity in Kids**



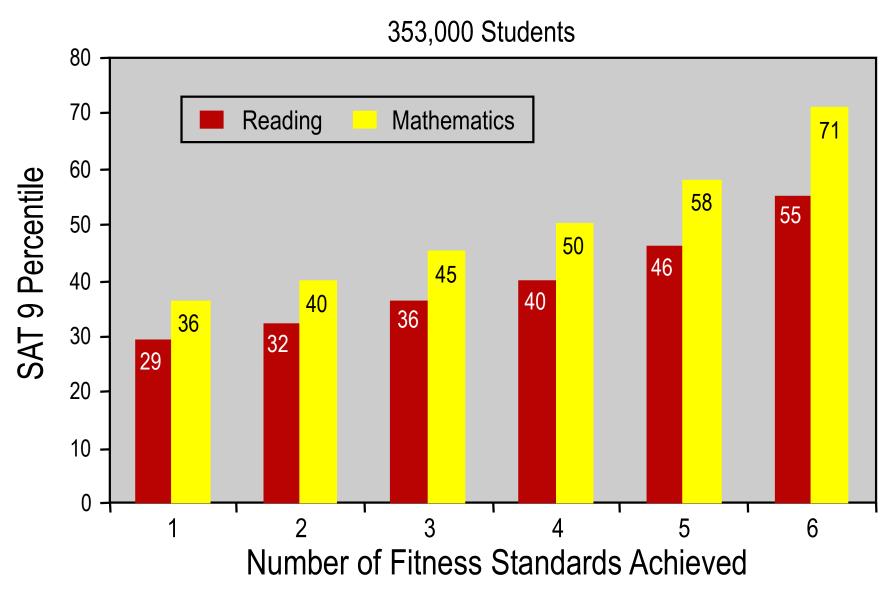


### Fitness and Stanford Achievement Test 9<sup>th</sup> Ed SAT-9 and Fitnessgram Results

- Fitnessgram test:
  - 1. Aerobic Capacity
  - −2. Body Composition (% of body fat)
  - 3. Abdominal Strength and Endurance
  - 4. Trunk Strength and Flexibility
  - –5. Upper Body Strength and Endurance
  - –6. Overall Flexibility



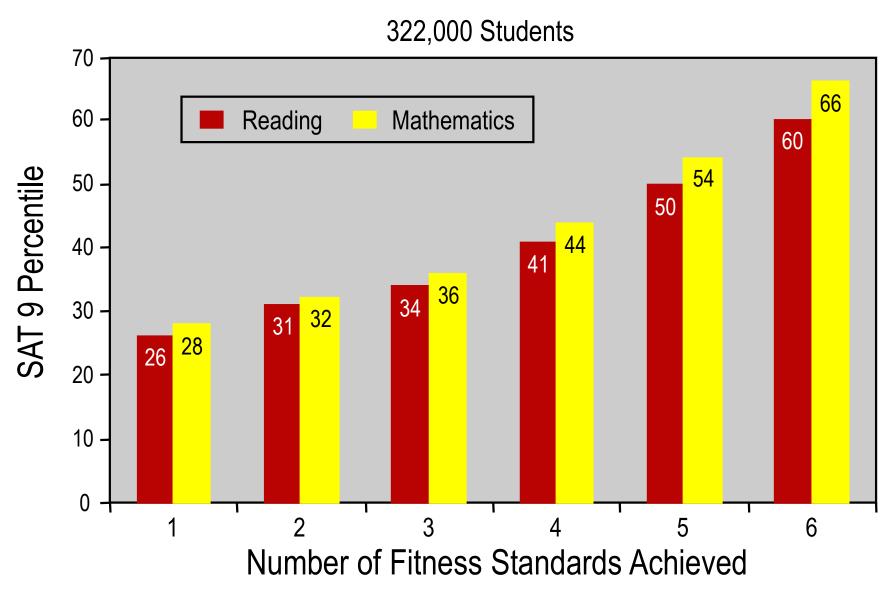
### **Grade 5 SAT 9 and Physical Fitness**

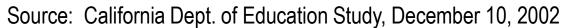






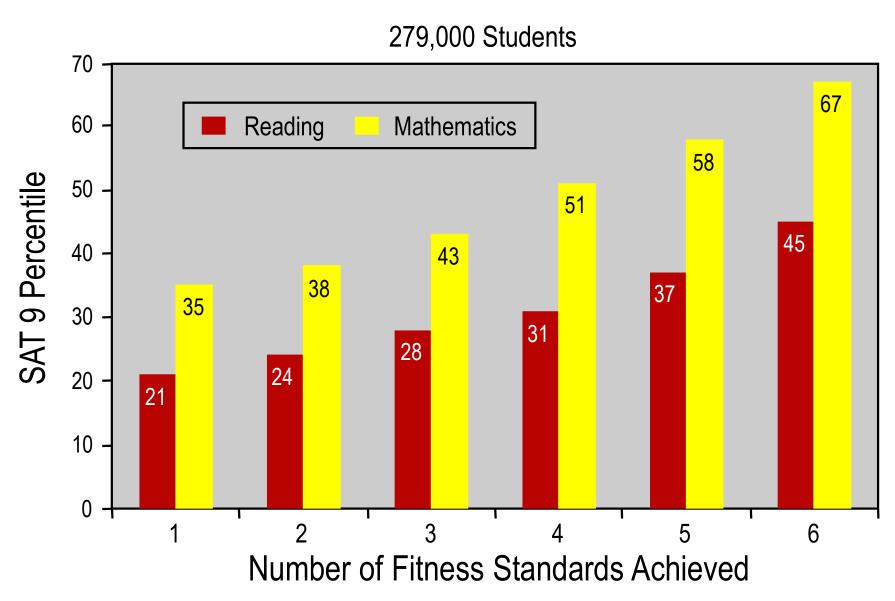
### **Grade 7 SAT 9 and Physical Fitness**







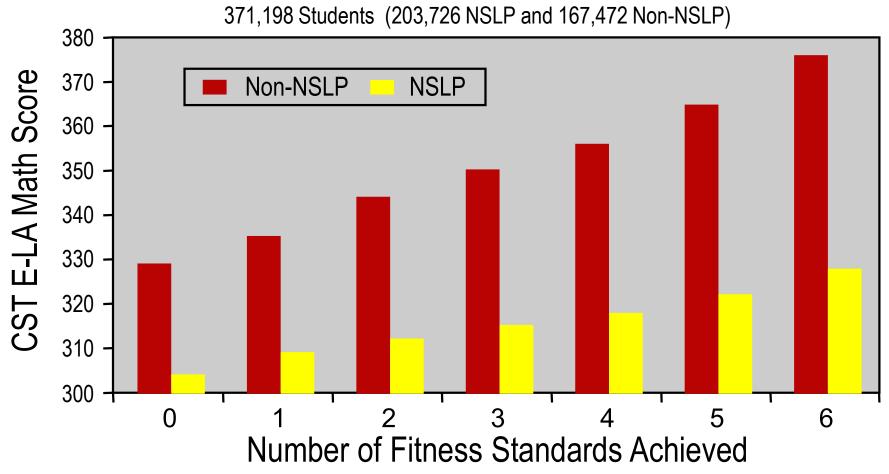
### **Grade 9 SAT 9 and Physical Fitness**







### Socioeconomic Status\*\* & Number of Fitness Standards 2004 CST\* Scores in English- Grade 5



<sup>\*</sup>California Standards Test

Results using math scores were consistent with those using English-Language Arts scores.

Results for seventh- and ninth-grade students were consistent with those for fifth graders.

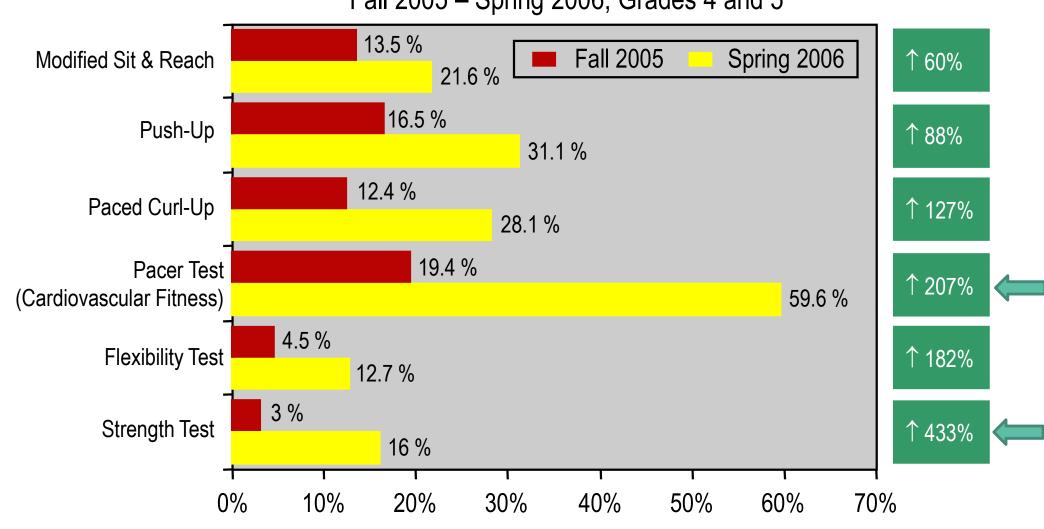
Source: California Physical Fitness Test, 2004 Results, Calif. Dept. of Ed., April 2005



<sup>\*\*</sup>National School Lunch Program

### Improvements in Fitnessgram *Results*PE 4 Life Program at 6 months

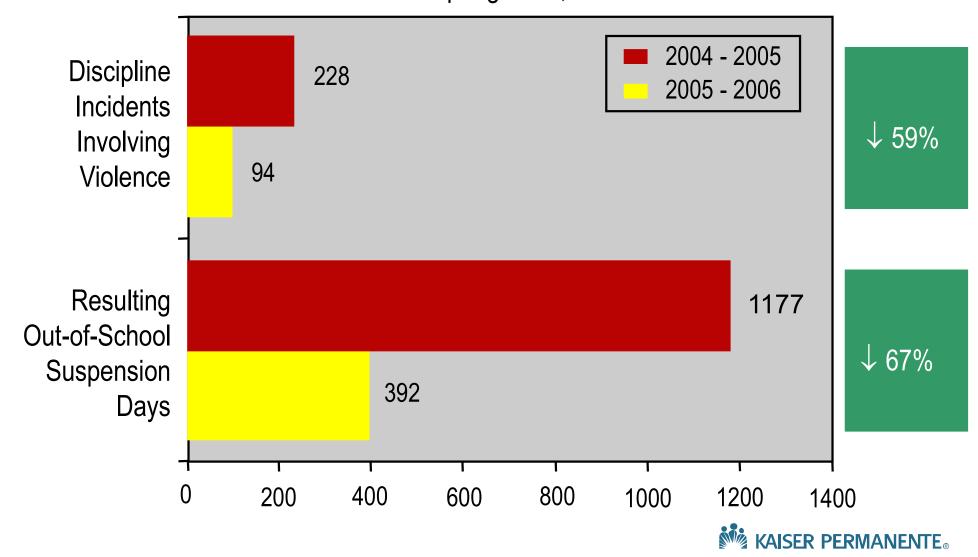
Woodland Elementary School, Kansas City PSD Fall 2005 – Spring 2006, Grades 4 and 5



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### Percent Reduction in Disciplinary Issues PE 4 Life Program at 6 months

Woodland Elementary School, Kansas City PSD #33 Fall 2005 – Spring 2006, Grades 4 and 5



### Studies suggest Physical Activity Improves Mental Health in Kids

- Regular PA increases self esteem
- Regular PA decreases rates of anxiety/depression\*
- Evidence shows teen girls have lower rates of sexual activity and pregnancy when PA is increased
- Evidence show regular PA associated with decreased smoking, alcohol and drug abuse





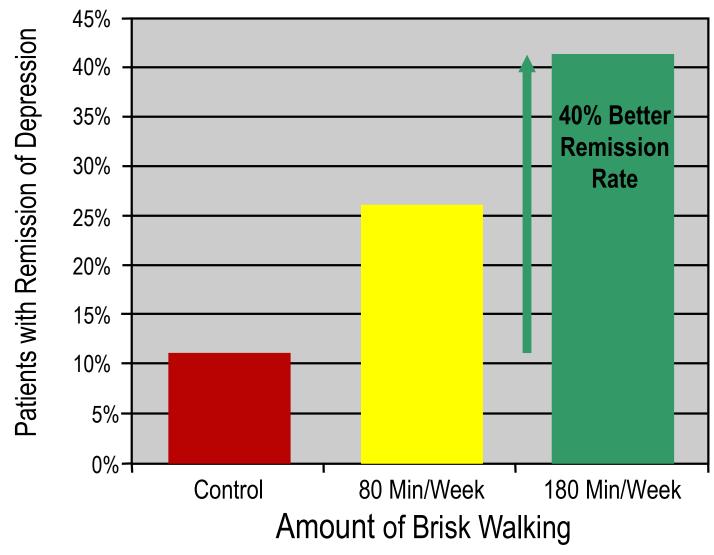


#### Brain Benefits of Physical Activity as We Age

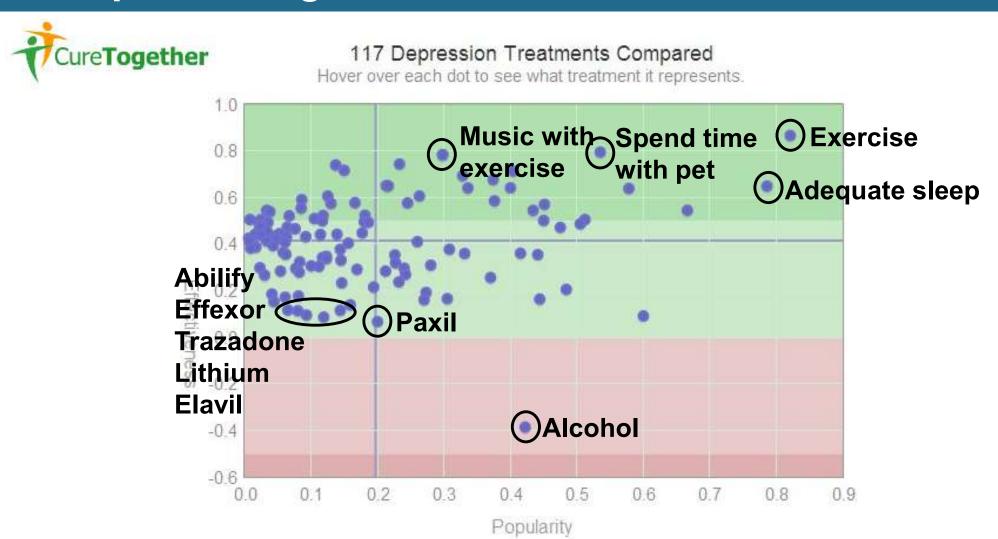




#### Exercise is a Treatment for Depression



#### http://curetogether.com

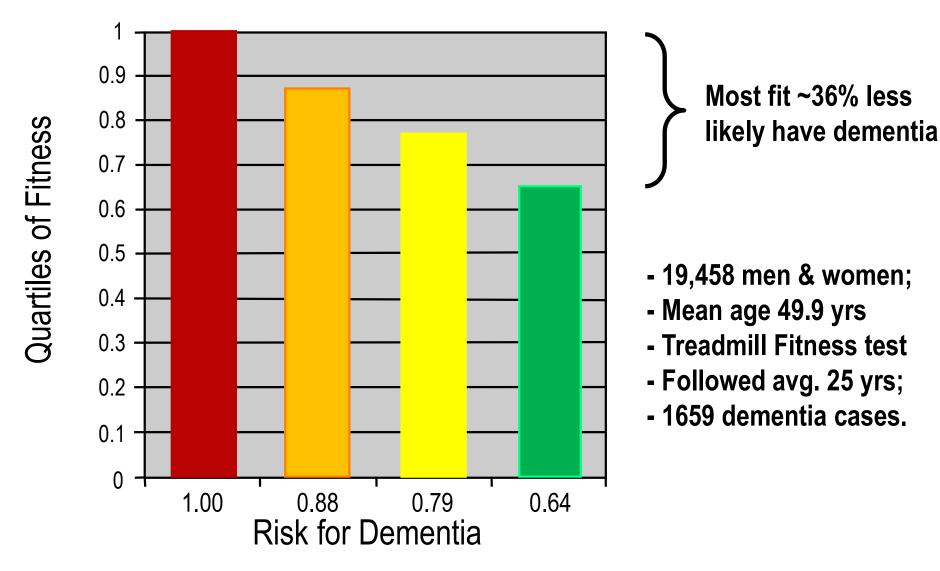


This infographic is based on a total of 22,800 treatment effectiveness ratings.

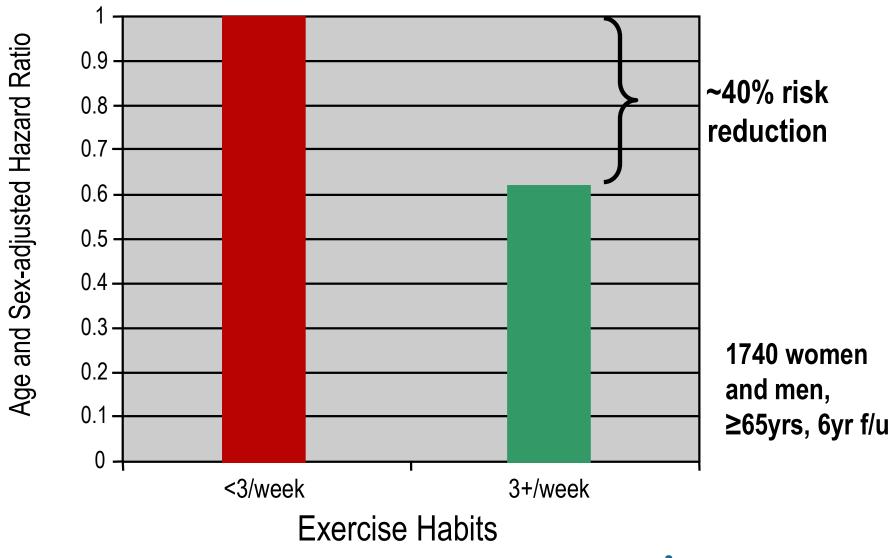


#### Middle Age Fitness and Dementia Risk

Defina LD et al. Annals of Int Med; 2013; 158(3)

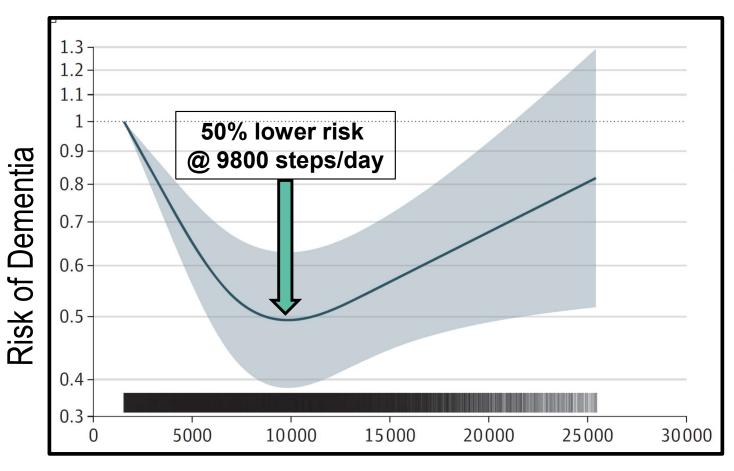


#### **Exercise and Dementia**





#### Steps per Day and Incidence of Dementia

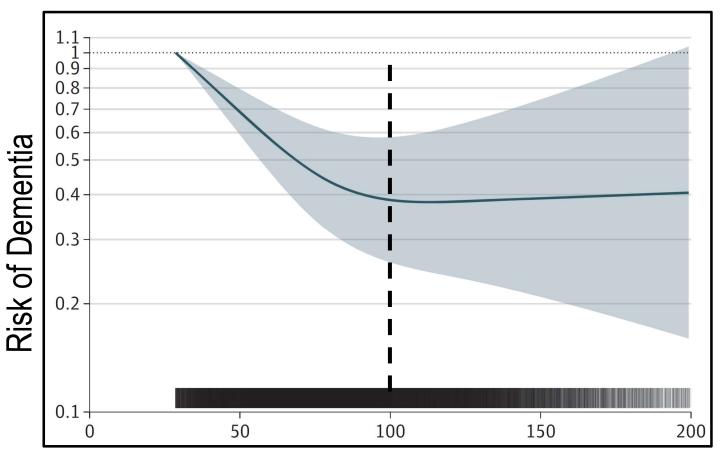


-78 430 adults
-UK Biobank Data
-Mean age 61.1
-Controlled for
multiple risk factors

Steps per Day



#### Step Intensity and Incidence of Dementia



-78 430 adults
-UK Biobank Data
-Mean age 61.1
-Controlled for
multiple risk factors

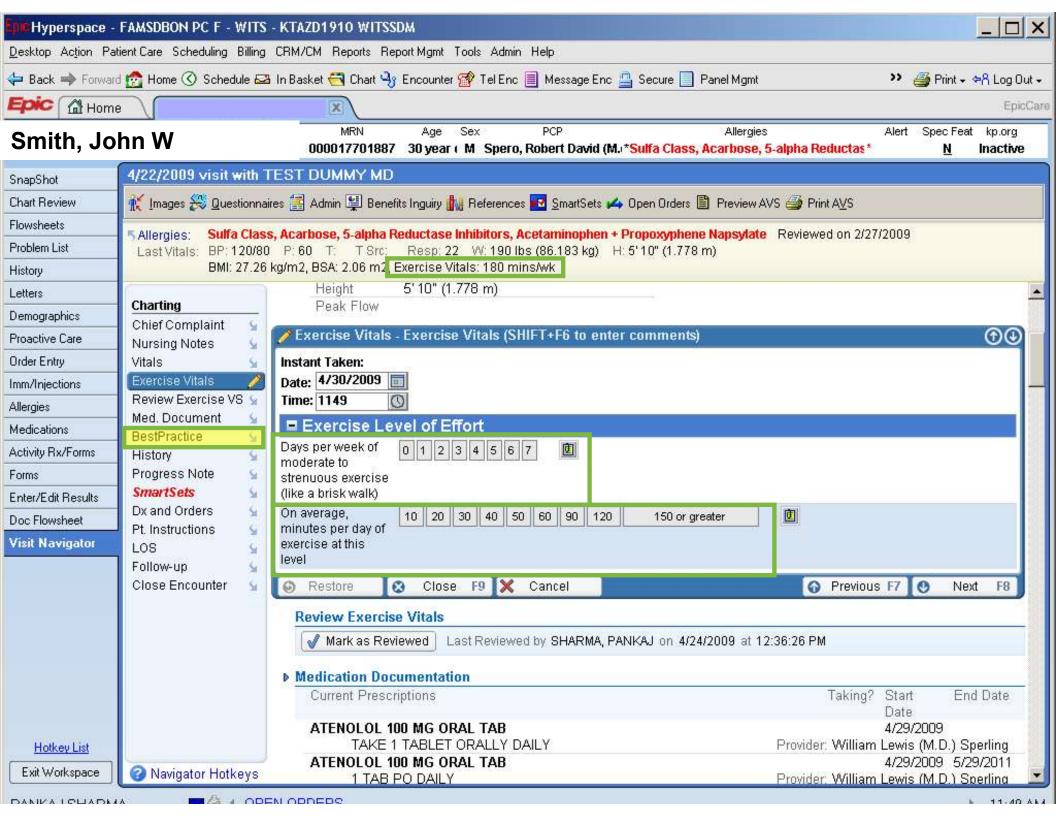
Peak 30-min cadence, Steps/min

#### What Can Healthcare Providers Do?

- Include an Exercise Prescription in all treatment plans:
  - Every patient; Every visit;Every Specialty.
- Use an Exercise Vital sign to remind all patients to get 30 min of walking on 5 or more days per wk.
- Message should be the same from every healthcare provider.
- We must begin to merge fitness with healthcare.







#### The Walking Prescription for Brain Health!

Name: John W. Smith	Age: 30
Walking $\mathbf{R}$	Date:
Recommended activity level:_	Moderate
Minutes per day: 30 minutes	
Number of days per week:5	or more
ntensity: Hard enough that you but not so hard you ca	ı can't sing, an't talk during exercise.
Stop: If you experience ches excessive shortness of	
Signature: Robert Salli	s, MD
Every S	Body



# Clinicians need help! How do we integrate fitness into healthcare?

- I need something beyond telling my patient to go walk!
- Components of fitness
  - CV fitness
  - Strength
  - Flexibility
- Need to be able to refer
  - Health Club and Fitness professional
  - To instruct and monitor patients





#### The Claremont Club

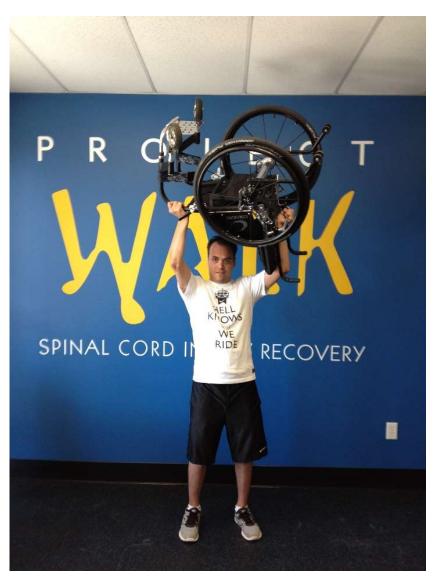
- Founded in 1973
  - Primarily as tennis club.
  - Small fitness component.
- Mike Alpert joined the club in August of 1997.
- Vision to Transform the Club
  - Actively promote health & wellness.
  - Helping people struggling with injury and illness.





#### **Created Programs for Patients**

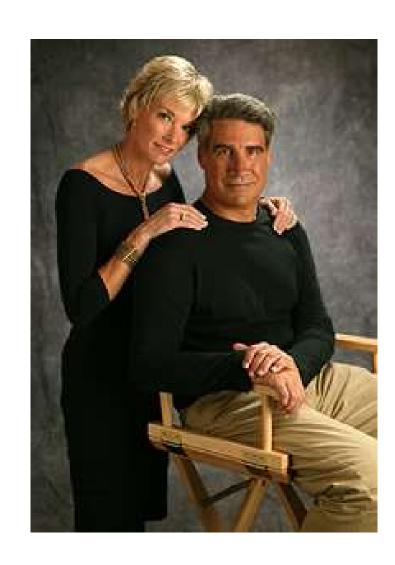
- Breast cancer
- Parkinson's and MS
- Stroke
- Cerebral Palsy
- Prostate and other cancers
- Pediatric Cancer
- Diabetes
- Spinal Cord Injury (Project Walk)





#### The Augie Nieto Story

- Icon in the fitness world.
- Founder and former owner of Life Fitness.
- Former owner of Hammer Strength.
- Sold companies in 1999 to Brunswick Corp for \$325 Million.





#### **Augie Diagnosed with ALS 2005**

- Started with weakness in legs and stumbling.
- Rapidly progressed despite all medical treatments.
- Saw countless specialists.
- No good treatment and little hope.
- Depression and suicide attempt.





#### Can Exercise Help ALS?

- Heard about Project Walk at The Claremont Club.
- No good studies to prove it.
- There were concerns:
  - Respirator & feeding tube.
  - Might injure Augie.
  - Communication issue.
- Give it a try.







### Augie back in the gym at The Claremont Club



#### The results were amazing...

- Dramatic improvements in strength and endurance.
- Able to whisper to his wife for the first time in 8 years.
- His depression lifted and he felt hopeful again.
- Was able to walk his daughter down the isle at her wedding using a standing frame.





#### Augie out for a bike ride...





# Cycling with Parkinson's Disease (Snidjers, NEJM 2010)

#### Video 1



### Dr. Jay Alberts

- Cleveland Clinic scientist who studies Parkinson's Disease.
- In 2003 rode a tandem bike across Iowa with friend who has PD.
- Saw dramatic improvements in his symptoms with less tremor and improved writing.
- Led to studies using cycling to treat PD.

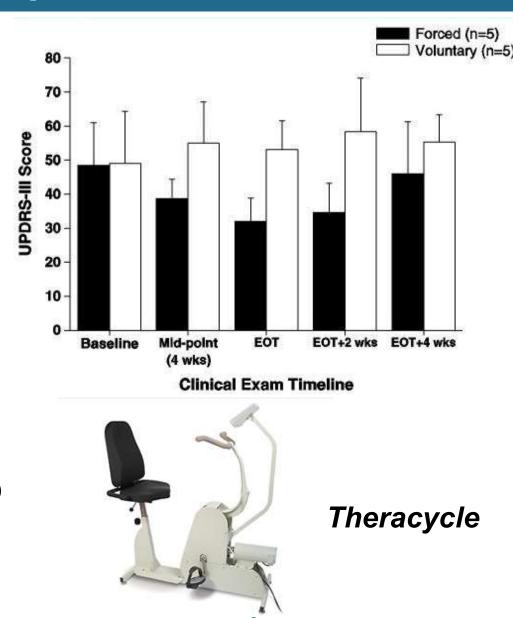






# **High Cadence Cycling improves Parkinson's Disease Symptoms**

- 10 mild to moderate PD pts did 8 wks (three 1-hr sessions at Forced (~85 rpm) or Voluntary (~60 rpm) intensity.
- Used blinded Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale III (UPDRS III).
- Forced group improved 35% from baseline; No change seen in Voluntary Group.



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# Spin Class for Parkinson's Patients at the Claremont Club



#### **Spinning for Parkinson's Disease**

- Enrolled 13 patients with Parkinson's disease in a 12 week long spin class.
  - 9 Men and 4 Women.
  - Age ranged from 47-89 yr.; Mean age 69.8 yr.
- Met 3 days per week (Mon-Wed-Fri) at 11 AM at the Claremont Club spin studio with an instructor.
- Each session lasted 45 min and subjects were encouraged to spin at a pace of 85-90 RPM.



#### **Spinning for Parkinson's Disease**

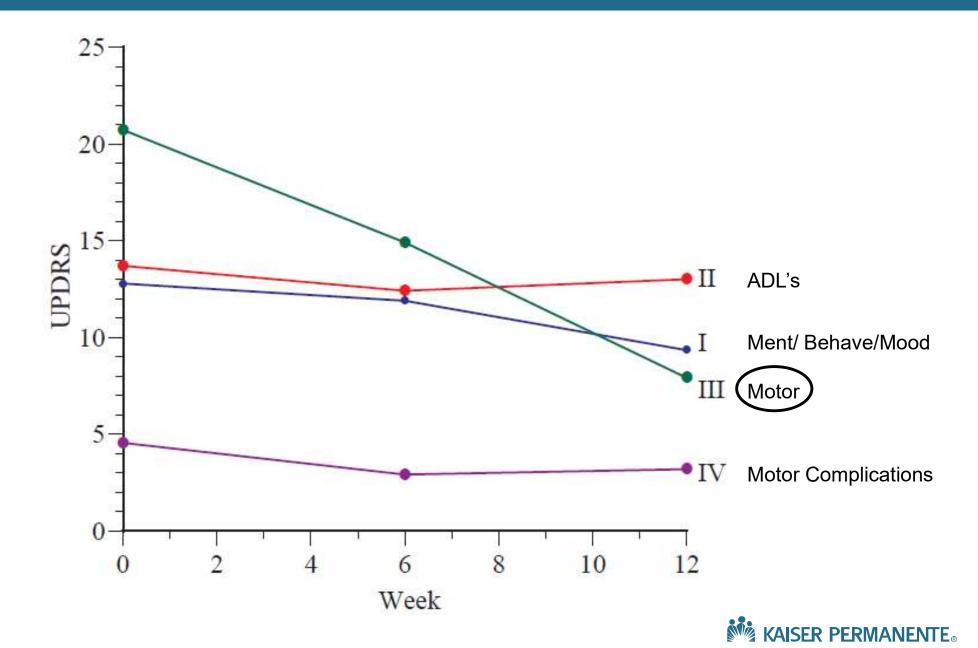
- All patients had mild to moderate PD and all but one were on Levodopa.
- 11 of 13 subjects completed the full 12 week spinning trial.
- Subjects were assessed using the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS) at the start of the trial, at 6 weeks and again at 12 weeks.
- All assessments were done by the same physician (sports medicine fellow).



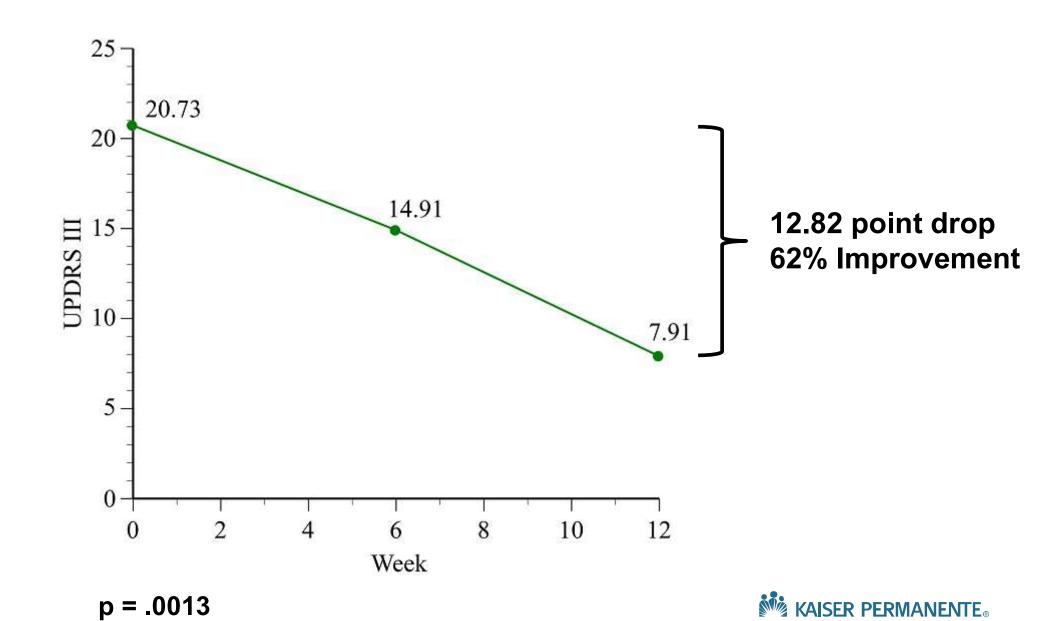
#### Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale

- Validated rating tool used to gauge the course of Parkinson's disease in patients to evaluate progression of disease, treatment and for research.
- Consists of 4 segments evaluated by medical pro:
  - 1. Mentation, Behavior and Mood.
  - 2. Activities of Daily Living.
  - 3. Motor Examination.
  - 4. Motor Complications
- Max score is 199 (worst disability) and lowest score is 0 (no disability)

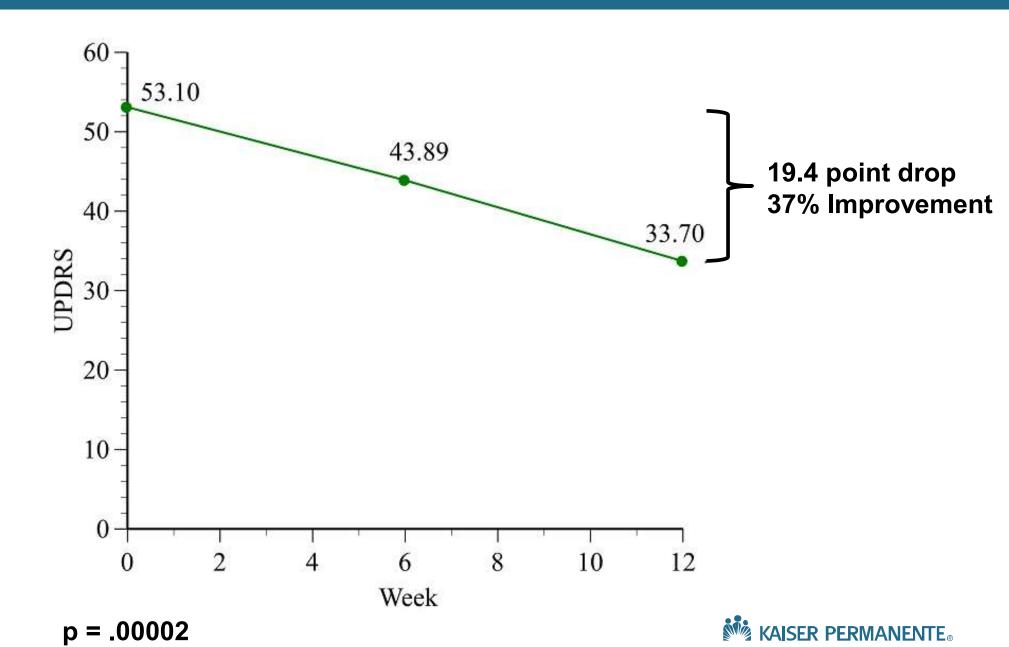
#### **UPDRS I-IV** Results



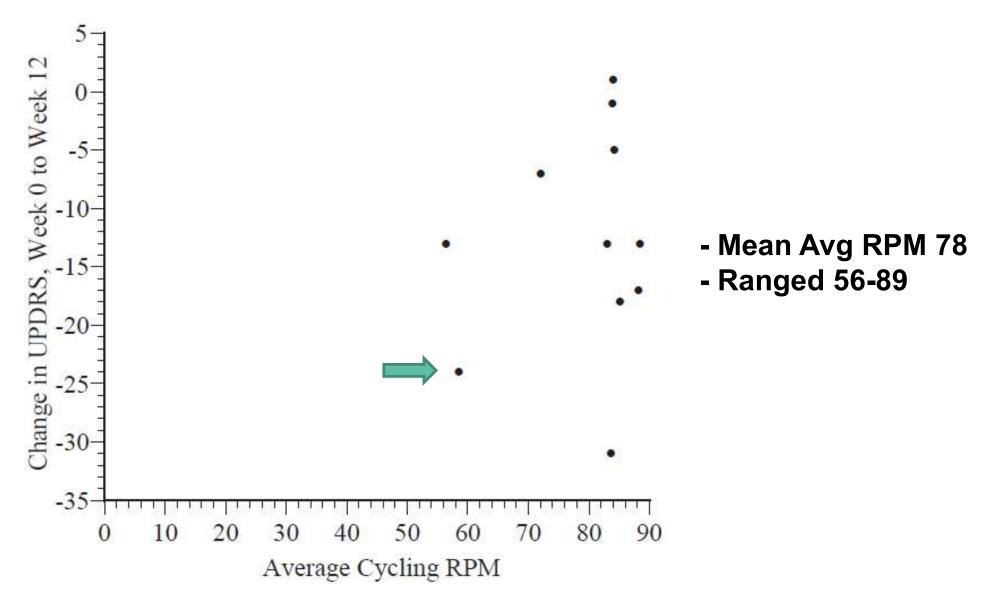
### UPDRS III (Motor) Results



#### **Total UPDRS Results**

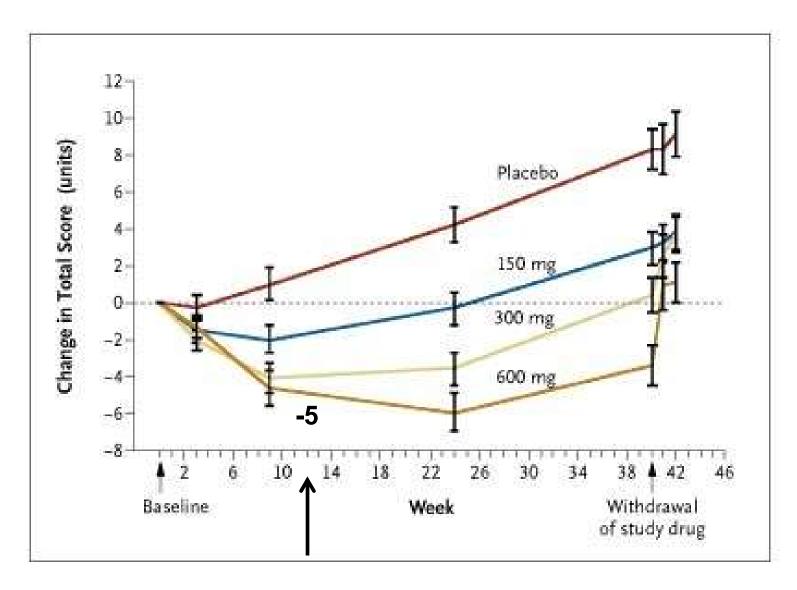


# Average Spin RPM and Change in UPDRS from Week 0-12; No Significant *Relationship*





# Change in UPDRS Scores with Varying Doses of Levodopa



#### **Study Conclusions**

- Results limited by small sample size.
- ALL the UPDRS average scores improved in this study, but some did not reach statistical significance at 5% level.
- Over the 12-week period, the average subject's score improved in 39 of the 50 categories of the UPDRS. (p = .000100)
- The average diastolic BP decreased by 11.09 mmhg.
- All 11 subjects wish to continue these workouts.



# Benefits went well beyond improved PD symptoms!





#### Summary

- Studies suggest the most powerful effect of exercise may be on the brain.
- Exercise has a positive effect at every age and results in better school performance and improvements in neuro and psych disease as we age.
  - Studies show improved neurologic function at all ages with regular exercise.
  - MRI evidence of brain growth in those who exercise.
  - Results in better test scores in kids and lower rates of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's as we age.
- Exercise is Medicine to keep your brain healthy you need to take it daily!
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### **Exercise is Medicine for Life's Journey...**





### Questions?

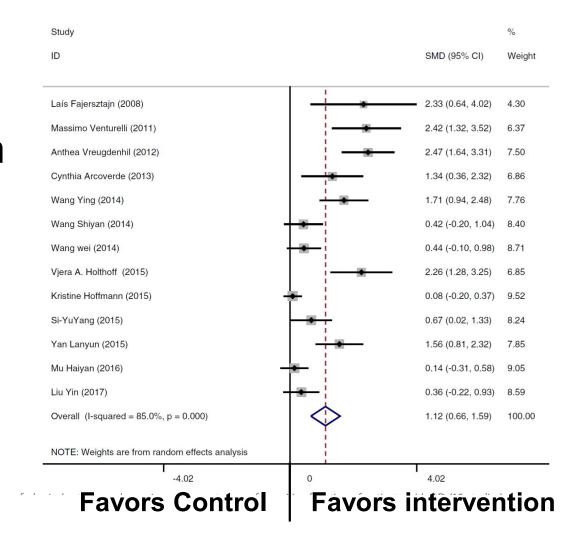


# Treatment of Mild-Moderate Alzheimer's Dz with Donanemab

- Monoclonal antibody designed to clear amyloid plaque.
- RCT involving 1736 pts with early AD that got monthly infusions over 18 mo; Assessed with AD Rating Scale (0-144) for change in score (lower worse):
  - Tx Group -6.02; Placebo -9.27; Difference 3.25
  - Meaningful Within Pt Change is 5 points
  - Adverse events: 112 in Tx gp (3 died); 38 in Placebo (1 died)
- Cost for drug is \$26K per year and with monitoring (MRI) and infusion charges total \$90K per year

# Treatment of Mild-Moderate Alzheimer's Dz with Exercise

- Metanalysis of 13
   RCT comparing an exercise intervention to placebo on cognitive decline
- 673 AD patients
- All used MVPA
- Avg 40 min (30-60)
- Duration 2-24 wks



Total 673; SMD 1.12 (.66-1.59)