

International  
Paralympic Committee



# Vista Conference

## Girona, Spain

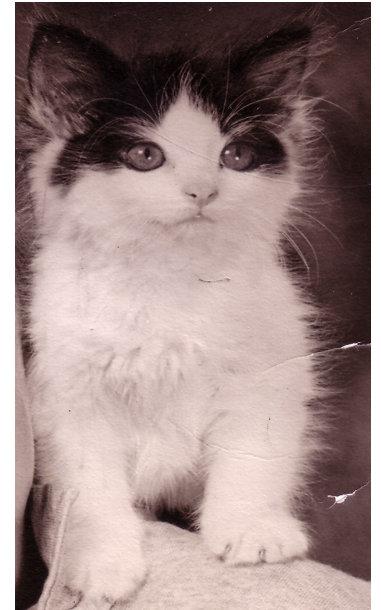
### **Paralympic Scientific Award**

Dr. Jennifer Mactavish

Ryerson University

October 7, 2015

**He's not Mongolian,  
he's Canadian!**





Difference doesn't define us



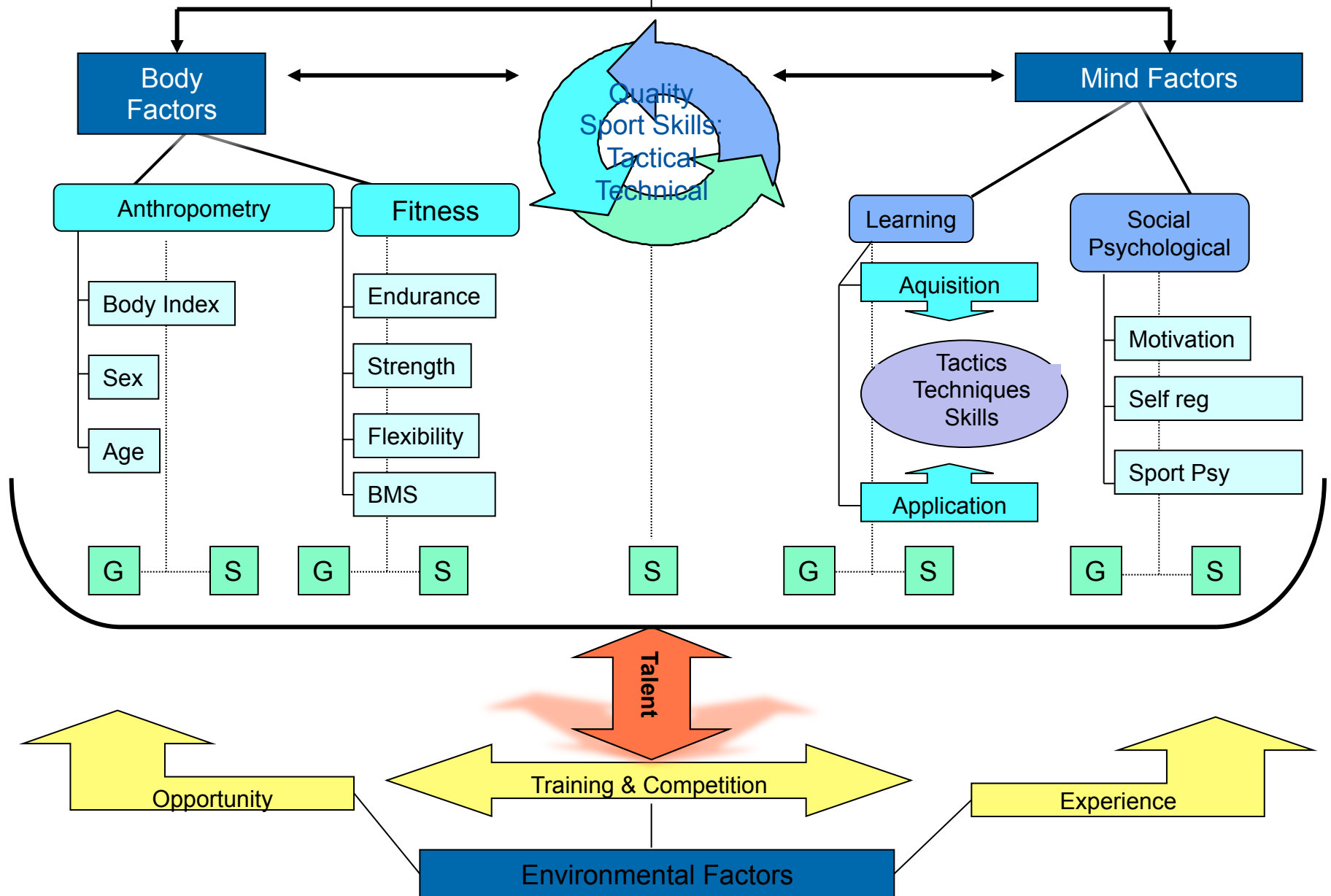
# IPC & INAS Classification Project

## Athletes with intellectual impairment

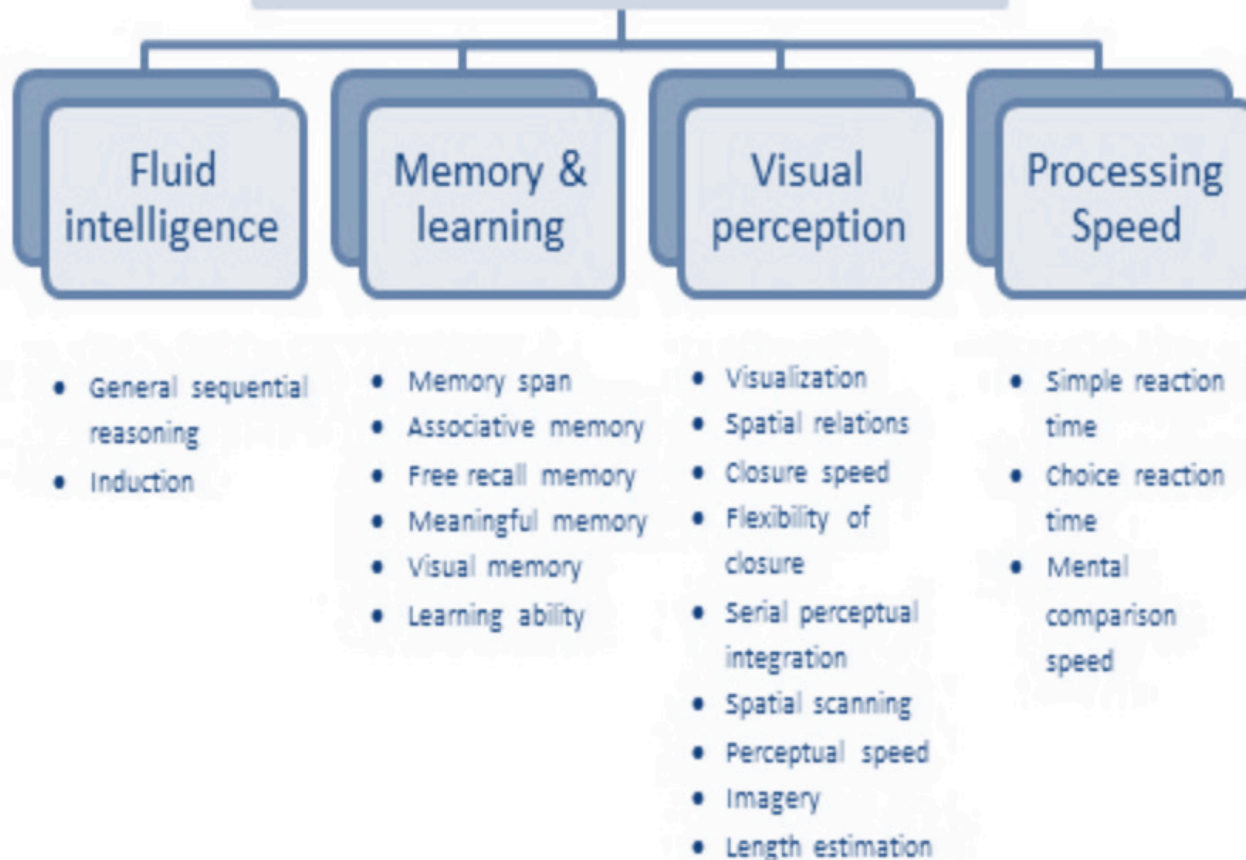
- An epic 15 year journey
- Evidence based system for demonstrating how intellectual impairment affects the determinants essential for sport specific proficiency. With the end goal of ensuring that the outcomes of sport—those who excel at the highest levels—are based on exceptional talent and training and not simply extensions of underlying differences in level of impairment.
- Table Tennis, Athletics, Swimming, Basketball



# Core Determinants of Sport Proficiency



# Sport Intelligence



Executive functioning/Visuo-motor abilities/Attention-concentration skills

# *Interdisciplinary collaboration*

PeterVandVliet YvesVanlandewijck  
JonasMartens

JanneKerremans

ITTF IngiEinarsson

DebbieVanBiesen

IPC Basketball

KennetFrojd Athletics NickParr

SvenBlomqvist DanDaly MelanieGregg

Swimming INAS


JanBurns

JoeriVerellen

MarcusGeeraerts

ThomasHammond





# Engaging youth in disability sport: Reflections

Dr. Jennifer Mactavish  
Vista Conference  
Girona, Spain October 7, 2015



# Areas of research

- Early intervention
- Forms, patterns, benefits & constraints
- Education (NCCP, Moving to Inclusion)
- Policy and development

# Peewee Program









# Family: Engagement starts here





# Forms & Patterns: Informal, socialization





# Forms & Patterns: intentional, purpose driven





# Constraints vs. Barriers: Important distinction conceptually & practically



# Constraints: Negotiation, Navigation





# Education



# Education: Community outreach & development



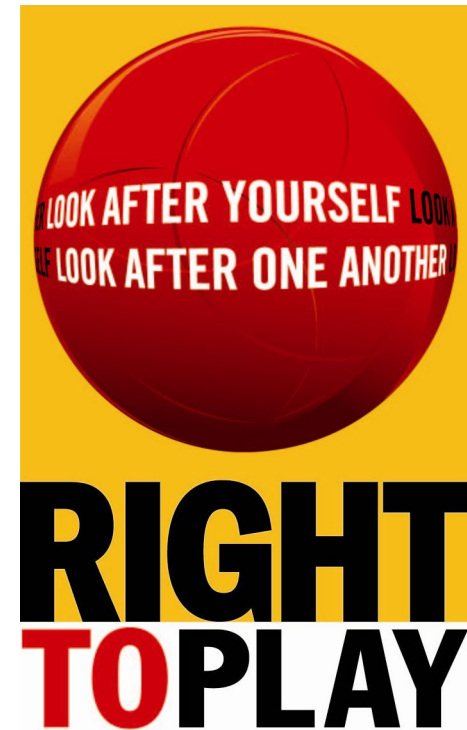


# Policy & Development



  
**Special Olympics**  
**Olympiques spéciaux**  
*Canada*

December 4, 2007



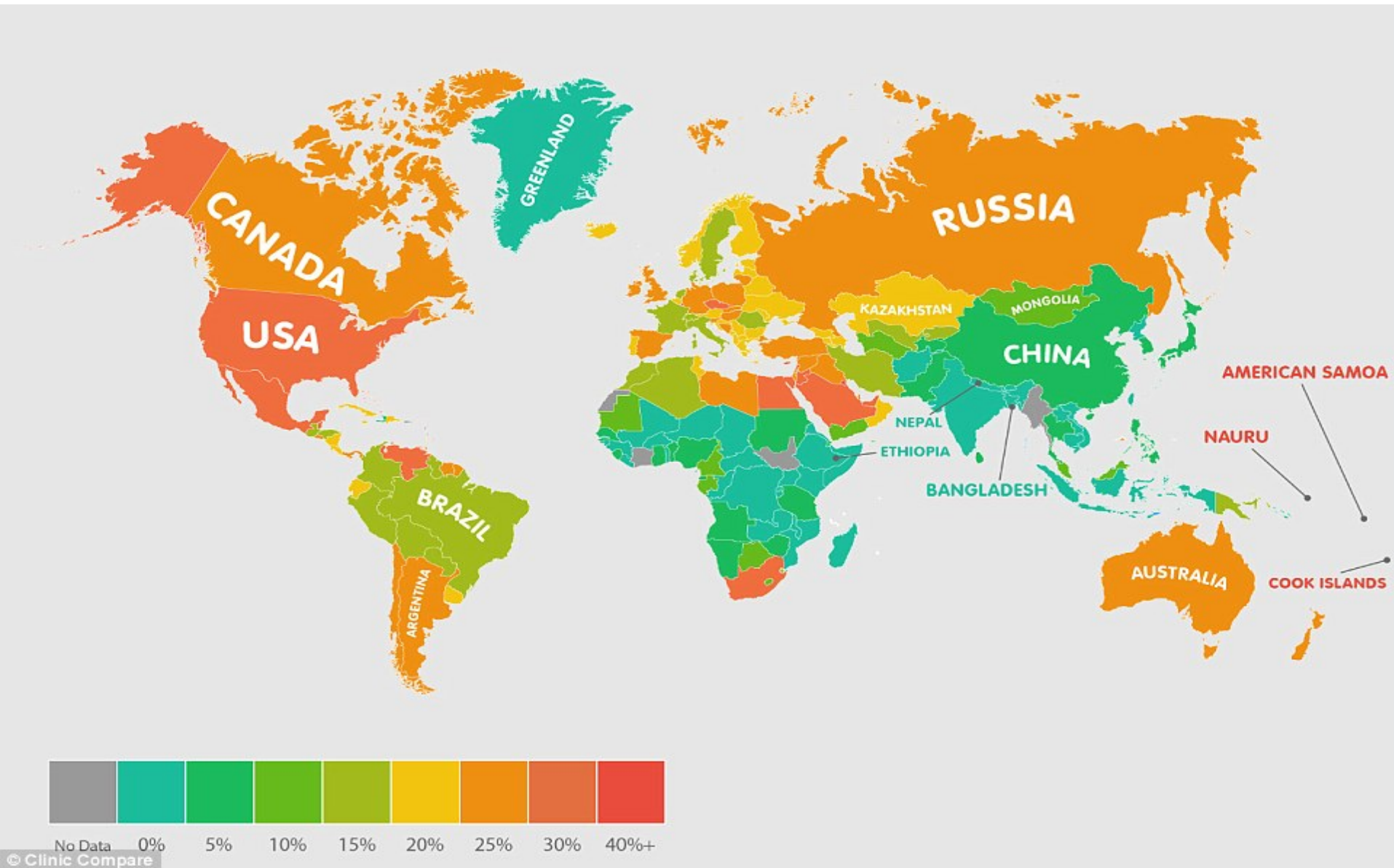


# Why are we still facing...

- Declines in physical activity & youth fitness?
- Limited opportunities and access for people with disability in sport and recreation?
- Concerns popularized with WHO, among others calling the situation a global health crisis



# Global obesity map (one indicator of the crisis)





# Perplexing paradox

- We have the knowledge
- People generally understand the value
- Yet the outcome remains largely unchanged
- Why? What can we do differently?



# Missing links?

- Limitations of athlete development models
- Clarity of purpose and corresponding strategic action
- Embracing multiplicative approaches to research
- Do we need a call for action in the movement along the lines of the IOC's?



# Where to from here?

- What do we mean by securing the future for young para-athletes?
- What will this future look like?
- What do we need to get there?