

Issues Pertaining to Development of Athletes with a Disability

Nima Dehghansai

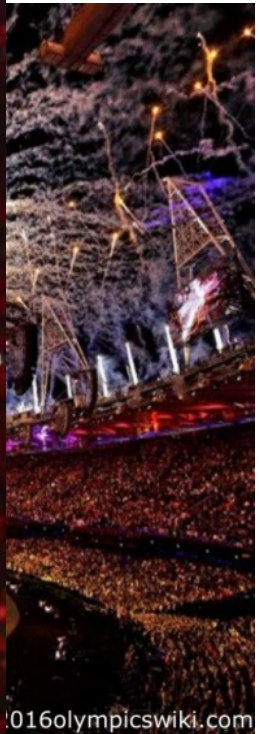
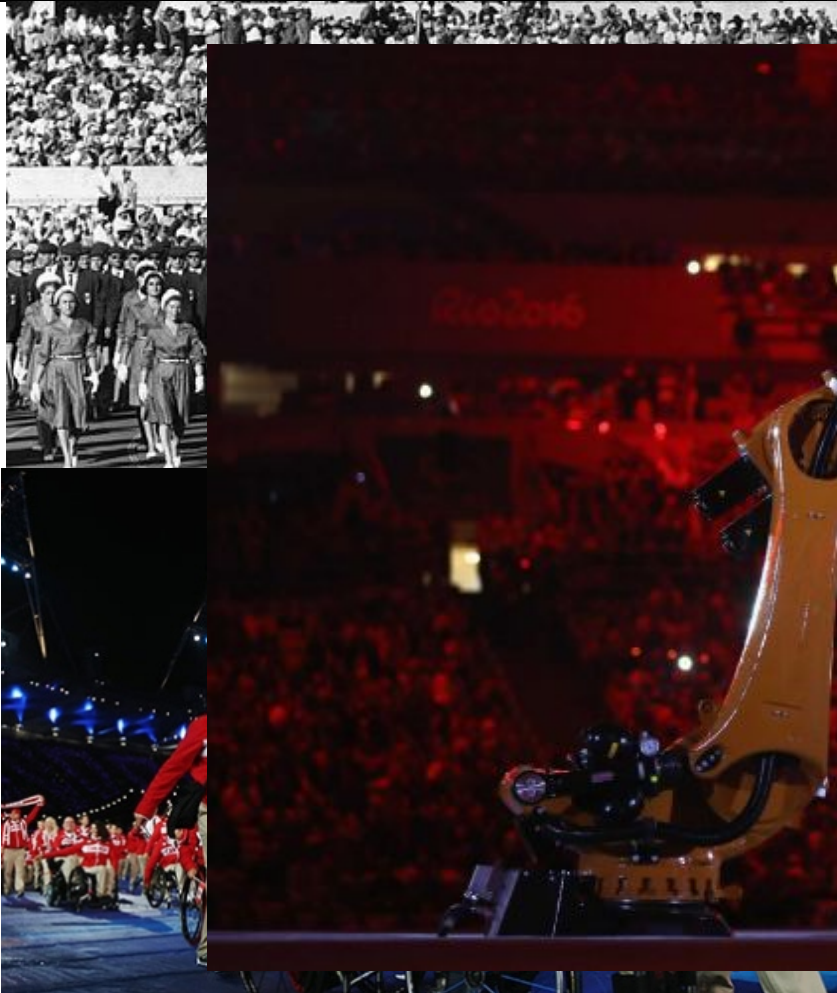
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The Rise of the Paralympics



IPC Mission Statement



IPC Strategic Plan 2015-2018



“Increase and improve the opportunities for para-athletes to develop from the grassroots to Paralympic level, raising the quality of their environment and supporting transition beyond sport”

pg. 23 of Strategic Plan 2015 to 2018: Strategic outlook of the International Paralympic Committee

Concerning Fact



Gap between grassroots and elite

Canada: Bridging the Gap

Growth of able-bodied literature

Training

Nuances associated with disability

Objective



**To identify factors that affect
the development of expertise in
Para-sport athletes**

Targeted Athletes Development Process



Targeted Athletes

- Para athletes
- Paraplegia
- Paraplegic
- Tetraplegic
- Plegic
- Plegia
- Disabled Athletes
- Athletes with Disability
- Paralympics
- Elite Wheelchair
- Wheelchair Athletes

Athlete Development

- Expertise
- Expert
- Deliberate Practice
- Early Specialization
- Specialization
- Performance
- High Performance Athletes
- Elite Performance
- Skill Acquisition
- Practice
- Athlete Development
- Maturation
- Divergent Thinking
- Visual Motor
- Motor Learning
- Perceptual Expertise
- Talent Identification

Duplications removed:
258 publications

39 publications
assessed for eligibility

Included articles:
21 publications

Title and Abstract Review:
219 publications excluded

Full text review:
18 publications excluded

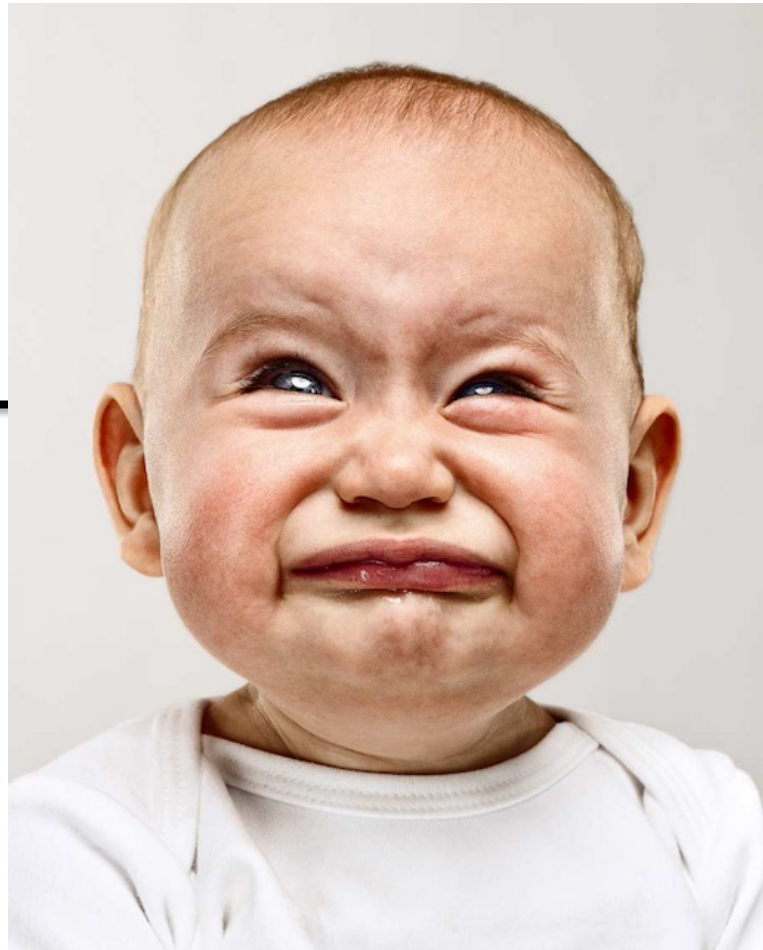
Thematic Areas



Systematic Review

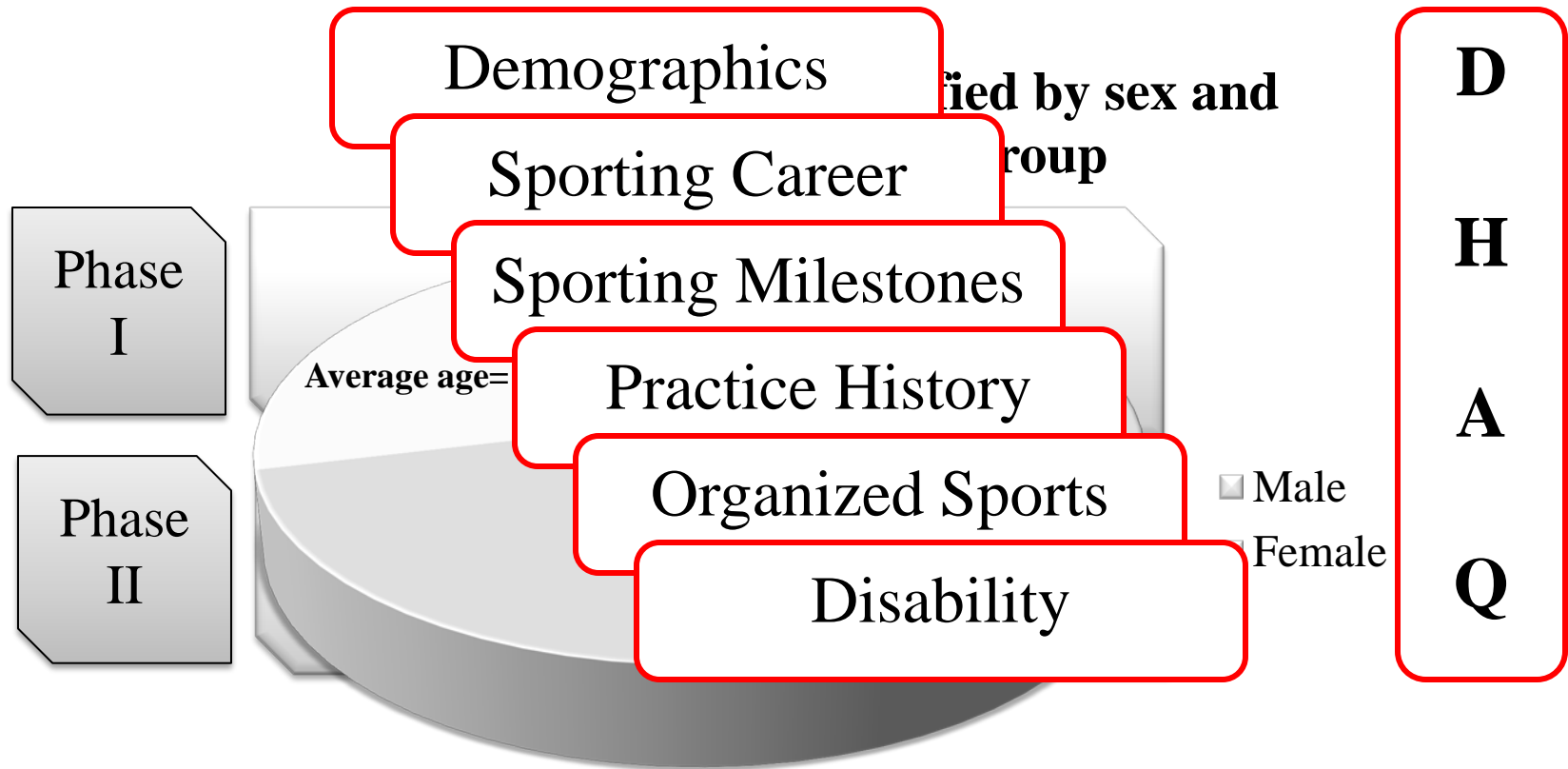


**Training &
Practice**



**Long-Term
Changes Due
to Training**

Phase II



Sample Characteristics



WCB Canada: Training
and Development

52 Athletes

N=

32 w/ acquired impairments

20 w/ congenital impairments

Age

24.96 ± 7.68

19.81 ± 4.62

**Incident
Age**

13.56 ± 5.62

Impairments



WCB Canada: Training
and Development

Paraplegia

10

Cerebral Palsy

8

Spina bifida

6

Amputation

5

Car accident

10

Cancer

8

Sporting accident

6

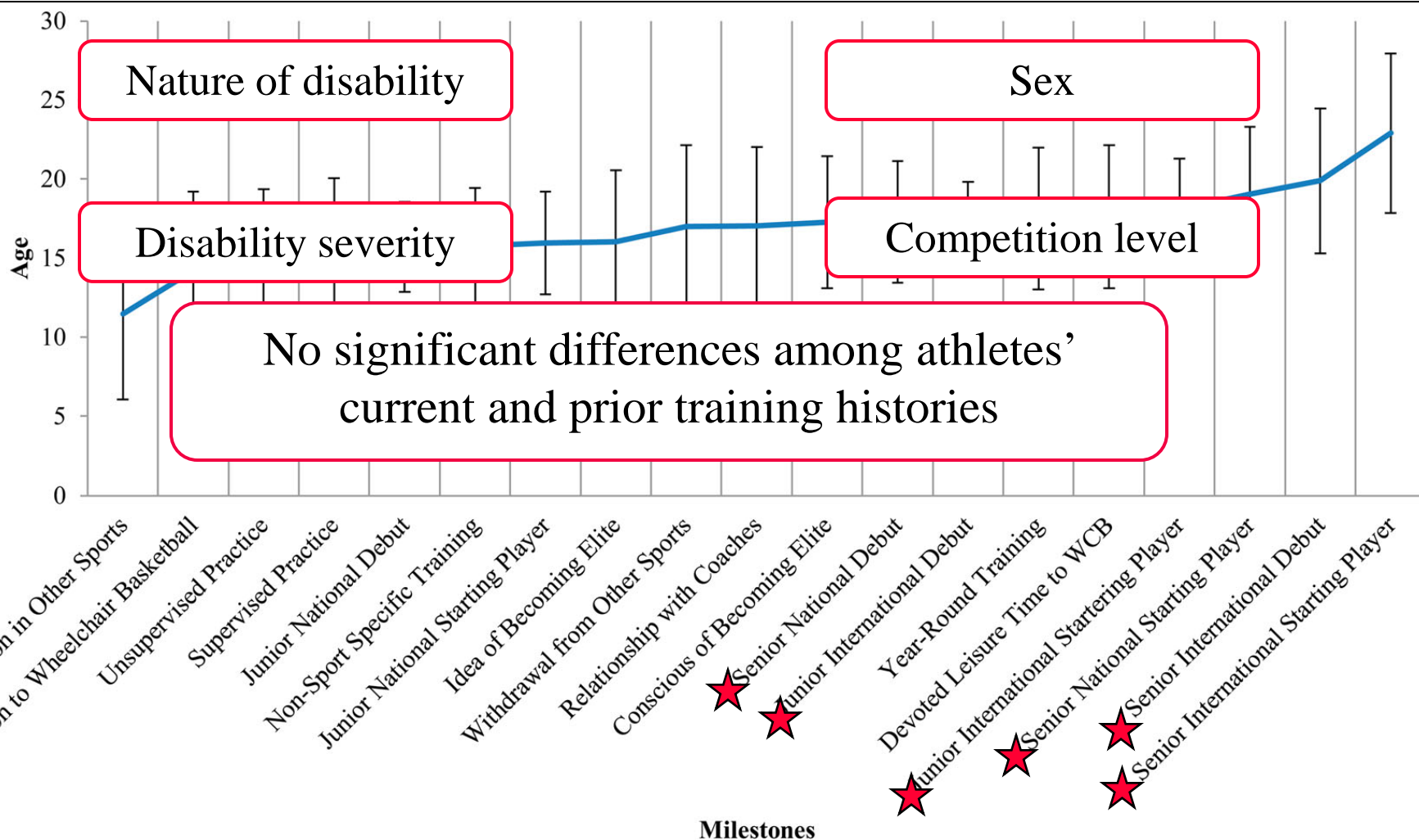
Injuries

5

Farm accident

5

Sporting Milestones



Future Direction



APPLIED COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY
Appl. Cognit. Psychol. 19: 705-718 (2005)
Published online 11 April 2005 in Wiley InterScience
(www.interscience.wiley.com) DOI: 10.1002/acp.1102

Transfer of Pattern Recall Skills May Contribute to the Development of Sport Expertise

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Abstract: The role of creativity support the development of practice conditions in the elite of sports. Twelve trainers selected the ability and type of sport-specific and other significant difference for total time spent in training for the groups. Results indicated that more creative players accumulated more time than non-creative players. Athletes: deliberate play; deliberate practice; divergent thinking; athletes; deliberate play; deliberate practice.

JOURNAL OF APPLIED SPORT PSYCHOLOGY, 15: 12-25, 2003
Copyright © 2003 by the Association for Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology
DOI: 10.1080/10413200390180035



Sport-Specific Practice and the Development of Expert Decision-Making in Team Ball Sports

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early sport-specific practice and expert decision-making in team ball sports.

Abstract: The role of practice conditions in the development of expert decision-making in team ball sports. This paper focuses on a specific issue related to training the child athlete. While associations between early specialization and development are highlighted, much research also suggests that early specialization may be detrimental to the development of the elite athlete.

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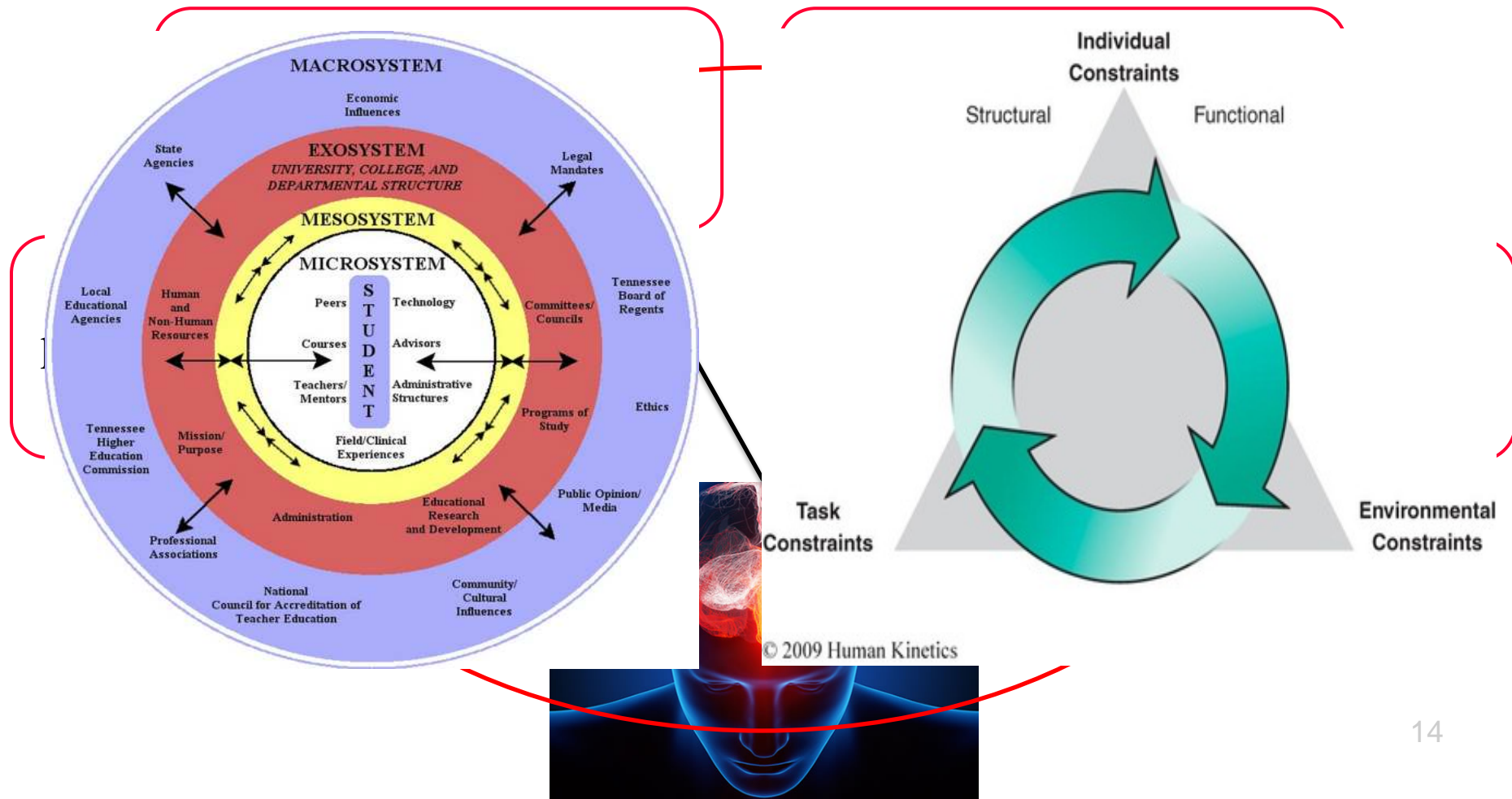
Future Direction



Nature of disability
(neuromuscular vs. skeletal)
influence process of skill
acquisition: Does this vary per
sport?

**Complexity, skill demands
and dynamics across sport
self-select athletes with
certain impairments?**

Future Direction



To Conclude



The growth of the Games demands a more in-depth understanding of Para-sport athletes; highlighted by global policies.

Research in Para-sport is growing, however; limited literature pertaining to developmental-related factors.

Need for more research to expand our understanding of athletes' development.

The nuances associated influences of impairment on skill acquisition, development and performance.

Thank You



I would like to thank the members of our research team:

Dr. Joe Baker

Dr. Nick Wattie

Dr. Srdjan Lemez

Director of Wheelchair Basketball Canada, Mike Frogley

All the staff and members of Team Canada's Wheelchair basketball team



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