PostScript

LETTER

Is the all-round ability of the triathlete detrimental to group homogeneity?

It is with interest that I read the article by Roels *et al*¹ investigating the relation between the $\dot{V}O_{2\text{MAX}}$ attained by swimmers and triathletes during swimming and cycle ergometry. The successful use of the "snorkel" system, first validated in 2003,² is certainly a major breakthrough in the study of exercise physiology because, before this time, the measurement of respiration was quite different for swimmers from that in other exercising subjects, and therefore difficult to compare. I am concerned though that the practice of using triathletes in comparative studies measuring physiological responses is likely to introduce confounders and bias. Many triathletes enter the sport from one of the disciplines, and therefore have a specialist training history. Although it is widely accepted that specialist training will influence the patterns of oxygen use in the tissues, it is also known that a degree of genetic history is an important factor in the success of an athlete in a particular sport, especially swimming. Therefore future studies would be better designed to control for factors in the training history of triathletes, to ensure that the subject groups are as homogeneous as possible.

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Competing interests: none declared

References

- 1 Roels B, Schmitt L, Bentley D, *et al*. Specificity of $\dot{V}O_{2\text{MAX}}$ and the ventilatory threshold in free swimming and cycle ergometry: comparison between triathletes and swimmers. *Br J Sports Med* 2005;39:965-968.
- 2 Keskinen KL, Rodriguez FA, Keskinen OP. Respiratory snorkel and valve system for breath-by-breath gas analysis in swimming. *Scand J Med Sci Sports* 2003;13:322-9.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

13th Commonwealth International Sport Conference (CISC2006)

9-12 March 2006, Melbourne, Australia
Further details: Email: enquiries@cisc2006.com; Website: www.cisc2006.com

The Second International Meeting on Minor Traumatic Brain Injuries in Sports

12-17 March 2006, St Moritz, Switzerland
This meeting will consider the latest research on TBI with the emphasis first on mechanism,

pathology and its clinical correlation as well as on diagnosis, classification, reports, therapy, and secondly on rehabilitation, recovery, return to play, and prevention strategies of TBI in sport (i.e. amateur / professional boxing, ice hockey, soccer, American football, kick boxing, k1, skiing, snowboarding, biking, climbing, etc.). There will be also report on the latest Second International Symposium on Concussion in November 2004 in Prague, Czech Republic.

Further details: <http://www.orthopaedicsamedan.ch/mtbi.html>

Graduate School and the Laboratory for Engineering of the Neuromuscular System (LISiN) of Politecnico di Torino are organizing in Torino, Italy, an International Congress on

International Congress on Biomedical Engineering in Exercise and Sports (BEES)

23-25 March 2006, Torino, Italy
Further details: www.lisin.polito.it/bees

XV International Congress on Sports Rehabilitation and Traumatology

1-2 April 2006, Centro Congressi Lingotto, Torino, Italy
The congress will focus on the rehabilitation of winter and mountain sports injuries. The deadline for poster presentation submissions is January 15th 2006.

Further details: Organising Secretary: Francesco Cervellati; Tel: +39 051 6112568; Fax: +39 051 6112567; Email: congressi@isokinetic.com; Website: www.isokinetic.com

UK Radiological Congress

15-17 May 2006, NIA, ICC & Austin Court, Birmingham, UK
UKRC 2006 will offer a conference programmes with speakers from the United States, Europe and Japan participating alongside internationally recognised UK speakers. The scientific programme will include a wide range of topics and some of the highlights include:

- Special focus sessions covering topics such as musculoskeletal radiology, breast imaging, nuclear medicine, neuroradiology, radiation cancer biology, radiotherapy, and MR imaging
- A one day course on the theory of ultrasound, which will cover the physics of ultrasound, ultrasound equipment, scanning techniques, image recording and reporting, and artefacts. The course will include practical demonstrations of ultrasound equipment in order to highlight many of the theoretical points
- The prominent themes of digital imaging and information technology, and their application to medical imaging and service delivery are included in digital imaging and service delivery programmes within the conference

Further details: Tel: + 44(0) 207 307 1410/20; Fax: +44(0) 207 307 1414; Email: conference@ukrc.org.uk; Website: www.ukrc.org.uk

12th European Society of Sports Traumatology, Knee Surgery and Arthroscopy (ESSKA) 2000 Congress

24-27 May 2006, Innsbruck, Austria
Further details: Tel: +49 611 9771635; Website: www.esska2006.com

4th European EISCSA Congress

25-27 May 2006, Graz-Österreich, Germany
Challenges in Exercise: Training and Therapy
Further details: Tel: 02 21 / 80 11 00-0; Fax: 02 21 / 80 11 00 29; Email: eiscsa2006@comed-kongresse.de; Website www.comed-kongresse.de

IV Science and Racket Sports World Congress

21-23 September 2006, Madrid, Spain
The congress will be held at the Spanish National Institute of Sport in Madrid, and in conjunction with the 8th International Badminton Federation (IBF) World Science Congress.

The congresses will take place during the World Badminton Championships, also in Madrid.

Further details: Dr David Cabello (dcabello@ugr.es)

AIPN 8th National Injury Prevention Conference

27-29 September 2006, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
Further details: <http://www.aipn.com.au/conference.html>

23rd Annual Meeting of the German speaking Association of Arthroscopy (AGA)

29-30 September 2006, Salzburg Congress, Salzburg, Austria
Further details: Tel: ++ 49 611 97716-0; Fax: ++ 49 611 97716-16; Email: aga@intercongress.de; Congress homepage: www.aga2006.de; Online registration: www.registration.intercongress.de; Homepage of AGA: www.aga-online.de

Topics will include: arthroscopic cartilage therapy; rotator cuff and subacromial space; advances in cruciate ligament surgery; and what's new.

BASEM Conference 2006

5-7 October 2006, Oxford, UK
Further details: Email: BASEMinfo@aol.com; Website: www.basem.co.uk

NOTES AND NEWS

Awards Ceremony of the ISEM

On the 1st December 2005 at the Awards Ceremony of the ISEM at the Royal Society of Medicine in London, UK the following were awarded Fellowship of the Institution: Dr Philip Bell, Dr Bryan English, Dr Ian McCurdie and Dr Simon Till. The Sir Robert Atkins Award for outstanding service to sport, in particular Rugby League, was presented to Dr Deanna Jennings. The presentation was made by the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, the Guest of Honour.