



**2024 International Congress**

on Integrative Medicine & Health

APRIL 9-13 • CLEVELAND, OH, USA

# Livestream Group Movement Program for People Living with Cognitive Impairment and Care Partners

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Integrative Health, San Francisco VA Healthcare System

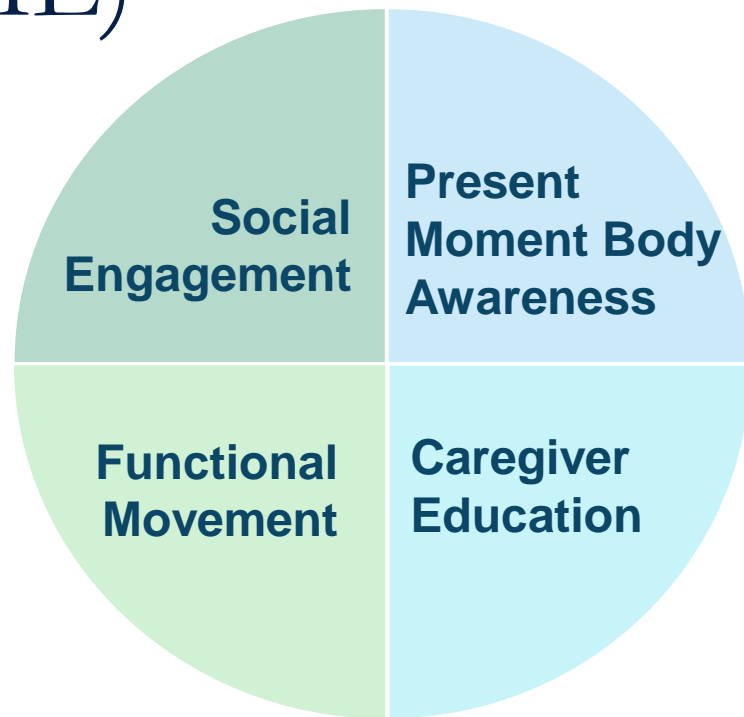
# DISCLOSURES

- This work was funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA, R44AG059520)
  - Views do not necessarily reflect those of NIA
- Together Senior Health, Inc., owns Moving Together™
- Dr. Nicosia has no conflicts

# Preventing Loss of Independence through Exercise (PLIÉ)

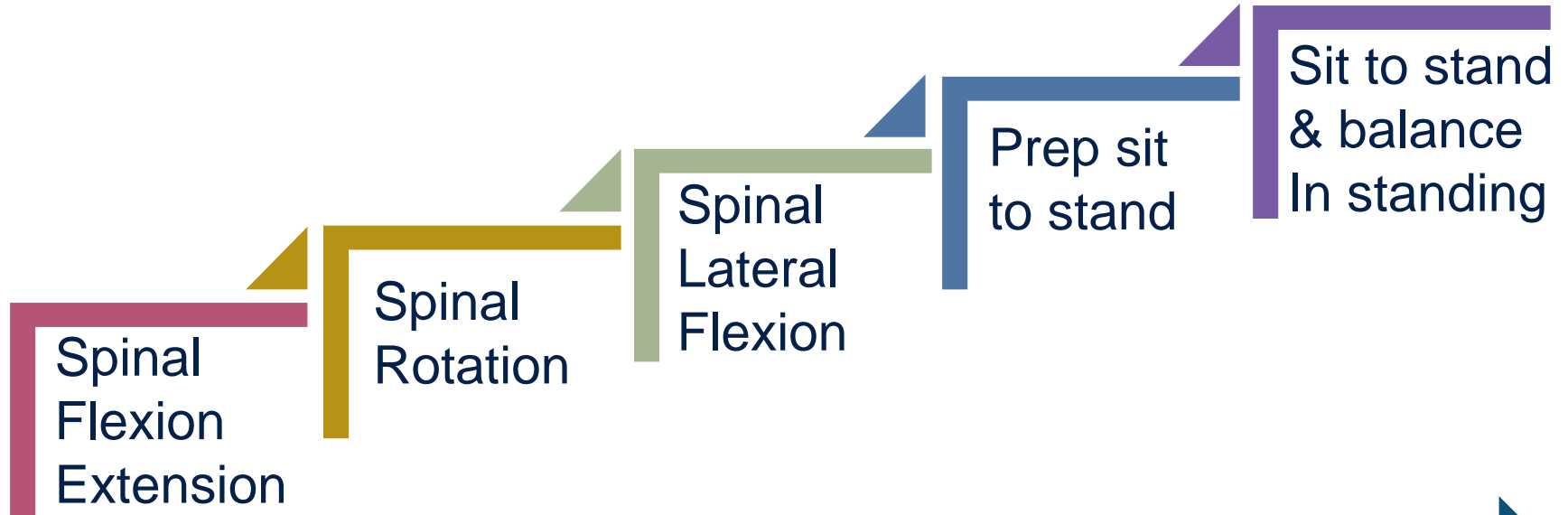
## Multimodal mind-body group movement program

- Improved quality of life
- Physical, cognitive, emotional and social benefits



*Barnes et al, 2015; Wu et al, 2015; Casey et al, 2019; Mehling et al, 2020; Akram et al, 2021; Chao et al, 2021*

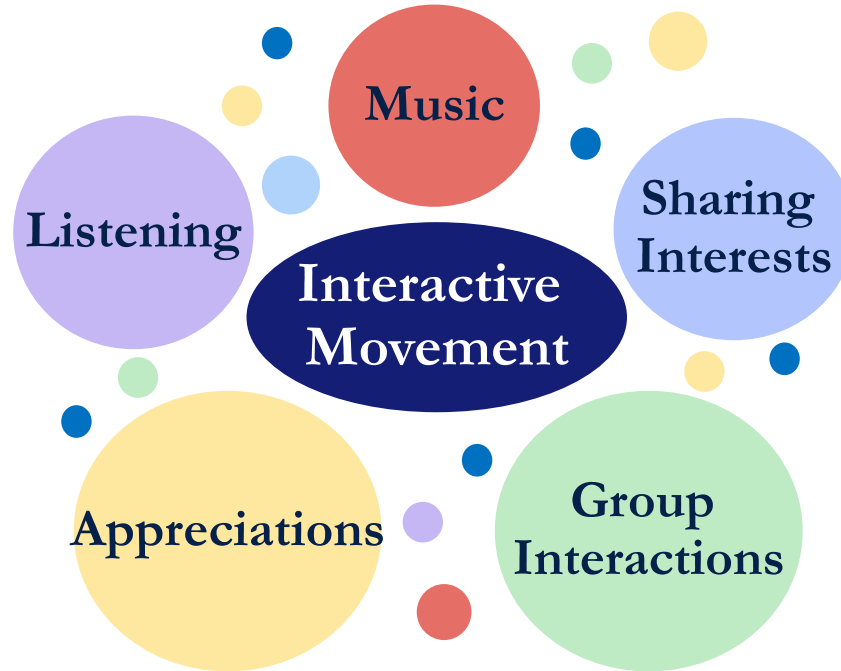
# PLIÉ Functional Movement



**Progressive Developmental Movement Patterns**

# PLIÉ Social Engagement

Building community through interaction



# Research 2010 to Present



**PLIÉ Pilot Studies**  
Mild to Moderate Dementia

2015

**PLIÉ-VA Efficacy Study**  
Mild to Moderate Dementia



**Paired PLIE Efficacy Study**  
Mild to Moderate Dementia

**PLIÉ-CLC VA Skilled Nursing Facility Clinical Demonstration**  
Advanced Dementia  
Complex Behavior



**PLIÉ DoD Neuroimaging Pilot Study**  
Subjective Cognitive Decline or Mild Cognitive Impairment



2020

**Moving Together Proof of Concept Pilot Study**  
Mild to Moderate Dementia



**PLIÉ-CLC VA Skilled Nursing Implementation Study**  
Advanced Dementia  
Complex Behavior

**Moving Together Efficacy Study**  
Mild Dementia or Cognitive Impairment



**UCSF Neuroimaging MOTION Study**  
Mild Cognitive Impairment

2025

**Brain Health Together Efficacy Study**  
Subjective Cognitive Decline or Mild Cognitive Impairment



# MT Proof of Concept Pilot

**Moving Together**  
**Proof of Concept Pilot**  
Mild to Moderate Dementia



**NIH** National Institute on Aging

## Development

Determine elements to retain & identify adaptations

- Human-Centered Design, in-home interviews (n=31)

## Refinement

Refine prototype through iterative testing

- Four 12-week cycles 1-hour class 2x week (n=25)

## Pilot Test

Assess feasibility & satisfaction

- Four 12-week cycles (n=29)

# MT Proof of Concept: Key Findings

*Innovations in mind-body research: Remote delivery of mindful movement interventions - Original Article*



## **Adaptation of an In-Person Mind-Body Movement Program for People with Cognitive Impairment or Dementia and Care Partners for Online Delivery: Feasibility, Satisfaction and Participant-Reported Outcomes**

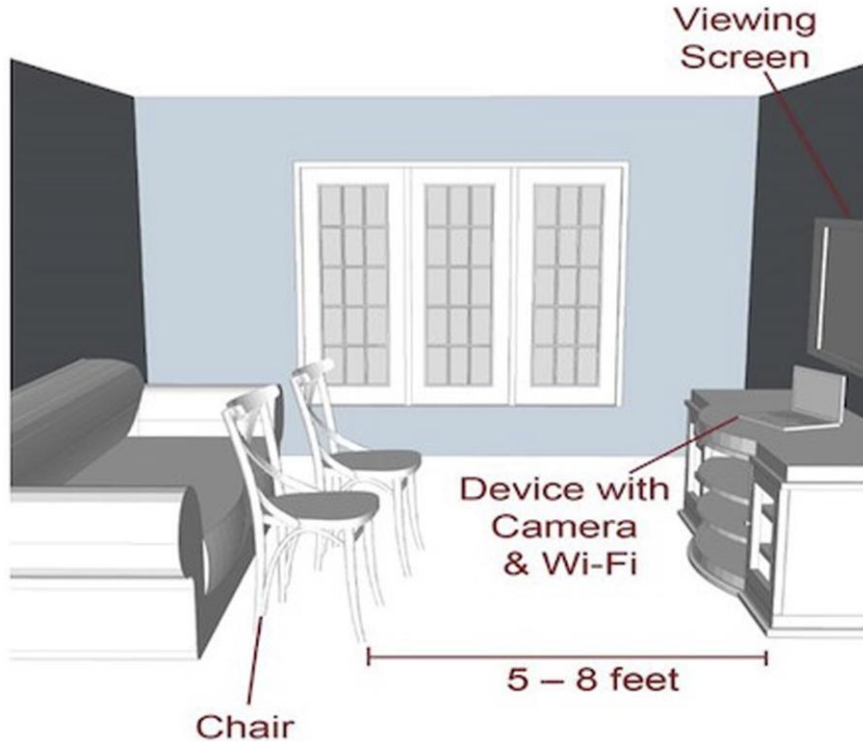
Francesca M. Nicosia, PhD, C-IAYT, Jennifer A. Lee, GCFP, Margaret A. Chesney, PhD, Cynthia Benjamin, MBA, MS, Amanda N. Lee, MS, Wolf Mehling, MD, Rebecca L. Sudore, MD, and Deborah E. Barnes, PhD, MPH

- Social aspect of in-person program important to maintain
- Key refinements to technology
- Instructional strategies

*Nicosia et al, GAIMH 2024*



# Online Program Set-up



## Key Adaptations

- Tech & home set-up
- Real-time tech support
- Online program set-up

# Online Program Set-up



# Adaptations for Online Program Delivery

Program Component	In-person	MT Online
Goals assessment	●	●
Live classes 1hr 2x/wk for 12 weeks	●	●
Same group to participate together over time to foster social connection	●	●
Content adheres to PLIÉ Principles	●	●
Tech & home set-up assessment		●
Welcome kit		●
“Real-time” tech support		●

# MT Efficacy Study

**Design:** Randomized, controlled trial with waitlist control

**Participants:** Dyads of PWCI and CPs (n=97)

**2020-2023**  
**Moving Together**  
**Efficacy Study**  
**Mild Dementia or**  
**Cognitive Impairment**



**NIH** National Institute on Aging

## Measures (BL, 12, 24 weeks)

### Primary Outcome:

- Self-rated QOL

### Secondary Outcomes:

- **PWCI:** Well-being, isolation, mobility, cognitive function
- **CP:** Stress, burden, healthy days, self-efficacy, positive affect

**Other:** Falls, open-ended questions

## Analysis

### Intention-to-treat:

- Linear mixed models

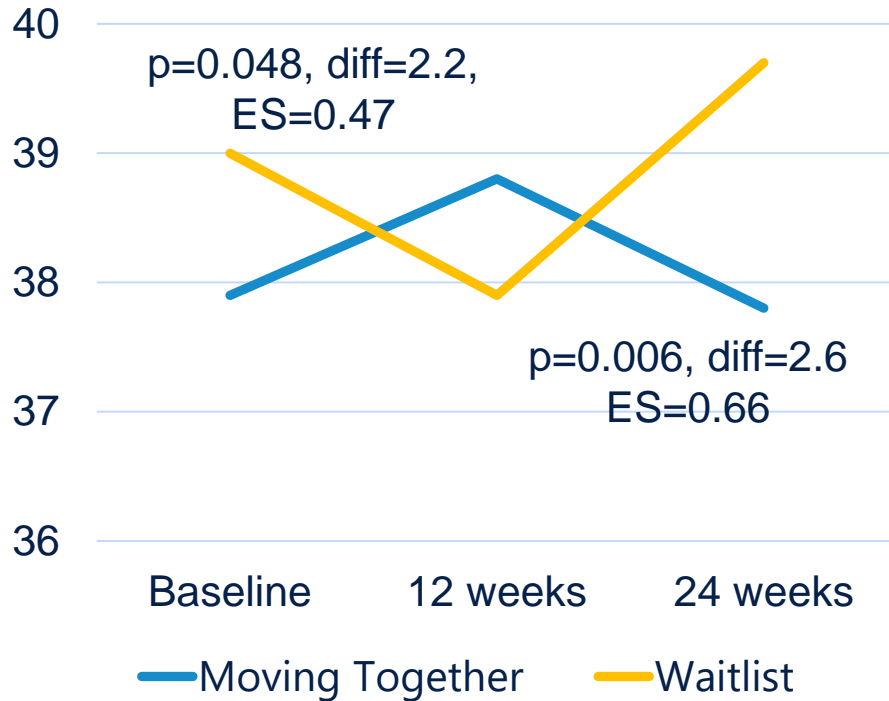
### Mediation:

- “On” vs. “off” treatment

### Qualitative:

- Content analysis

# Results: Quality of Life for PWCI



Emotional Well-Being

“Felt more relaxed and calm”



Better Physical Function

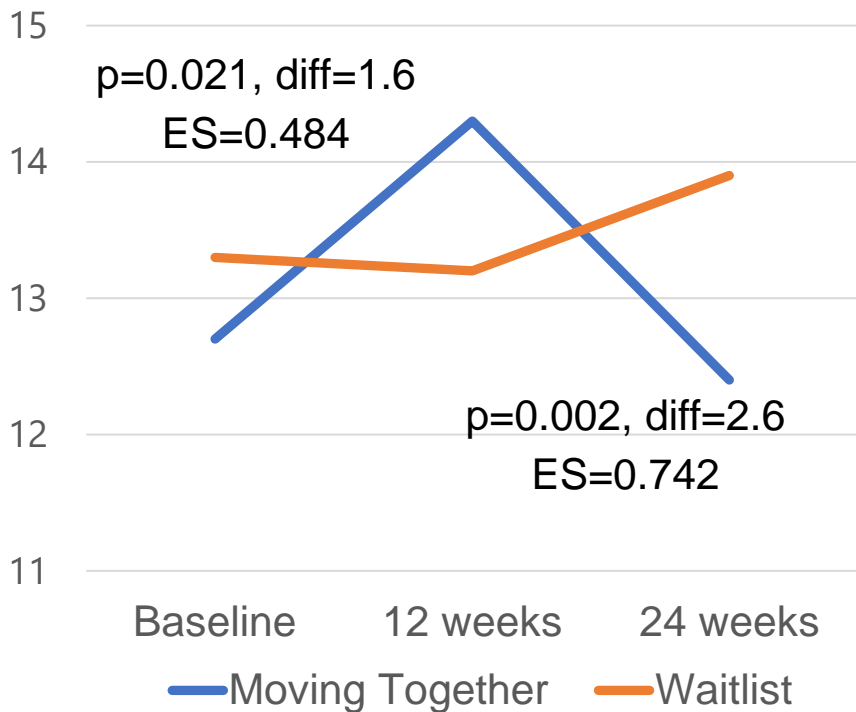
”Enhanced balance and freedom of movement”



Social Connection

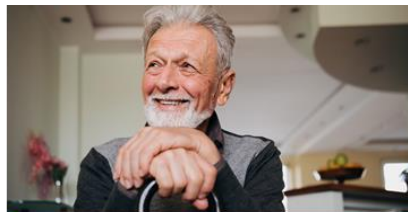
“Participating as a group made me feel more connected to the world, happier, and energized”

# Results: CP Ability to Manage Stress



Breathing

“I started using deep breathing when I was in stressful situations or when trying to fall asleep”



Slowing Down

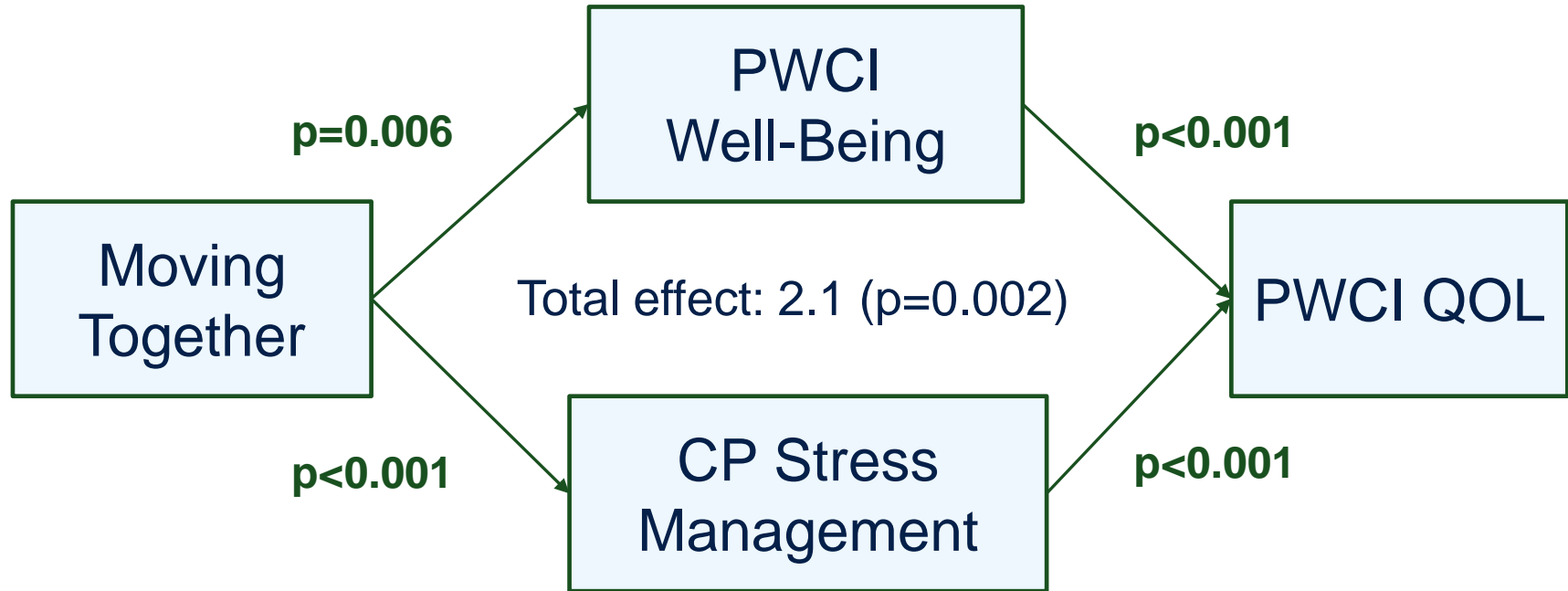
”Realized how important to my well-being to take time to slow down, breathe, and be aware of my body”



Skill Building

“I was able to use some of the techniques to help myself relax when needed”

# Mechanisms of Action



Indirect through well-being: 1.1 (p=0.01)  
Indirect through stress management: 0.5 (p=0.002)

*Barnes et al, TCRI 2024*

# Thank You



PLIÉ Website  
[plie4dementia.com](http://plie4dementia.com)



Moving Together Website



[francesca.nicosia@ucsf.edu](mailto:francesca.nicosia@ucsf.edu)



[@francescanicosia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/francescanicosia)



[@fran\\_nicosia](https://twitter.com/fran_nicosia)



# Mindful Steps and Mind2Move: Utilizing Web Platform and Wearable Technology

**Gloria Y. Yeh, MD, MPH**

Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Division of General Medicine  
Director of Clinical Research, Osher Center for Integrative Health  
Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital

Beth Israel Lahey Health 

**OSHER CENTER  
FOR INTEGRATIVE HEALTH**



 Brigham and Women's Hospital

Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center



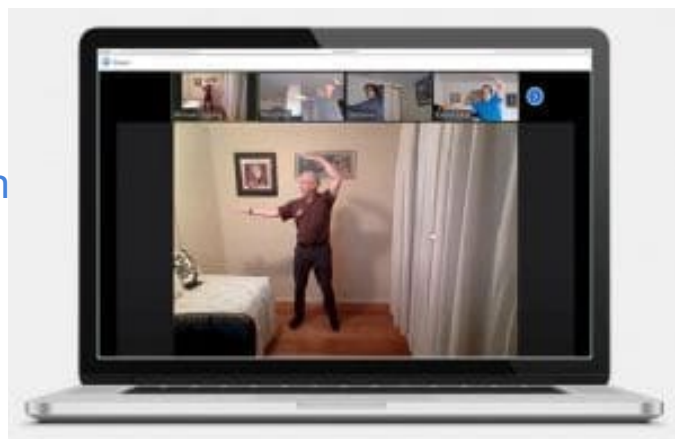
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL

# New Directions: Virtual delivery and Multi-Modal Interventions



Multi-Modal Mindful Movement  
Web Platform + Fitbit for  
COPD and Heart Failure

[CT.gov](http://CT.gov) NCT05934565



Online Tai Chi + Fitbit  
after Acute Coronary  
Syndrome

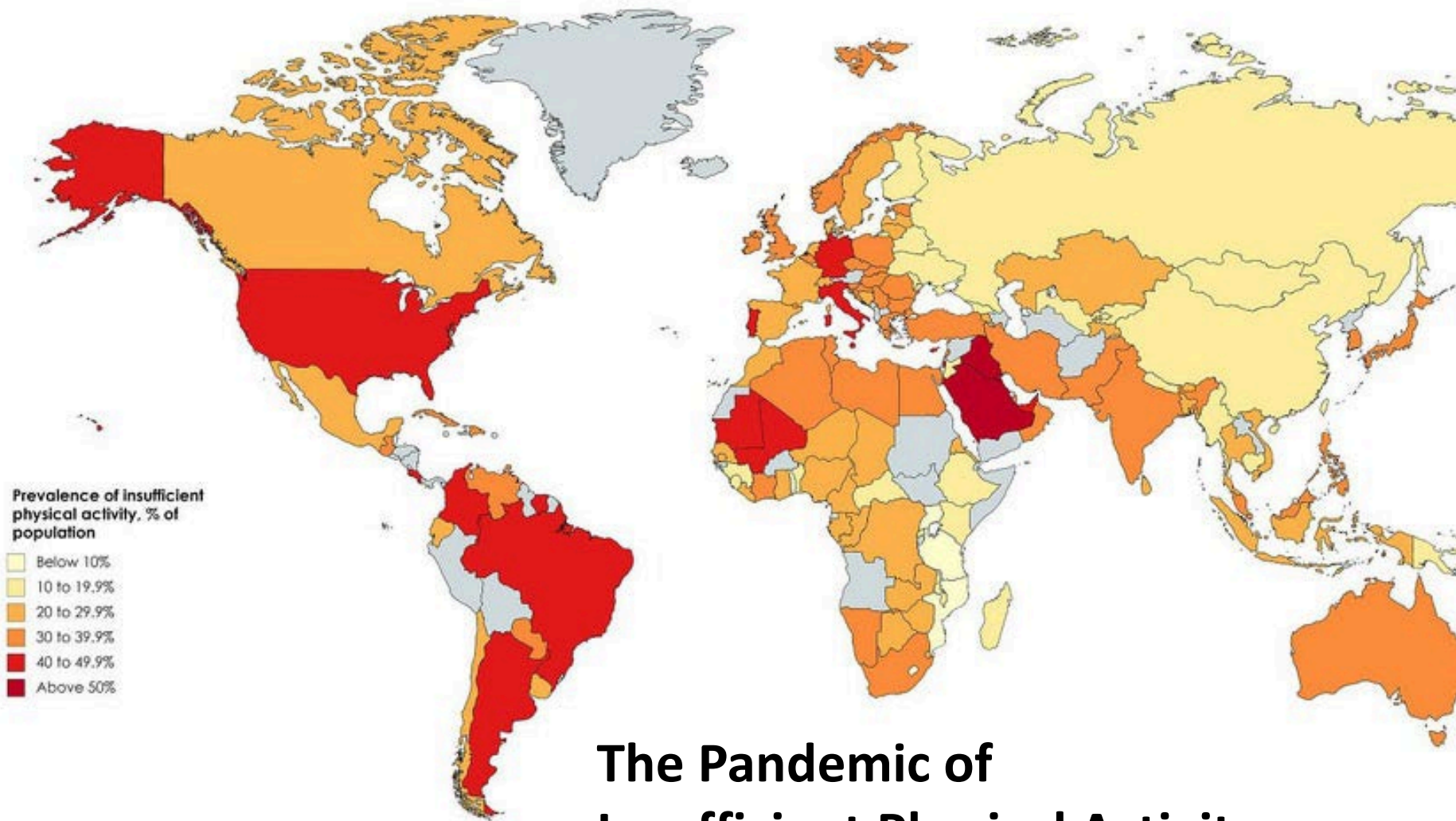
[CT.gov](http://CT.gov) NCT05699642



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R01AT012166-01A1

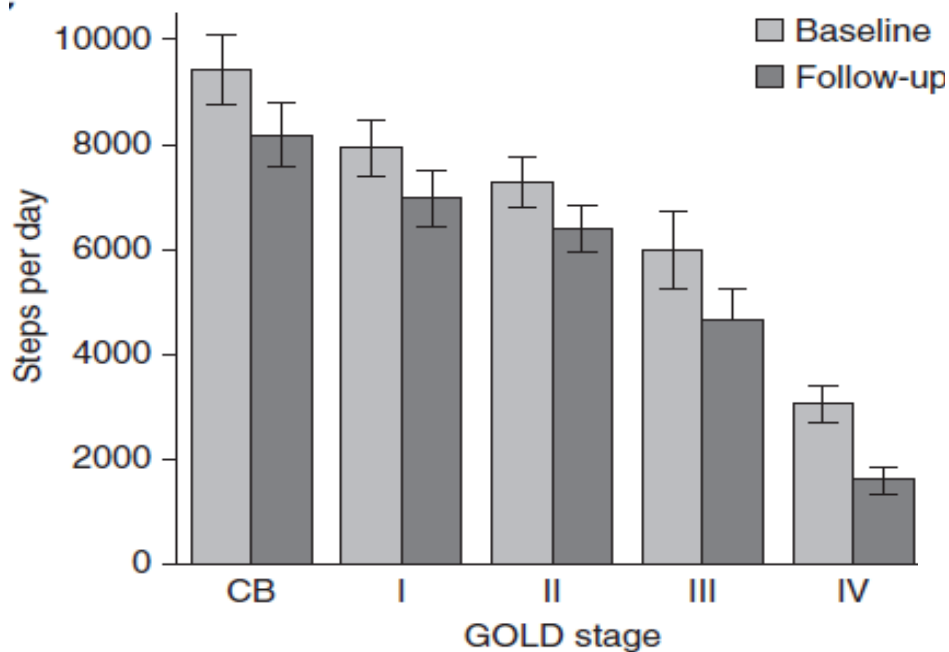
Yeh (PI) Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School



## The Pandemic of Insufficient Physical Activity

# Disease Progression and Changes in Physical Activity in Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Benjamin Waschki<sup>1,2</sup>, Anne M. Kirsten<sup>1</sup>, Olaf Holz<sup>3</sup>, Kai-Christian Mueller<sup>2</sup>, Miriam Schaper<sup>1</sup>, Anna-Lena Sack<sup>1</sup>, Thorsten Meyer<sup>4</sup>, Klaus F. Rabe<sup>2</sup>, Helgo Magnussen<sup>1</sup>, and Henrik Watz<sup>1</sup>

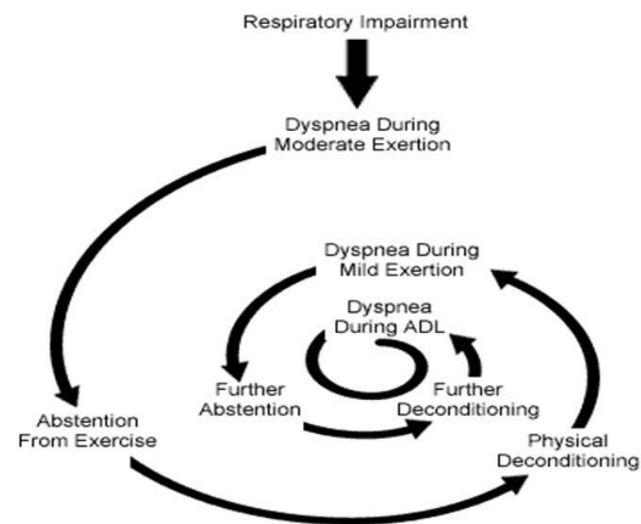


N=137

Mean annual decline

393 steps/day

## Spiral of Disability



ADL = activities of daily living

# Web-mediated tech and mHealth in clinical care and research to promote physical activity

- **Interest in remote home-based programs—**
  - Combine supervised and independent exercise with self-monitoring devices, web- based coaching
  - Many tailored approaches, combine face-to-face with scalability, increased access, potential cost effectiveness of remote intervention
- **Fast developing literature** for web interventions and wearable devices **to promote behavior change**
  - E.g., >1000 Fitbit publications
  - Socioecological models of change, impact self regulation
  - More recent approaches- online social networks, gamification, more mobile- tablets smartphones
- **Older adults** are fastest growing group of internet users



# Mindful Steps v1.0



## Protocol

### Development of a Novel Intervention (Mindful Steps) to Promote Long-Term Walking Behavior in Chronic Cardiopulmonary Disease: Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial

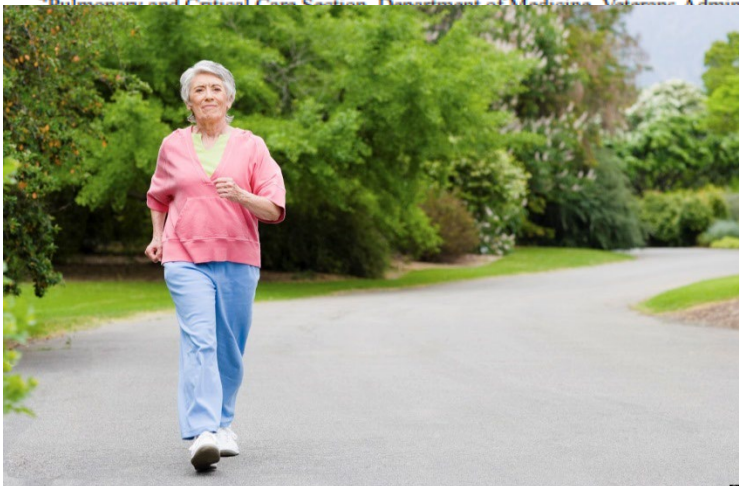
Daniel Litrownik<sup>1</sup>, BA; Elizabeth A Gilliam<sup>1</sup>, MA; Peter M Wayne<sup>2</sup>, PhD; Caroline R Richardson<sup>3</sup>, MD; Reema Kadri<sup>3</sup>, MLIS; Pamela M Rist<sup>2</sup>, ScD; Marilyn L Moy<sup>4</sup>, MD, MSc; Gloria Y Yeh<sup>1,2</sup>, MD, MPH

<sup>1</sup>Division of General Medicine, Department of Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA, United States

<sup>2</sup>Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, United States

<sup>3</sup>Department of Family Medicine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, United States

<sup>4</sup>Department of Critical Care Section, Department of Medicine, Veterans Administration Boston Healthcare System, Boston, MA, United States



# Individualized Step Feedback (integration with Fitbit)



Earn your Stars

114 ★★☆☆

Your current goal is  
**6600 steps per day.**

Home

Forums

Video Library

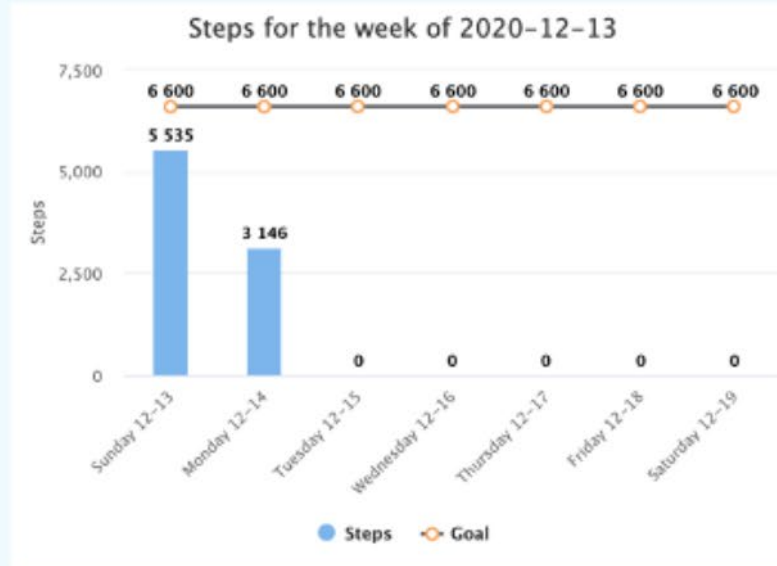
Educational Tips

Motivational Messages

About the Study

Contact Us

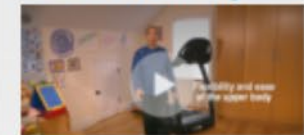
FAQ



Previous week |

## Today's Video

Mechanics of Walking



## Motivational Messages

Week 26: Managing Stress and Anxiety

## Forum Posts

All those worries that never happened  
Walking Is the Best Thing You Can Do for Your Health

# Mind-Body Video Curriculum



dlitrown

Logout

**Earn your Stars**

94 ★☆☆

Your current goal is

**5300 steps per day.**

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## Mindful Warm-ups: Upper Body



### Motivational Messages

Week 8: Who Can You Count On?

### Tips


Tip 28: Your Walking Step and Stride

### Forum Posts

All those worries that never happened  
Walking Is the Best Thing You Can Do for Your Health



# Motivational Messaging



DenisT      Logout

**Earn your Stars** | Your current goal is  
241 ★★☆☆ | 6800 steps per day.

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Forums  
Video Library  
Educational Tips  
Motivational Messages

About the Study  
Contact Us  
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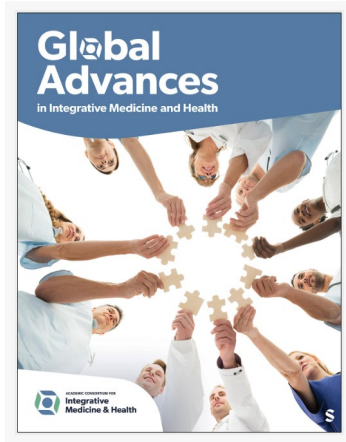
## Week 31: The Gift of Walking



"An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day." Henry David Thoreau

To earn your star, refresh with this video:  
Rewarding Yourself with the Gift of Walking

Forum Posts  
All those worries that never happened  
Walking Is the Best Thing You Can Do for Your Health



*Innovations in mind-body research: Remote delivery of mindful movement interventions - Original Article*

## **A Web-Based Mind-Body Intervention (Mindful Steps) for Promoting Walking in Chronic Cardiopulmonary Disease: Insights From a Qualitative Study**

Global Advances in Integrative Medicine and Health  
Volume 12: 1–14

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DOI: 10.1177/27536130231212169

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Kristen M. Kraemer, PhD<sup>1,2</sup> , Karen Kilgore, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Daniel Litrownik, BA<sup>1,4</sup>,  
Brianna Jean-Laurent<sup>3</sup>, Peter M. Wayne, PhD<sup>4</sup> , Caroline R. Richardson, MD<sup>5</sup>,  
Marilyn L. Moy, MD<sup>6,7</sup>, and Gloria Y. Yeh, MD, MPH<sup>1,4</sup>

## **Qualitative Findings**

- **Most helpful:** pedometer w/ feedback, group movement classes, MB videos
- **Learned strategies** to help walking (breath regulation, body awareness, mind-body techniques, pacing)
- Cultivate more ‘internal’ reasons to walk (e.g., feel good)
- Physical, mental health benefits
- **Suggestions:** more instructions on how to make best use of website, better matching weekly video content with classes, more time for participant check-ins

# Mindful Steps v2.0

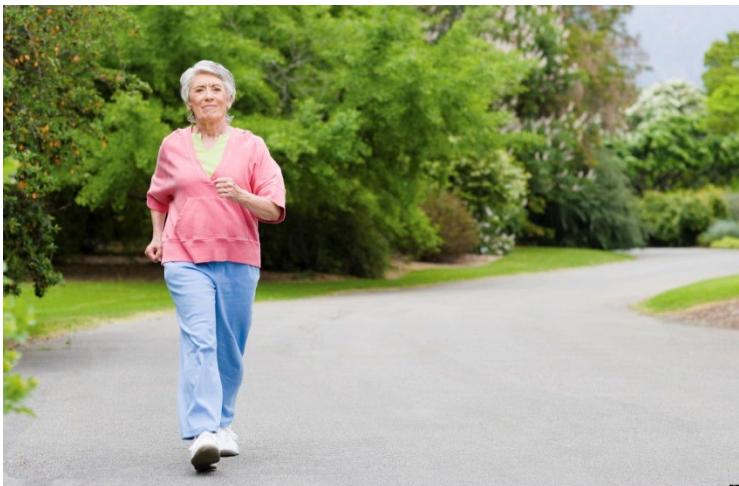
R01AT012166-01A1

N= 136 RCT

- All Remote, National Recruitment, 12 mos MS vs usual care

Primary outcome: daily step counts as a measure of overall PA

- Cognitive-behavioral
- Patient-centered clinical outcomes



# Use of Wearable Health Trackers

- **Consumer interest**- 30% of US adults regularly use 'wearables' in 2020, estimated exponential growth by 25% annually thru 2026
- **Research interest**- Published studies of noninvasive, consumer-grade wearables increased by 400% from 2016 to 2020
  - Wide spectrum of research across mental and physical health
- **Enabled by tech advances**: many devices include
  - Accelerometers, gyroscopes
  - Photoplethysmography
  - Electrodermal activity
  - Thermometer
  - GPS
  - Connected apps and external-linked software

# Common metrics available in wearables

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## **PHYSIOLOGICAL**

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Heart rate – resting  
Heart rate – reactive (e.g., during a logged exercise)  
Heart rate variability (typically overnight)  
Blood pressure  
Respiration rate  
Blood oxygen saturation (SpO<sub>2</sub>)  
ECG  
Skin temperature  
EDA/galvanic skin response/skin conductance

---

## **BEHAVIORAL- PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

---

Step count  
Physical activity types  
Physical activity duration  
Metabolic equivalent for the task or minutes spent in “heart rate zones”  
Sedentary behavior (e.g., total time spent sitting, sitting events, number of periods of prolonged sitting time)

---

## **BEHAVIORAL- SLEEP**

---

Total sleep time  
Sleep efficiency  
Sleep onset latency  
Wake after sleep onset  
Sleep stages  
Time in bed

---

## **BEHAVIORAL- LOCATION**

---

Location variability  
Distance traveled  
Time spent at home and/or work

---



# Important Considerations for Using Wearables in Research

- **“Objective”– BUT many subjective components**  
E.g., decisions in algorithm development that affect numbers, interpretation of data
- **Choice of device– If not ‘research grade’ then Consumer Comes First**
  - Companies balance/sacrifice data quality for other priorities- battery life, interface, screen quality, etc.
  - Internal validity/external validity of the device and metrics collected?
  - Access to raw, unfiltered data- most don't provide

# Important Considerations for Using Wearables in Research

- **Market forces and availability of the device**
  - Fitbit → Google
- **Diversity and equity**
  - Cost, access
  - Skin color and body type/weight affecting sensors
- **Confidentiality and privacy**- Who owns the data
- **Plan for adequate research staff** to troubleshoot and provide tech support

# Thank you!

[gyeh@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:gyeh@hms.harvard.edu)

**Gloria Y. Yeh, MD, MPH**  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Division of General Medicine  
Director of Clinical Research, Osher Center for Integrative Health  
Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital

Beth Israel Lahey Health 

**OSHER CENTER  
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 Brigham and Women's Hospital

Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL



# Remote Delivery of Mindful Movement for Health Care Professionals



Maryanna D. Klatt. Ph.D.  
Director, Center for Integrative Health  
*Professor, Family and Community Medicine*  
*The Ohio State University, College of Medicine*

# A Multi-Modal Intervention Delivered Virtually-Once a Week





# From in Person to Fully Virtual

2004

8 Week MIM Program

Research: Significant improvements in burnout, stress, resilience, work engagement

2008-2017

Scale → Trained 28 Facilitators



2019

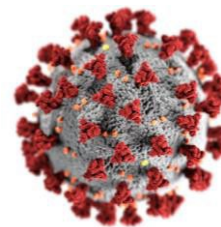
MIM results are sustainable beyond a year

2020

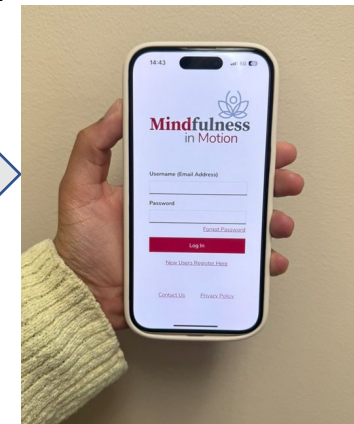


2021-2022

Fully virtual delivery is as effective



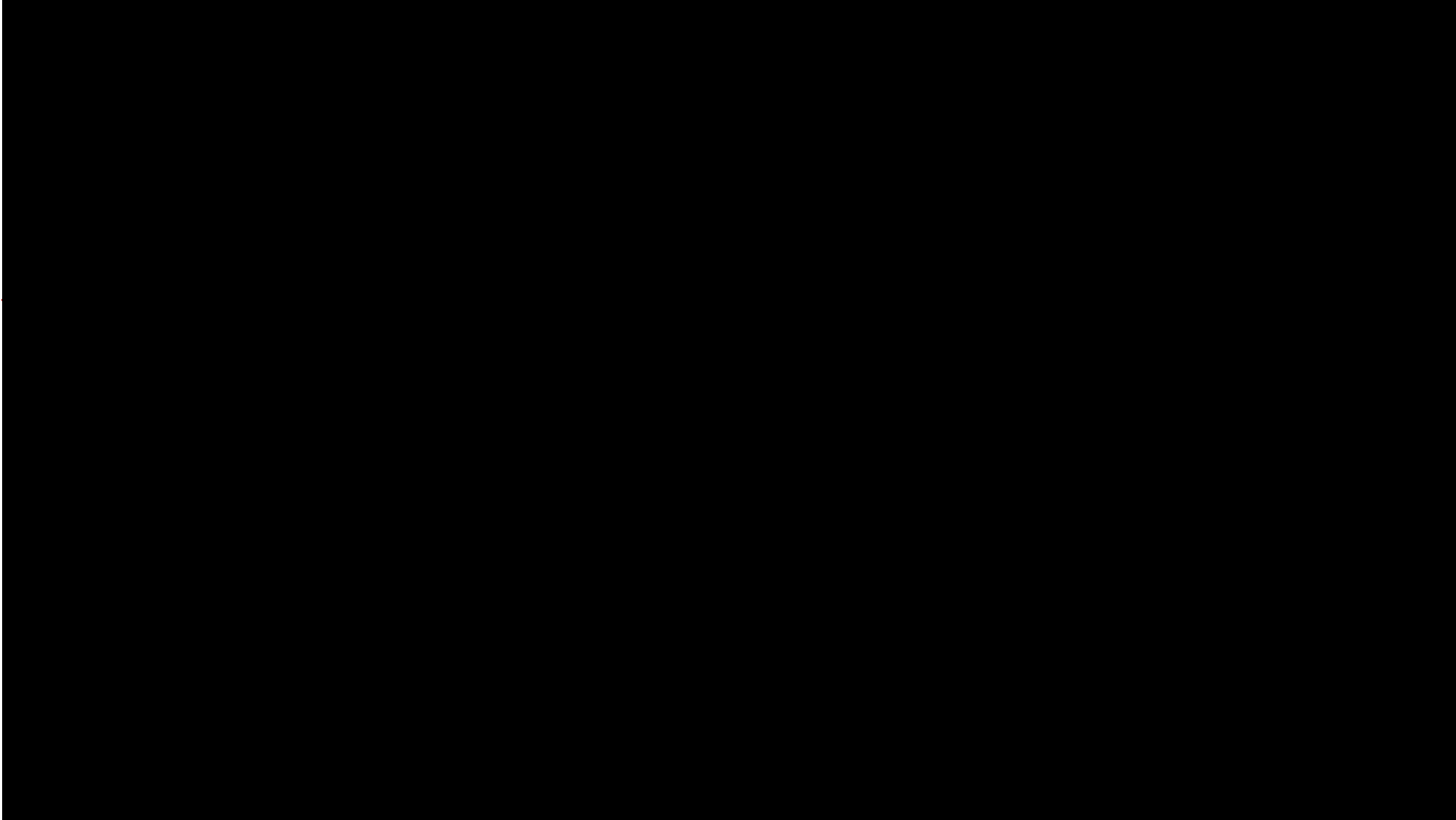
Spread health systems/ corporations



References on all studies:  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/1VWK7hiovdckt/bibliography/public/>

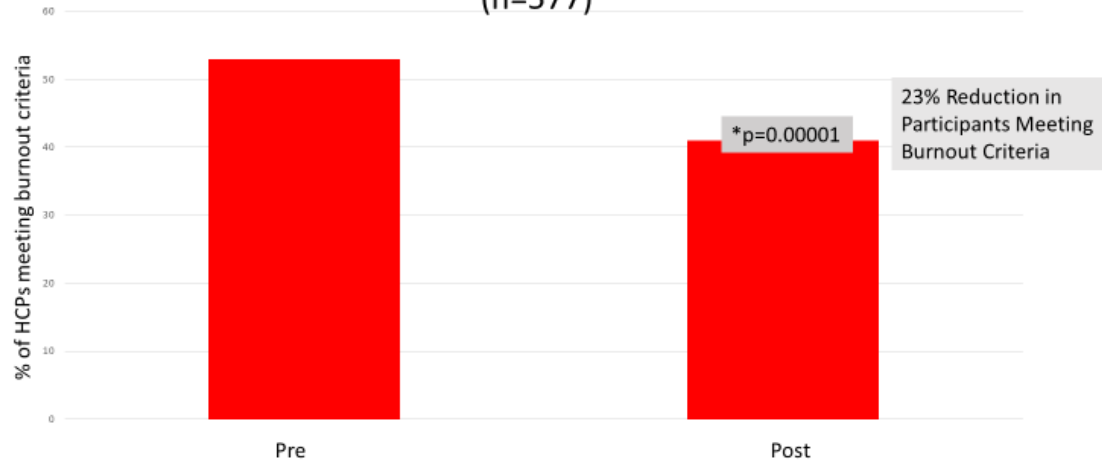
# How to conduct the Mindful Movement pieces remotely and still create community?





### Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) Scores:

(n=577)



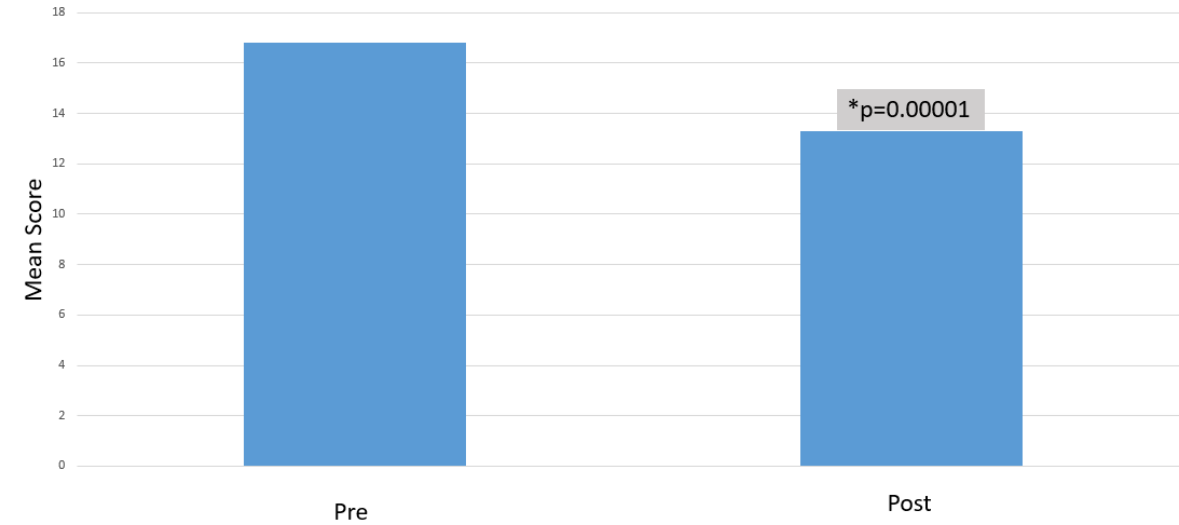
Burnout Criteria:

EE>27 or DP>13 or PA<31

\*denotes significant p value, p<0.05

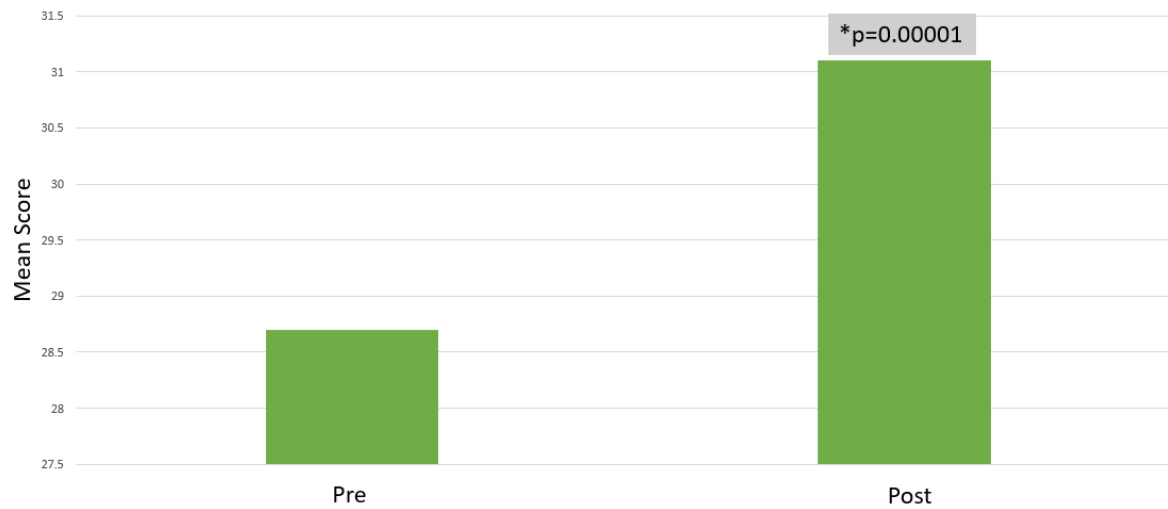
### Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) Scores:

(n=577)



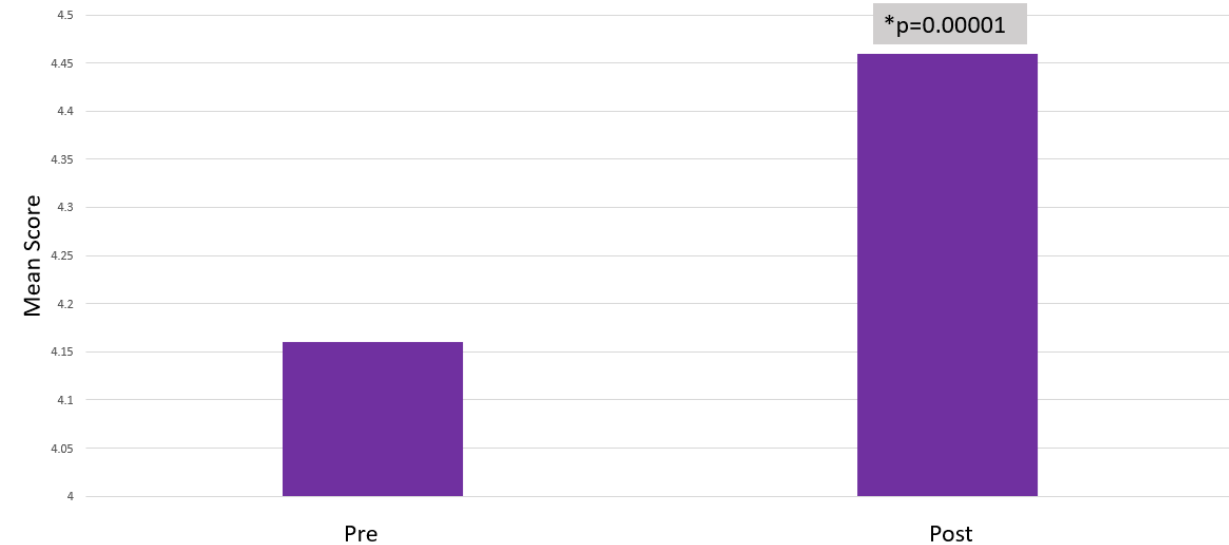
### Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CDRS) Scores:

(n=577)



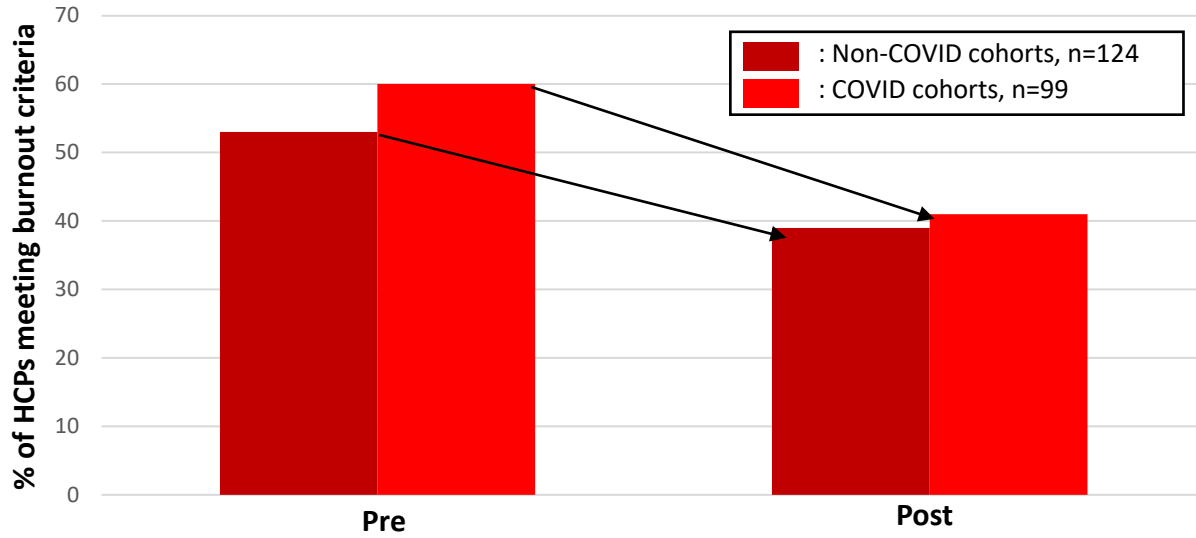
### Utrecht Work Engagement Scale (UWES) Scores:

(n=577)



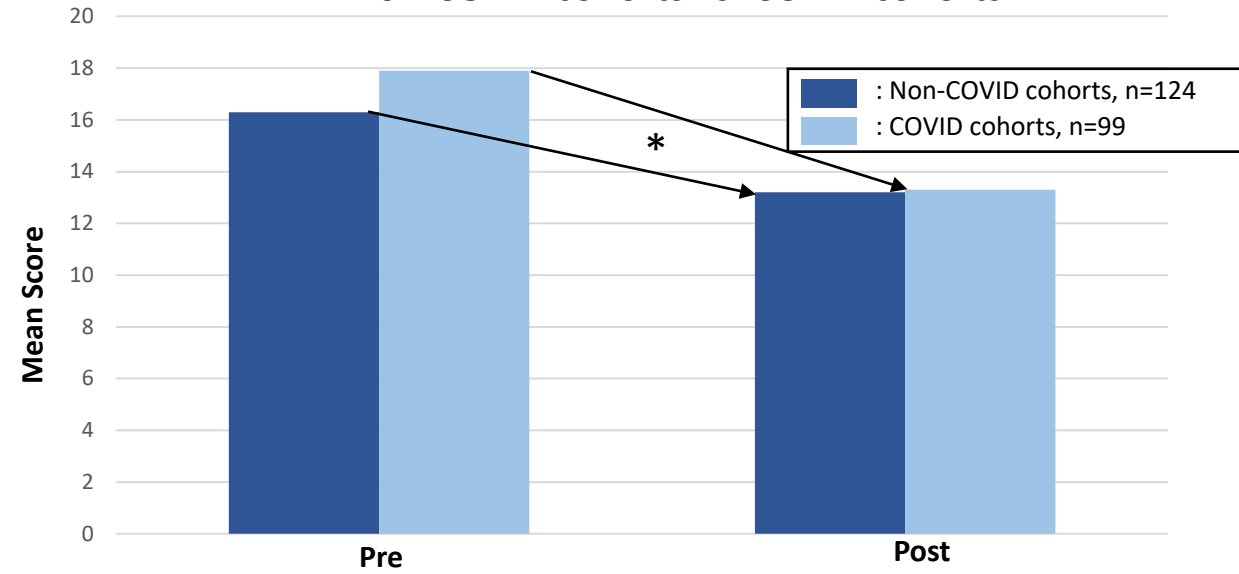
### Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) Scores:

Non-COVID cohorts vs. COVID cohorts



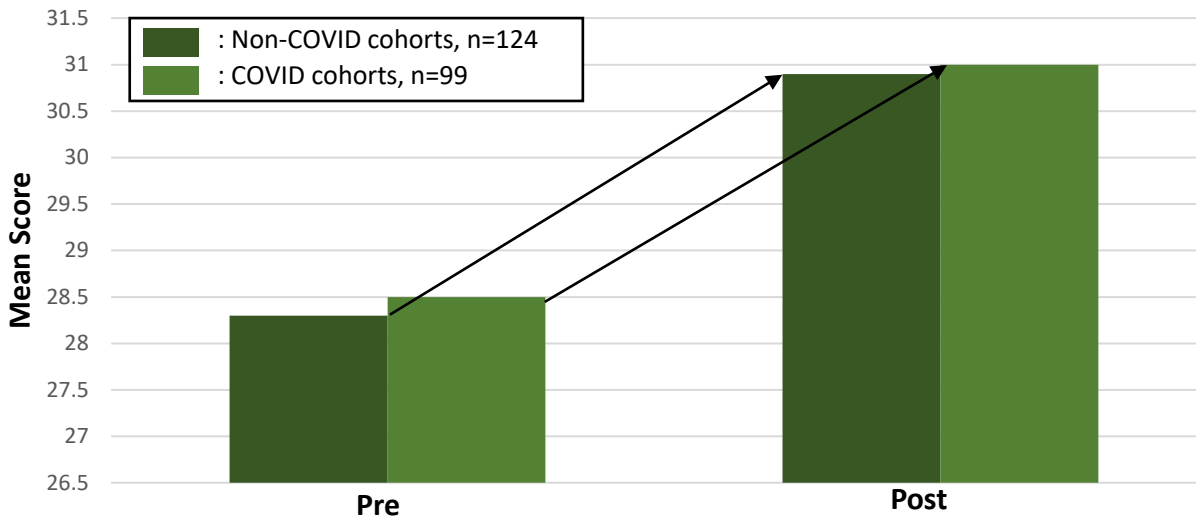
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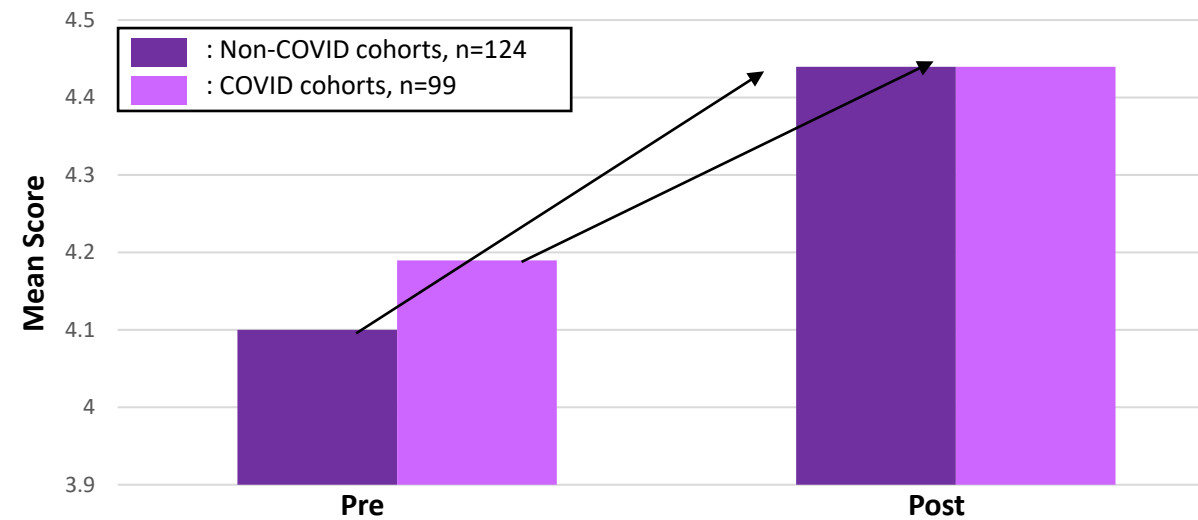
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Non COVID cohort vs. COVID cohort

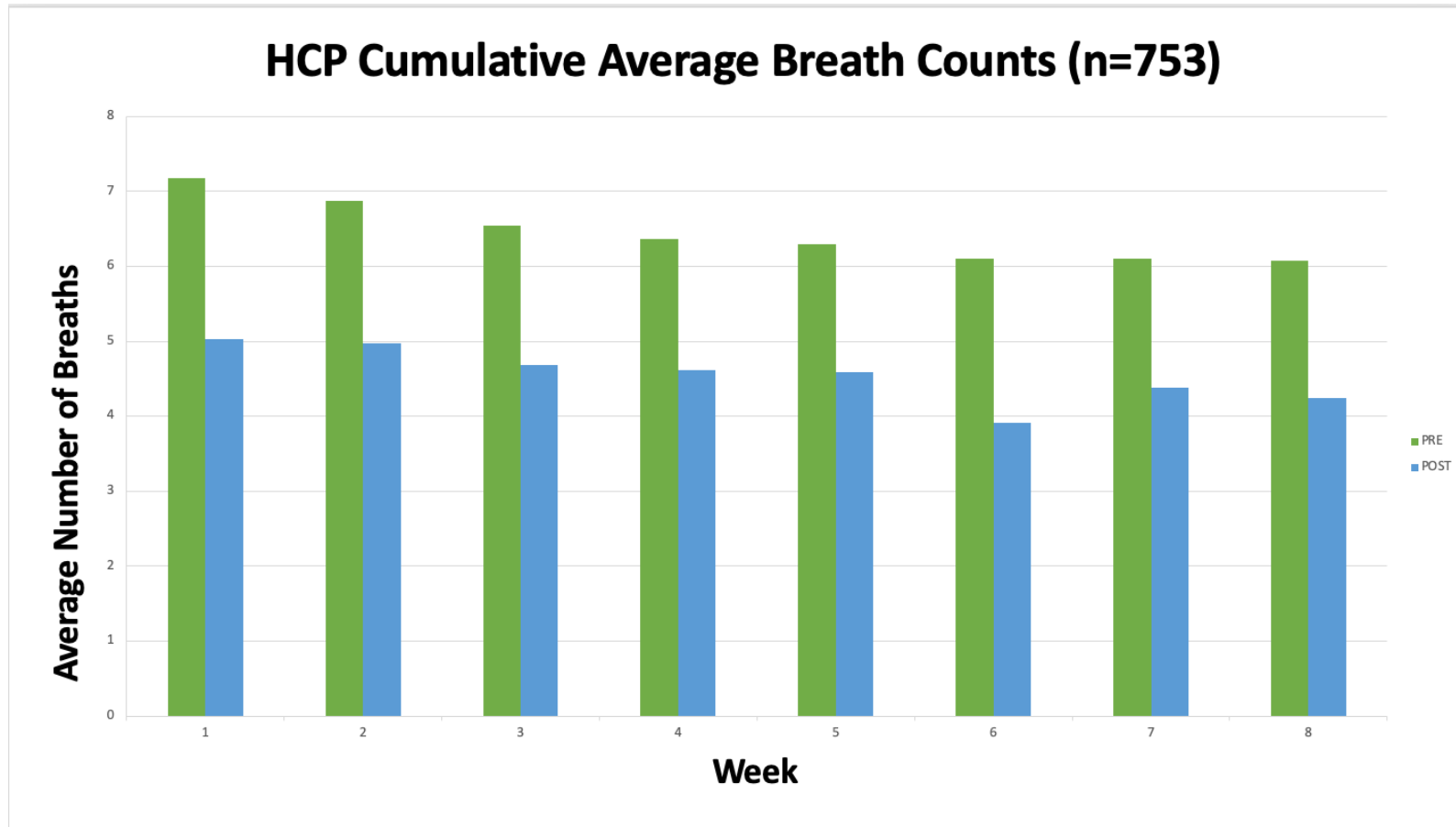


### Utretch Work Engagement Scale (UWES) Scores:

Non-COVID cohort vs. COVID cohort



**From 2004- 2024:**



My assumptions:

1. Showing participants their own data encourages buy in.
2. Having participants take their own respiration rates kept them tuned into the connection between mind/body.





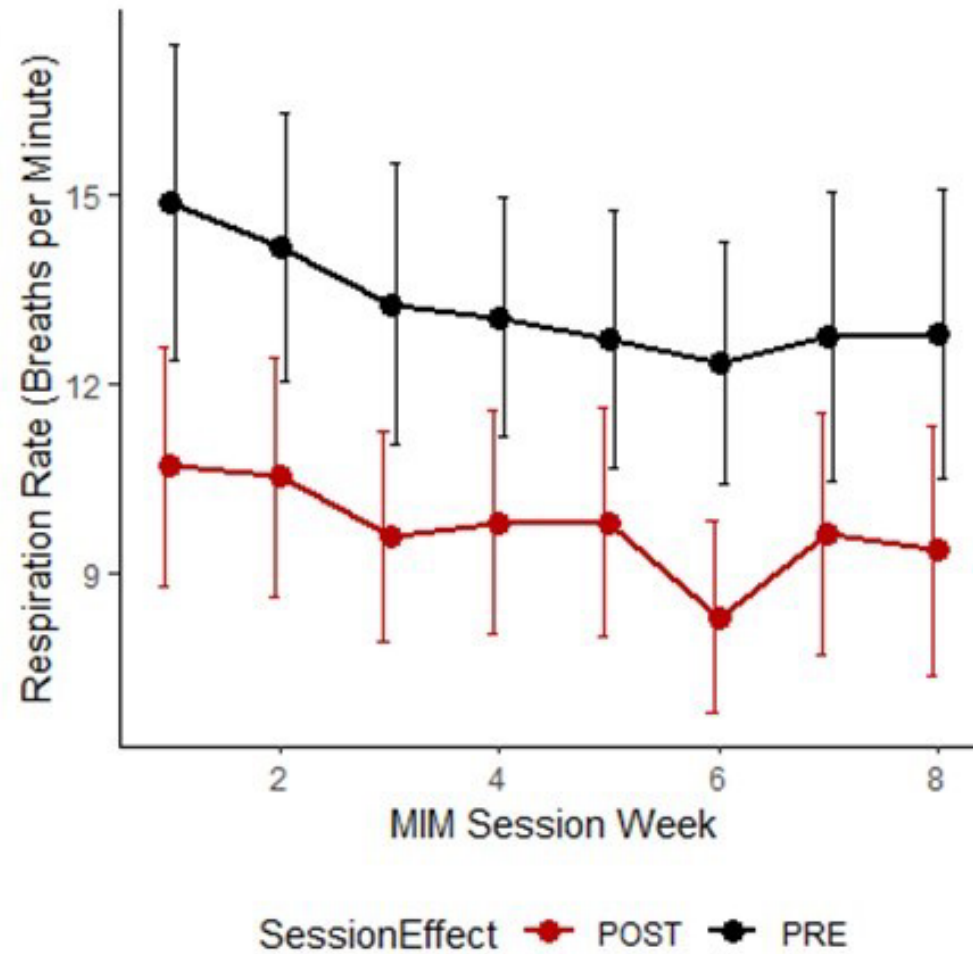
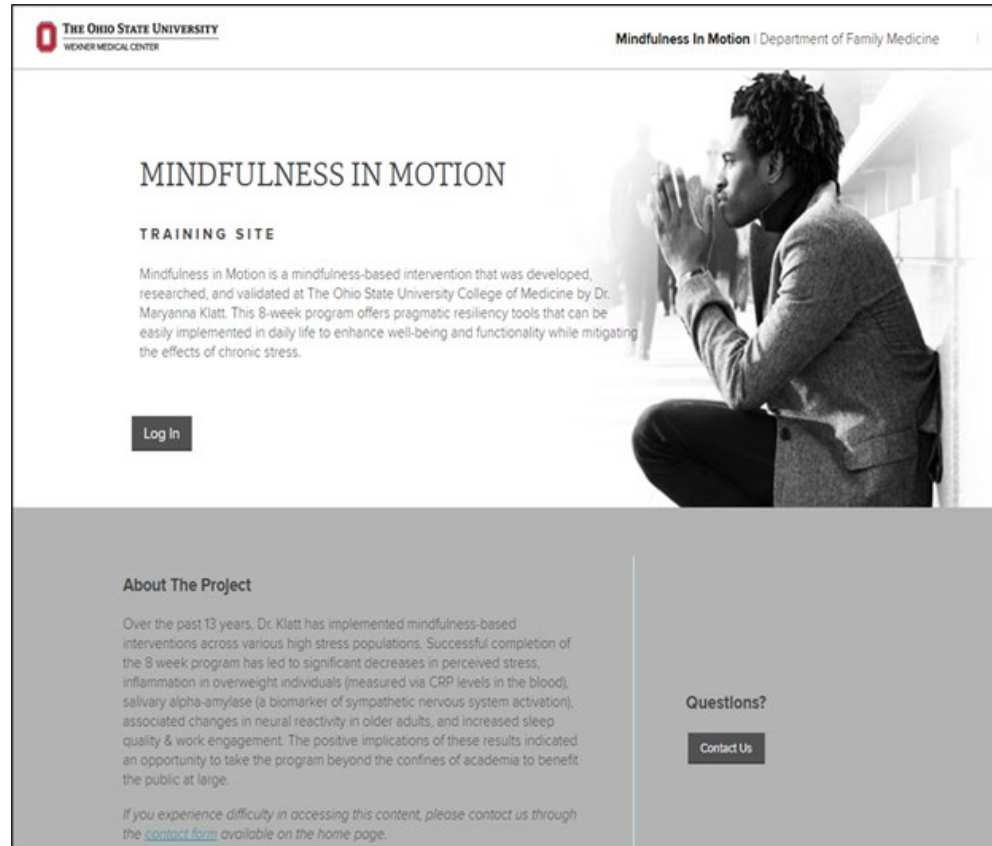



Figure 2. (n=275 fully virtual) Respiration rates per minute across each week at the start (PRE) and end (POST) of Mindfulness in Motion (MIM) sessions.

# Improvement Requested for years

Mobile App  
for practice  
“On-the-go”



# Program Includes a Mobile App With Practices for the Healthcare Professionals



## Mindfulness in Motion

**Username (Email Address)**

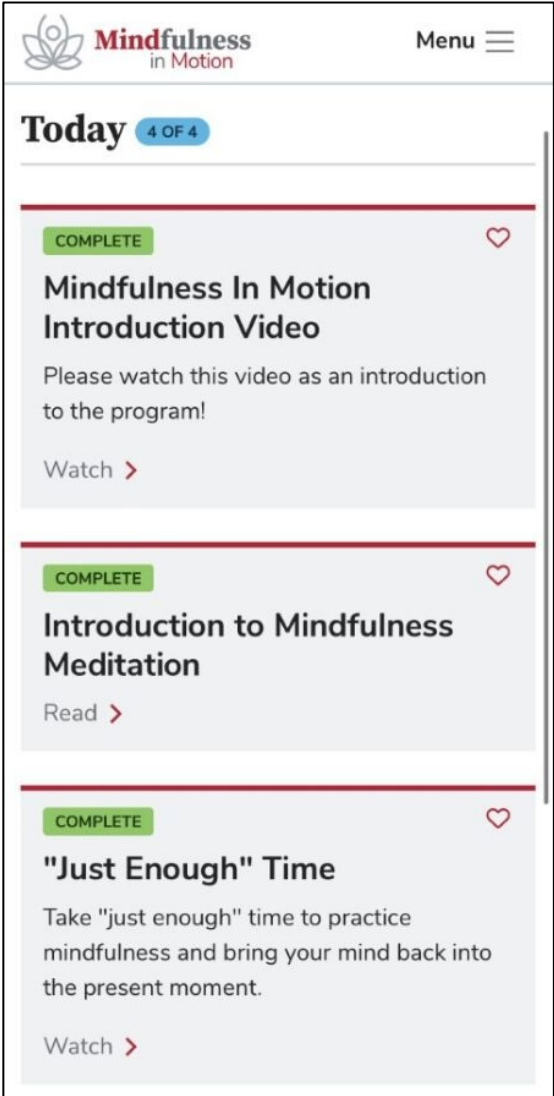
**Password**

[Forgot Password](#)

**Log In**

[New Users Register Here](#)

[Contact Us](#)   [Privacy Policy](#)



**Mindfulness in Motion** Menu

**Today** 4 OF 4

- COMPLETE** Mindfulness In Motion Introduction Video  
Please watch this video as an introduction to the program!  
Watch >
- COMPLETE** Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation  
Read >
- COMPLETE** "Just Enough" Time  
Take "just enough" time to practice mindfulness and bring your mind back into the present moment.  
Watch >



# HCP MINDFULNESS APP USAGE (n=47 from Autumn 24)



Total Hours of Individual  
HCP Engagement via  
Mobile App

107.3 Hours

Total Video Views  
via Mobile App

1343 views



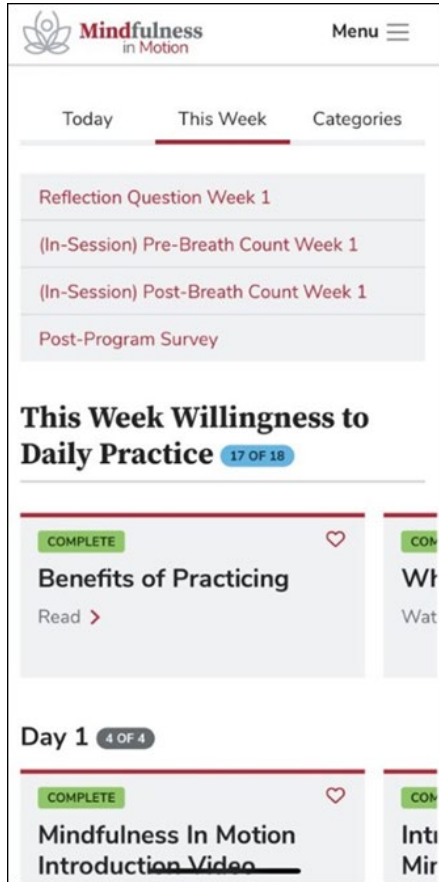
## TOP THREE VIDEOS WATCHED VIDEOS

- 1) Guided Meditation: Strength of the Mountain (20 min) (5.8 hours)
- 2) Clarity and Release (10 min) (5.2 hours)
- 3) Movement Through Balance - 20 min (3.3 hours)

\*Average length of each video is 4.2 minutes. Average watch time per individual is 2.28 hours.



In between patient visits, I take my breath count. It makes me aware if I'm anxious or relaxed. I think my patients are benefiting from my mindfulness practice.



## Week 1: Willingness to Daily Practice

- Day 1: **"Just Enough" Time** (inspiration)
- Day 2: **Becoming Aware** (meditation)
- Day 3: **Seeing in Color** (tense & release meditation) + **Correcting the "Office Slouch"** (gentle movement)
- Day 4: **Breathing as a Tool** (meditation)
- Day 5: **The Most Critical List to Make** (inspiration) + **Opening the Day** (10 min, morning stretch)
- Day 6: **Restoring Perspective** (meditation) + **Posture Realignment Through the Pelvic Tilt** (gentle movement)
- Day 7: **Subtle Sunrise** (nature) + **Reflection**



Lessons learned and remaining questions- Thank you!

# Remote Delivery of Yoga for Mental Health and Remote Heart Rate Variability Collection

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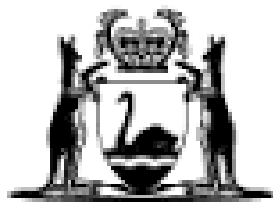
 @DrMathersul





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Jobs, Tourism, Science  
and Innovation





# Yoga vs. CBT for Transdiagnostic Emotional Disorders



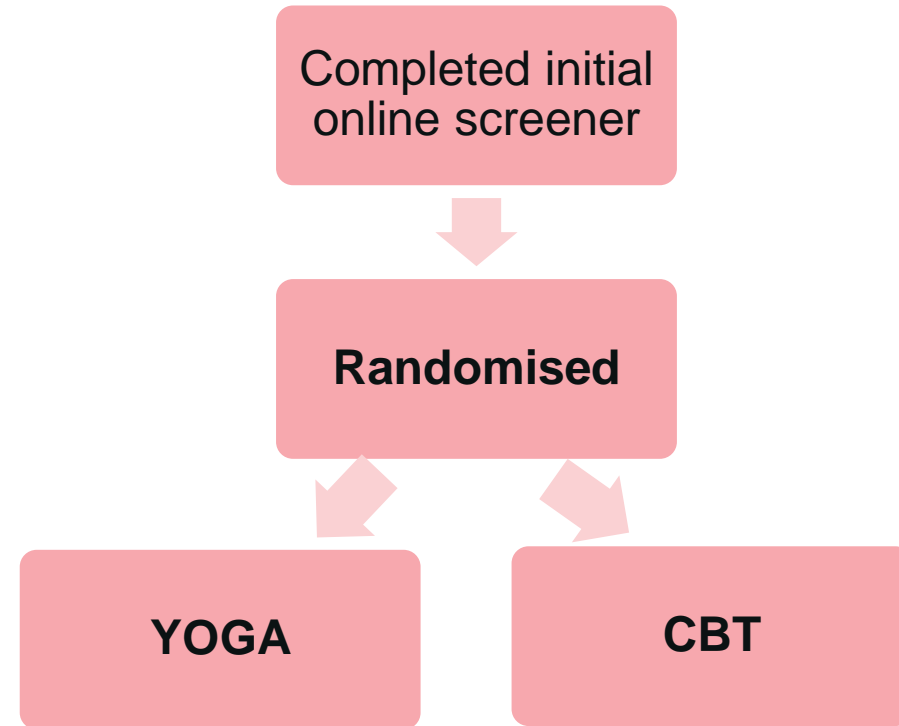
**MU**

## DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH EMOTIONS?

*anxiety or depression?  
difficulties with trauma?  
substance use problems?  
difficulties with sleep?  
thoughts of suicide?*

You may be eligible for **FREE** treatment in our study!

The poster features a red 'MU' logo in the top left corner. The main text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the main text, there are five lines of text in a brown, cursive font, each preceded by a question mark. To the left of this text is a brown scribble. To the right is a cartoon illustration of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a yellow tank top and purple pants. At the bottom center is a cartoon illustration of a pink brain with a yellow bandage on its forehead and small arms and legs.



**How and for whom does Yoga  
improve mental health difficulties?**



# HRV improves with Yoga but not CBT

Mathersul et al. *BMC Psychiatry* (2022) 22:268  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-022-03886-3>

BMC Psychiatry

RESEARCH

Open Access



Emotion dysregulation and heart rate variability improve in US veterans undergoing treatment for posttraumatic stress disorder: Secondary exploratory analyses from a randomised controlled trial

Danielle C. Mathersul<sup>1,2,3,4\*</sup>, Kamini Dixit<sup>1</sup>, R. Jay Schulz-Heik<sup>1</sup>, Timothy J. Avery<sup>1,2,5</sup>, Jamie M. Zeitzer<sup>2,6</sup> and Peter J. Bayley<sup>1,2</sup>

# Baseline HRV identifies who responds best to Yoga or CBT



## OPEN ACCESS

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## Emotion regulation and heart rate variability may identify the optimal posttraumatic stress disorder treatment: analyses from a randomized controlled trial

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# Tips & Tricks for Remote HRV Collection



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- Pre-activated
- Reply-paid padded envelopes
- Infographic card
- Emailed instructions

# Pros & Cons of Remote HRV Collection



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## Cons

- Not returned (or missing)
- Recording during mail time
- Participant adherence
- Adverse reaction to ECG stickers
- RCT design-specific cons

## Pros

- Low resource intensive
- Raw data accessibility
- Increased scope
- Long battery life