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Subject: knee symmetry in elite sprinters—the results

Date: Sat, 10 May 2014 13:36:30 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: Trivers_et_al_2014a1.docx

dear Jeffrey and Gordon

i attach the first and key ms off of the work you two so kindly helped fund

i think we hit gold

knee (and ankle) symmetry do indeed predict success in elite runners and there are interesting differences between sprinters and those running longer races (200m to 800m) including the fact that those proficient in these longer races—all of which involve increasing numbers of left-hand turns—have ankles and feet that show directional asymmetry—left being larger than right—we interpret this tentatively as due to the stress on the left side of the legs due to the left-hand turns

we have excellent data on 2nd:4th digit ratio, since hand scans were taken of all athletes and controls; we are just starting the analysis but we expect the longer races to be associated with lower 2:4, as low 2:4 is known to be correlated with endurance

but the attached is the key paper and i do hope both of you are pleased—without you none of this work would have been done

we plan to submit to Science shortly, with Biology Letters likely our fall-back position

here is wishing you both all that is good

bob