

1 **PROTOCOL TITLE:** The mechanistic effects of acute hypobaric hypoxia on exogenous carbohydrate  
2 utilization during steady-state aerobic exercise

3

4 **SECTION A: RESEARCH TEAM AND LOCATIONS**

5

6 **A1. RESEARCH TEAM**

7

**Study Role**

**Institution/Company and Contact Information**

**Sponsor**

*Organization/Institution/Company:* N/A

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the Research (as  
applicable)**

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1 **A2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

2  
3 **A2.1 Key Research Personnel**

4 *Name(s):* Lee M Margolis

5 *Research Role:* Principal Investigator

6 *Study Responsibilities:* The Principal Investigator is responsible for the safe and scientifically sound  
7 conduct of the study. He will oversee all aspects of study, ensure safety and ethical treatment of  
8 volunteers; maintain required documentation for the study and obtain required approvals; and will  
9 have primary responsibility for data analysis, interpretation, and publication. Dr. Margolis will also  
10 be actively involved in the volunteer brief, obtaining consent, data collection, performing muscle  
11 biopsies, catheterization, phlebotomy, and exercise testing and interventions.

12  
13 *Name(s):* Stefan M Pasiakos

14 *Research Role:* Associate Investigator

15 *Study Responsibilities:* Protocol concept development; formulation of protocol questions,

1 hypotheses, experimental approach and design. Assist PI with volunteer brief, obtain consent,  
2 perform muscle biopsies, catheterization, phlebotomy, exercise testing and interventions, data  
3 collection, management, and analysis and manuscript preparation.

4  
5 *Name(s):* Andrew J Young, Robert W Kenefick, Scott J Montain, Roy M Salgado, and Jessica A  
6 Gwin

7 *Research Role:* Associate Investigators

8 *Study Responsibilities:* Protocol concept development; formulation of protocol questions,  
9 hypotheses, experimental approach and design. Assist PI with data collection, management, and  
10 analysis and manuscript preparation.

11  
12 *Name(s):* Arny A Ferrando

13 *Research Role:* Associate Investigator

14 *Study Responsibilities:* Assist PI with the design, analysis, and interpretation of the stable isotope  
15 studies of glucose metabolism. Dr. Ferrando will receive and analyze coded, de-identified blood  
16 samples for isotopic analysis. He will not interact or intervene with study volunteers or have access  
17 to personal identifiable information. **A coded specimen transfer agreement is included with this**  
18 **submission.**

19  
20 *Name(s):* Marques Wilson

21 *Research Role:* Project Coordinator

22 *Study Responsibilities:* Supervise, manage, and coordinate study logistics and biological data  
23 collection. He will be involved with study implementation. He will actively participate in data  
24 collection to include catheterization, phlebotomy, exercise testing and interventions, and DEXA  
25 scans. He will assist in management, analysis and interpretation of data.

## 26 27 **A2.2. Others Involved in the Research, as applicable**

28 *Name(s):* Claire Whitney and Adrienne Hatch

29 *Research Role:* Study Dietitian

30 *Study Responsibilities:* Baseline diet assessments, study diet development, and prepare and  
31 administer test diets to volunteers. She will actively participate in data collection to include exercise  
32 testing and interventions, phlebotomy, and DEXA scans. She will assist in management, analysis  
33 and interpretation of data.

34  
35 *Name(s):* Nancy Murphy

36 *Research Role:* Biological Sample Coordinator

37 *Study Responsibilities:* Supervision, management, and coordination of logistics and biological data  
38 collection and analysis. She will be involved with protocol development, study implementation. Data  
39 collection responsibilities will involve sample processing.

40  
41 *Name(s):* Christopher Carrigan

42 *Research Role:* Research Assistant

43 *Study Responsibilities:* Assist with data collection and biological sample processing and analysis.  
44 Data collection responsibilities will involve with DEXA measurements, phlebotomy, and  
45 catheterization.

46  
47 *Name(s):* Karleigh Bradbury, and Beau Yurkevicius

48 *Research Role:* Research Technician

49 *Study Responsibilities:* Assist with data collection to include catheterization, phlebotomy, exercise  
50 testing and interventions, DEXA scans and biological sample processing and analysis.

51  
52 *Name(s):* Katherine Mitchell

53 *Research Role:* Research Technician

1            *Study Responsibilities:* Assist with data collection to include exercise testing and interventions and  
2            DEXA scans.

3  
4   *Name(s):* Pedro Claro, SGT Ray Rivera, Claudia Toussaint, and LTC Frank Petrassi

5            *Research Role:* Altitude Chamber Crew Chief

6            *Study Responsibilities:* Will act as the Altitude Chamber Crew Chief, coordinate schedule for  
7            altitude chamber, and supervise altitude chamber operation.

8  
9            *Name(s):* SGT Brandon Cordell, SGT Cassandra Rousayne, SGT Alfonso Patino, and SPC Jason  
10            Alaniz

11            *Research Role:* Altitude Chamber Operator

12            *Study Responsibilities:* Will act as the Altitude Chamber Operator.

13  
14            *Name(s):* Patrick Radcliffe and Heather Fagnant

15            *Research Role:* Research Technician

16            *Study Responsibilities:* Assist with diet preparation and data collection.

17  
18            *Name(s):* MAJ Robin Cushing

19            *Research Role:* Research Monitor

20            *Study Responsibilities:* The research monitor for this study is MAJ Robin Cushing. MAJ Robin  
21            Cushing is an appropriate subject matter expert not associated with the protocol. The research  
22            monitor shall, at a minimum, review all unanticipated problems involving risk to subjects or others,  
23            serious adverse events and all subject deaths associated with the protocol and provide an unbiased  
24            written report of the event. The PI and research monitor will discuss 'discontinuation criteria' for  
25            individual volunteers as the study progresses, based on their observations of the volunteer during  
26            testing or non-testing periods.

27  
28            *Name(s):* Katelyn Guerriere and Sarah Ross

29            *Research Role:* Ombudsman

30            *Study Responsibilities:* Will act as the ombudsman for this study as necessary.

### 31 32   **A3. RESEARCH LOCATIONS**

33  
34            USARIEM, Natick MA: The U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM) is a  
35            DoD research facility within the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. It is the Institute  
36            responsible for conducting basic and applied research to determine the effects of exposure to  
37            environmental extremes, occupational tasks, physical training, deployment, operational stress and  
38            nutritional factors on the health and performance of military personnel. The facility contains  
39            environmental chambers for controlling temperature and humidity, an environmentally controlled  
40            hypobaric chamber, a water immersion laboratory, as well as several dry and wet laboratories for  
41            animal and human experimentation. The dry laboratories are capable of a broad range of experiments,  
42            including biomechanical analysis, body composition, energy expenditure, muscle strength and  
43            endurance. The wet laboratories include general clinical chemistry analyzers, as well as equipment for  
44            ELISA, RIA, histology, and molecular biology assays. Each investigator at the facility has a personal  
45            computer with software for data management, analysis, presentation and report generation. Their  
46            computers are interfaced with a network server for easy, secure data handling and transfer. All testing  
47            procedures will take place at USARIEM.

48  
49            University of Arkansas Medical Science, Center for Translational Research in Aging and Longevity,  
50            Little Rock, AR: The Center for Translation Research in Aging & Longevity (CTRAL), Donald W  
51            Reynolds Institute of Aging (RIOA), University of Arkansas for Medical Science (UAMS) has the basic  
52            laboratory facilities and equipment to analyze stable isotope kinetics, including 2 Agilent 5973 GC/MS,  
53            and 3 Agilent 5975 GC/MS, a Finnegan TSQ 7000 LC/MS/MS, and a Waters QTOF LC/MS. The

1       CTRAL is led by the world's foremost expert in stable isotope assessments of human metabolism, Dr.  
2       Robert R Wolfe.

3  
4       Metabolic Solutions, Nashua, NH: Metabolic Solutions is a state-of-the art stable isotope analytical  
5       laboratory that has the basic laboratory facilities and equipment to analyze stable isotope in breath and  
6       blood. Equipment onsite includes an Agilent 6110 LC-Tandem Mass Spectrometer (LC-MS/MS) Triple  
7       Quad with Agilent 1100 LC, Thermo Finnigan Delta XP Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer (IRMS) with  
8       GC Isolink for  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$  and  $^2\text{H}$  GC-IRMS and Conflow IV interface, and a Thermo Finnigan Delta V  
9       Advantage IRMS with trace GC-Combustion III unit for  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$  and D GC-C-IRMS and Conflow IV  
10      interface and elemental Analyzer EA112HT  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$  and D sample combustion unit. Metabolic  
11      Solutions has been an industry leader in developing new stable isotope tracer applications. Metabolic  
12      Solutions will analyze samples on a fee for service basis.

13  
14      Pennington Biomedical Research Center (PBRC), Baton Rouge, LA: The laboratory is accredited by  
15      the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and participates in proficiency testing programs  
16      administered by the CAP. Biochemical analyses will be conducted at PBRC on a fee for service basis.

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## 21   **SECTION B: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### 23   **B1. ABSTRACT**

24      Service members deployed to high altitude (HA; hypobaric hypoxia) regions of the world experience  
25      aerobic performance decrements. Factors contributing to hypoxia-associated aerobic performance  
26      decrements, include an alteration in carbohydrate oxidation to metabolize energy to support the muscle  
27      workload. However, research has failed to consistently demonstrate an ergogenic advantage of  
28      consuming supplemental carbohydrate during strenuous work at HA. Moreover, there is evidence that  
29      oxidation of exogenous carbohydrate during exercise is blunted under acute hypobaric hypoxic  
30      conditions compared to normoxia (1, 2). The mechanisms by which hypoxia suppresses exogenous  
31      carbohydrate oxidation are not known. A better understanding how hypoxia modulates energy  
32      substrate metabolism during exercise is necessary for appropriate design and implementation of  
33      nutritional interventions aimed at maintaining physical performance at HA. The primary objective of this  
34      study is to confirm that acute HA exposure decreases exogenous carbohydrate oxidation during  
35      steady-state aerobic exercise compared to SL, and explore if the mechanism inhibiting plasma glucose  
36      uptake is insulin dependent or independent. This randomized crossover study will examine substrate  
37      metabolic responses to ingesting supplemental carbohydrate during steady-state aerobic-type exercise  
38      at sea level (SL) and following acute (~5 h) exposure to HA (4,300 m) conditions in 10 healthy,  
39      recreationally active males between the ages of 18-39 yrs. Following a 48-hr muscle glycogen  
40      normalization period, volunteers will complete 80-min of metabolically-matched, steady-state aerobic  
41      (same absolute workload corresponding to  $\sim 55 \pm 5\%$  of  $\text{VO}_{2\text{peak}}$  at HA) exercise on a treadmill, and  
42      consume 145 g of glucose ( $1.8 \text{ g} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ ) at SL and HA. SL and HA trials will occur in the USARIEM  
43      hypobaric chamber and be separated by a minimum 7-d washout period. Glucose tracers will be used  
44      to assess glucose turnover, and contribution to exogenous and plasma glucose oxidation. Indirect  
45      calorimetry and urine collections will be used to determine total carbohydrate, fat, and protein oxidation  
46      during exercise at SL and HA. Serial blood draws will be collected during each trial to assess  
47      endocrine and circulating substrate responses to exercise, carbohydrate, and hypoxia. Muscle biopsies  
48      will be collected before and after steady-state exercise to examine muscle glucose transporter  
49      expression and translocation, glycogen status, and activity intramuscular enzymes in aerobic and  
50      anaerobic energy metabolism. The primary risks associated with this study include those associated  
51      with acute hypobaric hypoxia, exercise, blood draws, and muscle biopsies.

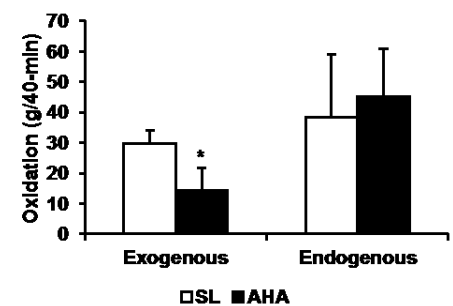
### 53   **B2. BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE**



1  
2 Ingesting carbohydrate during aerobic exercise conducted at SL increases exogenous carbohydrate  
3 oxidation and limits endogenous carbohydrate utilization (3-6). Only two previous studies have  
4 investigated how hypoxia affects oxidation of exogenous carbohydrate ingested during exercise, and  
5 the observations reported from those studies differ (1, 2). When carbohydrate was ingested during  
6 exercise at 77%  $\dot{V}O_{2max}$  in normoxia and hypoxia equivalent to 4,300 m, exogenous carbohydrate  
7 oxidation was the same (2). In contrast, when carbohydrate was ingested during lower intensity  
8 exercise (55%  $W_{max}$ , ~55-60%  $\dot{V}O_{2max}$ ), exogenous carbohydrate oxidation was lower at high altitude  
9 (HA; 3,375 m) than normoxia (1). The reasons for the discrepant effects of hypoxia observed in these  
10 studies on exogenous carbohydrate oxidation during exercise are not clear, but might reflect  
11 differences in the exercise intensities employed.

12  
13 Hypoxia reduces  $\dot{V}O_{2max}$  (7, 8), so in the experiments described above (1, 2), exercise was performed  
14 at lower absolute intensity and metabolic rate in hypoxia to maintain relative exercise intensity (i.e. %  
15  $\dot{V}O_{2max}$ ) the same as normoxia. However, from a scientific (9, 10) and practical perspective (the  
16 metabolic rate during physical activities is the same at SL and  
17 HA, notwithstanding differences in relative intensity (i.e., %  
18  $\dot{V}O_{2max}$ ). We believe that differences in substrate metabolism  
19 during exercise at HA and SL should be investigated at the  
20 same absolute workload in both conditions. In one of the  
21 aforementioned studies (2), Péronnet et al. also compared  
22 exogenous carbohydrate oxidation during exercise performed at  
23 the same absolute intensity and metabolic rate (i.e.,  $\dot{V}O_2 = \sim 2.2$   
24  $L \cdot min^{-1}$ , 11.6  $kca \cdot min^{-1}$ ) in normoxia (54%  $\dot{V}O_{2max}$ ) and hypoxia  
25 (78%  $\dot{V}O_{2max}$ ) equivalent to 4,300 m. When subjects consumed  
26 140 g of glucose during aerobic exercise that was metabolically  
27 matched exogenous glucose oxidation was numerically lower  
28 but not statistically different at HA compared to SL, while total  
29 and endogenous carbohydrate oxidation were significantly increased at HA compared to SL. Maximal  
30 exogenous carbohydrate oxidation rates are achieved between 51-64% of  $\dot{V}O_{2max}$  (11). Therefore, in  
31 this previous study (2), it is possible that exogenous carbohydrate oxidation was already maximal  
32 during the normoxic exercise trials and could not increase any further during the hypoxic exercise. In a  
33 recent investigation, our laboratory sought to examine whether oxidation rates of exogenous glucose  
34 would differ during exercise performed at the same absolute intensity in normoxic and hypoxic  
35 conditions at exercise intensities eliciting less than maximal exogenous carbohydrate oxidation rates at  
36 HA. Findings from this study (unpublished) indicated that exogenous glucose oxidation diminished by  
37 46% from SL to HA when participants consumed 144 g carbohydrate while walking on a treadmill for  
38 80-min at a fixed absolute workload ( $\dot{V}O_2 = \sim 1.7 L \cdot min^{-1}$ ; 55%  $\dot{V}O_{2max}$  at HA; **Figure 1**). While  
39 exogenous glucose oxidation was lowered in our investigations, endogenous carbohydrate oxidation  
40 was numerically but not statistically higher at HA compared to SL. These data suggested that the  
41 body's ability to oxidize exogenous glucose during exercise may be compromised during acute HA  
42 exposure.

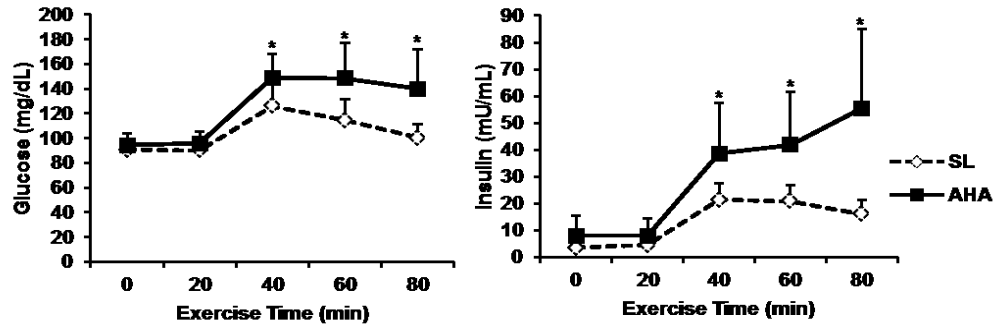
Figure 1: Carbohydrate oxidation



43  
44 Decreased insulin sensitivity is one potential mechanism for diminished ability to oxidize exogenous  
45 carbohydrate oxidation at HA (12-15). Concomitant with the suppression of exogenous carbohydrate  
46 oxidation in acute hypoxia, we also observed that blood glucose levels rose higher and remained  
47 elevated during exercise despite two to four fold higher insulin concentrations during HA exercise  
48 compared to SL (**Figure 2**). Under normal physiological conditions, elevated blood glucose levels  
49 stimulates a rise in circulating insulin to induce translocation of glucose transporter 4 (GLUT4), resulting  
50 in the uptake of glucose intake the cell. Several other investigations (12-15) have also observed this  
51 phenomenon of impaired insulin sensitivity upon acute exposure to HA in young healthy individuals.  
52 Therefore, it is possible that insulin resistance at HA may be a mechanism suppressing exogenous  
53 carbohydrate oxidation. However, little is known regarding alterations in intramuscular processes that

1 may regulate alterations in glucose uptake into the cell at HA compared to SL. Investigation is required  
2 on molecular pathways that regulate insulin dependent and independent translocation of GLUT4 to  
3 better understand the potential mechanism that may govern alterations in carbohydrate metabolism.  
4

Figure 2: Glucose and insulin concentrations



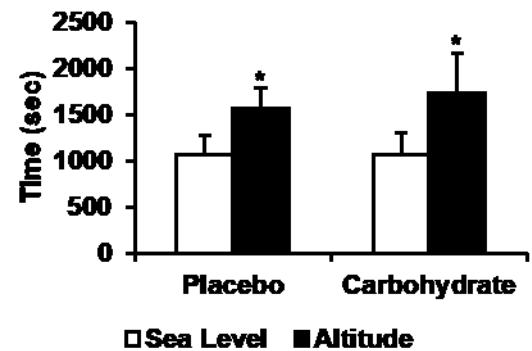
\*Different than Sea Level;  $P < 0.05$

### 5 B3. MILITARY RELEVANCE

6  
7  
8  
9 Service members deployed to HA regions of the world experience aerobic performance decrements.  
10 Based on findings from our previous study, one contributing factor, at least during acute exposures to  
11 HA, is a decreased ability to oxidize exogenous glucose, with no difference in total and endogenous  
12 carbohydrate metabolism. During the initial exposure to HA there appears to be a diminished insulin  
13 sensitivity in response to carbohydrate consumption, resulting in a 46% reduction in exogenous glucose  
14 oxidation during exercise compared to SL.

15 Additionally, consumption of carbohydrate at HA did not minimize declines in physical performance  
16 compared to a matched non-nutritive placebo as determined by a 2-mile time trial (Figure 3). These  
17 data indicate that while dietary carbohydrate or carbohydrate supplementation may not support  
18 exercise performance during acute HA exposure.  
19 Though it was observed that exogenous glucose  
20 oxidations was lower during exercise at HA compared  
21 to SL, the mechanism leading to diminished exogenous  
22 glucose oxidation at HA remains unclear. The purpose  
23 of this study is to define the metabolic underpinnings  
24 for lower exogenous glucose oxidation to develop  
25 appropriate dietary recommendations and/or  
26 countermeasures to support acute HA military  
27 operations.  
28  
29  
30

Figure 3: 2-mile time trial



\*Different than Sea Level;  $P < 0.05$

### 31 B4. OBJECTIVES/SPECIFIC AIMS/RESEARCH QUESTIONS

#### 32 Objectives

33  
34  
35 Confirm results from our previous investigation that acute HA exposure decreased exogenous  
36 carbohydrate oxidation during steady-state aerobic exercise compared to SL, and explore if the  
37 mechanism inhibiting plasma glucose uptake is insulin dependent or independent.  
38  
39

#### 40 Hypotheses

1 Exogenous carbohydrate oxidation will be lower at HA compared to SL during steady-state aerobic  
2 exercise at the same absolute workload, and potential regulation of diminished glucose uptake will be  
3 examined by insulin dependent or independent mechanisms.  
4

## 5 **B5. RESEARCH PLAN**

### 6 **B5.1 Research Design**

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8  
9 This study will be a randomized crossover control trial.

### 10 **B5.2 Research Subjects/Population(s)**

#### 11 **B5.2.1 Subject Population(s)**

12  
13  
14  
15 Subject population will be representative of active duty male service members, being in good health  
16 and recreationally active. Only males are being studied so that results from the current study can be  
17 appropriately compared to our previous study (USARIEM protocol 16-02HC). It is apparent, that sex-  
18 based differences exist during low-to-moderate intensity endurance exercise under at SL. Several  
19 investigations (16-19) have reported that females oxidize proportionately more fat and less  
20 carbohydrate than males during aerobic exercise. Sex-based differences in substrate oxidation during  
21 exercise at SL may result in differences in response to change in substrate oxidation at HA between  
22 men and women. Based on findings from the current study, follow-up work may be conducted to  
23 assess sex differences in change in substrate oxidation during exercise at HA.  
24

#### 25 **B5.2.2 Number of Subjects, Records, and/or Specimens**

26  
27 We estimate that 30 individuals will require screening in order to complete testing on the 10 volunteers  
28 necessary to reach statistical power. All screening will stop once complete data has been collected on  
29 10 volunteers. Records and specimen collection are described in the Research Procedures and Data  
30 Collection sections. During briefings and the consenting process potential volunteers will be informed  
31 that even though they may be eligible and want to participate, if we are able to obtain enough data from  
32 preceding subjects, they may not ultimately be tested.  
33

#### 34 **B5.2.3 Inclusion Criteria**

- 35
- 36 • Men aged 18 – 39 years
  - 37 • Born at altitudes less than 2,100 m (~7,000 feet; Examples include Santa Fe, New Mexico;  
38 Laramie, Wyoming; Etc.)
  - 39 • Physically active based on assessment of physical activity history (2-4 days per week aerobic  
40 and/or resistance exercise)
  - 41 • Have supervisor approval (permanent party military and civilians)
  - 42 • Willing to refrain from alcohol, smokeless nicotine products and dietary supplement use during  
43 study periods
  - 44 • Refrain from taking any nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs; e.g. aspirin, Advil®, Aleve®,  
45 Naprosyn®, or any aspirin-containing product) for 10 days before and at least 5 days AFTER each  
46 muscle biopsy. (\*Tylenol® or acetaminophen is ok to use if needed for discomfort)  
47

#### 48 **B5.2.4 Exclusion Criteria**

- 49
- 50 • Born at altitudes greater than 2,100 m (~7,000 feet; Examples include Santa Fe, New Mexico;  
51 Laramie, Wyoming; Etc.)

- Living in areas that are more than 1,200 m (~4,000 feet), or have traveled to areas that are more than 1,200 m for five days or more within the last 2 months (Examples include Ft. Huachuca, Arizona; Lima, Peru; Feldberg, Germany, Etc.)
- Musculoskeletal injuries that compromise exercise capability
- Metabolic or cardiovascular abnormalities (determined by resting ECG), gastrointestinal disorders (e.g., kidney disease, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, etc.)
- Medication that affects macronutrient metabolism (i.e., diabetes medications, statins, corticosteroids, etc) and/or the ability to participate in strenuous exercise
- Evidence of apnea or other sleeping disorders
- Prior diagnosis of high altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE) or high altitude cerebral edema (HACE)
- Presence of asthma or respiratory tract infections (< 1 month prior)
- Allergies or intolerance to foods (including but not limited to lactose intolerance/milk allergy), vegetarian practices, or medications (including, but not limited to, lidocaine ) to be utilized in the study
- Smoking or vaping
- History of complications with lidocaine
- Taking medications that interfere with oxygen delivery and transport (Includes sedatives, sleeping aids, tranquilizers and/or any medication that depresses ventilation, diuretics, alpha and beta blockers)
- Evidence of any physical, mental, and/or medical conditions that would make the proposed studies relatively more hazardous as determined by OMSO
- Present condition of alcoholism, anabolic steroids, or other substance abuse issues
- Anemia (HCT <38% and HBG <12.5 g/dL) and Sickle Cell Anemia/Trait
- Abnormal PT/PTT test or problems with blood clotting
- Blood donation within 8 weeks of beginning the study

### B5.3 Research Procedures

#### Study Design

This randomized crossover study will examine substrate metabolic responses to ingesting supplemental carbohydrate during steady-state aerobic-type exercise at sea level (SL) and following acute (~5 h) exposure to HA (4,300 m) conditions in 10 healthy, recreationally active adults between the ages of 18-39 yrs (**Table 1**). Following a 48-hr muscle glycogen normalization period, volunteers will complete 80-min of metabolically-matched, steady-state aerobic exercise on a treadmill, and consume 145 g of glucose ( $1.8 \text{ g}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ ) at SL and HA. Treadmill exercise will be performed at the same absolute workload, with speed and grade being the same at SL and HA to induce the same absolute workload between phases. SL and HA trials will occur in the USARIEM hypobaric chamber and will be separated by a minimum 7-d washout period between each protocol day. 6-6-[ $^2\text{H}_2$ ] glucose will be used as a tracer to assess glucose turnover. Indirect calorimetry, breath sampling for  $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$  expired in  $\text{CO}_2$ , and urine collections will be used to determine carbohydrate, fat, and protein oxidation during exercise at SL and HA. Serial blood draws will be collected during each trial to assess endocrine and circulating substrate responses to exercise, carbohydrate, and hypoxia. Muscle biopsies will be collected before and after steady-state exercise to examine intramuscular glucose transport expression and translocation, glycogen status, and activity enzyme intermediates in aerobic and anaerobic energy metabolism.

1

Study Day	SV	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Medical Screening	X															
Body Composition		X														
Height		X														
Weight		X						X							X	
Fitness Assessment		X	X													
Blood Sampling								X							X	
Exercise Practice Sessions				X	X											
Muscle Biopsies								X							X	
Carbohydrate Depletion Exercise						X						X				
Steady-State Exercise								X							X	
Study Diet						X	X					X	X			
Carbohydrate Tracer Study								X							X	
Post Biopsy Follow-Up									X							X

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3

4

**Table 1.** Study Timeline

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Note that this is a potential timeline, specific study days and length of time to complete the study may be dependent on volunteer’s availability, so total time commitment may be longer.

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**Research Procedures**

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Anthropometric Data

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Anthropometrics, performed using standardized techniques and equipment, will be used to determine volunteer eligibility and characterize study volunteers. Height will be measured to the nearest 0.1 cm using a stadiometer at screening. Body mass will be measured after an overnight fast (≥ 8 hr), using a calibrated digital scale to the nearest 0.1 kg at screening. Body mass will be measured at baseline and the morning of protocol days.

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Body composition will be determined using dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA, DPX-IQ, GE Lunar Corporation, Madison, WI). The DEXA technique allows for the non-invasive assessment of soft tissue composition by region with a precision of 1-3% (20). The volunteer will lay face-up on the DEXA densitometer table in shorts, t-shirts, and stocking feet. Volunteers will be asked to remain motionless for the 8-10 min scan. These data will be used to calculate total body mass, fat-free mass, and fat mass. Calibration to external standards will be performed before actual data collection. The operator remains in the room with the volunteer during the scan. Measurements of body composition will be used for participant characterization and to assess if fat mass and fat-free mass are confounding variables for substrate oxidation at SL and HA.

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Determination of Peak Oxygen Uptake

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Volunteers will complete two separate maximal aerobic exercise sessions to determine peak oxygen uptake ( $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$ ) on a treadmill. Two treadmill  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  assessments will be conducted because HA exposure of 4,300 m produces a decrease in  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  of ~27% compared to SL (21). As such, volunteers will complete one treadmill  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  at SL and one at HA so  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  is known under both conditions.  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  will be determined using an indirect, open circuit respirator system (True Max 2400, Parvomedics, Sandy, Utah, USA). Volunteers will be instructed to fast overnight (≥ 8 hr) before testing. Volunteers will be clothed in appropriate athletic attire and perform this assessment at standard ambient indoor temperature (20-22°C) and humidity conditions (30-80%). Volunteers will be given adequate time to become familiar with the testing procedures and allowed a 3-min self-paced warm-up on the treadmill. At the start of testing, the volunteer will put on a nose clip and a mouthpiece connected to a 2-way respiratory valve, which is attached to a head piece to hold it in place. The volunteers will

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1 begin by running for 4 min at a pace predetermined as comfortable at a 0% grade. At 4-min, the grade  
2 will be increased to 4% followed by an additional 2% every 2 min thereafter until volitional exhaustion.

3  
4 Heart rate will be monitored using a heart-rate monitor (Polar Electro Inc, Oulu, Finland) the last 30  
5 seconds of each workload during all testing. The test will be stopped immediately if the subject reports  
6 angina-like symptoms, exertional syncope, shows signs of poor perfusion (i.e., light-headedness,  
7 confusion, ataxia, pallor, cyanosis, nausea, or cold and clammy skin), or if testing equipment fails.

#### 8 9 Steady-State Treadmill Exercise Prescription

10 Results from  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  assessment will be used to prescribe steady-state treadmill exercise for protocol  
11 days. At SL and HA volunteers will complete 80-min of steady-state exercise on a treadmill at  $55 \pm 5\%$   
12 of their  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  determined at HA, performing the same absolute work under both study conditions. The  
13 speed and grade of the treadmill will be determined using the ACSM metabolic equation for walking  
14 based on desired  $\dot{V}O_2$  (22). Prior to the protocol day, participants will perform a practice session of the  
15 treadmill exercise to confirm the prescribed speed and grade are appropriate to induce target  $\dot{V}O_2$ . The  
16 speed and grade determined during the practice session will be used at SL and HA to induce the same  
17 absolute  $\dot{V}O_2$  between phases.

#### 18 19 Glycogen Normalization Period

20 A glycogen depletion protocol will be completed on a cycle ergometer, with intensity based on results  
21 from  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  assessment. After the warm-up period volunteers will complete 2-min of high-intensity  
22 cycling (work period) at  $90\% \dot{V}O_{2peak}$ , followed by 2-min recovery period where volunteers will cycle at  
23  $50\% \dot{V}O_{2peak}$ . This work-to-recovery ratio will be maintained until volunteers are no longer able to  
24 complete 2-min of cycling at  $90\% \dot{V}O_{2peak}$ , determined as the inability to maintain a cycling cadence of  
25 60 rpm for 15-sec. Cycling intensity will then be lowered to  $80\% \dot{V}O_{2peak}$ . When the volunteer is unable  
26 to complete 2-min of cycling at  $80\% \dot{V}O_{2peak}$ , cycling intensity will be lowered to  $70\% \dot{V}O_{2peak}$ . Once the  
27 volunteer can no longer complete 2-min of cycling at  $70\% \dot{V}O_{2peak}$ , cycling intensity will be lowered to  
28  $60\% \dot{V}O_{2peak}$ . The glycogen depletion protocol will be terminated once the volunteer is unable to  
29 complete 2-min of cycling at  $60\% \dot{V}O_{2peak}$ . For each drop in the intensity of the work period, the cycling  
30 intensity during the recovery period will be maintained at  $50\% \dot{V}O_{2peak}$  for 2-min. This exercise protocol  
31 will maximally deplete muscle glycogen stores (23). Prior to the protocol day, volunteers will perform a  
32 practice session to ensure they are familiar with the glycogen depletion protocol procedures. Following  
33 familiarization volunteers will complete a glycogen depletion protocols 48-hrs before testing.

34  
35 After completing the glycogen depletion protocol, volunteers will be fed a controlled diet providing at  
36 least  $6.0 \text{ g carbohydrate} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$  (~55-65% of total energy consumed) to ensure adequate glycogen  
37 repletion and homogeneous glycogen levels within and across volunteers between phases (SL and  
38 HA). All food and beverages (except water) will be prepared and provided by study dietitians and  
39 consist largely of military combat ration and supplemental food items. Since  $^{13}\text{C}$  will be measured from  
40 breath on protocol days, volunteers will be instructed to avoid foods high in natural abundance of  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  
41 such as corn and cane sugar. Diets provided during the two day normalization phase will not contain  
42 these products.

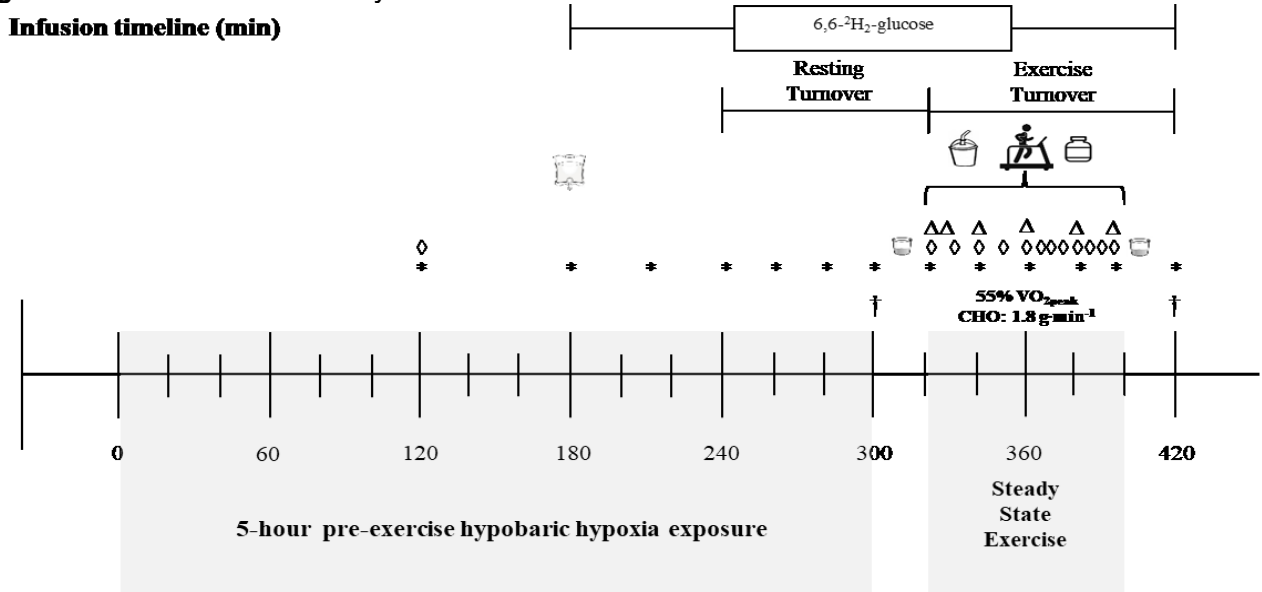
#### 43 44 Altitude Chamber

45 To simulate ascension to high altitude volunteers will perform one arm of this crossover study in a  
46 hypobaric (altitude) chamber under temperate ( $20^\circ\text{C}$ , 30-50% rh;  $12\text{-}16^\circ\text{C}$  Wet Globe Bulb  
47 Temperature (WGBT)) ambient conditions. The chamber will reduce barometric pressure, and thus  
48 ambient oxygen pressure, to a value similar to that at the summit of Pike Peak, CO (4,300 m).  
49 Volunteers will be exposed to hypobaric/hypoxic conditions for 5-hrs before beginning steady-state  
50 exercise to mimic our past investigations. Total time in the chamber on the protocol day will be ~7-8-  
51 hrs. All activities within the altitude chamber will be monitored by trained study staff. The chamber is  
52 on a regular maintenance schedule and chamber performance is documented each test day.

**Exercise Protocol Day**

Two catheters will be placed into the lower arm (one in each arm). One arm will be used for infusion of 6,6-[<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>] glucose tracer and the other will be used for blood sampling under resting and exercise conditions. Following an initial blood and breath sample collection to determine background enrichments, a primed, continuous infusion of 6,6-[<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>] glucose will begin (prime, 82.2 μmol·kg<sup>-1</sup>; continuous rate, 0.78 μmol·kg<sup>-1</sup>·min<sup>-1</sup>, **Figure 4**) (24, 25). Volunteers will complete 80-min of steady-state exercise on a treadmill at 55 ± 5% of their VO<sub>2peak</sub> determined at HA, performing the same absolute work under both study conditions. V̇O<sub>2</sub>, V̇CO<sub>2</sub>, HR, and SaO<sub>2</sub> will be measured at approximately 320, 330, 340, 360, 380, and 395 min. During exercise volunteers will consume a CHO beverage at 1.8 g·min<sup>-1</sup> to examine the impact of altitude exposure on exogenous carbohydrate oxidation efficiency. Drinks will contain 145 g glucose, with a total volume of 1450 mL. The drink will be consumed in four boluses throughout the 80-min of steady-state exercise (320, 340, 360, and 380-min). The first bolus will be 550 mL, with the remaining three being 300 mL. The CHO beverage consumed during exercise will be enriched with 200 mg U-<sup>13</sup>C-glucose (Cambridge Isotope Laboratory, Andover, MA, USA) to increase the isotopic enrichment well above natural levels and optimize the measurement of exogenous carbohydrate oxidation. Before exercise, during the HA phase, volunteers will be exposed to hypobaric hypoxic conditions for 5-hrs to mimic our previous investigation. Muscle samples will be obtained using percutaneous muscle biopsy, taken from the vastus lateralis using a 5-mm Bergstrom needle with manual suction while the volunteer is under local anesthesia (1% lidocaine) according to the approved USARIEM SOP (26, 27). Muscle samples will be collected before (300 min) and immediately (420 min) after 80-min of steady state exercise during both the SL and HA protocol study days. The two muscle biopsy collections will occur from one incision each protocol day. Following a minimum 7-d washout period, volunteers will return to the laboratory to complete the second arm of the investigation. A total of four muscle biopsies will be conducted per volunteer, two per protocol day, with one incision made on each leg.

**Figure 4: Exercise Protocol Day**



**Figure Legend:**

- CHO = Carbohydrate
- = Carbohydrate drink
- = Muscle Biopsy
- \* = Blood Draw
- Δ = VO<sub>2</sub>, VCO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub> sat, heart rate
- = Steady-state (55% VO<sub>2peak</sub> at HA) exercise
- = 6,6-<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>-glucose (prime, continuous infusion)
- = U-<sup>13</sup>C-glucose (oral dosing)
- = breath sample
- = Urine collection

**B5.4 Data Collection**

*Blood Sampling*

Blood samples will be collected using intravenous access by a USARIEM credentialed phlebotomist on throughout protocol days under SL and HA conditions (**Figure 4**). Baseline blood sampling will occur after a 10-hr overnight fast. A total of 26 blood draws will be completed during this study taking 438 mL of blood sampled from each volunteer over the two protocol days (**Table 2**). Blood samples will be used for isotope analysis, assessment of nutrient status, hormone response, and circulating microRNA (**Table 3**).

**Table 2.** Total Volume of Blood Sampled for Protocol Days

<b>Tube</b>	<b>Number of Tubes</b>	<b>Total Volume (mL)</b>
7.5 mL Red Top Tube	8	60
4 mL Red Top Tube	8	32
4 mL Green Top Tube	16	64
1.2 mL Green Top Tube	16	20
6 mL Purple Top Tube	18	108
4 mL Purple Top Tube	28	112
2.6 mL Gray Top Tube	16	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>438</b>

**Table 3.** Blood Analytes

<b>Analyte</b>	<b>Time Point (min)</b>												
	<b>120</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>420</b>
Glucose <sup>1</sup>	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Insulin <sup>2</sup>	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Free fatty acids <sup>2</sup>	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lactate <sup>2</sup>	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Glycerol <sup>2</sup>	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Norepinephrine <sup>2</sup>	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Epinephrine <sup>2</sup>	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hemoglobin <sup>1</sup>	X						X			X			X
Hematocrit <sup>1</sup>	X						X			X			X
<sup>13</sup> C-glucose <sup>3</sup>								X	X	X	X	X	
6,6-[ <sup>2</sup> H <sub>2</sub> ] glucose <sup>4</sup>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
c-miRNA <sup>*1</sup>	X						X			X			X
Exosomal miRNA <sup>1</sup>	X						X			X			X
PBMC <sup>+</sup>	X						X						X
Archive	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

\* Analytes: c-miRNA, circulating microRNA, <sup>+</sup>Peripheral blood mononuclear cell

Samples will be analyzed at <sup>1</sup>USARIEM, <sup>2</sup>Pennington Biomedical Research Center (Baton Rouge, LA) <sup>3</sup>Metabolic Solutions (Nashua, NH), and <sup>4</sup>The Center for Translational Research in Aging and Longevity (Little Rock, AR). All blood samples will be separated into plasma and serum through centrifugation,



1 aliquoted, and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  until analysis or shipment. Study samples will be collected and aliquoted  
2 at USARIEM and specific samples will be shipped on dry ice to Pennington Biomedical Research  
3 Center, Metabolic Solutions and the Center for Translational Research in Aging and Longevity. Blood  
4 sent out to other laboratories for analysis will not have any remaining samples after analysis is  
5 completed. USARIEM will retain all archive samples.  
6

#### 7 Blood Sample Processing for Enrichment

8 Blood samples for 6,6- $^{2}\text{H}_2$  glucose analysis will be collected at 180, 210, 240, 260, 280, 300, 320, 340,  
9 360, 380, 400, and 420-min to calculate plasma glucose turnover at rest and in response to exercise  
10 and carbohydrate intake under SL and HA conditions. Serial blood sampling for analysis will be  
11 collected in EDTA-coated tubes for plasma collection. The tracer/tracee ratio (6,6- $^{2}\text{H}_2$ )  
12 glucose/glucose) will be measured on the pentaacetate derivative by gas-chromatography-mass  
13 spectrometry (GCMS; Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) (24).  
14

15 Blood samples for  $^{13}\text{C}$ -glucose analysis will be collected at 320, 340, 360, 380, and 400-min to  
16 calculate the rate of plasma glucose oxidation.  $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$  in plasma glucose will be measured using  
17 isotope-ratio mass spectroscopy (Metabolic Solutions, Inc., Nashua, NH).  
18

#### 19 Breath Sample Processing for Isotopic Enrichment

20 The natural enrichment of the glucose ingested and the  $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$  in expired gas samples will be analyzed  
21 using isotope-ratio mass spectroscopy (Metabolic Solutions, Inc., Nashua, NH). Breath samples will be  
22 collected at approximately 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, and 395-min to  
23 determine exogenous carbohydrate oxidation using single-patient breath collection bags (Quin-Tron  
24 Instrument Company, Milwaukee, WI, USA). A baseline breath sample will also be collected prior to  
25 correct for background of naturally occurring  $^{13}\text{C}$ . All breath samples will be transferred to 10 mL  
26 evacuated tubes.  
27

#### 28 Plasma Glucose Turnover Calculations

29 For calculation of plasma glucose turnover the Steele equation with modifications for non-steady state  
30 will be used (28). Enrichment (E) will be expressed as mole percent excess (MPE); calculated as  
31  $(\text{TTR})/(1 + \text{TTR})$ , where TTR is the tracer to tracee ratio. Appropriate corrections for skewed  
32 abundance distribution and overlapping spectra will be made for the TTR of the glucose tracers, 6,6-  
33  $^{2}\text{H}_2$  glucose and U- $^{13}\text{C}$ -glucose (28). From these calculations, total glucose  $R_a$  will be comprised of  
34 rates of appearance of exogenous (i.e., ingested) glucose and of endogenous (i.e., hepatic glucose  
35 production and negligible renal glucose production or splanchnic glucose) glucose (28):  
36

$$37 \text{ Total glucose } R_a (\text{Total } R_a) = (F - ((pV \times ((C_2 + C_1) / 2) \times ((E_2 - E_1) / (t_2 - t_1)))) / ((E_2 + E_1) / 2)$$

$$38 \text{ Glucose } R_d = \text{Total } R_a - (pV (C_2 - C_1) / (t_2 - t_1))$$

$$39 \text{ Exogenous glucose } R_a (\text{Exo } R_a) = ((\text{Total } R_a + F) \times ((G_2 + GE_1) / 2) + (pV \times ((C_2 + C_1) / 2)) \times$$

$$40 ((G_2 - G_1) / (t_2 - t_1))) \text{ Endogenous glucose } R_a = \text{Total } R_a - \text{Exo } R_a$$

$$41 \text{ Metabolic Clearance Rate (MCR) = Glucose } R_d / ((C_2 + C_1) / 2)$$

42  
43 Where F represents the infusion rate of 6,6- $^{2}\text{H}_2$  glucose;  $pV$  is the effective volume of distribution for  
44 glucose,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are plasma glucose concentrations at  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ , respectively,  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are plasma  
45 enrichments of 6,6- $^{2}\text{H}_2$  glucose at  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ , respectively, and  $E_d$  and  $E_p$  are tracer enrichments of U-  
46  $^{13}\text{C}$ -glucose from the test drink and plasma, respectively.  
47

#### 48 Assessment of Urinary Nitrogen Excretion

49 Volunteers will void urine before starting steady state exercise, with a subsequent urine sample  
50 immediately after (400-min) the conclusion steady-state exercise to measure nitrogen excretion during  
51 exercise. Urine volume will be measured and aliquots stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  until analyzed. Total nitrogen  
52 content of the urine will be determined using pyrochemiluminescence (Antek 9000, Houston, TX).  
53

### Calculations of Carbohydrate, Fat, and Protein Oxidation

Carbohydrate, fat, and protein oxidation rates will be calculated from  $\dot{V}O_2$  (L/min),  $\dot{V}CO_2$  (L/min), and urinary nitrogen excretion rate (g/min) during the 80-min exercise bout as described by Jeukendrup and Wallis (29):

Fat oxidation (g/min) =  $1.695 \times \dot{V}O_2 - 1.701 \times \dot{V}CO_2 - 1.77 \times$  urinary nitrogen  
Carbohydrate oxidation (g glucose/min) =  $4.210 \times \dot{V}CO_2 - 2.962 \times \dot{V}O_2 - 2.37 \times$  urinary nitrogen  
Protein oxidation (g/min) =  $6.25 \times$  urine nitrogen excreted (g)/ urine collection time (min)

### Calculations of Exogenous and Endogenous Glucose Oxidation

Exogenous and plasma glucose oxidation will be calculated as (1):

Exogenous glucose (g/min) =  $\dot{V}CO_2 [(R_{exp} - R_{ref}) / (R_{exo} - R_{ref})] / k$   
Plasma glucose (g/min) =  $\dot{V}CO_2 [(R_{exp} - R_{ref}) / (R_{glu} - R_{ref})] / k$

where  $\dot{V}CO_2$  is in L/min,  $R_{exp}$  is the observed isotopic composition of expired  $CO_2$ ,  $R_{ref}$  is the isotopic composition of expired  $CO_2$  at rest before ingestion of the first dose of  $^{13}C$ -glucose,  $R_{exo}$  is the isotopic composition of the exogenous glucose ingested,  $R_{glu}$  is the isotopic composition of plasma glucose, and  $k$  (0.747 L/g) is the volume of  $CO_2$  provided by the complete oxidation of glucose. Total endogenous glucose oxidation can be calculated by subtracting exogenous glucose oxidation from total CHO oxidation. Endogenous glucose oxidation derived from muscle and liver can be determined by subtracting plasma glucose oxidation from total carbohydrate oxidation (muscle), and subtracting exogenous carbohydrate oxidation (liver) from plasma glucose oxidation (1). The first 40 min of steady-state exercise will allow for equilibration between the  $^{13}C/^{12}C$  in expired  $CO_2$  and the  $^{13}C/^{12}C$  in  $CO_2$  produced in tissues (30). Thus, endogenous glucose oxidation will only be calculated from samples obtained in the last 40 min of steady-state exercise (40 to 80 min).

### Muscle Glycogen

Approximately 20 mg of muscle will be dehydrated in a freeze dryer. Samples will then be ground to powder and visible connective tissue will be removed. Powdered muscle will be placed in 500  $\mu$ l 2 N HCl. Samples will then be placed in an incubator for 120 min at 100°C. Following incubation samples will be neutralized with 1500  $\mu$ l 0.67 N NaOH and glycogen will be quantified by a fluorometric assay (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA).

### Immunofluorescence staining, microscopy, and image analysis

To determine GLUT4 translocation to the cellular membrane in response to exercise and carbohydrate intake immediately after sample collection by muscle biopsy, excess blood and any visible collagen and/or fat will be removed and muscle will be embedded in Tissue Tek Optimum Cutting Temperature (OCT) compound (VWR International, Leicester, UK) and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Frozen muscle biopsy samples will be cryosectioned to a thickness of 5  $\mu$ m onto uncoated glass microscope slides (VWR International). Sections will be fixed in 75% acetone and 25% ethanol solution for 5 min, then washed 3 times for 5 min in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). A previously validated (31, 32) GLUT4 and dystrophin primary antibody (Abcam, Cambridge, UK) will be applied to muscle sections at a 1:200 and 1:400, respectively, dilution in 5% normal goat serum (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) for 2-hr at room temperature. Dystrophin staining will allow for visualization of the plasma membrane to determine GLUT4 location. Following primary antibody incubation, sections will be washed 3 times for 5 min in PBS and then incubated in 1:200 dilutions of secondary antibodies AlexaFluor 488-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG (Invitrogen; GLUT4) and AlexaFluor 594-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG2b (Invitrogen; Dystrophin) for 30 min at room temperature. Sections will then be washed 3 times for 5 min in PBS and glass coverslips will be mounted with 20  $\mu$ l mowiol mounting medium [6 g glycerol (Sigma-Aldrich), 2.4 g mowiol 4–88 (Sigma-Aldrich) and 0.026 g 1,4-Diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (DABCO) (Sigma-Aldrich) dissolved in 18 mL 0.2 M Tris-buffer (pH 8.5) (Sigma-Aldrich)]. Images will be captured using a Nikon TI-U inverted microscope equipped with a Retiga 2000R camera and NIS-Elements

1 image analysis software (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) to determine colocalization of GLUT4 and dystrophin.  
2 Quantitation of GLUT4 in the plasma membrane (dystrophin-stained region) will be performed using  
3 Imaging software.  
4

#### 5 mRNA and microRNA Expression

6 To understand potential molecular regulation of changes in substrate metabolism during exercise at SL  
7 and HA this study will examine alterations in expression profiles of mRNA and microRNA that are  
8 associated with substrate metabolism. Total RNA will be isolated from approximately 25 mg of muscle  
9 using a mirVana™ miRNA isolation kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). Quantity and quality of RNA  
10 will be assessed using a Nanodrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer (Nanodrop, Wilmington, DE, USA).  
11 Equal amounts of total RNA will be synthesized into cDNA for analysis of mRNA (High-Capacity cDNA  
12 RT Kit, Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) and a TaqMan® microRNA RT kit (Applied  
13 Biosystems). Individual primers will be used to determine the mRNA expression of known intracellular  
14 targets regulating substrate metabolism, through glycolysis, TCA cycle, fatty acid oxidation, and  
15 glucose uptake. Individual primers will be used to determine microRNA expression of microRNA that  
16 have been reported to impact metabolism within the muscle.  
17

18 Circulating miRNA will be extracted from serum using previously published methodologies (33). Due to  
19 the small amount of RNA in the serum, 3.5 µL of a Spike-In Control (C. elegans miR-39; Qiagen) A pre-  
20 amplification step will be performed after reverse transcription to increase cDNA template using a  
21 primer pool of 20 X Taqman® Small RNA Assays (Applied Biosystems) for miRNA of interest at 0.05X  
22 concentration in 1X TE buffer. All serum miRNA will be normalized to the geometric of external (Spike-  
23 In Control C. elegans miR-39) and internal controls to allow for both technical and inter-individual  
24 normalization (34). Geometric mean of controls will be used to correct for possible outlying values and  
25 abundance differences between the different controls (35).  
26

27 All reverse transcription for mRNA and miRNA, and pre-amplification of serum miRNA will be  
28 conducted in a T100™ Thermal Cycler (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). A StepOnePlus™ real-time PCR  
29 system (Applied Biosystems) will be used to perform all mRNA and miRNA analysis. Fold changes will  
30 be calculated using the  $\Delta\Delta$  cycle threshold ( $\Delta\Delta C_T$ ) method as described below in statistical analysis  
31 section.  
32

#### 33 Western Blotting

34 To understand potential molecular regulation of changes in substrate metabolism during exercise at SL  
35 and HA this study will examine alterations in phosphorylation and total protein content of signaling  
36 proteins associated with substrate metabolism. Following previously published methods (36), ~30 mg  
37 of muscle will be homogenized in ice-cold buffer to extract proteins for Western blotting. Protein  
38 concentration of supernatant (lysate) will be determined using 660 nm Protein Assay (ThermoFisher  
39 Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Phosphorylation status and total protein expression of molecular  
40 markers associated with regulating substrate metabolism, through glycolysis, TCA cycle, fatty acid  
41 oxidation, and glucose uptake. Muscle lysates will be solubilized in Laemmli buffer, with equal amounts  
42 of total protein (15 µg) separated by SDS-PAGE using precast Tris·HCl gels (Bio-Rad). Proteins will be  
43 transferred to polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) membranes and exposed to commercially available  
44 primary antibodies at 4°C overnight. Labeling will be performed using secondary antibody (anti-rabbit  
45 IgG conjugate with horseradish peroxidase; Cell Signaling Technology), and chemiluminescent reagent  
46 will be applied (Super Signal, West Pico Kit; Pierce Biotechnology, Rockford, IL, USA). Blots will be  
47 quantified using a phosphoimager (ChemiDoc XRS; Bio-Rad) and Image Lab software (Bio-Rad). To  
48 confirm equal protein loading per well a normalizing protein such as GAPDH or HSP90 will be  
49 assessed.  
50

#### 51 Enzyme Activity

1 Colorimetric enzyme activity assays will be conducted to assess the impact of altitude exposure on  
2 substrate energy metabolism, to include but not limited to pyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH) and citrate  
3 synthase.

4  
5 Pyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH) activity will be measured from approximately 10 mg of muscle  
6 homogenized in 100 µl of ice-cold PDH Assay Buffer (Sigma-Aldrich). Samples will be loaded into a 96  
7 well clear plate with PDH developer (Sigma-Aldrich) and incubated at 37°C for 3 min. Initial PDH  
8 activity will be read at 450 nm. Samples will continue to be incubated at 37°C and read every 5 min  
9 until the highest standard value (12.5 nmol) is met. A final absorbance measurement will be taken at  
10 450 nm. Change in absorbance will be calculated from initial and final read.

11  
12 Homogenate from muscle samples prepared for Western blotting will be used to assess citrate  
13 synthase activity, by combining 10 µl of diluted (1:10; 0.1 M Tris HCl pH 8.1) sample to 150 µl of  
14 reaction master mix (1 mL DNTB, 3 mg Acetyl CoA, and 8 mL 0.1 M Tris HCl pH 8.1). The reaction will  
15 be initiated when 10 µl of 10 mM oxaloacetate will be added to each well (37). Samples will be read at  
16 412 nm. Data will be normalized to protein content of muscle homogenate.

17  
18 Enzyme activity will be determined using a colorimetric assay analyzed on an SpectraMax® M Series  
19 Multi-Mode Microplate Reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA, USA).

20  
21 Any use of the data or samples outside of this defined research plan will be submitted as a protocol  
22 amendment or a new protocol.

## 23 **B5.5 Managing Data and/or Human Biological Specimens for this Research**

24  
25 All data and medical information obtained will be considered privileged and held in confidence. Study  
26 volunteers will be assigned unique subject identification (ID) numbers that will not contain any personal  
27 identifiers such as name, social security number, address, date of birth, zip code, etc. This study  
28 subject ID number will be used on all data collection instruments, to include questionnaires, data  
29 collection forms, computer records, etc. A number will be assigned as each volunteer is medically  
30 cleared for participation. A master list linking the volunteers' names and ID numbers will be kept in a  
31 separate locked file in the principal investigator's office, or kept in a computer file with password-  
32 protected access restricted to the principal investigator. When the results of the research are published  
33 or discussed in conferences, no information will be included that would reveal identity. Study samples  
34 will be processed on site at USARIEM. All samples will be stored using the subject identification  
35 number. De-identified blood and urine will be shipped on dry ice to PBRC for analysis. De-identified  
36 samples for isotopic analysis will be shipped on dry ice to UAMS (blood) and Metabolic Solutions (blood  
37 and breath). All samples will be shipped via FedEx and stores in these laboratories until analyzed.  
38 Once analyzed, there will be no remaining sample for storage.

39  
40  
41 Only personnel assigned to the research study by the principal investigator will have access to the data.  
42 Hard copy data records will be stored for a minimum of three years from the time the study is  
43 completed. Electronic data records will be maintained for a period of at least five years after the study  
44 has been completed.

## 45 **B5.6 Managing Data and/or Human Biological Specimens for Future Research**

46  
47 The master list linking subjects with their data will be destroyed when the study is closed. De-identified  
48 study samples will be stored in -80°C freezer at USARIEM in room 322 or 304 for potential future use.  
49 All samples will be de-identified and maintained indefinitely. Only personnel assigned to the research  
50 study by the principal investigator will have access to samples. The de-identified data and samples will  
51 remain under the control of the PI and may be shared with outside collaborators for future research.  
52 Any use of the samples outside of this defined protocol will be submitted as a protocol amendment or a  
53

1 new protocol.  
2

## 3 **B5.7 Devices, Drugs, Dietary Supplements, Nutritional Supplements, And Biologics**

### 4 **B5.7.1 Devices**

5  
6 **5.7.1.1 FDA-approved device being used in this research according to the approved**  
7 **labeling.** DEXA, DPX-IQ, Lunar Corporation, True Max 2400, Parvomedics, Sandy, Utah, USA,  
8 Polar Electro Inc, Oulu, Finland  
9

10  
11 **5.7.1.2 FDA-approved device being used in this research in a manner other than its**  
12 **approved labeling**

13 N/A  
14

### 15 **B5.7.2 Drugs**

16 N/A  
17

18 **B5.7.2.1 FDA-approved and used in accordance with the approved labeling**

19 N/A  
20

21 **B5.7.2.2 FDA-approved and used in a manner not in accordance with its approved labeling**

22 N/A  
23

24 **B5.7.2.3 Any drug not approved by the FDA**

25 N/A  
26

## 27 **B5.8 Statistical Analysis**

### 28 **B5.8.1 Sample Size Estimation**

29  
30  
31 Statistical power and sample size were determined from the effect size of exogenous  
32 carbohydrate oxidation ( $-14 \pm 8$  g/40-min exercise) that we previously observed at HA compared  
33 to SL. Using this information the sample size necessary to determine statistical significance  
34 between intervention arms is 7, with an alpha of 0.05 and 80% power. To account for greater  
35 variance in the response to altitude between volunteers and increased study power to 90%, 10  
36 volunteers will be enrolled to complete this investigation. Based on our previous studies we  
37 request to consent 30 individuals to complete 10.  
38

### 39 **B5.8.2 Data analysis**

40  
41 Statistical analyses will be conducted using either SPSS (IBM Corp. Armonk, NY), SAS 9.3 (SAS  
42 Institute Inc., Carey, NC), or equivalent. Common descriptive statistics will be used to describe  
43 volunteer characteristics. Shapiro-Wilk tests will be used to determine normality of data. Paired t-  
44 test will be performed to determine main effects of phase (SL versus HA) for glucose turnover and  
45 glucose oxidation. Mixed model repeated measures ANOVA will be performed to determine main  
46 effects of time (baseline versus post-exercise), phase (SL versus HA) and time-by-phase  
47 interactions for glucose and insulin concentrations, GLUT4 translocation, glycogen, mRNA and  
48 microRNA, Western blots and enzyme activity. If interactions are significant, appropriate post-  
49 hoc correction will be used to examine these relationships. Correlation coefficients and multiple  
50 regression analysis will be used to evaluate relationships between study outcome measures. The  
51 alpha level will be adjusted for multiple comparisons, with the level for statistical significance set  
52 at  $P < 0.05$ .  
53

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## SECTION C: HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTIONS

### C1. RECRUITMENT AND CONSENT

#### C1.1 Identification and Selection of Subjects

Potential Volunteers will be recruited from the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Systems Center (NSSC) pool of Human Research Volunteers (HRVs). Additional volunteers will be recruited from civilian population and active duty military stationed at NSSC, as well as civilians from the local surrounding area using flyers and electronic posting, such as newsletters and social media. In addition, other military organizations may be recruited through coordination with NSSC Soldier and Squad Optimization & Integration Team (SSOI-T). The SSOI-T will schedule the consent briefing for the military research volunteers outside the NSSC and Ms. Katelyn Guerriere will serve as the ombudsman for non-HRV Soldiers.

#### C1.2 Recruitment Process

Superiors of Service members (e.g., unit officers, senior NCOs, and equivalent civilians) / supervisors of DoD civilians (e.g., military and civilian supervisors or anyone in the supervisory structure) will not be present at any recruitment sessions or during the consent process in which members of units under their command / personnel under their supervision are afforded the opportunity to participate as human subjects of research.

For Soldiers in the NSSC pool of military volunteers, the Principal Investigator will furnish a copy of the consent form to the Human Research Volunteer Program Coordinator or designee. The Coordinator will schedule the consent briefing for the military human research volunteer platoon and will serve as ombudsman during the briefing. Civilians and permanent party military will be recruited for the study using flyers posted or electronically distributed or through informational briefings. Principal Investigator or Project Coordinator will receive and respond to inquiries submitted from these recruitment materials, and will schedule informed consent briefings for these potential volunteers. Katelyn Guerriere will be the ombudsman for group briefings of non-HRV Soldiers, the HRV coordinator will be the ombudsman for HRV briefings and all civilian briefings will be done one-on-one.

#### C1.3 Eligibility

Volunteers will be medically cleared by the Office of Medical Support and Oversight (OMSO) before participation in accordance with USARIEM procedures outlined for screening volunteers for research involving exercise, muscle biopsies, and altitude exposure either at USARIEM or at the potential volunteer's duty station. Potential military and civilian volunteers will undergo the same clearances used at USARIEM for research involving maximal aerobic exercise testing and high altitude exposure. In addition, volunteers will be screened for problems with blood clotting, including prothrombin time (PT)/ partial thromboplastin time (PTT), which is a specific criterion for research involving muscle biopsies. Health problems identified during the screening process will be documented and a copy provided to the volunteer. The volunteer will be encouraged to make an appointment with their primary care provider for a full evaluation of the problem. Volunteers with evidence of any physical, mental, and/or medical conditions that would make the proposed studies relatively more hazardous will be excluded. Any personal health information collected during this screening process will be destroyed at the time of study withdrawal or at the completion of the study.

All volunteers must be willing to consume only food and beverages provided by study staff during the

1 48-hr normalization period and on protocol days. Additionally, volunteers must be willing to refrain from  
2 any additional exercise during this period.

#### 3 4 **C1.4 Consent Process**

5  
6 Informed consent documents will be provided to each prospective volunteer in writing, as well as in an  
7 oral presentation by the principal investigator or his designee. The purpose of this study, procedures  
8 involved, risks, and expectations of volunteers will be explained. The principal investigator or designee  
9 will answer all group and private questions. Interested volunteers will sign the informed consent form  
10 prior to undergoing initial screening for which they will have blood drawn for study-specific clearance. If  
11 they meet all the medical selection criteria after completing the screening health assessment they will be  
12 scheduled to begin data collection. A copy of the informed consent will be provided to the volunteer with  
13 the original kept for study documentation. No study procedures will occur prior to the volunteer giving  
14 informed consent. Volunteers who have already consented will be informed of any new information or  
15 changes to the protocol that may affect their willingness and ability to continue participation in the study  
16 using an approved consent addendum.

17  
18 **C1.4.1 Research involving subjects with cognitive impairment or who lack capacity to**  
19 **provide informed consent: N/A**

20  
21 **C1.4.2 Research involving non-English speaking subjects: N/A**

22  
23 **C1.4.3 Research involving a waiver of the requirement to obtain informed consent OR**  
24 **alteration of the elements of informed consent: N/A**

25  
26 **C1.4.4 Research involving a waiver of the requirement for investigator to obtain a signed**  
27 **consent form: N/A**

28  
29 **C1.4.5 Waivers of assent or parental permission when the research involves children:**  
30 **N/A**

31  
32 **C1.4.6 Research involving data collection for the USAMRMC Volunteer Registry**

#### 33 **Database**

34  
35 It is the policy of USAMRMC that data sheets are to be completed on all volunteers participating in  
36 greater than minimal risk research for entry into the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel  
37 Command Volunteer Registry Database. The information to be entered into this confidential database  
38 includes name, address, social security number, study name, and dates. The intent of the database is  
39 twofold: first, to readily answer questions concerning an individual's participation in research sponsored  
40 by the USAMRMC; and second, to ensure that the USAMRMC can exercise its obligation to ensure  
41 research volunteers are adequately warned (duty to warn) of risks and to provide new information as it  
42 becomes available. The information will be stored at the USAMRMC for a minimum of 75 years.

#### 43 44 **C2. COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPATION**

45  
46 Military and civilian personnel will receive \$25 for each successful blood draw. There are 26 blood draws  
47 during the two protocol days (13 per protocol day). Volunteers completing all 26 draws will receive \$650. If  
48 a volunteer does not complete the entire study, they will be compensated for the number of successful  
49 blood draws they did complete. Volunteers will not be eligible for any other form of compensation during  
50 this study.

51  
52 Military personnel will have paperwork submitted to petition for hazardous duty pay for performing any  
53 testing under hypobaric hypoxic conditions.

1  
2 **C3. WITHDRAWAL FROM RESEARCH PARTICIPATION**  
3

4 Volunteers will be allowed to withdraw at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which they would  
5 otherwise be entitled. If a participant wishes to withdraw mid-study while the chamber is mimicking hypoxic  
6 conditions they will enter a separate portion of the chamber that will allow them to descend back to SL  
7 conditions. Once descent is completed the participant will be allowed to leave the chamber. An  
8 investigator may stop an individual's participation in the study if the participant is unwilling or unable to  
9 complete study procedures. An investigator or the medical monitor may also withdraw a participant if the  
10 individual becomes ill or injured or it would not be in the participant's best interest to continue.

11  
12 **C4. PRIVACY FOR SUBJECTS**  
13

14 To protect the participant's privacy, any of their research-related records will be labeled or "coded" with an  
15 assigned research participant number that will not include their name or social security number. Dr. Lee M.  
16 Margolis will keep the link between participant number and the participant's research records in a locked  
17 cabinet. Any documents that will require the participant's name, such as the consent form, will be kept in a  
18 locked cabinet separate from any research documents that contain the participant's ID number. The  
19 principal investigator is the only person who will be able to match the research participant number with any  
20 of their personal identifying information.

21  
22 When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences, no information will be included  
23 that would reveal the volunteers identity to others. If photographs, videos, or audio-tape recordings of you  
24 will be used for educational purposes, your identity will be protected or disguised. All identifiable or  
25 recognizable information (e.g., names and faces) will be covered in any photographs unless volunteers  
26 agree to sign a photo release form.

27  
28 **C5. CONFIDENTIALITY PROCEDURES FOR RESEARCH RECORDS, DATA, HUMAN BIOLOGICAL**  
29 **SPECIMENS**  
30

31 All data and medical information obtained will be considered privileged and held in confidence. Study  
32 volunteers will be assigned unique subject identification (ID) numbers that will not contain any personal  
33 identifiers such as name, social security number, address, date of birth, zip code, etc. This study subject  
34 ID number will be used on all data collection instruments, to include questionnaires, data collection forms,  
35 computer records, etc. A number will be assigned as each volunteer is medically cleared for participation.  
36 A master list linking the volunteers' names and ID numbers will be kept in a separate locked file in the  
37 principal investigator's office, or kept in a computer file with password-protected access restricted to the  
38 principal investigator and project manager. The master list linking subjects with their data will be destroyed  
39 when the study is closed. When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences, no  
40 information will be included that would reveal identity. Study samples will be processed on site at  
41 USARIEM. All samples will be stored using the subject identification number. Samples will be shipped for  
42 analysis to Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Metabolic Solutions, and The Center for Translational  
43 Research in Aging and Longevity. Remaining samples will be stored at USARIEM in a -80°C freezer in  
44 room 322 or 304. The volunteers name or other identifiable information will not be included on any data,  
45 data collection sheets, specimens, or other research records. De-identified samples will be maintained  
46 indefinitely.

47  
48 Only personnel assigned to the research study by the principal investigator will have access to the data.  
49 Hard copy data records will be stored for a minimum of three years from the time the study is completed.  
50 Electronic data records will be maintained for a period of at least five years after the study has been  
51 completed.  
52



## **C6. RISKS OF HARM, MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF HARM, AND BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION**

### **C6.1 Risks of Harm**

*Research Procedure Name:* DEXA Scan

*Research Procedure Description:* Volunteer will lay face-up on the DEXA densitometer table in shorts, t-shirts, and stocking feet. Volunteers will be asked to remain motionless for the 8-10 min scan.

*Research-related Risks:* The DEXA scan is an X-ray and is considered to be a low risk procedure. The radiation dose of the whole-body DEXA scan is 0.1 mrem. This dose is equivalent to approximately 1/250 of normal annual background radiation, 1/9 of the radiation received in a transatlantic flight, or 1/30 of the radiation received in a chest X-ray.

*Measures to Minimize Risks of Harm: (Precautions, safeguards):* A quality assurance check will be completed on the DEXA each day prior to its use; the software will not allow the use of the DEXA densitometer if the quality assurance check fails.

*Research Procedure Name:* Indwelling Catheters

*Research Procedure Description:* A needle will be used to guide a catheter into the antecubital vein of the volunteer. The catheter will be attached to saline to keep the line patent for multiple blood draws.

*Research-related Risks:* The risks of blood sampling are small and usually limited to local bruising or swelling. Also sometimes volunteers feel faint or may faint. If the volunteer has had problems with fainting during blood draws in the past, they may be more prone to them during future procedures. If the catheter, the tube that is left in the arm after the needle is removed, becomes clogged at any time during the protocol, we will have to replace this to continue blood sampling and therefore the study. This will require another needle to be inserted into your arm. In addition, the catheter can cause irritation, bruising, swelling, infection, or an allergic reaction.

*Measures to Minimize Risks of Harm: (Precautions, safeguards):* Trained technicians will use sterile techniques to place the catheter; however, in spite of being careful there is a chance that the site may become infected. Volunteers should not donate blood for eight weeks before or after this study.

*Research Procedure Name:* Venipuncture

*Research Procedure Description:* A needle will be used for single blood draws of the antecubital vein.

*Research-related Risks:* Venipuncture is a routine clinical procedure the medical community commonly uses to obtain blood samples. The immediate complications may be slight pain during the entry of the needle into the skin, possible dizziness, and syncope. Dizziness or syncope constitutes no long-term harm, and immediate relief is achieved by having the subject put their head down between their knees or lie down. Additionally, a hematoma may result from the venipuncture, but this is more unsightly than risk producing. Late complications might include thrombosis of the vein due to trauma or infection. These complications are extremely rare.

*Measures to Minimize Risks of Harm: (Precautions, safeguards):* Participant monitoring, aseptic technique, including sterile disposable blood collection apparatus and adherence to standard medical precautions reduce risk. Trained technicians will perform all venipuncture.

*Research Procedure Name:* Lidocaine Injection

*Research Procedure Description:* Roughly 8-10 mL of Lidocaine will be injected using a needle at the site of the incision, superficially (i.e., skin) and within the vastus lateralis.

*Research-related Risks:* Slight pain at the site of injection might occur. Although rare, anaphylactic reactions may also occur following administration of lidocaine. Unlikely, but possible side effects could include: dizziness, confusion, shakiness, visual changes, nausea, and unusually slow heartbeat.

*Measures to Minimize Risks of Harm: (Precautions, safeguards):* Volunteers will be instructed to Notify study coordinator or PI immediately if an allergic (i.e., swelling, itching, rash, hives, difficulty swallowing, or difficulty breathing) reaction occurs. In the case of severe reaction, lidocaine use will be discontinued.

1        *Research Procedure Name:* Muscle Biopsy

2        *Research Procedure Description:* A small incision will be made in the skin and fascia of the vastus  
3        lateralis. A 5-mm Bergstrom biopsy needle will pass through these incisions with manual suction while  
4        the volunteer is under local anesthesia (1% lidocaine) to collect muscle samples.

5        *Research-related Risks:* Percutaneous needle muscle biopsies have been established as a non-  
6        routine, but safe research procedure. Similar to blood draws, there is a risk that volunteers will feel  
7        faint or may faint. If the participant has had problems with fainting during blood draws or muscle  
8        biopsies in the past, they may be more prone to them during future procedures. There is some risk of  
9        post-biopsy infection, which can be minimized by employing correct sterile procedures and carefully  
10       instructing volunteers on care of the wound. Moderate stiffness, hematoma and swelling around the  
11       biopsy site may occur following the procedure, but this usually resolves itself within several days.  
12       Some minimal scarring will accompany healing of the incision and formation of a hypertrophic scar or  
13       keloid is possible. Although this is a rare event in fair-skinned persons, the incidence of hypertrophic  
14       scarring or keloid formation associated with healing of a primarily closed skin biopsy site (i.e., one  
15       which was closed with sutures immediately afterward) is 5-10% in dark-skinned persons.  
16       Complications of bleeding can be reduced by applying direct pressure to the wound following the  
17       biopsy. If symptoms should occur, they usually do not interfere with normal walking or heavier  
18       exercise. Volunteers with evidence of bleeding diatheses or with local skin infection or irritation, or  
19       recent anticoagulant medication (including aspirin), will not be used.

20       *Measures to Minimize Risks of Harm: (Precautions, safeguards):* Volunteers will be instructed about  
21       precautions against hematoma and infection. They will be given a handout outlining instructions for  
22       proper care of the incision site (**Appendix A**). Dr. Margolis or Dr. Pasiakos will perform the procedure  
23       with sterile technique according the USARIEM Muscle Biopsy SOP and record notes for each biopsy  
24       (**Appendix B**). The medical staff at USARIEM will follow-up with volunteers within 3 days post-biopsy  
25       to monitor for any sign of infection, bleeding, or hematoma. To minimize the likelihood of hypertrophic  
26       scarring or keloid formation, biopsy wounds will be closed as promptly as feasible.

27  
28       *Research Procedure Name:* Altitude Exposure

29       *Research Procedure Description:* Participants will exercise at 4300 m simulated altitude.

30       *Research-related Risks:* Hypoxemia, lightheadedness, AMS, HAPE, HACE, ear pain/discomfort, and  
31       peripheral/facial edema.

32       *Measures to Minimize Risks of Harm: (Precautions, safeguards):*

- 33       • During hypobaric exposures, volunteers will always be accompanied by one or more trained  
34       staff that will monitor signs and symptoms of research-related risks. To additionally minimize  
35       risk, volunteers will be familiarized with safety procedures and equipment in the hypobaric  
36       chamber.
- 37       • *Hypoxemia-* Exposure to hypobaric hypoxia introduces the hazard of hypoxemia. Depending  
38       upon the degree and duration of hypobaric exposure, hypoxemia may be well tolerated without  
39       consequences, or may present a full spectrum of clinical entities ranging from mild discomfort  
40       to potentially lethal conditions. Participants will be monitored by study staff and participants will  
41       be allowed to terminate testing early if they desire.
- 42       • *Lightheadedness-* Exercising at altitude can cause an increased risk of lightheadedness which  
43       may occur just after stopping heavy exercise. Lightheadedness increases the risk that the  
44       volunteer could fall. This risk (rare) will be minimized by having at least one staff member in  
45       close proximity to the volunteer (as is done for all exercise tests regardless of location) so that  
46       he/she will not fall off. If a volunteer becomes lightheaded and feels faint, he/she will be  
47       assisted off the treadmill and instructed to lay down with feet up until fully recovered.  
48       Volunteers will be assisted on and off exercise and other experimental apparatus as needed.
- 49       • *AMS-* AMS is a self-limited syndrome that is common when unacclimatized lowlanders are  
50       exposed to higher altitudes. Symptoms of AMS include headache, nausea, anorexia, lethargy,  
51       dizziness, tiredness, weakness, insomnia, and sometimes vomiting. The prevalence and  
52       severity of AMS increase directly in proportion to ascent rate and elevation. With rapid ascent,  
53       and no beneficial treatment (e.g., breathing supplemental O<sub>2</sub>) symptoms commonly appear

1 within four to six hours. Symptoms of AMS will reach their severity within 18 to 24 hrs of  
2 altitude exposure, and be the most severe after awakening. With rapid ascent to the altitudes of  
3 3000 m and 4000 m for a 24-hr period, more than 30-90% of the untreated volunteers will likely  
4 experience AMS, with symptoms ranging from mild (10 to 40%), to moderate (20 to 40%) to  
5 severe (10 to 20%). Due to the duration (~7-8 hrs) of the altitude exposure in the current study,  
6 AMS may occur but should not reach its most severe symptoms.

- 7 • *HAPE/ HACE*- The incidence of clinical HAPE in unacclimatized sea-level residents being  
8 exposed to high altitude for at least a few days appears to be less than 1%. As a clinical  
9 condition, the possibility of HACE occurring when sea-level residents are exposed to high  
10 altitude appears to be even lower than the incidence of HAPE. If either or both are recognized  
11 early and treated by descent, they are completely reversible. With regard to the proposed  
12 study, the risk of any volunteer developing either HAPE or HACE is considered remote and is  
13 not expected. If a volunteer shows developing symptoms of HAPE or HACE they will be  
14 removed from the simulated high altitude environment.
- 15 • *Ear Pain/Discomfort*- Changes in ambient gas pressure during induction of or return from  
16 hypobaric conditions can cause untoward effects due to gas trapped in the body. At the  
17 relatively slow rates of pressure change during normal operation (simulated ascent and/or  
18 descent) of the hypobaric chamber, some individuals may experience discomfort in their ears,  
19 paranasal sinuses, teeth, or abdomen. In healthy individuals, pressure in the middle ear and  
20 sinuses can be equalized with ambient atmospheric pressure by swallowing, yawning, or  
21 tensing the muscles of the throat, procedures that contract the pharyngeal muscles and open  
22 the Eustachian tubes, thereby ventilating the middle ear and sinus. Another more effective  
23 means of ventilating the middle ear and sinuses is forced expiration against a closed nose and  
24 mouth. Adjunctive therapy may also include the use of short-acting antihistamines or  
25 decongestants to reduce swollen Eustachian tubes and sinus openings due to inflammation or  
26 infection. During recompression (descent), moderately severe ear pain may be experienced by  
27 volunteers who cannot maintain Eustachian tube patency. If ear or sinus pain occurs,  
28 recompression will be stopped and the affected volunteer will be decompressed until the pain  
29 resolves; recompression will then be restarted at a slower rate. Damage to eardrums is likely  
30 only under the unusual situation where deliberately rapid recompression is necessitated by dire  
31 emergency.
- 32 • *Peripheral/Facial Edema*- Peripheral and facial edema occurs in some individuals when initially  
33 exposed to high altitude. It is characterized by pronounced edema of the face and upper  
34 extremities, decreased urine output and weight gain. Although uncomfortable, it is a benign  
35 condition. The peripheral and facial edema resolves with descent.

36  
37 **Research Procedure Name:** Exercise

38 **Research Procedure Description:** Exercise testing will occur on a cycle ergometer or treadmill.  
39 Exercise will be at various levels of intensity based on exercise protocol.

40 **Research-related Risks:** Exercise is generally considered safe and beneficial for individuals without  
41 cardiovascular disease. The U.S. prevalence of fatal events is approximately 1:100,000 to 1:300,000  
42 in competitive high school athletes and increases to 1:15,000 to 1:50,000 in athletes over the age of  
43 35. Current civilian and military guidelines state that individuals less than 40 years of age who have  
44 no symptoms of or known presence of heart disease or major coronary risk factors have a low risk for  
45 cardiac complications during vigorous exercise. All volunteers in this study fall into this low risk  
46 category. Local muscle discomfort and fatigue may occur in active muscles during and shortly after  
47 exercise. Muscle soreness, ranging in intensity from mild to severe, may persist for 1 to 7 days.

48 **Measures to Minimize Risks of Harm: (Precautions, safeguards):** Studies have confirmed the safety of  
49 maximal exercise testing, particularly among apparently healthy persons without significant  
50 cardiovascular risk factors. As a precaution, there will be at least one spotter during all exercise  
51 sessions, and heart rate will be monitored in real time during testing. In addition, exercise monitors  
52 and test administrators will be CPR-certified.

1 *Research Procedure Name:* 6,6-[<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>] glucose infusions

2 *Research Procedure Description:* 6,6-[<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>] glucose will be infused using a indwelling catheter and <sup>13</sup>C-  
3 glucose will be consumed in a carbohydrate beverage.

4 *Research-related Risks:* The primary risks associated with tracer studies are those related to venous  
5 catheterization. The catheter can cause irritation, bruising, or infection. There are no known risks or  
6 reported side effects associated with administration of 6,6-[<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>] glucose infusions to humans during  
7 clinical or experimental studies. The risks associated with the infusion include volume overload,  
8 infection, and allergic reaction to the infused substance. There have been no occurrences of volume  
9 overload, no occurrences of infection or allergic reaction attributable to iodine used prior to  
10 venipuncture in any of the 200 infusion protocols that the investigators have been involved. To  
11 minimize the likelihood of these events occurring, infusion rate will be closely monitored and  
12 maintained at less than 30 ml/hr throughout the entire infusion protocol day.

13 *Measures to Minimize Risks of Harm:* All staff who directly participate in the infusion studies will be  
14 properly trained how to safely monitor (i.e., infusion pumps and IV lines) infusion studies from Drs.  
15 Margolis and Pasiakos, who have extensive experience with infusion studies. In addition, infusates  
16 will be prepared sterile, pyrogen-free, and in the proper dosages by a licensed pharmacist.

17  
18 *Research Procedure Name:* <sup>13</sup>C-glucose ingestion

19 *Research Procedure Description:* <sup>13</sup>C-glucose will be consumed in a carbohydrate beverage.

20 *Research-related Risks:* There are no known risks of consuming stable isotope of <sup>13</sup>C-glucose. <sup>13</sup>C is  
21 naturally occurring in the diet (~1%). It is a nonradioactive isotope. A trace amount will be used to  
22 establish carbohydrate oxidation (200 mg in 145 g of glucose, < 0.1%), which is a safe increase in <sup>13</sup>C.

23 *Measures to Minimize Risks of Harm:* Pyrogen-free isotope will be purchased from reputable supplier.  
24

## 25 **C6.2 Incidental or Unexpected Findings**

26  
27 Health problems identified during the screening process will be documented and a copy provided to  
28 the volunteer. The volunteer will be encouraged to make an appointment with their primary care  
29 provider for a full evaluation of the problem. Volunteers with evidence of any physical, mental, and/or  
30 medical conditions that would make the proposed studies relatively more hazardous will be excluded.  
31

## 32 **C6.3 Potential Benefits**

33  
34 There is no health or other benefits related to participation in this study. Information obtained from this  
35 research may benefit other individuals in the future.  
36

## 37 **C7. DATA AND SAFETY MONITORING**

### 38 **C7.1 Monitoring**

39  
40 The PI will, with the assistance of Associate Investigators, continuously evaluate recruitment, the  
41 informed consent process, adverse events, and protocol adherence and deviations in order to identify  
42 unanticipated problems or risks to the volunteers associated with the research. The PI will ensure that  
43 the number of volunteers recruited for this study complies with the protocol. Every morning, volunteers  
44 will be asked the following questions to evaluate their readiness to test.  
45

- 46
- 47 • How have you been feeling well since the last test in our laboratory (below average, average, above  
48 average)?
- 49 • Do you have any pain or symptoms to report that may affect our testing today (e.g., sinus  
50 congestion, fatigue, muscle soreness, fever, tooth pain)?
- 51 • Have you reported all food and beverages consumed in the last 24 h that were not provided to you  
52 by study staff?
- 53 • What time did you fall asleep last night and awake this morning?

- Did you perform any exercise or physical activities outside of study activities in the last 24 h?

The PI or project manager will monitor data monthly during the data collection portion of the protocol. A log will be created listing any missing data.

### **C7.2 Research Monitor (as applicable)**

The research monitor for this study is MAJ Robin Cushing. This individual is an appropriate subject matter expert not associated with the protocol. The research monitor shall, at a minimum, review all unanticipated problems involving risk to subjects or others, serious adverse events and all subject deaths associated with the protocol and provide an unbiased written report of the event. The PI and research monitor will discuss “discontinuation criteria” for individual volunteers as the study progresses, based on their observations of the volunteer during testing or non-testing periods. Other responsibilities may be assigned by the MRMC IRB as needed.

## **C8. REPORTABLE EVENTS**

### **C8.1 Expected adverse events**

An adverse event is defined as any untoward or unfavorable medical occurrence in a human research participant, including any abnormal sign (e.g., abnormal physical exam or laboratory finding), symptom, or disease, temporally associated with the individual’s participation in the research, whether or not considered related to the individual’s participation in the research.

Expected adverse events are some level of AMS under HA conditions, potential fainting during blood draws and muscle biopsies, local bruising and soreness from blood draws and muscle biopsies, and muscle soreness or pain from exercise. Moderate stiffness, hematoma and swelling may occur around the muscle biopsy site.

All medical events that the USARIEM Office of Medical Support and Oversight (OMSO) evaluates will be reported to the ORQC. The PI will report all adverse events to the Research Monitor, if one was appointed for the study.

Expected adverse events which are not serious are reported to the IRB at the time of continuing review of the protocol.

### **C8.2 Unexpected adverse events and unanticipated problems**

A serious adverse event is any adverse event temporally associated with the subject’s participation in research that is fatal, life-threatening, permanently disabling, requires inpatient hospitalization, or results in congenital anomalies/birth defect, overdose or cancer, or based on appropriate medical judgment, may jeopardize the participant, or may require medical or surgical intervention to prevent one of the above outcomes.

All medical events will be reported to USARIEM’s Office of Medical Support and Oversight (OMSO). OSO staff will retain a copy of the report in the subject’s OSO medical file as a means of tracking and analyzing trends in medical events. The PI will report all adverse events to the Research Monitor, if one was appointed for the study.

All unanticipated problems involving risk to subjects or others, serious adverse events that are unexpected and determined to be at least possibly or definitely related to study participation, will be promptly reported within one working day by phone (508-233-6306/4811) or email (usarmy.natick.medcom-usariem.mbx.usariem-rqc-protocol@mail.mil) to the USARIEM ORQC and the

1 Commander. These events will also be reported to the HQ USAMRMC IRB within one working day by  
2 phone (301-619-6240), or by e-mail (usarmy.detrick.medcom-usamrmc.other.irb-office@mail.mil)  
3

4 Adverse events assessed by the PI as not serious and serious adverse events that are deemed to be  
5 unrelated to participation in the study will be reported to the IRB at the time of continuing review of the  
6 protocol.  
7

8 The research monitor is required to review all unanticipated problems involving risk to volunteers or  
9 others, serious adverse events and all volunteer deaths associated with the protocol and provide an  
10 unbiased written report of the event. At a minimum, the research monitor should comment on the  
11 outcomes of the event or problem, and in the case of a serious adverse event or death, comment on  
12 the relationship to participation in the study. The research monitor should also indicate whether he or  
13 she concurs with the details of the report provided by the study investigator. Reports for events  
14 determined by either the investigator or research monitor to be: possibly related, unexpected, and  
15 serious or suggest that the research places subjects or others at increased risk of harm during  
16 participation, will be promptly forwarded to the ORQC and HQ USAMRMC IRB.  
17

18 In the event of a medical emergency at facilities on the Natick Soldier Center, the local Emergency  
19 Medical Services (EMS) will be contacted immediately by dialing 5911. The installation security  
20 personnel will direct the ambulance to the proper location on the installation. While awaiting their  
21 arrival, Basic Life Support will be rendered by study personnel or on-site medical coverage. EMS  
22 response time to USARIEM is approximately 5 minutes. Transport time to definitive care is  
23 approximately 8 minutes.  
24

25 **C8.3 Adverse device effects:** N/A

26 **C8.4 FDA-regulated research under IND and IDE:** N/A  
27

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## 28 **SECTION D: REFERENCES**

- 29
- 30
- 31
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20 **SECTION E: ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

21 HA; high altitude, SL; sea level, ATP; adenosine triphosphate, GLUT4; glucose transporter 4, PDHC;  
22 pyruvate dehydrogenase complex, HIF-1 $\alpha$ ; hypoxic-inducible factor 1 $\alpha$ , PDK; pyruvate dehydrogenase  
23 kinase, TCA; tricarboxylic acid cycle, MORE; Modular Operational Ration Enhancement, CHO;  
24 carbohydrate, DEXA; dual energy x-ray absorptiometry, HR; heart rate, SaO<sub>2</sub>; oxygen saturation, miRNA;  
25 microRNA, TTR; tracer to tracee ratio, MPE; mole percent excess, PBR; phosphate-buffered saline, OCT;  
26 Optimum Cutting Temperature, PVDF; polyvinylidene fluoride

27

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28

29

30 **SECTION F: DoD PRIVACY RULE AND PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (HIPAA)**

- 31
- 32
- 33  NA – institution is not a covered entity
- 34
- 35  NA – will not use or disclose protected health information
- 36
- 37  HIPAA authorization will be obtained
- 38
- 39  An application for waiver/alteration of HIPAA authorization will be submitted
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5 Appendices

6 **Appendix A: Muscle Biopsy Care**

7  
8 **The mechanistic effects of acute hypobaric hypoxia on exogenous carbohydrate utilization during steady-**  
9 **state aerobic exercise**

10 **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

11 **Lee M. Margolis, Ph.D.**

12  
13  
14 **Muscle Biopsy Care**  
15 **Information for the Participant**

16  
17 You have just had a percutaneous muscle biopsy. The muscle biopsy site is closed with a steri-strip or  
18 butterfly bandaid. This is covered with 4 x 4 gauze pad and then an elastic bandage.

19  
20 As the anesthetic wears off, you may feel a dull ache at the biopsy site for 1-3 days. Many people have no  
21 pain at all. Instructions for the care of the biopsy site are as follows:

- 22  
23 1. You may perform all your normal activities immediately after the biopsy.
- 24 2. Leave the ACE bandage in place for 2 hours after the biopsy. After this time, remove everything  
25 except the steri-strip or butterfly bandaid.
- 26 3. Do not get the incision wet for 24 hours after the biopsy.
- 27 4. Do not take any aspirin or aspirin-containing products for 5 days after the biopsy unless MD  
28 approves. Also avoid 'aspirin-like' drugs such as Motrin. Indocin, etc.
- 29 S. After 2 days, no special precautions are required and the site should be almost completely  
30 healed.
- 31 6. If any of the signs below occur, contact:
- 32 – Fever
  - 33 – Bleeding from biopsy site
  - 34 – Inflammation at biopsy site (warmth, redness, tenderness, pus formation, clear discharge,  
35 opening of incision, lump under incision, or rash around incision). If you are not sure if it  
36 is healing normally, alert study staff
  - 37 – Persistent numbness in the leg
  - 38 – Pain at the biopsy site more than one week after the biopsy
- 39  
40

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45 Natick, MA 01760  
46 Office Phone: 508-233-4591  
47 Cell Phone: 203-522-0624

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## Appendix B: Muscle Biopsy Notes

Participant ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Trial 1 / 2

<b>Date:</b>
<b>Biopsy One</b>
<b>Leg: L or R</b>
<b>Time:</b>
<b>Lidocaine</b>
<b>Size:</b>
<b>Notes:</b>
<b>Biopsy Two</b>
<b>Leg: L or R</b>
<b>Time:</b>
<b>Lidocaine</b>
<b>Size:</b>
<b>Notes:</b>

12