

# Unique Mechanisms of Bilateral Blood Pressure Control

Nicholas R. Uba, Lauren A. Naylor, Alyssa C. Watts, Michael E. Holmstrup,  
Brock T. Jensen.

Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA



Exercise  
Science  
Research  
Lab



# Introduction

- Blood pressure (BP) measurement is used to aid in appropriate clinical decision making
- Inter-arm differences (IAD) in systolic BP exists in many individuals at rest
  - $\geq 10$  mmHg between arms
    - ▶ Linked with hypertension, peripheral vascular disease, arterial stiffness, and premature morbidity and mortality.
- At rest, BP should be measured in both arms to determine which is most appropriate for future use
  - During exercise, it is also suggested that bilateral BP is measured, if possible

# Active/Passive Bicep Curl

- ▶ 12-lead EKG preparation and electrode placement
- ▶ Simultaneous BP monitoring with two automated, auscultatory BP monitors
- ▶ Exercise Pressor Reflex
  - ▶ Active Bicep Curl
    - ▶ Mechanical and Metabolic receptors
  - ▶ Passive Bicep Curl
    - ▶ Metabolic Receptors

# Cold pressor test (CPT)

- Non-invasively excites sympathetic nervous system
  - ▶ Nociceptors
- Raises systolic and diastolic BP
- Normal increase in SBP= 15-20 mmHg



# Purpose and Hypotheses

- To examine the effects of ALM, PLM, and the CPT on IAD in systolic BP
  
- Hypotheses
  - ▶ CPT will induce significant changes in the IAD in systolic BP and provide insight into novel aspects of nervous system control on blood pressure regulation
  - ▶ PLM in the upper limbs will stimulate the exercise pressor reflex and alter IAD
  - ▶ ALM in the upper limbs will stimulate NO release and alter IAD

# Methods- Visit One



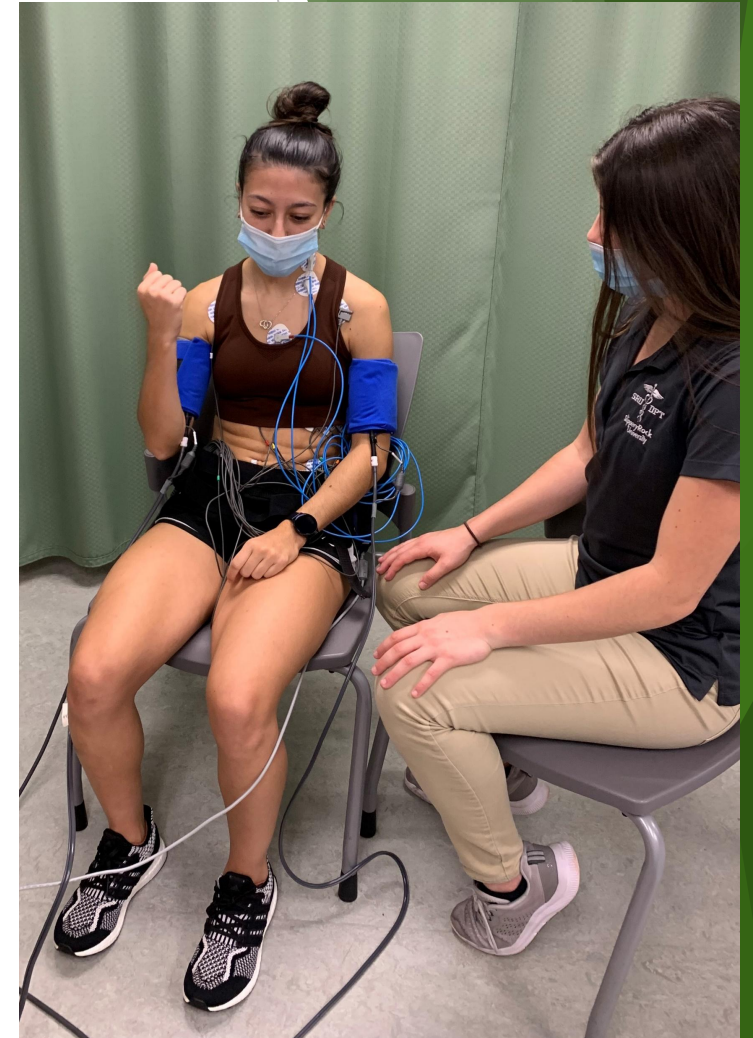
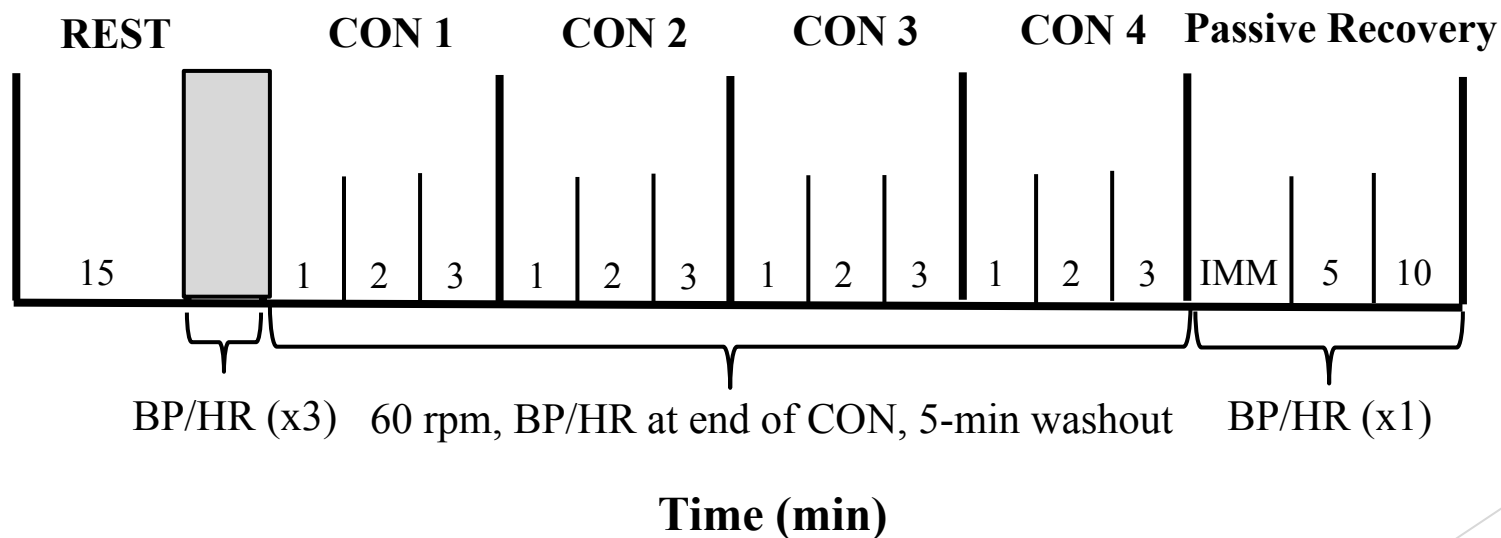
- Informed Consent
- Body Composition
  - Height, weight, BMI, SECA
- Cholestech Panel
  - Total, high-density, low-density cholesterol and glucose
- Pre-test instructions for follow-up:
  - 4 hour fast, 24-hour abstinence from exercise, caffeine, alcohol



# Methods- Visit Two

- Order of intervention randomized

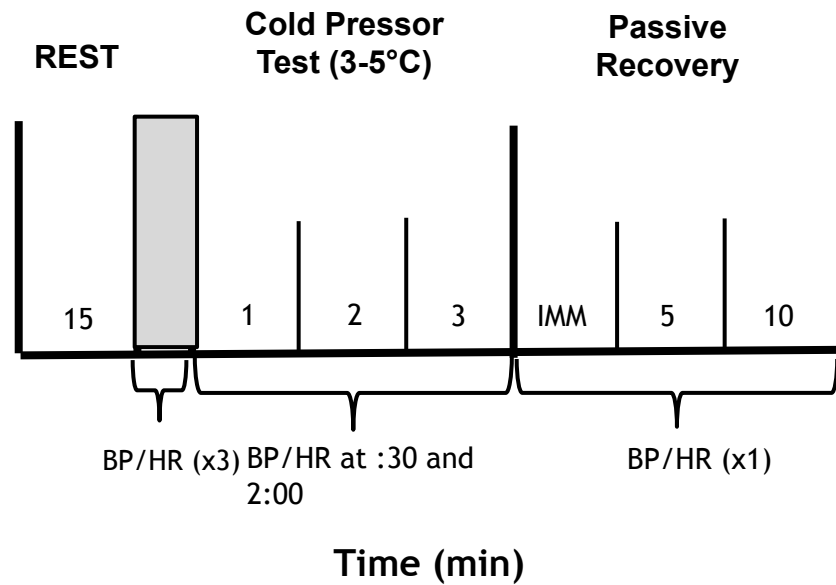
## Active/Passive Contraction Protocol



# Methods- Visit Two

- Order of affected hand randomized

## Cold Pressor Protocol





# Data Analysis

- IAD+, >10 mmHg IAD at rest
- IAD-, <10 mm Hg IAD at rest
- Descriptive statistics- calculated as mean  $\pm$  SEM
- A repeated-measures ANOVA was used to compare the relative IAD response to the CPT between IAD+ and IAD- individuals at rest

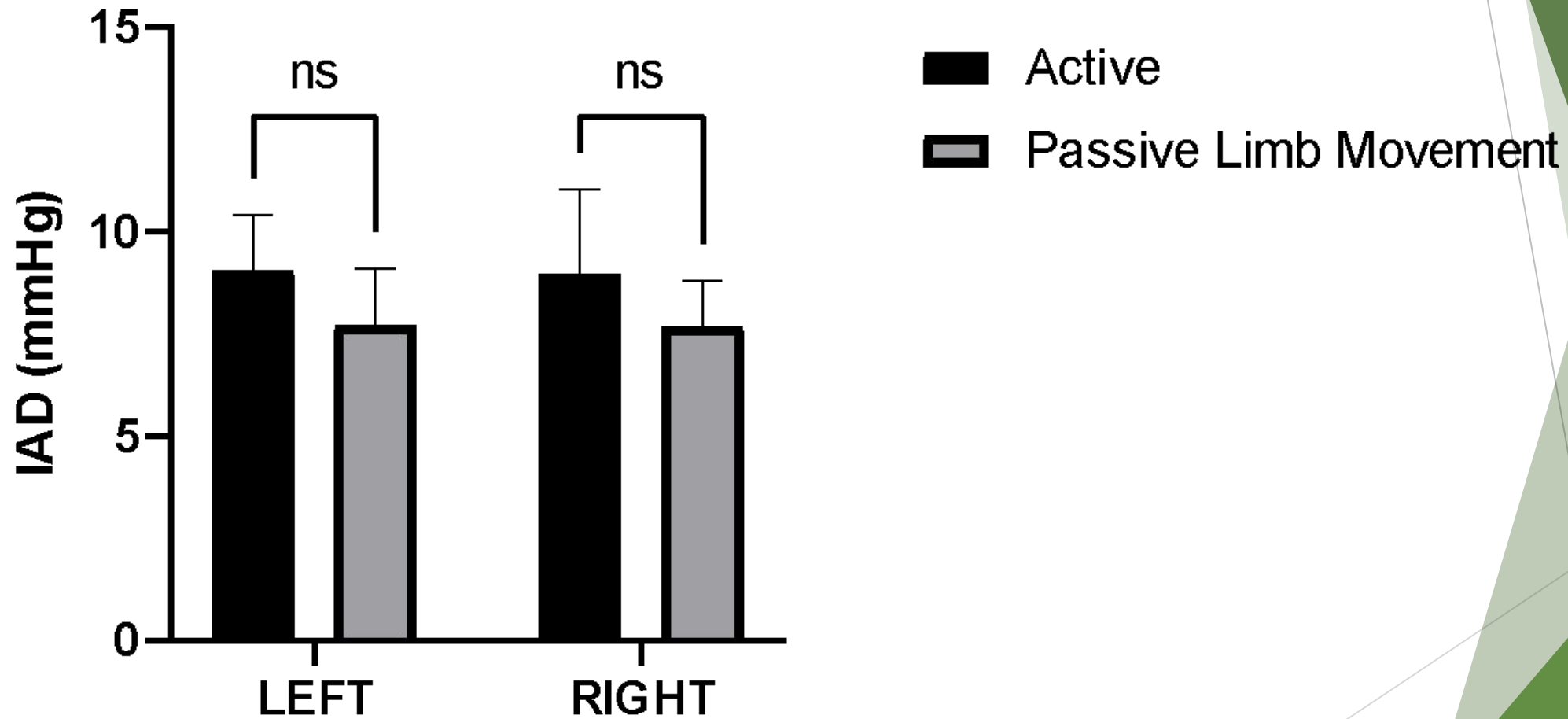
# Participant Demographics - Active/Passive

	IAD- (n=7; <10mmHg)	IAD+ (n=18; ≥10mmHg)
<b>Cholestech Panel:</b>		
Total Cholesterol (mg/dL)	193.1 ± 10.4	182.5 ± 10.3
High-Density Lipoprotein (mg/dL)	56.1 ± 4.0	55.9 ± 6.5
Low-Density Lipoprotein (mg/dL)	112.9 ± 7.9	108.9 ± 6.8
LDL/HDL Ratio	3.7 ± 0.3	3.5 ± 0.3
Blood Glucose (mg/dL)	90.6 ± 2.5	90.1 ± 1.9
<b>Anthropometrics:</b>		
Weight (kg)	77.0 ± 4.8	74.4 ± 4.2
Height (cm)	168.0 ± 2.6	168.6 ± 3.8
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	27.2 ± 1.5	26.2 ± 1.4
Fat-Free Mass (kg)	54.1 ± 2.8	56.5 ± 3.7
Body Fat Percentage (%)	29 ± 2.4	24 ± 3.4

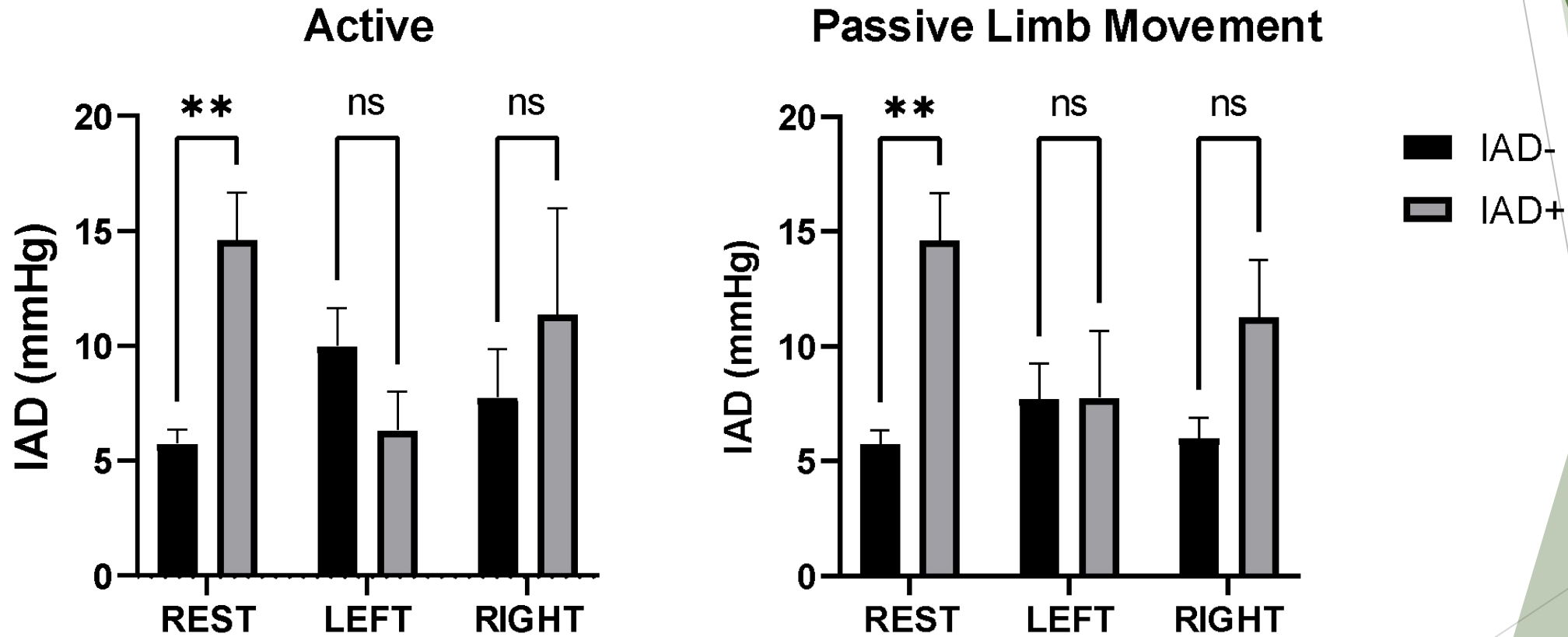
# Participant Demographics - CPT

	IAD- (n=11; <10mmHg)	IAD+ (n=12; ≥10mmHg)
<b>Cholestech Panel:</b>		
Total Cholesterol (mg/dL)	183.9 ± 11.2	201.2 ± 4.0
High-Density Lipoprotein (mg/dL)	53.8 ± 5.3	56.4 ± 2.4
Low-Density Lipoprotein (mg/dL)	96.9 ± 4.9	122.5 ± 3.1*
LDL/HDL Ratio	3.5 ± 0.3	3.7 ± 0.35
Blood Glucose (mg/dL)	91.2 ± 3.1	90.9 ± 2.8
<b>Anthropometrics:</b>		
Weight (kg)	73.8 ± 5.3	76.8 ± 2.7
Height (cm)	170.6 ± 3.4	165.5 ± 3.7
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	25.1 ± 1.2	28.0 ± 1.7
Fat-Free Mass (kg)	55.7 ± 3.6	52.1 ± 2.1
Body Fat Percentage (%)	24 ± 1.6	31 ± 1.9

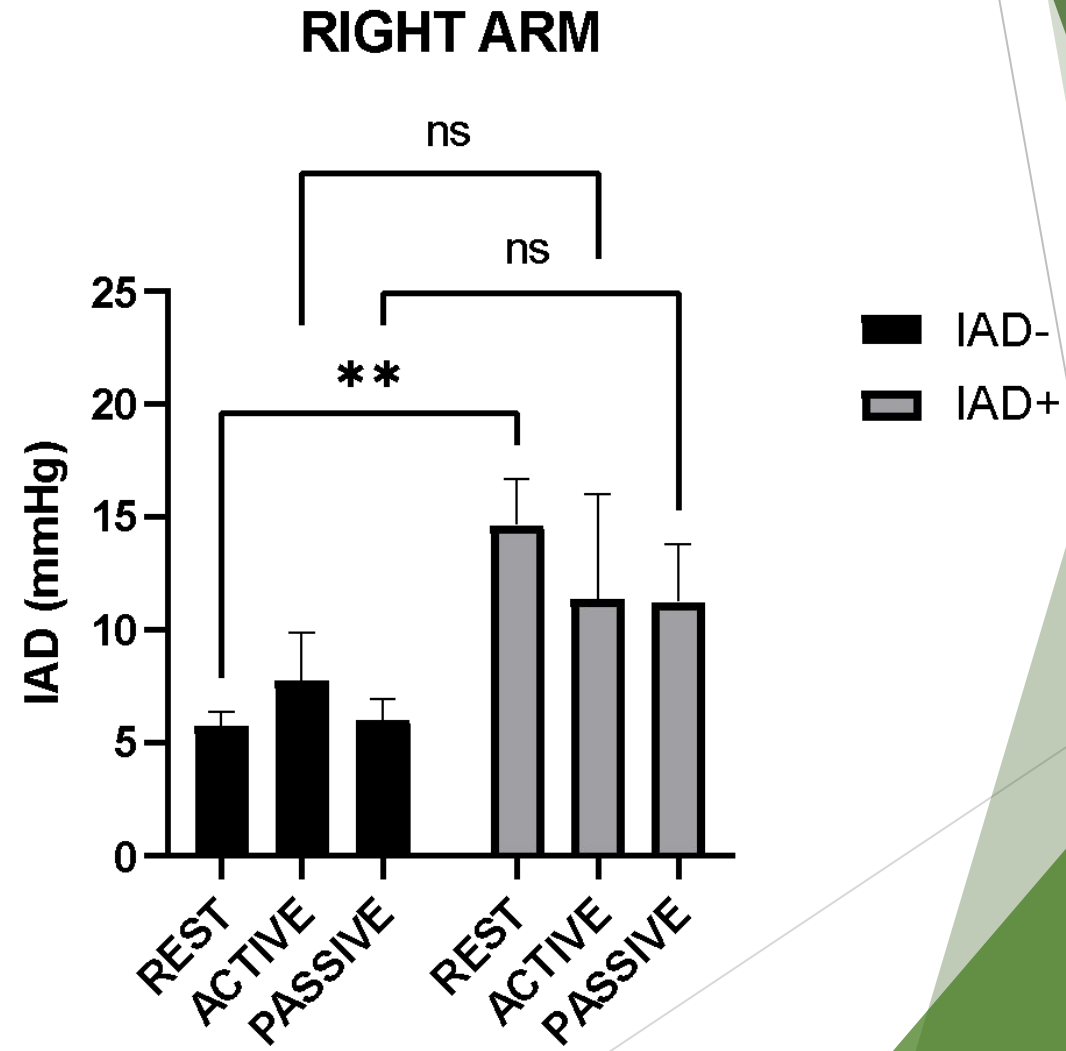
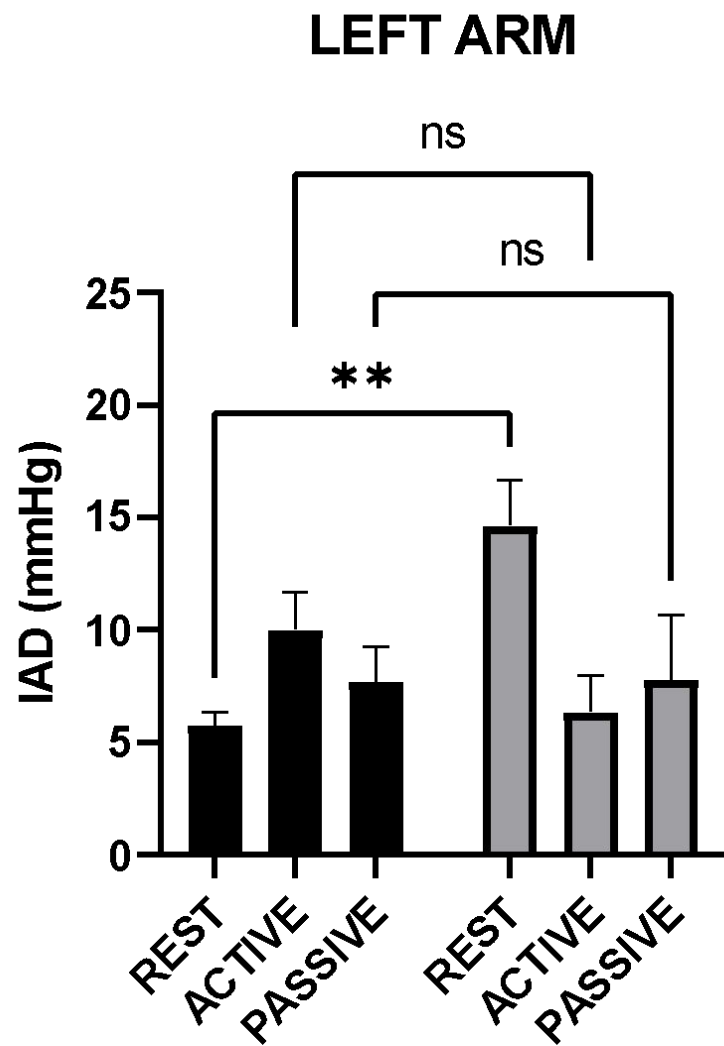
# Results - Active/Passive



# Results - Active/Passive

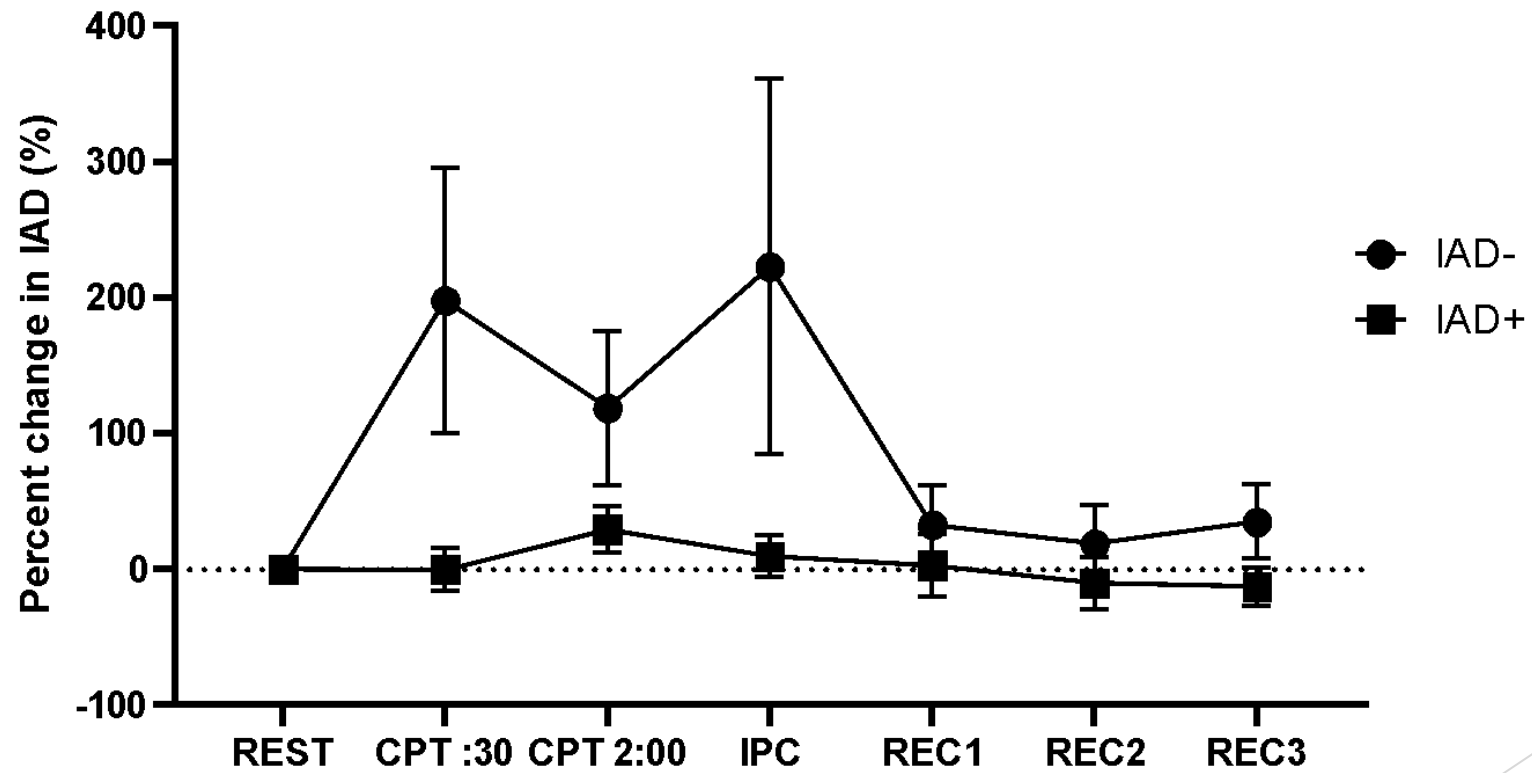


# Results - Active/Passive





# Results - CPT



# Conclusions - Active/Passive

- Both passive and active limb movement mediated IAD similarly in both IAD+ and IAD- participants

# Conclusions - CPT

- Similar to prior stimuli on the IAD response:
  - CPT augmented IAD response in IAD- individuals
  - IAD+ individuals had a blunted response to the CPT, possibly indicating that suggested anatomical bases, and physiological responses derived by sympathetic means, deserve further investigation as potential mechanisms behind resting and exercise IAD.

# Acknowledgements

- SRU Exercise Science Research Lab:
  - Ben McEldowney, Seth Markle
- Slippery Rock University/PASSHE Funding Sources
  - 2020 Norton Scholarship for Undergraduate Research
  - Summer Collaborative Research Experience (SCORE)