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AS

12/07/2020

Reino Unido usó a 91 atletas olímpicos como conejillos de Indias para probar sustancias

Una investigación del Mail on Sunday desvela el uso de sustancias experimentales en 91 atletas británicos para mejorar su rendimiento en los Juegos de Londres 2012.



ADRIAN DENNIS AFP

El diario [Mail on Sunday reveló este domingo](#) que 91 deportistas británicos de ocho disciplinas distintas fueron usados como conejillos de indias para mejorar su rendimiento en los Juegos Olímpicos de Londres 2012 antes de los mismos, recibiendo dosis de una sustancia todavía en pruebas. Además, varios de ellos sufrieron efectos secundarios.

La sustancia en sí se conoce como 'Delta G', una bebida que proporciona a los atletas cetonas, que son moléculas que tratan de aumentar la cantidad de glucógeno en el cuerpo y retrasar la aparición de ácido láctico. Dicha sustancia fue desarrollada por la Universidad de Oxford para ser usada en las Fuerzas Especiales norteamericanas a cambio de 10 millones de dólares.

UK Sport, organismo regulador del deporte británico, preguntó a la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje (AMA) si esta sustancia era legal. La AMA respondió que la cetona no estaba prohibida, pero que podría estarlo en un tiempo. Ante estas dudas, UK Sport dejó claro a los participantes del programa que no garantizaba que durante el proceso se cumpliera completamente con la normativa antidopaje y que, en caso de dar positivo, la culpa sería del atleta y nunca de la entidad.

Además, los 91 atletas tuvieron que firmar un contrato de confidencialidad e, incluso, aceptar que no estaba garantizado que no aparecieran efectos secundarios, y, en caso de existir, tendrían que ser asumidos por ellos mismos, sin que UK Sport guardase ninguna responsabilidad. El 40 por ciento de los participantes en este experimento sufrieron estos efectos secundarios, incluidos vómitos y trastornos gastrointestinales, y 28 deportistas dejaron de ingerir esta sustancia. Más tarde, otros 24 atletas británicos abandonaron el programa, alegando que no les estaba beneficiando.

En cuanto a las cifras y disciplinas afectadas, los documentos publicados por Mail on Sunday desvelan que UK Sport pagó al equipo de investigación de Oxford £4.000 a principios de 2011 por un ensayo en el que participaron jugadores de rugby en la Universidad de Bath. Posteriormente, la entidad británica pagó £183.600 para probarlo en remeros y

ciclistas, y otros £42.115 en 2013. Ciclismo, hockey, vela, atletismo, natación y pentatlón moderno, entre varios deportes más, han sido los principales conejillos de indias de este experimento. Además, el diario británico desvela las intenciones que tenía UK Sport de aplicarlo en deportistas olímpicos y paralímpicos de manera extendida.

En los Juegos de Londres 2012, el equipo británico se alzó con 29 medallas de oro, diez más que en Pekín 2008, para un total de 65 metales, catorce más que en la edición anterior, siendo este su mejor resultado desde los Juegos de Londres 1908.

https://as.com/masdeporte/2020/07/12/juegosolimpicos/1594561960_509155.html

MARCA

12/07/2020

Gran Bretaña pudo haber usado a sus deportistas como cobayas en 2012

[OLIMPISMO](#) "No buscaremos medallas a cualquier precio", responden



El equipo de hockey, uno de los deportes involucrados, en 2012 AFP

Noventa y un deportistas británicos, de ocho deportes olímpicos, habrían sido usados como cobayas en un proyecto deportivo que arrancó en octubre de 2011, nueve meses antes de los Juegos Olímpicos de Londres, según revela una investigación periodística del 'Mail on Sunday'.

El informe afirma que los atletas recibieron una bebida denominada 'Delta G', que aún estaba en fase experimental, copiada de un encargo del ejército estadounidense a la Universidad de Oxford años atrás, a base de ésteres de cetonas, cuya ingesta está ahora en auge, y que vendría a ser otra fuente de energía a la que acudir, además del glucógeno -carbohidratos- y las grasas, y que retardaría la aparición del ácido láctico.

Al ser un producto experimental -sin completar la cuarta fase en la que el medicamento se puede lanzar al mercado-, se desconocían los resultados secundarios. Al parecer un 40 por ciento acabó con dolores gastrointestinales y vómitos, lo que llevó a 28 de los deportistas a dejar de tomarlo. El UK Sport, máximo responsable del deporte británico y que estaría al frente de esta operación, consultaron con la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje y su homóloga británica, y la respuesta fue que la cetona no estaba prohibida, pero que se reservaba el derecho de revisar la postura más adelante.



El regatista británico Ben Aislie

Los deportistas metidos en el proyecto estaban obligados a firmar un acuerdo de confidencialidad y asumir su culpabilidad en el caso de que dieran positivo durante los Juegos Olímpicos. Al mismo tiempo se desarrolló un plan de comunicación para que, en el caso de que hubiera filtraciones, se respondiera que el deporte británico estaba muy adelantado al resto de competidores científicamente hablando. El Delta G comenzó a comercializarse ocho años después y vive su fiebre en estos momentos en algunos foros de nutrición.

Los deportistas, pertenecientes a disciplinas como atletismo, ciclismo, natación, hockey, vela y pentatlón moderno, entre otros, habrían recibido una ayuda extra entre uno y dos por ciento. El estudio habría comenzado con jugadores de rugby del Bath en 2011 y el UK Sport habría invertido algo menos de 400.000 euros en el proyecto. La Universidad de Oxford había recibido ya 10 millones de dólares del ejército estadounidense para desarrollarla años atrás para proporcionársela a sus soldados.

En el informe al que el diario tuvo acceso, 14 páginas, se relataba que UK Sport estaba negociando un acuerdo exclusivo con Oxford, en el que el centro de investigación corroboraba que sólo tenía como 'clientes' a los cuerpos de elite del ejército estadounidense. El siguiente paso era el uso de la sustancia para deportistas olímpicos y paralímpicos, con un coste de unos 600.000 euros más. Kieran Clarke, profesora de Oxford responsable de la investigación, dijo al Mail no tener conocimiento de que se había aplicado a olímpicos en la preparación de los Juegos o durante ellos.

El UK Sport, mientras tanto, sostiene que todo este estudio recibió la aprobación de las autoridades médicas y antidopaje pertinentes y que en ningún momento se presionó a los deportistas para que se sometieran a ello. La bisoñez de su uso, ahora extendido, no otorga referencias de posibles daños secundarios.

Gran Bretaña, organizadora de los Juegos de 2012, pasó de 19 medallas de oro en Pekín 2008 a 29, su tope histórico en más de 100 años. Ante el revuelo causado, el UK Sport ha manifestado que "nunca buscaremos medallas a cualquier precio".

<https://www.marca.com/olimpismo/2020/07/12/5f0ad82422601d81438b45c5.html>

LIBERTAD DIGITAL

12/07/2020

Acusan a Reino Unido de implantar un dopaje de estado en los Juegos Olímpicos de Londres 2012

Según *Daily Mail*, los deportistas británicos fueron utilizados "como conejillos de indias" al inocularles una "sustancia experimental".



Grave acusación por parte de [Daily Mail](#) al Gobierno británico. El tabloide, que es el segundo periódico más leído en Reino Unido detrás de *The Sun* —con una tirada de casi un millón y medio de ejemplares—, asegura este domingo que **Reino Unido promulgó un sistema de dopaje de estado** que tuvo su cenit en los [Juegos Olímpicos de Londres 2012](#).

El rotativo, en una información en exclusiva, revela este fin de semana que **los deportistas olímpicos británicos fueron utilizados como conejillos de indias** para probar una sustancia experimental en un **proyecto secreto del deporte británico**. Un proyecto que, según señala *Daily Mail* citando como fuente una investigación del Ministerio del Interior, costó cientos de miles de libras de dinero público en un intento por mejorar el rendimiento de los atletas en Londres 2012, donde **Gran Bretaña fue tercera en el medallero con 65 medallas** — 18 más que en Pekín 2008—, sólo por detrás de Estados Unidos (104) y China (88), con un total de 29 oros, 19 platas y 17 bronce.

El plan, denominado 'intervención nutricional novedosa', estaba destinado a aumentar el rendimiento de los atletas y a ganar más medallas, pero *Daily Mail* destaca que **no tenía garantías de que no violaría las reglas antidopaje** o de que **estuviera libre de efectos secundarios**. En este sentido, UK Sport, que es la agencia gubernamental responsable del desarrollo del deporte olímpico y paralímpico en Reino Unido, preparó una serie de

puntos **eximiéndose de cualquier responsabilidad si algo salía mal**, al tiempo que redactó unos acuerdos de confidencialidad prohibiendo a los atletas hablar de dicho plan.

Según añade el rotativo, **91 deportistas de élite** pertenecientes a ocho disciplinas olímpicas distintas probaron el producto: una bebida llamada **DeltaG** que aumenta la capacidad energética.

La sustancia, una versión sintética de un **ácido corporal natural llamado cetona**, fue desarrollada originalmente por científicos de la Universidad de Oxford, con una **financiación de 10 millones de dólares procedente del Departamento de Defensa** de los Estados Unidos. Eran los planes de Washington, utilizando al mismo tiempo al deporte británico: utilizar a los deportistas de Reino Unido como conejillos de indias. Si el proyecto tenía éxito, luego sería desarrollado y mejorado para las **Fuerzas Especiales** estadounidenses, con el fin de que éstas pudieran operar durante más tiempo detrás de las líneas enemigas con menos raciones de alimentos.

UK Sport elaboró una 'hoja de información para participantes' lavándose las manos si algo iba mal y donde se podía leer: "UK Sport no garantiza, promete, asegura o representa que el uso de ésteres cetónicos cumple absolutamente con el Código Mundial Antidopaje y, por lo tanto, excluye toda responsabilidad por el uso del éster cetónico". En otras palabras, si un atleta fallaba una prueba de drogas después de tomar las sustancias que UK Sport le dio, ya sea porque estaban contaminadas con sustancias prohibidas o porque la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje (AMA) hizo que la sustancia fuera ilegal, sería culpa del atleta y no de UK Sport. En cuanto a las cetonas, la AMA informó al Gobierno británico y a UK Sport que esta sustancia no estaba prohibida, pero que la Agencia Antidopaje se reservaba el derecho de revisar su posición.

Según *Daily Mail*, de los 91 atletas que probaron la bebida DeltaG que contenía éster cetónico, **más de un 40 por ciento terminaron con efectos secundarios como vómitos y trastornos gastrointestinales**, y 28 de esos deportistas dejaron de tomar la sustancia por este motivo. Otros 24 atletas se retiraron más tarde del plan al considerar que DeltaG no era beneficioso para ellos en ningún modo.

<https://www.libertaddigital.com/deportes/mas-deporte/2020-07-12/acusan-a-reino-unido-de-implantar-un-dopaje-de-estado-en-los-juegos-olimpicos-de-londres-2012-1276660856/>

IU SPORT

12/07/2020

Atletas británicos, utilizados como conejillos de indias en Londres 2012

AGENCIAS / IUSPORT

Se tomaron un producto en fase de investigación para mejorar el rendimiento. La UK Sport se eximió de cualquier responsabilidad e invirtió 10 millones de dólares del dinero público en el estudio de este producto.

Según un estudio de investigación del periódico británico Daily Mail, los deportistas olímpicos británicos fueron **utilizados como conejillos de indias para probar una sustancia experimental** en un proyecto secreto del deporte del Reino Unido que costó cientos de miles de libras de dinero público.

Según la misma investigación, **se trataba de buscar una fórmula para mejorar el rendimiento de los atletas** en los Juegos Olímpicos de Londres 2012, según descubrió una investigación del Ministerio del Interior.

La llamada 'intervención nutricional novedosa' se la tomaron los aspirantes a medallas durante la competición a pesar de que solo estaba disponible para su uso en 'investigación', y **no había garantías de que no violaría las reglas antidopaje** o de que estuviera libre de efectos secundarios.

El UK Sport, la agencia gubernamental responsable de financiar el deporte olímpico y paralímpico en Gran Bretaña, preparó exenciones liberándose de cualquier culpa si algo salía mal y acuerdos de confidencialidad que prohibían a los atletas hablar de ello.

Según los documentos obtenidos por The Mail on Sunday, **91 deportistas de élite en ocho deportes olímpicos recibieron el producto: una bebida DeltaG que aumenta la energía**, siendo la primera vez que se testaba en humanos durante una competición.

Mucho dinero público invertido

La UK Sport pagó para realizar pruebas de la sustancia en remeros y ciclistas. Las facturas muestran que UK Sport pagó al equipo de investigación de Oxford 4.000 libras a principios de

2011, por un ensayo en el que participaron jugadores de rugby en la Universidad de Bath; y luego 183,600 libras para las pruebas en los remeros y ciclistas; también se destinaron 42,115 libras a principios de 2013 como una “subvención de investigación” adicional para estudios de **DeltaG** en deportistas.

La sustancia, una versión sintética de un ácido corporal natural llamado cetonas, fue desarrollada originalmente por científicos de la **Universidad de Oxford** con una financiación de 10 millones de dólares del **Departamento de Defensa de los Estados Unidos**.

El gobierno se exime de responsabilidades

UK Sport elaboró una 'hoja de información para participantes' para acompañar la solicitud del proyecto que decía: "**UK Sport** no garantiza, promete, asegura o representa que el uso de los ésteres cetónicos cumple con el **Código Mundial Antidopaje** y, por lo tanto, se excluye de toda responsabilidad por el uso de este producto".

En otras palabras, si un atleta no superó una prueba antidoping tras tomar las sustancias que **UK Sport** le dio, ya sea porque estaban contaminadas con sustancias prohibidas o porque la **AMA** considerara que la sustancia fuera ilegal, sería culpa del atleta, no de **UK Sport**.

Efectos secundarios a muchos atletas

El mismo estudio revela que más del 40 por ciento de los atletas terminaron con efectos secundarios que incluyeron vómitos y trastornos gastrointestinales, y 28 personas dejaron de tomar la sustancia por este motivo. Otros 24 más tarde se retiraron del plan porque pensaban que la sustancia no era de ninguna manera beneficiosa para ellos.

<https://iusport.com/art/109654/atletas-britanicos-utilizados-como-conejillos-de-indias-en-londres-2012>

INFOBAE

11/07/2020

La amenaza de EEUU de retirar fondos podría alentar reformas antidopaje, dice Tygart

El director de la Agencia Antidopaje de Estados Unidos (USADA), Travis Tygart, espera que la amenaza de retirar la financiación del gobierno estadounidense de la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje aliente al organismo a llevar a cabo reformas solicitadas durante mucho tiempo.

La posibilidad de que Estados Unidos detenga su pago anual de 2,7 millones de dólares a la AMA se hizo latente esta semana la Oficina de Política Nacional de Control de Drogas (ONDCP), dependiente de la Casa Blanca, recibiera la autorización para frenar el financiamiento de un comité clave del Congreso de los Estados Unidos .

La autorización llegó solo unas pocas semanas después de un informe explosivo del ONDCP que recomendaba que se suspendieran los fondos estadounidenses a la AMA si la agencia no implementaba reformas de gobernanza.

La AMA había refutado las conclusiones de la ONDCP, acusándola de presentar "muchas imprecisiones, conceptos erróneos y mentiras".

Sin embargo, Tygart defendió el análisis de ONDCP, describiéndolo como "absolutamente preciso" y pintando "una imagen realista y apolítica".

"La ONDCP pidió que los atletas tengan voz, que se garantice su independencia en la mesa de negociaciones con el retiro de las federaciones deportivas del gobierno, así como una representación justa", resumió Tygart a la AFP.

"Lo positivo es que Estados Unidos se toma muy en serio la reforma y está listo para buscar la autoridad del Congreso para bloquear el dinero. Tendría un impacto devastador en la AMA. Nadie quiere que esto suceda", agregó.

"Pero las promesas de reforma no se han cumplido. Los atletas están frustrados y los gobiernos que están atentos están frustrados", señaló Tygart.

- "Sistema fallido" -

Tygart apuntó que el organismo que preside está listo para enfrentar las consecuencias si la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje reacciona ante cualquier posible retiro de fondos expulsándolo de sus filas.

"Queremos un AMA fuerte e independiente. Pero la AMA dejó en claro en su respuesta que tomará represalias si el dinero se detiene y que excluirá a los Estados Unidos", dijo Tygart.

La USADA ha criticado durante mucho tiempo la influencia del Comité Olímpico Internacional (COI) en los organismos de la AMA, diciendo que la presencia de muchos miembros del COI en puestos clave impide que la agencia mundial actúe de manera independiente.

El COI, que aporta la mitad de los fondos de la AMA, también tiene la mitad de los escaños en el Comité Ejecutivo de la agencia, que no tiene representantes de los Estados Unidos.

"No se puede promover y controlar de manera efectiva", dijo Tygart. "Es una cuestión de sentido común. El jefe de la mafia no está en el consejo de policía, por razones obvias", subrayó Tygart.

Para el funcionario estadounidense, la reciente investigación sobre la Federación Internacional de Halterofilia, cuyo presidente Tamas Ajan se vio obligado a renunciar después de acusaciones de corrupción, compra de votos y ocultar casos de dopaje positivo, demuestra la necesidad de reformas.

"Todo esto sucedió bajo la atenta mirada de la AMA. (La investigación) pinta una imagen de un sistema fallido", dijo.

Finalmente, Tygart se mostró escéptico ante las recientes iniciativas del presidente de la AMA, Witold Banka, para fortalecer el compromiso de los atletas, quienes organizaron reuniones.

"Tiran algunas migajas de la mesa del rey", dijo Tygart. "'Vamos a conocer a los atletas y los pondremos en la agenda'. Es una táctica dilatoria. Así es como juegan el juego".

<https://www.infobae.com/america/agencias/2020/07/11/la-amenaza-de-eeuu-de-retirar-fondos-podria-alentar-reformas-antidopaje-dice-tygart/>

LAS PROVINCIAS DIARIO DE LAS PALMAS

11/07/2020

Arrestan al dueño de una tienda por venta de drogas y anabolizantes en Fuerteventura

Agentes del Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza de la **Guardia Civil** (Seprona) **detuvieron en Puerto del Rosario a un hombre por un presunto delito de tráfico de drogas y distribución de anabolizantes** para uso de crecimiento muscular.

Los guardiasciviles realizaron una inspección rutinaria en un establecimiento público dedicado a la venta de productos de culturismo, ubicado en la calle Virgen de La Peña, en la capital insular.

En el registro realizado, los agentes encontraron numerosos productos anabolizantes, así como varias drogas, según los datos que han trascendido, por lo que procedieron a la detención de la persona que se encontraba en el mismo.

La operación policial fue presenciada por varios vecinos de la zona que señalaron a este periódico que los agentes sacaron del establecimiento diversas cajas, así como a un hombre que fue trasladado hasta las dependencias policiales.

<https://www.laprovincia.es/sucesos/2020/07/11/arrestan-dueno-tienda-venta-drogas/1299372.html>

FRANCE 24

10/07/2020

El jefe antidopaje ruso se siente víctima de campaña de descrédito personal

Yuri Ganus, director general de la Agencia Rusa Antidopaje asiste a una conferencia de la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje (AMA) en Katowice, Polonia, el 7 de noviembre de 2019. Irek Dorozanski AFP

Moscú (AFP)

El presidente de la Agencia Rusa Antidopaje (RUSADA), Yuri Ganus, negó este viernes las acusaciones publicadas en las redes sociales sobre desvío de fondos y denuncia que hay intentos de "desacreditar" su lucha contra el dopaje en el país.

Una cadena Telegram anónima bautizada Postpravda ("Postverdad") publicó el jueves un mensaje asegurando que Ganus desvió al menos 110 millones de rublos (1,37 millones de euros, 1,54 millones de dólares) de fondos de la RUSADA en 2018 y 2019. Se aseguraba además que había una investigación en curso y que estaba a punto de producirse su arresto.

En una conferencia de prensa en internet, Yuri Ganus denunció ser víctima de "una absoluta mentira" y "el inicio de una campaña" para "desacreditar" tanto a su persona como a la RUSADA.

PUBLICIDAD

"A los que encargaron ese artículo no les gusta la independencia de nuestra agencia y el activismo de la RUSADA. No les gusta que colaboremos con organizaciones internacionales", añadió, rechazando pronunciarse sobre quién estaría detrás de estos ataques.

Yuri Ganus, de 56 años, pasó a la cabeza de la RUSADA en 2017, en un momento en el que estaba suspendida por la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje (AMA) por un amplio escándalo de dopaje institucional entre 2011 y 2015.

La AMA levantó temporalmente la suspensión de la RUSADA en septiembre de 2018, pero la volvió a suspender al final de 2019 tras descubrirse "manipulaciones" en los datos de los controles del laboratorio antidopaje de Moscú.

Yuri Ganus ha acusado en varias ocasiones a las autoridades de su país de ser responsables de esas falsificaciones, masivas y evidentes según él, para proteger a deportistas que habrían sido si no acusados de trampas.

<https://www.france24.com/es/20200710-el-jefe-antidopaje-ruso-se-siente-v%C3%ADctima-de-campa%C3%B1a-de-descr%C3%A9dito-personal>

DAILY MAIL

11/07/2020

REVEALED: British London 2012 Olympians were used as guinea pigs for Special Forces 'wonder drug' but 40 per cent of those who used the supplement ended up with side-effects... including vomiting!

- **British athletes were used to test an experimental substance for Special Forces**
- **The project cost hundreds of thousands of pounds of the public money**
- **There were no guarantees the experiment wouldn't breach anti-doping laws**
- **A percentage of those who tried the drug ended up with adverse side-effects**

By [NICK HARRIS](#) and [EDMUND WILLISON](#) and [ROB DRAPER FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY](#)

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[British Olympians](#) were used as guinea pigs to test an experimental substance in a secret UK Sport project costing hundreds of thousands of pounds of public money in a bid to enhance their performance at [London 2012](#), an MoS investigation has found.

The so-called 'novel nutritional intervention' was fed to medal hopefuls during competition despite only being available for use in 'research', and there being no guarantees it wouldn't breach anti-doping rules or that it was free of side-effects.

UK Sport prepared waivers freeing themselves of any blame if anything went wrong and non-disclosure agreements banning athletes from talking about it. Tranches of documents obtained by *The Mail on Sunday* show that 91 elite-level sportspeople across eight Olympic sports were given the product — an energy-boosting drink branded DeltaG, then at the first stage of in-competition testing in humans.



The substance, a synthetic version of a naturally occurring body acid called ketones, was originally developed by scientists at Oxford University with \$10million of funding from the American Department of Defence so US Special Forces could operate for longer behind enemy lines with fewer rations.

UK Sport, the government agency responsible for funding Olympic and Paralympic sport in Britain, produced a ‘participant information sheet’ to accompany the project application which read: ‘UK Sport does not guarantee, promise, assure or represent that use of ketone esters is absolutely World Anti-Doping Code compliant and therefore excludes all responsibility for use of the ketone ester.’

In other words, if an athlete failed a drugs test after taking the substances given to them by UK Sport — either because they were contaminated with banned substances, or WADA made the substance illegal — it would be the athlete’s fault, not UK Sport’s fault.

UK Sport told athletes in the document: ‘WADA might exercise ... their rights to regulate ... [and] collect blood samples or retrospectively test old samples. This may occur if there were pressure of the media if the concept was to leak. However ... ketosis is a temporary physiological state and would be difficult to prove or test with any post-event samples.’

UK Sport did approach the World Anti-Doping Agency and UK Anti-Doping before proceeding and was told ketones were not currently banned but that WADA reserved their right to review their position.



There were no guarantees to the athletes about safety, and some became ill because of it

Another waiver prepared by UK Sport for the 91 British sportspeople compelled them to agree that the responsibility for any physical side-effects should be borne solely by themselves, not UK Sport.

The Mail on Sunday asked for the final waiver signed by athletes and the document sent reads: ‘As part of my agreement to participate I accept that there are risks in this study due to performing maximal exercise and to ingesting the ketone ester supplement. I accept that I cannot hold those running or associated with this protocol or their respective institutes, associations and businesses at any liability for these risks.’

It can be revealed more than 40 per cent of athletes ended up with side-effects including vomiting and gastrointestinal upsets, and 28 individuals stopped taking the substance for this reason. A further 24 later withdrew from the scheme because they thought the substance was in no way beneficial to them.

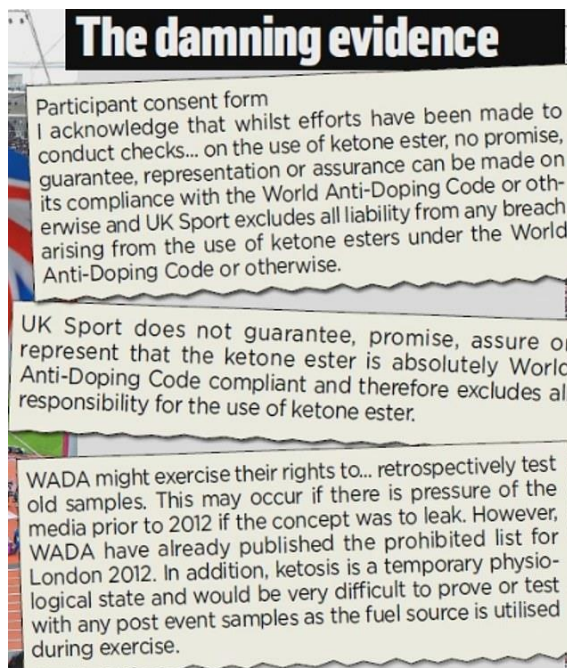
There was even a communications strategy ready in case the project leaked to the media. A document for board members in October 2011 said: 'A communication plan will be needed with the media to mitigate any negative perceptions and publicity. The publicity focus will need to be on the quality of the science ... and the fact that the UK is ahead of the curve compared to its competitors.' It added: 'If others are aware UK Sport is linked to the project ... the risks will be around perceived unfair competitive edge. Current proposals are looking to ensure any scientific publications are released post London 2012.'

It appears UK Sport wanted to suppress circulation of knowledge about their project until after the Olympics.

All athletes who agreed to use DeltaG in the hope it might boost their London 2012 dreams were also obliged to sign a binding non-disclosure agreement (NDA), compelling them never to speak about their involvement in the project.

UK Sport told them: 'This means you cannot talk to anybody outside of the research team and your peer group, i.e. athletes and coaches who have also signed this NDA, about the details of this study, especially not about the type of nutritional intervention you are testing.'

And in the participation information sheet prepared by UK Sport, athletes were told: 'The ketone ester used in this study is not commercially available and can only be administered as part of a research trial.'



To this day it remains unknown whether the experiment provided any performance benefit to any British athlete at London 2012.

The Mail on Sunday's investigation into boundary-pushing methods in elite British sport has obtained documentary evidence of the UK Sport 2012 scheme via multiple Freedom of

Information requests (all of which have come back at least partially redacted) and via sources linked to the project. Additional sources across multiple sports say the 2012 scheme was piloted in British track and field athletes, cyclists and various endurance disciplines.

‘In the run-up to London 2012, there were all kinds of whispers about certain athletes getting an extra tonic in their daily supplements handout while others in the same training group didn’t,’ says one source from a sport among the highest achieving in medal terms for Team GB in London.

The coach of another prominent GB Olympian told this newspaper he heard rumours of a ‘wonder substance’ being touted in certain sports but that secrecy was so extreme he was unable to discover anything beyond rumour.

One key document obtained by *The Mail on Sunday* was the confidential UK Sport memo from October 2011, produced for the attention only of UK Sport board members and directors, which was, in effect, a ‘road map’ of how UK Sport intended to exploit DeltaG for Team GB’s exclusive benefit.

This 14-page document detailed how UK Sport’s Research & Innovation team first noticed an article in a 2007 scientific journal about DeltaG, then being developed by the US military and being tested in animals ‘for physical and cognitive endurance performance’.

UK Sport contacted the US military, who in turn pointed UK Sport to Oxford University, whom UK Sport paid to conduct trials of the substance in rowers and cyclists. Invoices show UK Sport paid Oxford’s research team £4,000 in early 2011, for a trial involving rugby players at Bath University; and then £183,600 later in 2011 for the trials on the rowers and cyclists; and then £42,115 in early 2013 as a further ‘research grant’ for DeltaG studies on sportspeople.



Waivers were prepared freeing UK Sport of any blame if anything went wrong with the project

Ketones are a fuel source naturally produced in the liver as a by-product of fat breakdown when a person is not consuming enough carbohydrate. It is possible to produce a 'ketogenic state' (basically an energy-production response to starvation) by not eating carbs. This would be detrimental to athletes needing carbs, so DeltaG is a synthetic way to reach a ketogenic state without fasting.

But the ketones produced by Oxford were unpalatably bitter, hence the need to be mixed into (slightly more) palatable drinks. The lab-based trials in rowers and cyclists appeared to show a one to two per cent performance benefit. The confidential 'road map' memo stated: 'The [UK Sport] aim is to implement the use of DeltaG with targeted athletes and sports in the period leading into and during London 2012 with events greater than five minutes' duration and multi-event athletes. These sports include cycling; hockey; sailing; athletics; swimming; modern pentathlon and select others.'

The memo said UK Sport was then 'negotiating an exclusive agreement' with Oxford, adding 'currently, DeltaG is only available to UK Sport and only for the purpose of "research" — it is not commercially available to anyone else. The only people who are currently allowed to purchase and use the product outside the context of research trials are the US Special Forces.'

The memo added: 'All usage of DeltaG has to happen under the umbrella of scientific experiments.' The secret document then outlined the next steps in UK Sport's plan, which included expanding the use of the substance to GB Olympians and Paralympians at an estimated cost of £225,000; an 'up-scaling' of use of the product across further sports at an estimated cost of £200,000.

The Oxford University academic behind the long-term development of DeltaG is Professor Kieran Clarke, a highly respected leader in her field who has studied the effects of diet on energy metabolism in human heart, brain and skeletal muscle for almost 30 years.

Prof Clarke was happy to work with UK Sport in testing DeltaG in lab conditions and fully supported UK Sport's experiments, she has told *the Mail on Sunday*.

Having gone through years of applications to test the substance on humans, and believing it to be both legal and safe, Prof Clarke never had any qualms about using DeltaG in elite athletes. Since 2018 it has been marketed commercially as a food supplement that can boost performance in endurance athletes.

\$10M FUNDING FROM US ARMY

They fuelled Team GB's Olympians at London 2012, but what are ketones?

The use of ketones drinks in professional cycling has been a constant source of speculation since 2012. After all, their biggest potential benefit is seen in endurance events.

Ketones are produced naturally by the liver and are understood to provide the body with an energy source that is more efficient than carbohydrate. In states of fuel shortage, like fasting, the body converts fat into ketones in order to meet the energy needs of the brain, which is unable to utilise fat when carbohydrate levels are low. Ketones can provide a rapid and efficient alternative energy supply to the heart and muscles.

In the 2000s, this energy source was of interest to the US Special Forces who gave \$10m to Oxford University to develop an edible form of ketones that could be consumed in a drink for use by soldiers.

A UK Sport Board presentation, obtained by The Mail on Sunday, detailed how during a trial involving elite British rowers in 2011 over a 30-minute effort, ketones enhanced performance by one to two per cent — one world record and six personal bests were set.

In 2011, UK Anti-Doping and the World Anti-Doping Agency both confirmed to UK Sport that ketones were not currently on the prohibited substance list.

But Prof Clarke has told this newspaper she had no knowledge of UK Sport's trial of DeltaG in Olympians in the run-up to London 2012 and during those Games.

Another document obtained by the MoS shows that the 91 athletes in the 2012 scheme used 135 doses of DeltaG in competitive events. The stated intent was to use them in London 2012 build-up events and at the Games themselves.

Dr Scott Drawer, who was head of UK Sport's Research and Innovation unit in 2011-12 and now works for sport-centric Millfield independent school in Somerset, did not respond to requests for comment.

A UK Sport spokesperson said: 'As the nation's high-performance sports agency, UK Sport invests in expert institutes who deliver research and innovation projects to support the success of our national sports teams. These projects range from designing world-class technical equipment for our athletes, to supporting athlete health and performance.

These research and innovation projects are conducted in line with the highest ethical standards, with-in the rules of international sport and are assessed by an expert independent Research Advisory Group. Consultation takes place with UKAD and WADA wherever necessary to ensure projects comply with international anti-doping regulations.

'The Ketone Ester project received independent ethical approval from the Research Advisory Group in January 2012. Additionally, UK Anti-Doping confirmed in writing, after seeking clarification from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), that WADA had "no reason to consider such substances as banned under the 2011 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods".

Any research funded by UK Sport investment includes a participant consent form to ensure it operates with full transparency with regards to any risks to participants, and also for the purpose of full disclosure.

Participating athletes agree they have been provided with full details of the study and have had the opportunity to raise and discuss questions with a named researcher. Athletes are not put under pressure from UK Sport to take part in any research project or to provide their consent, and may withdraw at any time.'



British athletes were sworn to silence, with 91 elite-level sportspeople given the product

The MoS asked multiple UK sports governing bodies for comment, including those responsible for cycling, hockey, athletics and swimming. A British Cycling spokesman said: ‘UK Sport included some cyclists in their trials of ketone dietary supplements with athletes in the high-performance system in 2011 and 2012. As this was a UK Sport initiative, questions regarding the results of the trials should be directed to them.’

A spokesperson for GB Hockey said: ‘Athletes from GB Hockey were offered the opportunity to try DeltaG and did so in the 2012 Olympic cycle. GB Hockey were reassured by UK Sport’s participation in the programme and comfortable with assisting their drive for excellence. DeltaG was not adopted for a sustained period of time.’

UK Athletics said athletes used it but not in competition after finding it unpalatable.

While ketones are now widely used, they are far from universally accepted as a good thing. Earlier this year, Herman Ram, the head of the Dutch anti-doping agency, said his organisation does not encourage ketone use.

‘It is a legal nutrition but, at the same time, too little is known about the possible health consequences,’ he said. ‘That makes it a grey area. It is not on the doping list, but if we receive questions from athletes, we advise them not to use ketones.’

‘They are playing with people's lives, a failed drug test could be the end of someone's career’: British Olympians speak out against use of ketones and the legacy of London 2012

The reaction from British Olympians to The Mail on Sunday’s investigation into UK Sport’s use of ketones in the run up to London 2012 has been one of despair and dismay.

An academic and a prominent politician have also expressed their concerns that the government agency charged with allocating National Lottery money to Olympic and Paralympic sport should be pursuing marginal gains by using a substance developed for US

Special Forces. That substance was still being researched and UK Sport couldn't guarantee it would comply with anti-doping rules.

Jo Pavey, the 2014 European 5,000m champion who has represented GB at five Olympic Games, felt deep concern about the normalisation of such prohibitively expensive and potentially risky marginal gains.



Long-distance runner Jo Pavey said the use of stuff like synthetic ketones is 'a step too far'

'It's upsetting the way the sport is going with athletes trying to find gains they can get away with,' said Pavey, who ran at London 2012 but wasn't offered ketones.

'It's almost like nowadays athletes can't compete on the world stage unless they are doing all this rubbish. It's depressing, as you feel there is so much going on with people doing all sorts of things to the absolute limit.

'Obviously there are people outright doping, but also it feels like some athletes are moving away from just training hard. It's alarming that they're trying to keep it all top secret and getting athletes to sign waiver forms.

'Some athletes are trying to get marginal gains in pushing the boundaries with something other than hard training. They're trying to encourage something that isn't available to everybody.

'I feel it's fine to use over the counter supplements like iron, zinc, magnesium but medications for medical conditions that athletes do not have and the use of stuff like synthetic ketones is a step too far. It is not in the spirit of competition and may also be harmful.'



Emma Jackson (centre) was 'horrified' that a unknown substance would be tested on athletes

Emma Jackson represented GB over 800m at the world championships in 2011 and believes that the injuries which ended her career were caused by the high levels of a thyroid drug she was prescribed by a UK Athletics doctor.

UKA 'refute any suggestion that a UKA medical practitioner sought to gain a performance advantage by over-medicating an athlete on thyroxine.'

Jackson was perturbed by the language used by UK Sport in the documents seen. 'I'm horrified that (UK Sport) would test out an unknown substance on our athletes,' she said. 'Not only that, but then to make them sign waivers and non-disclosure agreements so that they could never speak out or complain if anything went wrong.'

'They are playing with people's lives — a failed drugs test could be the end of someone's career. I am also totally amazed that any athlete agreed to these conditions.'

UK Sport did check the product with the World Anti-Doping Agency prior to embarking on the research and WADA said that it was not on the 2011 banned list. The research was approved by the UK Sport Research Advisory Group. However, waivers made it clear that UK Sport could not guarantee the substance would comply with WADA rules. UK Sport say waivers are standard and no athlete is put under pressure to participate.

Jon Brown spoke out throughout his career against doping and competed at three Olympic Games for GB, twice finishing fourth in the marathon.

He has since coached for Athletics Canada, where he now lives, and is a highly-respected voice on ethics in sport and has a perspective from outside the bubble of British sport. 'I'm not really surprised about it,' he said.

‘Leading up to London there was an enormous amount of pressure to deliver medals with the amount of investment.

‘The whole existence of UK Sport probably depended on the results and the amount of medals Britain were going to win. If they had disappointed it would have been really hard to justify the amount of money that was going into sport.



Jon Brown has argued whether London 2012 made much of a difference at a community level

‘Quite a few countries have these innovation projects going but they just don’t have the same financial backing. UK just play on a different level to other countries.

‘It’s very frivolous, going out on a limb, spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on something that maybe didn’t work in the end. Where’s the accountability?’

‘When UK Sport was set up in 1997 I don’t know if there was enough real vision about how it was going to play out. They have never periodically assessed where this was heading.

‘It’s been 23 years of getting to this point and is this where you want to be? Where do you go from here? Because it’s going to get pretty dark. Is winning medals really that important?’

‘I guess they see that in many sports cheating is going on and anti-doping isn’t as effective as it should be, so how do they remain competitive? It opens up doors to all kind of interventions.

‘If you look at the legacy of London 2012, you won a lot of medals but has it made a lot of difference to sport at a community level? That would be a hard argument to make. Spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on ketones seems absurd.’

Roger Pielke Jr, a US academic at the University of Colorado has researched, written and taught extensively on these issues and said: ‘It is no longer a surprise that athletes, their

teams, governing bodies and even governments are willing to go right up to the edge of what is allowed or ethical.'

Damian Collins, the former chair of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee that frequently investigated inappropriate conduct in British sport, said: 'It is concerning that UK Sport was encouraging athletes to take this substance without knowing for certain whether or not it was compliant with the WADA code.

'If athletes felt in any way required to take it, it's wrong they would have been left on their own to deal with the consequences.'



Great Britain won a total of 65 medals at the London 2012 Olympics of which 29 were gold

MAIL ON SUNDAY COMMENT: The pursuit of sporting excellence and Olympic medals has entered into surreal territory

The Mail on Sunday has no issue with the pursuit of sporting excellence nor with the nurture of Olympic and Paralympic heroes. And those old enough to remember the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and Britain's shambolic approach — which garnered one gold medal — may feel it is churlish to gripe when Britain sat proudly second in the 2016 Olympic medals table with 27 gold medals.

Except that last week we heard allegations of physical abuse and bullying at British Gymnastics. Which comes after bullying inquiries in recent years into British Cycling, British Swimming and British Canoeing, all of which resulted in those governing bodies either 'admitting failings' or apologising for a 'culture' or 'climate of fear'. There have also been two separate inquiries into decision-making at UK Athletics.

In recent years it has also been explained to us just why Bradley Wiggins had a therapeutic use exemption for triamcinolone in the run-up to the 2012 Tour de France and Olympics, which a Parliamentary committee concluded was 'not to treat medical need ... but to improve his power to weight ratio.' Wiggins and Team Sky denied this.



+12

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There have recently been allegations of physical abuse and bullying at British gymnastics

We have listened patiently as to why a British Cycling doctor inadvertently received 30 sachets of banned drug testosterone at the National Cycling Centre. They were to treat the erectile dysfunction of a colleague. We have tried to understand why UK Athletics doctors prescribe thyroid drugs to some elite athletes. It's for their medical needs and not as a performance enhancer.

Furthermore, we have been asked to excuse the fact that their former doctor neglected to record the level of L Carnitine administered to Mo Farah. It was an innocent mistake, though the process itself, legal at certain levels, was queried by UKA's endurance coach who wondered whether 'this is within the spirit of the sport'.

They went ahead anyway at the behest of Farah's ex coach and the former UKA consultant, Alberto Salazar, who is now banned for anti-doping offences, one of which was administering illegal levels of L Carnitine.

Wading through the extensive medical ailments afflicting our Olympic and Paralympic athletes and the various 'cultures of fear' that seemed to have prevailed in their federations, there is a temptation to wonder whether those 27 gold medals won at the 2016 Olympics and 64 golds won at the Paralympics were worth the cost?



As a nation we might have to ask what we expect from teams at Tokyo Olympics next year

When UK Sport, essentially the overseers of these sports, in that they fund them with National Lottery money, spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on a new substance, developed for US Special Forces, which was still in research and which they could not guarantee complied with anti-doping rules, you sense the pursuit of medals had entered into surreal territory.

As a nation it might be as well to ask ourselves what we expect of our Olympic and Paralympic teams in Toyko next year? A glorious procession to podia followed by endless inquiries into bullying and lengthy explanations as to why this therapeutic use exemption or novel nutritional supplement was absolutely fine and ultimately fell within the anti-doping rules?

Or perhaps we ought to reconsider whether sport in the UK should be something more than a vanity exercise in flag waving?

Given the proliferation on inquiries of late, it is time that UK Sport instituted one into whether their government-directed obsession with medals targets is the root cause of these patterns of behaviour in British sport.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/sportsnews/article-8513525/British-2012-Olympians-guinea-pigs-Special-Forces-wonder-drug.html>

AROUND THE RINGS

08/07/2020

WADA President intensifies athlete engagement initiatives

07/08/20

Montreal, 7 July 2020 – The World Anti-Doping Agency’s (WADA) President, Witold Bańka, has kickstarted a series of meetings with athletes and athlete groups, following up on his personal pledge to engage meaningfully with the athlete community and on WADA’s overall commitment to being more athlete-centered as outlined within the Agency’s recently published Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Witold Bańka, a former international-level 400-meter runner from Poland who became WADA President on 1 January, started a series of meetings with individual athletes and athlete groups and associations that represent different sports, regions of the world and perspectives. Given current limitations brought about by COVID-19, this includes virtual calls with athletes that are already within the Agency’s governance structure; calls with a range of athlete commissions; and, many other virtual opportunities that will present themselves. Once COVID-19 restrictions lift, face-to-face discussions will be held.

The WADA President said: “Last week, WADA announced its new Strategic Plan that will guide the Agency’s activity over the next five years. At the core of this plan is a desire and commitment to ensure that our activities and priorities are athlete centered. As a former elite athlete, I understand the importance of listening to the views of athletes worldwide and addressing the matters that are of most interest to them. The Agency will be looking for every opportunity to engage with them to further enhance the global anti-doping system. Over the last months, I have personally met with many of the athletes that sit on our Foundation Board, Executive Committee, Athlete Committee and expert committees. I will continue this engagement and much more throughout my presidency.

“I have also decided that, starting with September’s Executive Committee meeting, WADA will have a dedicated agenda item on athletes’ matters during each Executive Committee and Foundation Board meeting, which will be in addition to the report by the Agency’s Athlete Committee Chair. This will allow for better reporting to our stakeholders about initiatives being carried out in this regard.”

WADA’s new Strategic Plan, which is themed ‘Leading Anti-Doping in a New Era’, has six strategic priorities – one of which is to ‘be athlete-centered’. This priority involves WADA engaging and empowering athletes to contribute to the development of anti-doping policies; building an easier anti-doping journey for athletes; and, increasing the contribution that our programs deliver for athletes and their entourage so that they can build healthy and sustainable careers in sport. A key initiative to delivering on this priority is to develop and promote new communication mechanisms to seek athletes’ views and address their feedback, which is exactly what WADA’s President has embarked upon.

The other seven key initiatives, which are part of the ‘be athlete-centered’ priority of WADA’s

Five-Year Plan, are to:

- 1, Engage and empower athletes to contribute to the development of anti-doping policies;
- 2, Design a comprehensive athlete pathway that will prioritize anti-doping resources, with a focus on young athletes;
3. Tap into data about athletes and their entourage/support group to detect patterns and predict behaviors in order to provide relevant information and better programs;
4. Identify vulnerable athlete groups to connect, support and recommend appropriate interventions;
5. Establish an education framework for stakeholders to educate athletes and their entourage/support group;
6. Facilitate easy access to useful and relevant anti-doping information for athletes and their entourage/support group; and
7. Ensure WADA digital tools and user experience are intuitive, modern, functional and accessible.

http://aroundtherings.com/site/A_100340/Title_WADA-President-intensifies-athlete-engagement-initiatives/292/Articles