# UK study finds significant health benefits associated with standing



University of Chester pilot study employs Ergotron WorkFit Sit-Stand Workstations to compare cardiovascular and metabolic markers among office workers when standing vs. sitting

#### Researchers, University of Chester

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Dr. Frank Joseph, Susan Edwards, Ho Ye Cheung

#### Corporate coordinating partners

Will Ellerby and Natalie Hewitt, BBC Television Rebecca Matthew; Matthew's Estate Agents, Chester Jayne Dodgeson and Gemma Sproston; Corporate Communications, University of Chester Katie Copeland, Physiotherapist, Chester

#### **Equipment suppliers (unconditional supply)**

Alex Black; Ergotron, UK (adjustable desks)
Debbie van der Meer; Animas, UK
(blood glucose monitors)
Simon Atkinson; Club Management Partners,
Harrowgate, UK (movement monitors)
Mark Jones; Technogym UK (accelerometers)
Colin Cartwright; Fitness ASSIST, Wrexham, UK
(heart rate monitors)

### Equipment

Ergotron WorkFit-D, sit-stand adjustable desk Timex heart rate monitor Technogym movement monitor Animas continuous blood glucose monitor Cortex Metalyser, respiratory analysis system



The study, conducted by Dr. John Buckley at the University of Chester, was built upon previous findings indicating that prolonged sitting causes damage to joints which can lead to inflammation, stress and chronic pain and cardio-metabolic disease.

## RESULTS - Heart Rate

Significant increase in heart rate from seated to standing work = 10 bpm (p = .012)



Seated average beats per minute 79

#### Standing average beats per minute 89

## RESULTS - Calorie (kcal\*) Expenditure

Significant increase in calorie expenditure from seated to standing work = 0.7 kcals/minute (p = .014)

\*A kcal is the amount of energy needed to raise the temperature of one kilogram of water by one degree Celsius



Seated average 2.6 kcals per minute

Standing average 3.3 kcals per minute

## RESULTS - Blood Glucose\*\*

\*\*The concentration of sugar in the blood

## SEATED

Peak (highest) 152 minutes after lunch started Trough (lowest) 258 minutes after lunch started



Seated peak to trough 106 minutes

#### STANDING

Peak (highest) 84 minutes after lunch started Trough (lowest) 144 minutes after lunch started



Standing peak to trough 60 minutes

The BBC/University of Chester researchers found that both heart rate and energy expenditure were raised significantly by standing work, and that sit-stand computer workstations are both feasible and effective at reducing sitting time in a work setting.

The BBC/University of Chester research, "The cardiovascular and metabolic benefits of standing desk work," was aired October 2013 in the "Trust Me I'm a Doctor" two-part series on BBC Two television in the UK.









