

1 **Movement-informed Breathwork (MiB): Integrating Muscular** 2 **Contractions with Circular Breathing for Therapeutic Application.**

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8 **Abstract**

9 This paper introduces Movement-informed Breathwork (MiB), a novel theranostic approach
10 that integrates circular breathwork with targeted neuromuscular contraction and relaxation
11 cycles. Drawing from neuromuscular torque chain dynamics, fascial research, and
12 sensorimotor trauma therapy principles, MiB aims to enhance autonomic regulation,
13 interoceptive awareness, and somatic-emotional integration by bridging traditional
14 breathwork, movement therapy, and clinical practice across diverse populations and
15 therapeutic settings. MiB demonstrates immediate feedback mechanisms for both
16 participants and practitioners, enabling real-time assessment of neuromuscular patterns
17 whilst promoting nervous system regulation. The approach is scalable from brief 5–10-
18 minute sessions for awareness and downregulation to extended 90-minute sessions for
19 deeper somatic exploration and trauma integration, with the aim of offering a
20 contraindication-free, accessible framework for addressing autonomic dysregulation,
21 emotional trauma, and chronic pain through targeted neuromuscular retraining. Its
22 integration of contemporary neuroscience with traditional breathwork provides a
23 scientifically informed approach that may enhance precision and effectiveness of
24 movement-based therapeutic interventions. We believe it presents a significant
25 advancement in integrative health practice that addresses both psychological and physical
26 aspects of healing through the interconnection between breathing, movement and
27 wellbeing.

28 **Keywords**

29 Movement, Breathwork, Torque Chains, Autonomic Regulation, Trauma Therapy,
30 Interoception, Somatic Integration
31

32 **1. Introduction**

33 The relationship between breathing, movement, and neuromuscular coordination has been
34 recognised across traditional healing systems for millennia, yet modern healthcare has largely
35 compartmentalised these interconnected systems. Recent advances in fascial research,
36 interoceptive neuroscience, and movement analysis are revealing the profound connections
37 between conscious breathing and optimal neuromuscular function. Movement-informed
38 Breathwork (MiB), also known in practice as the Swami Method, emerges from this convergence,
39 offering a novel framework that integrates breathwork with targeted neuromuscular activation to
40 enhance embodied awareness and therapeutic outcomes.

41 Traditional breathwork practices, whilst beneficial for stress reduction and emotional regulation
42 (1,2), often lack the specific neuromuscular feedback mechanisms necessary for identifying and
43 addressing dysfunctional movement patterns. Conversely, movement assessments frequently
44 overlook the foundational role of breathing in establishing optimal neuromuscular coordination
45 and nervous system regulation. MiB bridges this gap by combining circular breathwork in the form
46 of conscious-connected breathing techniques (inhalation followed by exhalation without pauses (3))
47 with systematic muscle activation patterns, creating a dynamic assessment and intervention tool
48 that provides immediate feedback to both participant and facilitator.

49 This approach builds upon recent advances in torque chain theory (4), which suggests that muscles
50 can be functionally categorised based on whether they generate tension toward (Internal Torque
51 Chain, ITC) or away from (External Torque Chain, ETC) the body's centre. Clinical application of this
52 model has shown remarkable success in addressing chronic pain previously considered a surgical
53 candidate (5), with targeted ITC retraining producing immediate functional improvements and
54 sustained pain relief. MiB represents the practical operationalisation of these theoretical
55 principles, providing a standardised method for assessing and optimising torque chain function
56 through breath-coordinated muscle activation.

57 The accessibility of MiB distinguishes it from many movement interventions and traditional
58 psychotherapeutic approaches. Requiring only the ability to lie supine and breathe, this approach
59 can accommodate individuals with mobility limitations, chronic pain conditions, or those
60 intimidated by traditional exercise modalities. Unlike psychedelic-assisted therapies, which show
61 promise but remain limited by regulatory constraints and accessibility issues (6), MiB offers an
62 accessible alternative that leverages the body's inherent capacity for self-regulation without
63 requiring clinical settings or substances.

64 Recent neuroscientific findings support the biological plausibility of MiB's approach. Synchronising
65 breath with widespread somatosensory and motor engagement can globally influence brain
66 activity (7), with nasal airflow and full-body respiratory synchrony enhancing the propagation of
67 respiratory-linked brain signals. This suggests that consciously coupling movement and breath—as
68 operationalised in MiB—may amplify brain-wide coordination and interoceptive signalling,
69 providing a mechanism for improved emotional regulation and autonomic balance. Furthermore,
70 evidence demonstrates that even elite athletes frequently exhibit dysfunctional breathing
71 patterns, with nearly 45% showing thoracic or abdominal dominant patterns despite high
72 conditioning levels (8). These dysfunctional patterns correlate with increased injury risk, poor

73 respiratory performance, and inefficient autonomic regulation—precisely the issues MiB attempts
74 to address through targeted neuromuscular retraining coordinated with optimised breathing
75 mechanics.

76 Sessions can be adapted from brief 5-10-minute protocols for neuromuscular awareness and
77 nervous system downregulation to extended 90-minute sessions, potentially facilitating deeper
78 somatic exploration and trauma integration. This scalability, combined with the immediate
79 feedback mechanisms, might make MiB particularly valuable for trauma-informed practice, where
80 traditional movement approaches may be too activating or inaccessible for individuals with
81 autonomic dysregulation.

82 By providing a framework that bridges traditional breathwork with contemporary neuroscience,
83 fascial research, and trauma-informed somatic approaches, MiB offers practitioners a scientifically
84 grounded yet accessible tool for enhancing the precision and effectiveness of movement-based
85 therapeutic interventions across diverse populations and clinical settings. Importantly, through
86 detection and correction of imbalances, deficiencies and weaknesses, the approach ensures that
87 everybody can yield benefit regardless of their level of athletic performance or baseline health
88 state.

89 **2. Theoretical Framework**

90 ***2.1 Fascial Networks and Interoceptive Awareness***

91 Contemporary fascial research has fundamentally shifted our understanding of connective tissue
92 from passive structural support to an active, sensory-rich network integral to movement
93 coordination and interoceptive awareness. The fascia contains abundant mechanoreceptors and
94 interoceptors—sensory receptors that provide information about internal bodily states.
95 Remarkably, interoceptive nerve endings outnumber proprioceptive endings by a ratio of seven to
96 one, highlighting the profound sensory capacity of fascial networks (9).

97 The diaphragm exemplifies this fascial complexity, representing not merely a breathing muscle but
98 a multifaceted fascial structure encompassing transversalis fascia, endothoracic fascia,
99 thoracolumbar fascia, and contractile tissue—all derived from the same embryological origin (10).
100 This fascial continuity extends throughout the body, creating what many describe as an
101 "uninterrupted structure" capable of transmitting mechanical and electromagnetic information
102 across distant regions.

103 ***2.2 Neuromuscular Torque Chains and Autonomic Regulation***

104 Research in sensorimotor trauma therapy has established that emotional experiences, particularly
105 traumatic ones, are stored in the body through procedural memory and autonomic imprinting
106 (11). Individuals with unresolved trauma often experience heightened autonomic arousal
107 (hypervigilance, panic) or dissociative hypoarousal (numbing, collapse) due to the nervous
108 system's impaired self-regulation capacity (12). These dysregulated states may manifest in
109 postural imbalances, restricted breathing patterns, and chronic muscular tension patterns that
110 become self-reinforcing over time. Perhaps similar mechanisms are at play during catatonia and
111 other movement-related conditions associated with mood and affective disorders?

112 Recent advances in movement science have revealed the limitations of traditional single-muscle
113 analysis, leading to the development of integrated neuromuscular models (13). The torque chain
114 framework represents a paradigm shift that categorises muscles based on their directional force
115 generation rather than isolated anatomical function. We have recently proposed that the
116 neuromuscular system operates through distinct and binarised torque chains, which organise
117 muscular tension and postural alignment in ways that influence autonomic function (4).

118 **Internal Torque Chain (ITC):** Comprises muscles that generate tension toward the centre of the
119 body, including core stabilising muscles such as the transverse abdominis, external obliques, psoas
120 major, lower abdominals, teres major, anterior deltoids, sternocostal head of the pectoralis major,
121 and related postural stabilisers. These muscles demonstrate direct connections to the diaphragm
122 and pelvic floor, contributing not only to structural integrity but potentially also to autonomic
123 regulation. The ITC can be engaged more effectively with continuous, cyclical movements and
124 breathing patterns.

125 **External Torque Chain (ETC):** Includes muscles that generate tension away from the body's centre,
126 such as the rectus abdominis, internal obliques, sternoclavicular head of the pectoralis major,
127 latissimus dorsi, lumbar erectors, and muscles supporting explosive movements. ETC activation
128 appears more closely associated with sympathetic nervous system activity, tends to fatigue more
129 quickly, elevates heart rates more rapidly, and is characteristically more challenging to maintain in
130 sustained, cyclical patterns.

131 This functional dichotomy provides a neurobiological basis for understanding how specific
132 movement patterns influence autonomic regulation. The torque chain framework provides a
133 contemporary lens through which to understand traditional yogic concepts of energetic channels
134 and locks (nadis and bandhas). Where traditional yoga speaks of energy flow, the torque chain
135 model identifies specific neuromuscular pathways that, when activated properly, might influence
136 autonomic state and interoceptive awareness.

137 When ITC muscles are weak or poorly coordinated, compensatory patterns emerge that can
138 manifest as chronic pain, dysfunctional movement, and altered emotional states. Sensorimotor
139 trauma therapy suggests that habitual overactivation of certain muscles is linked to hyperarousal
140 states (11). Notably, Svebak described how low-level, but enduring psychogenic muscle tension
141 can become pathophysiological when sustained by stress or effort, creating a 'vicious circle' of
142 tension, local ischemia, and pain (14). This insight supports the need for conscious retraining. The
143 integration of breathing patterns with torque chain activation offers a practical means of assessing
144 and optimising these fundamental neuromuscular relationships.

145 **2.3 Breathing Patterns and Nervous System Regulation**

146 Controlled breathwork practices have demonstrated efficacy for stress management, mood
147 enhancement, and physiological regulation. Specific breathing patterns influence autonomic
148 nervous system activity, with exhale-focused techniques particularly effective for promoting
149 parasympathetic activation and respiratory rate reduction (15).

150 The integration of muscle activation with breathing patterns appears to enhance these regulatory
151 effects whilst providing additional neuromuscular benefits. Circular breathwork in the style of
152 conscious-connected breathing—characterised by continuous, circular patterns without breath
153 holds—maintains consistent nervous system activation whilst allowing for sustained muscle
154 engagement and interoceptive exploration. This approach disrupts breath-holding patterns
155 associated with trauma responses and prevents sympathetic arousal while facilitating an increase
156 in vagal tone.

157 **3. Movement-informed Breathwork Protocol**

158 **3.1 Core Methodology**

159 Before engaging in MiB, practitioners are encouraged to establish an environment of safety, which
160 aligns with sensorimotor principles of dual awareness and grounding. This preparation is
161 particularly relevant for trauma survivors, as acknowledgement bodily sensations without
162 becoming overwhelmed may be essential for effective integration (11).

163 **3.1.1 Breathwork Foundation**

164 MiB integrates four fundamental elements that distinguish it from traditional breathwork
165 approaches:

166 **Circular Breathwork:** Participants employ a circular breathing technique with inhalation through
167 the nose combined with a gentle facial engagement that resembles a subtle smile or "smirk,"
168 reinforcing safety and interoceptive muscular engagement. Exhalation occurs through pursed lips,
169 mimicking a whistling action without sound, to activate mechanoreceptors on the lips whilst
170 maintaining gentle back-pressure. This is consistent with recent findings that the facial muscles
171 and diaphragm are among the most stress-reactive regions in the body and likely benefit from
172 targeted relaxation or activation during breathwork (16). This pursed-lip technique supports
173 sustained exhalation and parasympathetic activation while regulating emotional response through
174 controlled vagal engagement. The circular, connected nature of the breath cycle—without pauses
175 between inhalation and exhalation—promotes continuous awareness and prevents breath-
176 holding patterns associated with trauma responses or dysfunctional movement patterns.

177 **Internal Torque Chain Activation:** During inhalation, participants systematically contract specific
178 muscle groups associated with the ITC, specifically those that generate tension toward the centre
179 of the body. This includes the psoas major, vastus medialis obliquus, gluteus maximus, pectoralis
180 major and teres major, and related core stabilisers that contribute to both structural integrity and
181 autonomic regulation. This breath initiates activation of the ITC, promoting parasympathetic
182 regulation.

183 **Systematic Muscle Contraction and Relaxation:** During exhalation, participants consciously
184 release the activated muscles, creating alternating patterns of tension and relaxation that may
185 enhance interoceptive awareness and identify areas of dysfunction. This process involves gentle
186 movements coordinated with the breath cycle, allowing for the discovery of "blind spots" in
187 muscular awareness, as a biofeedback loop.

188 **Facilitator Assessment:** Trained practitioners observe muscle activation patterns, breathing
189 quality, and stress responses, providing real-time feedback about neuromuscular function and
190 areas requiring attention. Practitioners may be able to sense asymmetries in muscle activation,
191 identifying areas where tension might be excessive or lacking.

192 **3.2 Session Variations and Structure**

193 **Brief Sessions (5-10 minutes):** Designed for neuromuscular assessment, stress reduction, or
194 integration into training sessions. These protocols focus on establishing basic breathing patterns
195 and identifying primary areas of tension or weakness while providing immediate downregulation
196 benefits.

197 **Standard Sessions (20-30 minutes):** Comprehensive protocols that systematically address multiple
198 muscle groups whilst promoting deeper nervous system regulation. The practice begins with
199 engagement of deep core stabilisers (transverse abdominis, pelvic floor, lower diaphragm) to
200 increase interoceptive awareness and establish a foundation for subsequent movement. These
201 sessions are suitable for therapeutic settings and regular practice.

202 **Extended Sessions (45-90 minutes):** Intensive protocols that have the potential to facilitate
203 altered states of consciousness and profound somatic exploration. These sessions allow for deeper
204 integration and emotional processing whilst maintaining focus on neuromuscular awareness.
205 Contractions can be adjusted based on internal somatic feedback. As practitioners discover areas
206 of excessive tension or inadequate activation, they can direct conscious attention to these regions
207 or towards others, while maintaining the breath pattern.

208 **3.3 Core Trauma-Informed Principles**

209 MiB operates under two core trauma-informed principles that distinguish it from traditional
210 breathwork approaches:

211 **Continuous Breath Connection:** Disrupting breath-holding patterns (which are usually tied to
212 whole-body movement patterns) prevents sympathetic arousal and facilitates vagal tone
213 activation, mitigating autonomic dysregulation. Unlike some traditional pranayama practices that
214 incorporate breath retention, MiB emphasises continuous flow to maintain regulatory capacity
215 and avoid potential triggering of trauma responses.

216 **Somatic Compassion:** The practice encourages non-judgemental engagement with bodily
217 sensations, breaking fear-avoidance cycles common in trauma-related disorders and fostering a
218 sense of embodied safety. This approach fosters sensorimotor reorganisation, potentially helping
219 release trauma-related muscular tension and autonomic hyperactivity through conscious
220 neuromuscular engagement and proactive agency rather than passive release.

221 **3.4 Assessment Capabilities**

222 MiB can provide immediate feedback regarding:

- 223 • Breath-holding patterns under stress

- 224 • Muscle activation capabilities and limitations
- 225 • Compensation patterns and asymmetries
- 226 • Nervous system regulation capacity
- 227 • Interoceptive awareness and embodied connection

228 This real-time assessment capability distinguishes MiB from static evaluation methods, providing
229 dynamic information about how individuals respond to stress and challenge whilst offering
230 pathways for immediate intervention and regulation.

231 **4. Clinical Applications**

232 **4.1 Psychological Applications**

233 MiB offers evidence-informed benefits for various psychological conditions where autonomic
234 dysregulation plays a significant role:

235 **Anxiety Disorders:** By enhancing parasympathetic activation through ITC engagement, MiB may
236 help reduce sympathetic dominance and associated anxiety symptoms. The continuous, cyclical
237 breathing patterns combined with ITC activation might help interrupt anxiety-related tension
238 patterns associated with mouth breathing (17).

239 **Depression:** The active engagement of core musculature may counteract the postural collapse and
240 psychomotor retardation often seen in depressive states, potentially influencing mood through
241 bottom-up processing. Additionally, the increased interoceptive awareness fostered by MiB may
242 help reconnect individuals with sensations of vitality and embodied presence (9).

243 **Trauma-Related Conditions:** For individuals with PTSD or complex trauma, MiB provides a gentle
244 pathway to reconnect with bodily sensations in a titrated manner, addressing somatic aspects of
245 traumatic experience that may remain unresolved through cognitive approaches alone. This
246 approach aligns with van der Kolk's recognition that trauma is "stored in the body" and requires
247 somatic intervention for complete healing (18).

248 **Stress-Related Disorders:** The practice offers tools for autonomic regulation that may be
249 beneficial in conditions characterised by allostatic load and chronic stress activation (19). The
250 balance between ITC and ETC activation may provide a practical means to modulate stress
251 responses for anybody looking to optimise their health and wellness.

252 **4.2 Physical Applications**

253 Beyond psychological benefits, MiB might address physical manifestations of dysregulation:

254 **Chronic Pain:** By altering tension patterns in the torque chains, MiB may help interrupt pain-
255 tension cycles and restore more balanced muscular activation. One clinical observation suggests
256 that many conditions diagnosed as structural problems (such as femoroacetabular impingement
257 syndrome) often respond to neuromuscular retraining that focuses on proper activation of the ITC,

258 particularly the psoas major, producing immediate pain relief and functional improvement (5).
259 This aligns with Alfvén's (1997) model of psychomuscular tension in children, which demonstrated
260 that generalised stress can lower local pain thresholds by inducing chronic muscle tension—a
261 pattern MiB aims to detect and re-pattern before it becomes a self-reinforcing source of pain (20).

262 **Fatigue Conditions:** For conditions like chronic fatigue syndrome, where autonomic dysregulation
263 is often present, this approach may aid the return to physical activity with a subjectively guided
264 approach that prevents excessive post-exercise malaise. Additionally, conditions with overlapping
265 phenomena involving movement and the autonomic nervous system such as joint hypermobility,
266 fibromyalgia, and postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome may respond to targeted torque
267 chain training, a potentially fascinating avenue of future research.

268 **Functional Neurological Disorders:** The emphasis on interoceptive awareness and neuromuscular
269 precision may help address the disconnection between intention and movement seen in some
270 functional disorders (21). By providing clear somatic feedback through breathwork-movement
271 coordination, individuals can potentially rebuild disrupted sensorimotor pathways.

272 **4.3 Integration with Existing Therapeutic Approaches**

273 MiB serves as a complementary approach that can enhance traditional yoga therapy,
274 physiotherapy, and psychotherapy interventions. Rather than replacing existing modalities, it
275 offers a framework for understanding how movement and breath interventions affect both
276 physical and psychological functioning, potentially increasing the precision and effectiveness of
277 current practices.

278 **Yoga Therapy Integration:** Understanding torque chain dynamics can refine alignment cues and
279 muscular engagement in traditional postures, particularly those involving core stability and
280 dynamic movement. The continuous connected breath of MiB can complement traditional
281 pranayama practices, offering an accessible entry point for those who find breath retention
282 challenging or triggering.

283 **Somatic Psychotherapy:** MiB provides specific protocols for potentially addressing the
284 neuromuscular aspects of trauma while maintaining the safety and titration principles essential to
285 trauma-informed practice.

286 **Clinical Settings:** The accessibility and immediate feedback capabilities of MiB make it potentially
287 suitable for integration into various healthcare settings, from primary care to rehabilitation
288 facilities, requiring minimal equipment and offering contraindication-free application.

289 **5. Implementation Guidelines**

290 **5.1 Practitioner Considerations**

291 For healthcare providers, yoga therapists, and movement professionals integrating MiB into their
292 practice:

293 **Assessment:** Begin with observing the client's natural breathing pattern and postural tendencies,
294 noting signs of torque chain imbalance such as chest-dominant breathing, collapsed posture, or
295 excessive tension in the upper shoulders which may be bilateral or lateralised.

296 **Introduction:** Start with simple awareness practices before progressing to more targeted
297 activations, allowing clients to develop comfort with interoceptive sensing. Establish safety and
298 explain the voluntary nature of all aspects of the practice.

299 **Progression:** Gradually increase complexity by adding more specific muscle activations and
300 eventually incorporating dynamic movement while maintaining breath-muscle coordination.
301 Progress from foundational awareness to more sophisticated neuromuscular patterns based on
302 individual capacity and therapeutic goals.

303 **Trauma-Sensitive Approach:** Maintain awareness of potential trauma responses, offering options
304 to modulate intensity and ensuring clients can self-regulate throughout the process. Emphasise
305 client agency and choice in all aspects of the practice.

306 **5.2 Session Structure**

307 A typical MiB session might follow this structure:

308 **Orientation and Safety (5-10 minutes):** Establishing presence, explaining the practice, and
309 creating a container for safe exploration. This includes assessment of current state and any
310 contraindications or modifications needed.

311 **Breath Awareness (5-15 minutes):** Introducing the circular, connected breath pattern without
312 muscle activation, allowing participants to establish the foundational breathing rhythm and assess
313 baseline nervous system state.

314 **Primary Activation (10-20 minutes):** Beginning engagement of core ITC muscles in coordination
315 with breath, starting with simple awareness and progressing to more sustained activation
316 patterns.

317 **Exploration and Integration (15-30 minutes):** Exploring dynamic movement patterns while
318 maintaining breath-muscle coordination, identifying areas of strength, weakness, or compensation
319 patterns.

320 **Regulation and Closure (5-15 minutes):** Gradual transition back to normal functioning with
321 retained awareness, integration of insights, and establishment of regulatory capacity for post-
322 session stability.

323 The duration and emphasis can be adjusted based on client needs, therapeutic context, and
324 practitioner experience.

325 **5.3 Integration with Yoga Therapy**

326 For yoga practitioners and instructors specifically, MiB enhances traditional practices in several
327 evidence-informed ways:

328 **Asana Enhancement:** Understanding torque chain dynamics refines alignment cues and muscular
329 engagement in traditional postures, allowing assessment of asana through the lens of effective
330 muscle engagement rather than focusing solely on external alignment.

331 **Pranayama Connection:** Again, the continuous connected breath of MiB complements traditional
332 pranayama practices, offering an accessible entry point for those who find breath retention
333 challenging or triggering. The MiB method is designed to be accessible for beginners and
334 individuals with medical or physiological contraindications to breath retention.

335 **Philosophical Alignment:** The focus on embodied awareness and somatic integration aligns with
336 yogic concepts of pratyahara (sensory withdrawal) and dharana (concentration), supporting the
337 progression toward meditative states through body-based awareness.

338 **Therapeutic Applications:** For yoga therapists working with specific populations, the torque chain
339 framework provides a physiological rationale for adapting practices to address particular
340 imbalances or conditions whilst maintaining connection to traditional wisdom.

341 **6. Future Research Directions**

342 **6.1 Empirical Validation Opportunities**

343 Future investigation into MiB should focus on several key research directions to provide robust
344 quantitative validation:

345 **Physiological Markers:** Longitudinal studies measuring heart rate variability (HRV),
346 electromyography (EMG) readings, and relevant cellular metabolites in participants before and
347 after structured MiB interventions to establish objective measures of efficacy.

348 **Standardised Assessment:** Implementation of standardised assessment protocols and detailed
349 case report templates across multiple practitioners to enable systematic documentation of
350 interventions and outcomes in a comprehensive database.

351 **Mechanistic Investigations:** Utilisation of advanced imaging techniques, such as fMRI or fMRS, to
352 observe real-time changes in neural activity during specific muscular contractions within the
353 torque chains, whilst measuring interoceptive accuracy using established protocols during
354 muscular tension modulation.

355 **Cross-Disciplinary Validation:** Partnerships with breathwork practitioners, sports scientists,
356 psychedelic researchers, and mental health professionals to identify common physiological
357 mechanisms and validate the torque chain model across different applications.

358 **Clinical Trials:** Structured investigation of efficacy in specific conditions such as PTSD, anxiety
359 disorders, chronic pain, and conditions with overlapping movement and autonomic features like
360 joint hypermobility and fibromyalgia.

361 **Comparative Studies:** Examining differences in outcomes between MiB and traditional yoga
362 practices, conventional psychotherapeutic interventions, or other somatic approaches to establish
363 specific therapeutic advantages.

364 6.2 Training and Implementation Framework

365 As MiB continues to develop, considerations for systematic training include:

366 **Standardised Protocols:** Development of core practice sequences for specific populations or
367 conditions, with clear guidelines for progression and adaptation based on individual needs and
368 therapeutic goals.

369 **Integration Frameworks:** Guidelines for incorporating MiB into existing yoga therapy,
370 physiotherapy, or clinical practice settings, with particular attention to bridging traditional and
371 contemporary approaches whilst maintaining safety and efficacy.

372 **Assessment Tools:** Creation of observational and self-report measures specific to torque chain
373 function and balance, allowing practitioners to track progress and refine interventions based on
374 objective feedback.

375 **Practitioner Training:** Development of structured training programmes that ensure competence in
376 both the theoretical foundation and practical application of the torque chain framework, including
377 trauma-informed principles and safety considerations.

378 The challenge facing further work in this area is to avoid reductionist perspectives and
379 fragmentation of the neuromuscular system from the rest of the body and brain.

380 7. Conclusions

381 Movement-informed Breathwork offers a significant advancement in integrative health practice,
382 providing a novel framework that bridges traditional breathwork, movement therapy, and clinical
383 assessment through scientifically informed principles. By combining circular breathwork with
384 systematic muscle activation based on torque chain theory, MiB provides immediate feedback
385 about neuromuscular function whilst promoting nervous system regulation and embodied
386 awareness.

387 The approach's accessibility and contraindication-free application (when applied correctly), may
388 make it valuable across diverse populations and settings, from trauma recovery to athletic
389 performance optimisation. Its foundation in contemporary fascial research, neuromuscular
390 science, and trauma-informed practice provides credible theoretical grounding whilst maintaining
391 practical applicability for both healthcare providers and movement professionals.

392 By recognising that the neuromuscular system—particularly the interplay between the Internal
393 and External Torque Chains—mediates physical, emotional, and psychological health, we can
394 deepen our understanding of how movement practices influence wellbeing. The torque chain
395 framework provides a common language that can facilitate communication across traditionally
396 separated fields such as neuroscience, orthopaedics, sports medicine, somatic therapy, and yoga
397 therapy.

398 As healthcare increasingly recognises the importance of integrative approaches that address both
399 psychological and physical aspects of healing, we believe MiB offers a valuable tool for

400 practitioners seeking evidence-informed methods that honour the interconnection between
401 breathing, movement and wellbeing. Through continued research, refinement, and integration
402 with existing practices, MiB may contribute significantly to the evolving field of movement-
403 assisted psychotherapy and its applications for human health and resilience.

404 The integration of breathwork and movement assessment represents a natural evolution in our
405 understanding of human function and healing. Movement-informed Breathwork offers a practical,
406 accessible means of harnessing this integration for the benefit of individuals and communities
407 seeking enhanced health, emotional regulation and somatic awareness. Ultimately, by recognising
408 movement practices as the bridge between body and mind, we open the door to a new era of
409 healing—one that transcends traditional boundaries and harnesses the full transformative power
410 of the neuromuscular system to restore balance and resilience across innumerable aspects of
411 human health.

412

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422 R.A, G.W.F. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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426 R.A. is founder of Moved Academy and Movement Ayahuasca, two companies which teach and
427 apply the concepts introduced in this paper. E.C. is a practicing movement specialist as well as an
428 instructor at Moved Academy and facilitator at Movement Ayahuasca. G.W.F. is a qualified Breath
429 Teacher with The Breath-Body-Mind Foundation, New York.

430 **AI-Assisted Technologies Statement**

431 Both Claude Sonnet 4 and ChatGPT-4o models were used to enhance the readability of the
432 manuscript in the final drafting stages.

433

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