



**Supplementary Materials.**

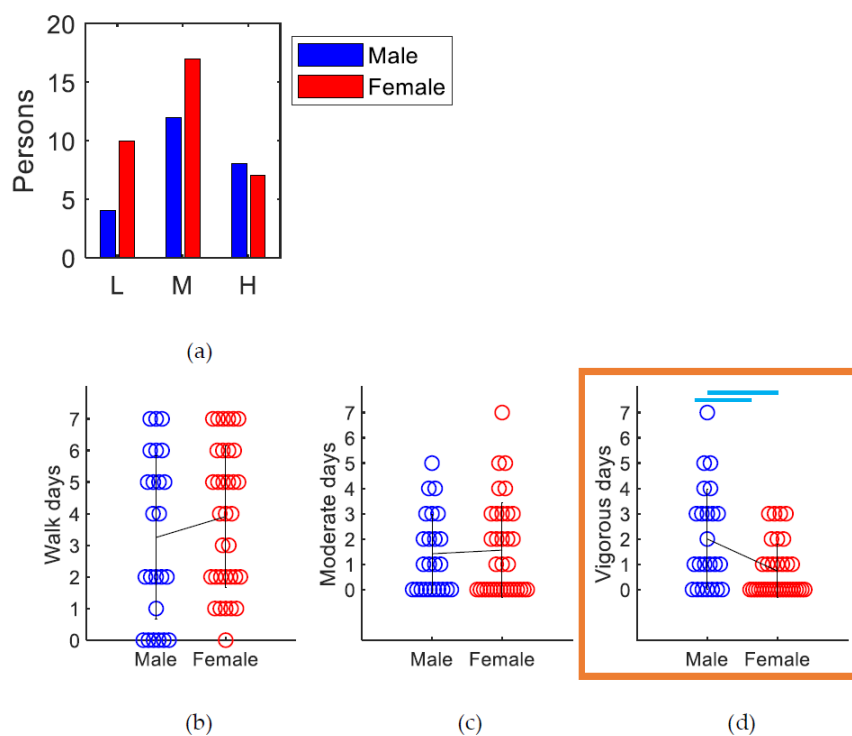
**Figure S1.** Gender differences in exercise measures.

**Figure S2.** Associations between age and exercise measures.

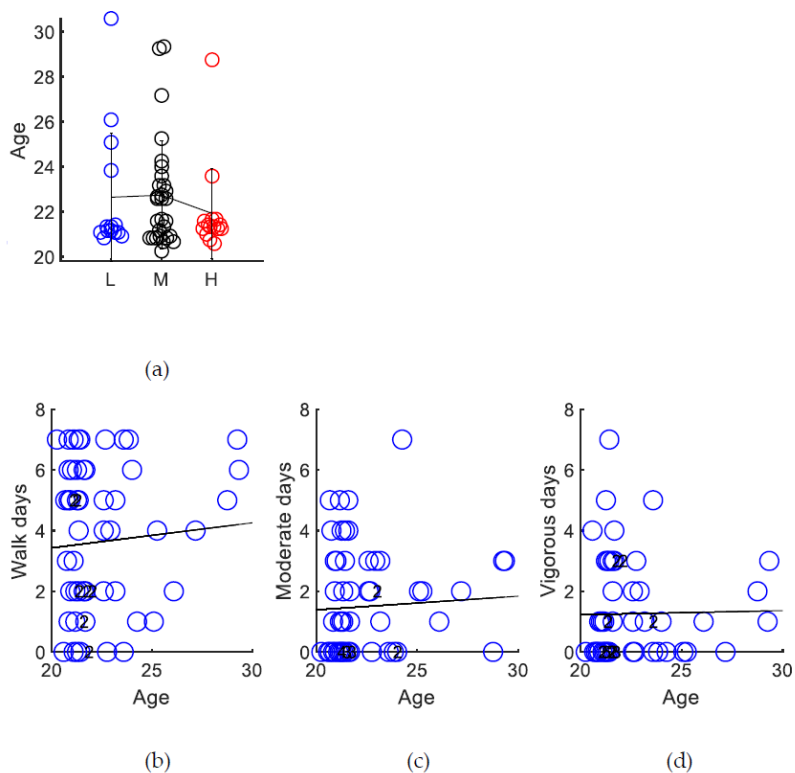
**Figure S3.** Comparison of outcome variables across different PA levels.

**Table S1.** Additional linear regression results using intensity-specific frequencies to predict cognitive functions and mental health.

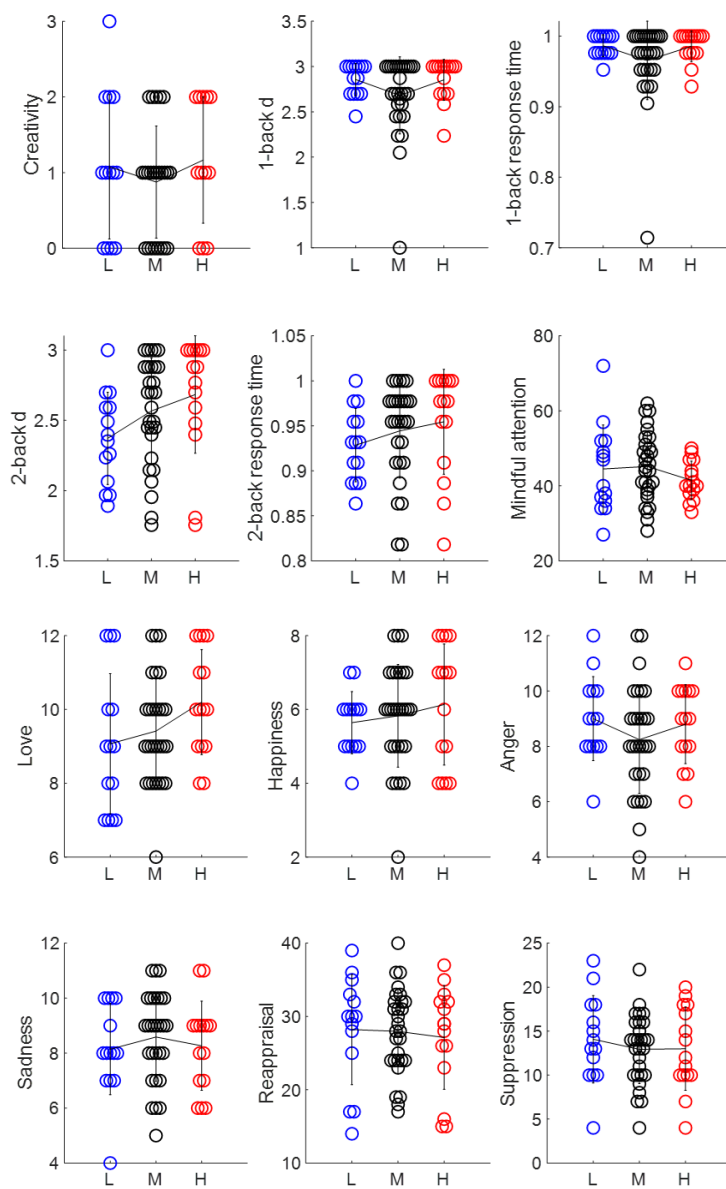
**Figure S4.** Comparison of total PA and the proportion of different PA levels between subjects conducting 1~2 days of MVPA per week and those conducting no MVPA.

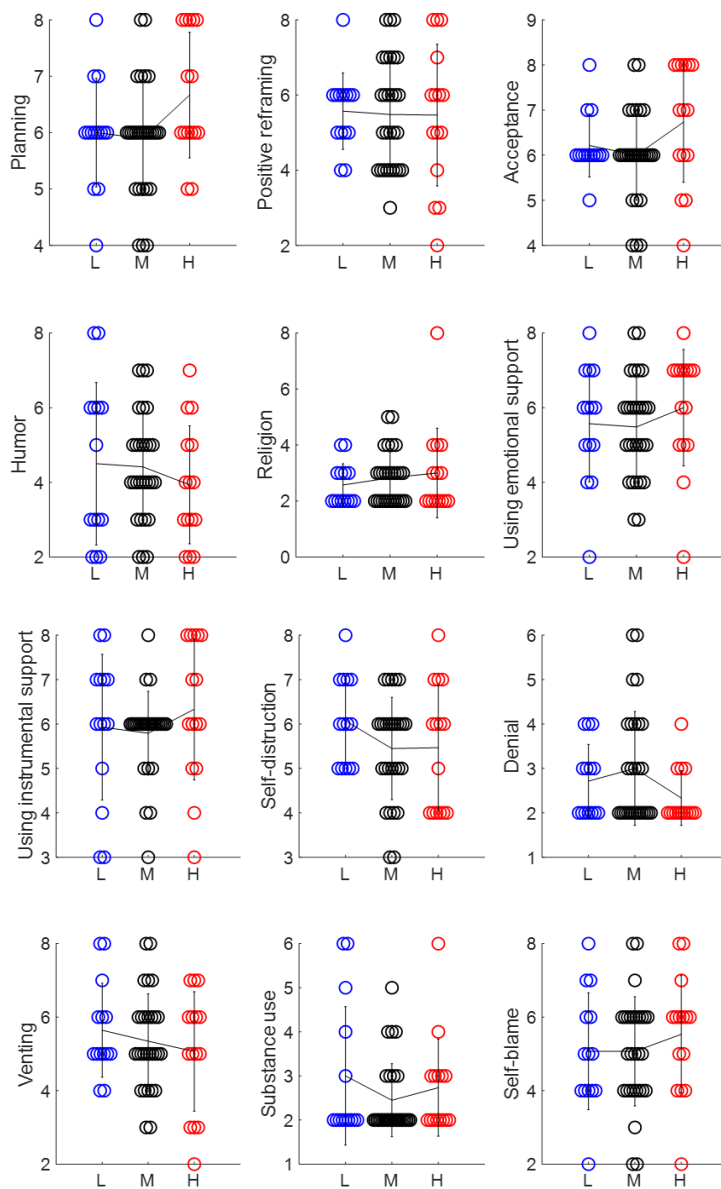


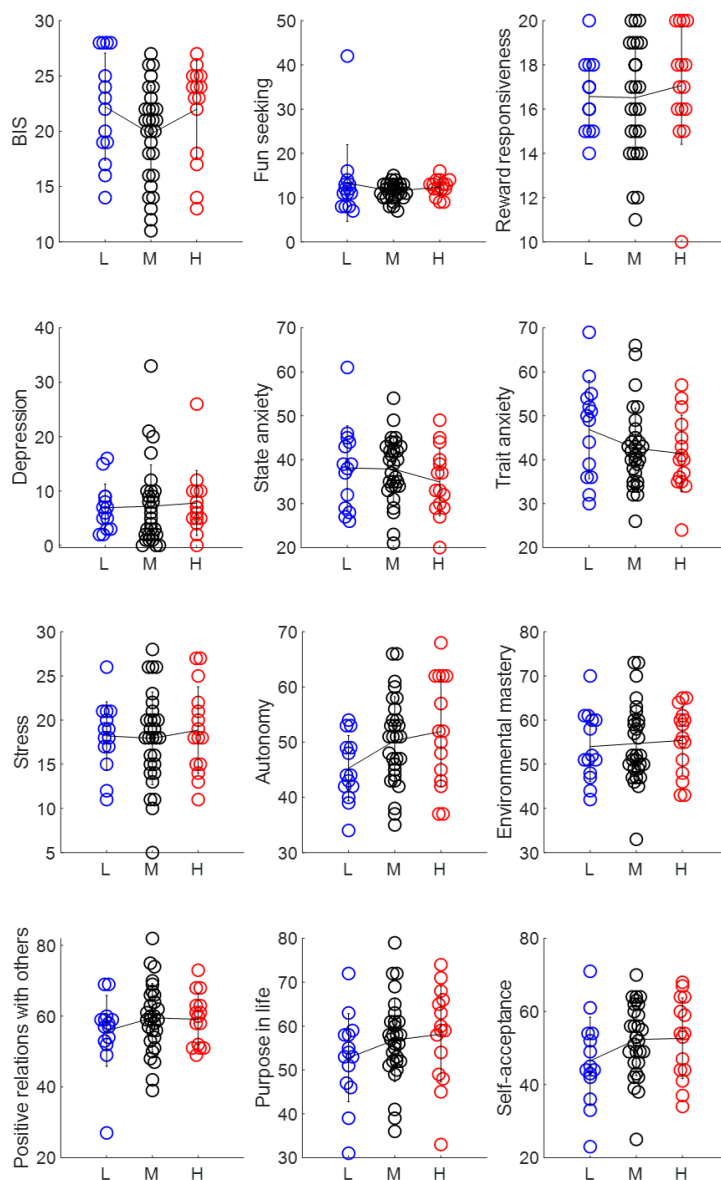
**Figure S1.** Gender differences in exercise indices: (a), PA levels, L, M, and H stand for Low, Moderate, and High PA level, respectively ( $n = 14, 29,$  and  $15$  in that order); (b) to (d), intensity-specific frequencies (days/week). For (b) to (d), each circle represents one data point from a single subject. Color indicates different genders. The black line connects the two groups at their mean value and the vertical bar drawn on the mean value represents SD of subjects at that group. — indicates a significant between group difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). As shown in (d), males conducted vigorous intensity PA more often than females ( $2.00 \pm 1.98$  vs.  $0.74 \pm 1.05$  days per week,  $t(32.23) = 2.859$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). None of other comparisons are significant at  $p < 0.05$  level. PA, physical activity.



**Figure S2.** Associations between age and exercise indices: (a), PA levels, L, M, and H stand for Low, Moderate, and High PA level, respectively, which are also indicated by different colors ( $n = 14, 29,$  and  $15$  in that order); (b) to (d), intensity-specific frequencies (days/week). Each circle represents one data point from a single subject. For (a), color indicates different groups, the black line connects the two groups at their mean value and the vertical bar drawn on the mean value represents the standard deviation of subjects at that group. For (b) to (d), the number of subjects with the same value is indicated right to the circle. No correlations or between-group differences are significant at  $p < 0.05$  level.







**Figure S3.** Comparison of outcome variables across different PA levels. L, M, and H stand for Low, Moderate, and High PA level, respectively, which are also indicated by different colors (n = 14, 29, and 15 in that order). Each circle represents one data point from a single subject. The black line connects the three PA levels at their mean value and the vertical bar drawn on the mean value represents SD of subjects at that PA level. None of the between-group differences are significant at  $p < 0.05$  level.

**Table S1.** Additional linear regression results using intensity-specific frequencies to predict cognitive functions and mental health. Notably, after controlling gender and age, vigorous intensity activities and walking could positively and negative predict use of emotional support for coping (standardized coefficient 0.300 vs  $-0.215$ ), with gender (male and female are coded as 1 and 2, respectively) also being significant (standardized coefficient 0.635). Furthermore, gender could significantly predict emotional contagion of sadness (standardized coefficient 1.321) and positive relations with others (unstandardized coefficient 7.354).  $**p < 0.01$ ;  $*p < 0.05$ ;  $+p < 0.06$ .

1	Independent variables	Quiz		Working memory	
		Creativity	1-back <i>d</i>	1-back response time	2-back response time
Model 1	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	-0.066	0.003	21.41	16.58
	<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)	0.075	-0.006	-17.54	-14.23
	<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)	0.095	-0.006	14.87	10.17
	F	1.892	0.046	2.580	1.088
	R <sup>2</sup>	0.112	0.003	0.127	0.057
	p	0.144	0.987	0.063	0.362
	Model 2	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	-0.056	0.002	22.05
<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)		0.072	-0.008	-16.84	-14.60
<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)		0.041	-0.024	14.25	13.80
<b>Gender</b>		-0.498	-0.140	-9.888	34.38
<b>Age</b>		0.013	0.018	-5.864	4.353
F		2.037	0.574	1.594	0.733
R <sup>2</sup>		0.192	0.052	0.135	0.066
p	0.092	0.720	0.179	0.602	

2	Independent variables	MAAS	Emotional contagion (ECS)			
		Mindful attention	Love	Happiness	Anger	Sadness
Model 1	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	0.244	-0.045	0.131	-0.132	0.013
	<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)	-0.163	0.050	0.010	-0.260	0.200
	<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)	-1.119	0.223	0.011	0.008	-0.058
	F	0.986	1.267	1.005	1.909	1.023
	R <sup>2</sup>	0.052	0.066	0.053	0.096	0.054
	p	0.406	0.295	0.398	0.139	0.390
	Model 2	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	0.175	-0.050	0.115	-0.136
<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)		-0.266	0.048	0.000	-0.262	0.191

<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)	-1.629	0.260	0.094	0.021	0.087
<b>Gender</b>	-3.687	0.340	0.793	0.127	<b>1.321**</b>
<b>Age</b>	0.830	0.031	0.110	0.025	0.118
F	1.603	0.879	2.081	1.133	3.082
R <sup>2</sup>	0.134	0.078	0.167	0.098	0.229
p	0.176	0.502	0.083	0.355	<b>0.016</b>

3	Independent variables	Emotion regulation (ERQ)			Coping (COPE)	
		Reappraisal	Suppression	Planning	Positive reframing	Acceptance
Model 1	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	-0.308	-0.078	0.022	-0.108	-0.039
	<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)	0.283	-0.235	-0.016	0.037	0.072
	<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)	0.487	0.284	0.236	0.083	0.184
	F	0.758	0.495	2.583	0.973	2.152
	R <sup>2</sup>	0.040	0.027	0.125	0.051	0.107
	p	0.523	0.688	0.063	0.412	0.104
	Model 2	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	-0.373	-0.097	0.026	-0.123
<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)		0.208	-0.262	-0.012	0.021	0.075
<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)		0.321	0.158	0.239	0.062	0.190
<b>Gender</b>		-0.895	-0.899	-0.002	-0.068	0.029
<b>Age</b>		0.656	0.219	-0.033	0.141	-0.026
F		1.183	0.542	1.566	1.208	1.290
R <sup>2</sup>		0.102	0.050	0.131	0.104	0.110
p		0.330	0.743	0.186	0.318	0.282

4	Independent variables	Coping (COPE)				
		Humor	Religion	Using emotional support	Using instrumental support	Self-distraction
Model 1	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	0.150	0.051	-0.106	0.022	-0.017
	<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)	-0.034	0.046	0.156	-0.024	-0.023
	<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)	-0.026	0.155	0.062	0.023	-0.232
	F	1.015	0.932	1.581	0.058	1.810
	R <sup>2</sup>	0.053	0.049	0.081	0.003	0.091
	p	0.393	0.432	0.205	0.981	0.156
Model 2	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	0.137	0.044	<b>-0.128+</b> (-0.215)	0.011	-0.030



	<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)	-0.049	0.040	0.149	-0.026	-0.030
	<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)	-0.054	0.164	<b>0.267*</b> (0.300)	0.140	-0.147
	<b>Gender</b>	-0.132	0.129	<b>1.835**</b> (0.635)	1.034	0.789
	<b>Age</b>	0.135	0.063	0.114	0.050	0.079
	F	1.057	0.794	9.028	1.742	2.761
	R <sup>2</sup>	0.092	0.071	0.465	0.143	0.210
	p	0.395	0.559	<b>0.000</b>	0.141	0.028

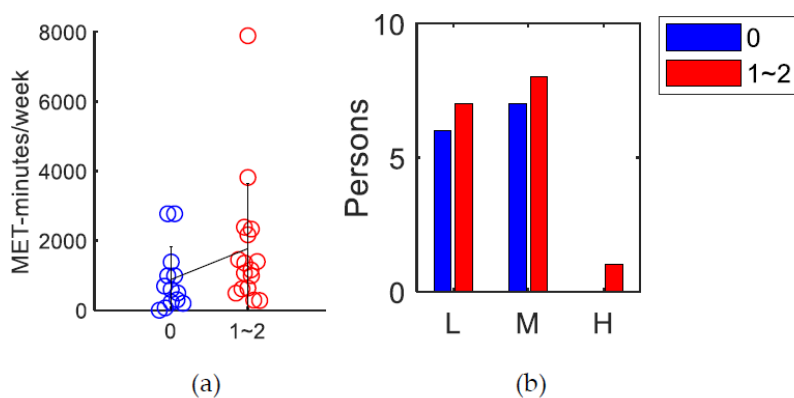
5	Independent variables	Coping (COPE)			BIS/BAS	
		Venting	Substance use	Self-blame	BIS	Drive
Model 1	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	0.009	-0.046	0.076	-0.098	0.037
	<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)	-0.054	-0.007	0.063	0.132	0.188
	<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)	-0.240	-0.060	0.090	-0.330	0.435
	F	1.618	0.221	0.343	0.319	2.101
	R <sup>2</sup>	0.082	0.012	0.019	0.017	0.105
	p	0.196	0.881	0.794	0.812	0.111
	Model 2	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	0.014	-0.054	0.069	-0.104
<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)		-0.042	-0.017	0.057	0.143	0.192
<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)		-0.142	-0.107	0.096	-0.088	0.575
<b>Gender</b>		0.768	-0.338	0.102	2.027	1.184
<b>Age</b>		-0.083	0.084	0.062	-0.046	-0.005
F		2.083	0.692	0.313	0.652	2.058
R <sup>2</sup>		0.167	0.062	0.029	0.059	0.165
p	0.082	0.632	0.903	0.662	0.086	

6	Independent variables	BIS/BAS		BDI-II	STAI	
		Fun seeking	Reward responsiveness	Depression	State anxiety	Trait anxiety
Model 1	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	-0.115	-0.187	0.178	0.199	0.027
	<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)	-0.196	0.238	0.012	-0.920	-0.516
	<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)	0.037	0.224	0.189	-0.903	-0.797
	F	0.175	2.128	0.086	1.462	0.441
	R <sup>2</sup>	0.010	0.106	0.005	0.075	0.024

	p	0.913	0.107	0.967	0.235	0.725
Model 2	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	-0.113	-0.206	0.129	0.167	-0.014
	<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)	-0.182	0.225	-0.019	-0.972	-0.549
	<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)	0.194	0.301	0.424	-1.203	-0.720
	<b>Gender</b>	1.270	0.767	2.274	-2.232	0.915
	<b>Age</b>	-0.087	0.142	0.344	0.416	0.332
	F	0.299	1.833	0.526	1.235	0.353
	R <sup>2</sup>	0.028	0.150	0.048	0.106	0.033
p	0.911	0.122	0.756	0.306	0.878	

7	Independent variables	Psychological wellbeing (PWI)				
		PSS Perceived stress	Environmental mastery	Positive relations with others	Purpose in life	Self-acceptance
Model 1	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	0.033	0.033	-0.323	0.054	-0.436
	<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)	-0.169	0.931	0.821	1.029	0.386
	<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)	0.185	0.465	0.246	1.158	1.448
	F	0.156	0.773	0.660	1.066	1.341
	R <sup>2</sup>	0.009	0.041	0.035	0.056	0.069
	p	0.925	0.514	0.580	0.371	0.271
	Model 2	<b>Walking</b> (days/week)	0.005	-0.014	-0.441	-0.002
<b>Moderate</b> (days/week)		-0.186	0.901	0.764	1.003	0.367
<b>Vigorous</b> (days/week)		0.324	0.676	1.043	1.540	1.105
<b>Gender</b>		1.325	2.055	<b>7.354**</b>	3.522	-2.856
<b>Age</b>		0.188	0.331	0.728	0.345	0.087
F		0.365	0.711	2.750	1.019	0.956
R <sup>2</sup>		0.034	0.064	0.209	0.089	0.084
P	0.870	0.618	<b>0.028</b>	0.416	0.435	

MAAS, Mindful Attention Awareness Scale; ECS, Emotional Contagion Scale; ERQ, Emotion Regulation Questionnaire; COPE, Coping Orientation to Problems Experienced Inventory; BIS/BAS, Behavioral Inhibition System and Behavioral Activation System scales; BDI-II, Beck Depression Inventory-II; STAI, State-Trait Anxiety Inventory; PSS, Perceived Stress Scale; PWI, Psychological Well-being Inventory.



**Figure S4.** Comparison of total PA (a) and the proportion of different PA levels (b) between subjects conducting 1-2 days of MVPA per week and those conducting no MVPA. For (a), each circle represents one data point from a single subject. Color indicates different groups. The black line connects the two groups at their mean value and the vertical bar drawn on the mean value represents SD of subjects at that group. Neither of the comparison is significant at  $p < 0.05$ . MVPA, moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity.