



## RYNO VAN DEN BERG

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**STRETCH THERAPIST**

**Ryno van den Berg** is a qualified Sport Massage Therapist (2001), Sport & Exercise Technologist and Stretch Therapist. He studied at the Tswane University of Technology in Pretoria. In 2002 he received his Diploma and obtained a B-Tech degree in Sport Science and Exercise Physiology in 2003.

In his practice he has seen phenomenal results with Activated Isolated Stretching in athletes, people with different injuries and people leading a stressful lifestyle. He is convinced that Active Isolated Stretching is unmatched and accomplishes astounding results.



## MARTIN HERBST

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**STRETCH THERAPIST**

**Martin Herbst** is a qualified Personal Trainer with a National Certificate in Fitness (FitPro) and a certified practitioner in Active Isolated Stretching (AIS), completing his AIS training in 2024. His passion for AIS stems from the transformative results it delivers, helping individuals restore their natural range of motion and optimize their physical well-being.

Martin works in association with Ryno at StretchingSA Faerie Glen.

## Contact Us

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**STRETCHINGSA**<sup>®</sup>  
Non-surgical bone and muscle dysfunctional repair

# Stretch Therapist

Musculoskeletal pain • Injury • Back & Neck pain  
Sports performance • Optimal flexibility

**StretchingSA Pretoria East**

# What is Active Isolated Stretching?

Over the past two decades, many experts have advocated prolonged stretching up to 60 seconds. A prolonged stretch up to 60 seconds means that a person would move into a stretching position and keep it there for a longer period.

For many years this was used as the gold standard for all individuals and athletes. However, after 30 years of research by Aaron Mattes, it was found that a stretch greater than 2 seconds actually decreases the blood flow within the tissue thus creating localized ischemia and lactic acid build up.

This also increases irritation and chance of injury of local muscular, tendonous, lymphatic as well as neural tissues, similar to the effects and consequences of trauma, overuse syndromes, and metabolic disease states. This phenomenon indicates that there has to be a better technique for proper stretching. And indeed it was found, now called Active Isolated Stretching.

## Active Isolated Stretching

Active Isolated Stretching (AIS) is a stretching method developed by Aaron L. Mattes. AIS utilizes precise movements to isolate a specific area to be stretched. Once in the proper position, the stretch is held for 1.5 to 2 seconds, released, and then repeated 8-10 times in a set.

AIS is effective in reducing pain in the human body caused by incorrect posture, injury, post-surgical conditions, degeneration and inactivity.

**We are a unique flexibility, sports and rehabilitation clinic that uses AIS techniques and strengthening exclusively for rehabilitation and chronic pain.**

# Primary principles for AIS

There are two primary principles that provide the basis for how AIS works.



**Reciprocal inhibition**, which means that if you want to lift your arm, your nervous system has to shut off the muscles that bring your arm down. This means that AIS involves your nervous system in the stretch, making it easier for the muscles to elongate.

The second principle is **to hold the stretch for 1.5 to 2 seconds, and no longer**. Research shows that holding a stretch for longer than 2.5 to 3 seconds will cause your body to engage a protective reflex. This stretch reflex will cause a muscle contraction in the muscle you are trying to stretch. It is therefore important not to hold any stretch to long, not even 3 seconds.

By not "tripping" the stretch reflex, you are able to get a gentle stretch, without the body fighting itself. The stretch is repeated 8 to 10 times in a set. The repeated "pumping" action of the muscle allows for increased circulation to the area. Because the stretches target highly specific areas of the body, AIS provides an efficient and effective stretch.

These specific movements also help relieve symptoms of stress. Stress touches all of our lives. Gentle stretching movements can invigorate the circulatory, respiratory and neuromuscular systems, which help alleviate many of the symptoms of stress.



## Benefits of StretchingSA

- + Helps to relieve muscle soreness.
- + Reduces muscle spasm.
- + Helps to address and reduce chronic pain.
- + Reduces the risk of muscle strain and tearing.
- + Aid in the recovery from injury.
- + Helps to increase athletic performance.
- + Helps with stress relieve.
- + Improves oxygen and nutrient flow to cells.
- + Helps stimulate lymph circulation and elimination of cellular waste.
- + Helps to maintain good posture.
- + Helps to regain and maintain the full range of motion of a joint.
- + Promotes balance in the body
- + Promotes healthy growth in children and youth
- + Prevent postural problems in preadolescent growth spurts.