PLORAS Newsletter
Predicting Language Outcome and Recovery After Stroke
Issue 6 | December 2017

Hello!
We have lots more developments on the project from the last year. Thank you for continuing to support and show interest - we hope you enjoy the updates!

In this issue...
- Clinical Tool update
- Collaborations
- PLORAS Assessment Tool
- NHS sites update

Clinical Tool update
We have generated a clinical tool!
It can make confident recovery predictions for 60% of patients on our database.

We check these predictions with patients returning to have their language assessed again (i.e. are they recovering as we would expect?).

The results need to be published before the clinical tool can be released.

We are always recruiting more stroke survivors to:
- Make even more precise predictions.
- Make predictions for more types of stroke.
Collaborations

Working with therapy trials
We are working with aphasia therapy trials, including Big CACTUS and Listen-In.

We plan to combine:
- Results from the therapy studies.
- PLORAS predictions.

We want to know: Does the therapy speed up the expected recovery?

The figure below shows how the same change in scores could be a positive therapy effect in one patient but not in another (they were predicted to improve).

Using hospital brain scans
Dr Tom Hope has been awarded a fellowship by the Stroke Association. He will predict outcomes and treatment responses in stroke patients. By using data that hospitals already collect, he hopes to make PLORAS predictions more rapidly usable in the clinic.
PLORAS Assessment Tool (PAT)
We are developing a suite of electronically-administered assessments for people with aphasia.

We are delighted that, in due course, we are making this tool available to aphasiologists and clinicians worldwide.

To receive updates on this project, please email ploras@ucl.ac.uk

BBC Two programme - Andrew Marr: My Brain and Me
Professor Cathy Price took part in a BBC documentary with Andrew Marr.

He explored the latest scientific understanding of the human brain, and how it relates to his stroke recovery.

Selected recent publications


Spotlight on…Sophie Roberts - Research Assistant & Speech and Language Therapist

Sophie is involved in:

- **Language testing**.
- Assisting with **MRI scans**.
- Working with our **collaborators** (other aphasia studies).

She studied **Modern Languages and Linguistics** before qualifying as a **speech and language therapist**.

Sophie plans to start a **PhD on aphasia** next year.

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**NHS sites update**

- We have **60 NHS sites** recruiting for us.
- They have **referred over 1500 stroke survivors** to us since March 2014!
- We plan to **open more sites next year**.
- **Thank you** to our valued NHS sites and participants!

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**Finally…**

We wish you all a very **Happy Christmas** and **New Year**!

Don’t want our newsletter in future? Please tell us.

**From all the PLORAS Research Team**

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**PLORAS Research Team**

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