Hello!
The PLORAS study continues to grow and we have more exciting results to share with you. Thank you for supporting and showing interest in the study - we hope you enjoy the updates.

In this issue...
- 1000 participants!
- Research update
- Meet the team
- Language festival

1000 participants!

We have reached a big milestone in the study - over 1000 participants have now taken part!

That equals...
- Over 250 hours of MRI scanning.
- Over 2000 hours of language assessments.
- Support from over 60 NHS sites and 50 stroke groups.

A very BIG thank you to all our stroke survivors, research teams and community groups!

Funding now extended to 2022!
Database snapshot

Speech and language skills at time of testing (1002 participants)

- 801: Aphasic, apraxic, alexic and/or agraphic at test
- 66: Not currently aphasic (past not available)
- 23: Never aphasic
- 112: Aphasic after stroke not at test

How long ago the participant had their stroke (1015 participants)
We have identified **two new lesion sites** that predict speech ability after stroke.

- Damage to either of these regions typically impairs **inner speech** (the ability to hear the words in our heads).
- Inner speech is typically preserved when these regions are left intact.
- *Both regions extend deep into the under white matter.*

**Identifying lesion sites**

- **1. Left inferior frontal region***
- **2. Left inferior parietal region***

**Selected recent publications:**


Goodbye to: Zula Haigh

Zula is a PLORAS researcher and speech and language therapist. She has been in the team since 2012 but is leaving next year for a family adventure to Australia. She has made an incredible contribution to the study.

A message from Zula:

“It has been such a great pleasure and a privilege to work with so many wonderful PLORAS participants over the years. Thank you!”

Bloomsbury Festival

The festival brings together arts, culture and science. The theme this year was language. We were awarded a place to raise awareness of aphasia. Members of the public played a game which gave a glimpse of what it feels like to lose your language.

The public were also given information about PLORAS and introduced to one of our participants.

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