World Stroke Day coffee morning

In October we held a coffee morning for World Stroke Day. We met with participants and new stroke survivors. We shared our research and listened to people’s experiences of stroke. We also enjoyed the fresh coffee and Danish pastries! Professor Cathy Price (Lead Researcher) said, “We are delighted that so many remarkable people were able to mark this important day”.
Our research is in a **new film** made by the **Wellcome Trust**. The film shows **Professor Cathy Price** and 22 year-old **Sarah**. Sarah has **aphasia** following a stroke. This will be used as part of the educational series, ‘**Big Picture**’. You can view the video here: [http://tinyurl.com/bigpicture-ploras](http://tinyurl.com/bigpicture-ploras).

**UK Stroke Forum 2012**

We had an exhibition stand at the **UK Stroke Forum** in **Harrogate**. We are soon setting up a **focus group** with **stroke professionals** we met. This will help us find out how our research can be used in **clinics** by **doctors** and **speech and language therapists**.

**Meet the team!**

Each newsletter we will feature a member of the team so you can find out who does what.

**Louise Lim**

Louise is a **Patient Manager, Research Associate** and **Speech and Language Therapist**.

Her role includes:

- Recruiting participants.
- Language testing.
- Building links with the Stroke Research Network around the UK.

She is also embarking on a **PhD in aphasia**.
Research update

Our participants have helped us to learn some key links between:

(a) the damage that stroke can cause in the brain
(b) the likely language problems that people might suffer
(c) how much people may recover over time

We can now start to predict how individual patients’ speaking skills might improve in the years after their stroke.

Our first research area looks at how we can predict language outcomes for new patients. We do this based on what we know from the participants we have tested. This includes scores on language tests (speaking, understanding, reading and writing) and the brain scan. We have built a system that can make those predictions. It can also learn from patient data directly to keep improving the predictions it makes.

Our second research area tries to explain:
- why some patients respond better to treatment than others
- why some patients recover more quickly than others

We have found some ‘critical lesion sites’ (key areas) for speech problems. Damage to these areas causes aphasia that can last for some time. Patients without damage to these areas may recover within a few years.
Mailing list

You have **received** this newsletter because you have **taken part** in our research, or **shown interest**. We hope you have enjoyed reading it. If you **do not wish to receive** future copies, please **contact** the team (details below).

If you know **anyone who may be interested** in **participating** or **receiving** this **newsletter**, please **pass on** our **contact details**.

**Finally!**

A **very big thank you** to **everyone** who has **contributed** to the study so far. Your input is critical to its success.

**From all at the PLORAS Stroke Research Team**

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**Video:** [http://tinyurl.com/talkingheads-ploras](http://tinyurl.com/talkingheads-ploras)