



PLORAS Newsletter

Predicting Language Outcome & Recovery After Stroke
Issue 1; February 2013

Welcome!

This is the **first issue** of the **PLORAS Newsletter**. The newsletter is to **update** you on the **research**, and any other **related news**.

In this issue

- Coffee morning
- 'Big Picture' video
- UK Stroke Forum 2012
- Meet the team
- Research update

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".

BigPicture

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>.

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

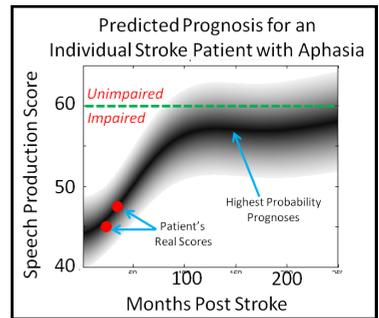


Our participants have helped us to learn some **key links** between:

- (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

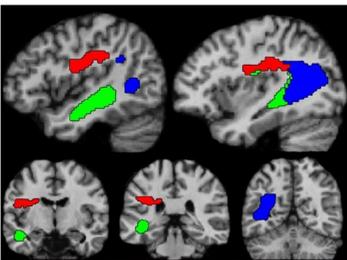
We can now start to **predict** how individual patients' speaking skills **might improve** in the years after their stroke.

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>