



PLORAS Newsletter

Predicting Language Outcome and Recovery After Stroke
Issue 3 | December 2014

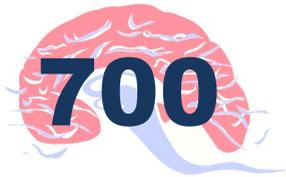
Hello!

The **PLORAS** project has seen **big and exciting changes** over the last year - see our **feature** on the **Clinical Research Network** to **find out more!** Here we've also **selected other highlights.** For **more events and updates** see our **website: www.ucl.ac.uk/ploras.**

In this issue:

- Recruitment update
- Stroke Association funding
- Events and media
- Clinical Research Network
- Spotlight on...
- New stroke website

Recruitment update



We now have over **700 stroke survivors** in the study! **Many thanks** to all our **participants** for your **time**, and **eagerness to help** new **stroke survivors**. The **research would not be possible without you!**

Stroke Association funding

We were delighted to receive additional **funding** from the **Stroke Association** to support our research.

Together with our **Wellcome Trust funding**, it will help us to **achieve even more** towards the **PLORAS** aims.



Events and media

UK Stroke Assembly

On 16 June, **Professor Cathy Price** gave a **presentation on PLORAS to stroke survivors in Nottingham.**

It was a **great opportunity for stroke survivors to feed back their thoughts** on the research directly to the **Principal Investigator.**



BBC Radio 4 programme: Brain Attack

Robert McCrum, journalist and stroke survivor, **visited our centre** as part of a new **BBC Radio 4 programme: Brain Attack.** He **took part in the research with speech and language therapist Rachel Browne**, and then **interviewed Cathy Price** - to **find out what the results from his MRI scan and language assessment mean in the context of our research.** In the programme, Robert tells **his own story**, and **seeks to find answers from medical science to questions about stroke.** Read more about the two-part series here:



<http://tinyurl.com/o2zpaxn>. **Brain Attack** will be **broadcast at 11am on Monday 2nd & 9th March 2015.**

BBC Look East

In August, **PLORAS** featured in a local news piece on **Peterborough City Hospital's involvement** in the **project.** The **research team** at the hospital are one of our **CRN sites** (see next page). We received very **positive comments** from **stroke survivors** and their **families** who **saw the feature** - and then decided to **take part in the project!**

Clinical Research Network

After many months of set-up, we are **delighted** we have **launched PLORAS** with the **Clinical Research Network (CRN)**. The **CRN** are **funded** by the **National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)** to **co-ordinate** and **develop stroke research nationally**.

We are very **excited** about **working with the CRN**, as it means we can **vastly increase the numbers of stroke survivors** we reach.

Over **40 hospitals** across **England** are now **recruiting participants for PLORAS** via the **CRN** (and more are in the set up process).

This means we can **include stroke survivors** from much more **diverse backgrounds** and **geographical areas** than has been possible before.

For **March to November** this year, our **CRN sites** recruited **168 participants**. Many **thanks** to the **stroke survivors** who **showed interest** in PLORAS, and the **hospital research practitioners** for your **hard work** for PLORAS!



New aphasia-friendly information

To enable us to **work with the CRN**, we **submitted a new ethics application** - and added extra **aphasia-friendly materials**.

We are always **keen to receive feedback** on these (and on our **website**). If you are a **participant** and **received information sheets** from us - we'd **love to hear** if you have **comments (good or bad!)** or **suggestions**.

WELLSOME TRUST CENTRE FOR NEUROSCIENCE

UCL

Participant Information Sheet – Picture Support
Version 2 (November 2017) | Reference number: 15.12.15.15

Study Title:
Predicting Language Outcome and Recovery After Stroke (PLORAS)

You are being invited to take part in a research study.

You can decide to take part or not.

Yes please No thanks

Read about the research before you decide.

YES? NOT? Maybe?

© 2017 PLORAS Participant Information Sheet | Version 2 November 2017 | Page 1 of 24

Spotlight on...Tom Hope - Research Fellow

Tom is **responsible** for **building** and **refining** the **PLORAS prediction system**.

This involves **putting results and insights** from his **own research** and from the **other group members** into a **single, practical framework**. He then **validates (checks)** their impact on the **predictions** that we can make for **individual patients**.

Tom has a **PhD in Computational Cognitive Neuroscience** (number processing in the brain) and a **background in Artificial Intelligence**.



New stroke website

We are working as part of the **UCL Stroke Research Forum** to develop a **website with information on all stroke research at University College London**. Once complete, we hope it will be a **useful resource for stroke survivors and health professionals / academics**.

The website address is www.ucl.ac.uk/stroke.



Finally...



Look out for **regular updates** on our **Facebook** or **Twitter** pages. If you would **prefer not to receive** our **newsletter** in future, please **contact us**.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas!

From all the PLORAS Research Team

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