PLORAS Newsletter

Predicting Language Outcome and Recovery After Stroke

Hello!

We hope you had a good year. Read on for more exciting results and news from our team.

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- UCL World Stroke Day
- Recent results
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UCL World Stroke Day

- Over 100 stroke survivors and carers attended.
- 10 stalls on stroke research, clinical work and charities.
- Workshops and talks about the latest news in stroke research at UCL.
- Event for stroke survivors to influence future stroke research

This event is part of a new public engagement program funded by the Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging.

For more information about other engagement events by the Centre visit www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/public-engagement
Recent research results

Predicting responses to therapy

- Participants had impaired reading.
- We tested their language skills (including reading) and took a brain scan.
- Participants were then treated using a reading therapy App (iReadMore).
- Conclusion: We could use language data and brain scans to predict how much each participants’ reading improved.

The picture below shows the four brain regions that help predict variability in participants’ responses to iReadMore

Recent research results

Right hemisphere damage and speech comprehension

- **Aphasia** is commonly associated with **left hemisphere damage**.

- However, there is growing evidence that the **right hemisphere** also has a role in **language processing**.

- We explored the role of **right hemisphere** regions in **language functions** that are traditionally associated with the **left hemisphere**.

- **Conclusion**: We found that **long-lasting speech comprehension difficulties** were frequently observed in **right-handed stroke patients** with **damage** to the **right frontal lobe**.

Spotlight on… Andrea Gajardo Vidal & Diego Lorca-Puls (PhD students and Research Assistants)

Andrea and Diego are involved in:
- Assisting with **structural** and **functional MRI scans**.
- Analysing **neuroimaging** and **behavioural data**

They studied:
BSc in **Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences**
PGDip in **Adult Neuropsychology and Neuropsychiatry**
MSc in **Cognitive Neuroscience**

Andrea and Diego plan to become **post-doctoral researchers** next year.

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**Alan Turing Institute Collaboration**

- We invited **data scientists** from all over the world to use their **knowledge** and **expertise** with **PLORAS data**.

- The event was a great **success**. We developed lots of **new ideas** and formed **partnerships** with scientists from **around the world**.

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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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🎉 Predicting Language Outcome and Recovery After Stroke