UCL Research Studies - Currently Recruiting
Nov, 2020
Mapping current flow in the brain of chronic stroke survivors using MRI

£10/hr + travel expenses for one 2.5 hour session

Location: 33 Queen Square

Contact: Dr Ainslie Johnstone

We are recruiting well-recovered stroke survivors to participate in a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and transcranial electrical stimulation (tES) study. The experiment will involve attending the lab for one 2.5 hour long testing session. During this session you will spend around 1.5 hours in the MRI scanner while we take measures of your brain structure. For 20 minute intervals during the scan you will receive non-invasive tES, where a very small electric current will be passed through your brain via electrodes stuck to your head.

We will use the MRI scanner to map how the current from the tES travels through the brain, and will compare this across healthy individuals and stroke survivors. tES has been proposed as a potential way to boost recovery during post-stroke rehabilitation and we hope that this research will enable us to optimise tES interventions.

If you sign up to this study, we will send you some eligibility questionnaires to make sure that you are safe to take part in MRI and tES. Participants MUST complete the questionnaires and return them to ainslie.johnstone@ucl.ac.uk before we can schedule a time for the study.

Eligibility Requirements:

| Age 18-60 -- English speaking | A well-recovered stroke survivor (able to transfer from chair-bed with minimal assistance) | Stroke occurred at least 6 months ago | No/mild aphasia problems | No/mild cognitive impairment | No/mild movement impairment | No history of seizures | No metal or pacemakers in your body |

Duration: ~2.5 hours

Payment: You will be reimbursed £10/hr + travel expenses for participating in the study

Preparation: You will be sent some eligibility questionnaires to complete and return before a booking is made.

If you are interested in participating in this experiment, or have any further questions, please contact: ainslie.johnstone@ucl.ac.uk
The Effort Lab

Location: 33 Queen Square, WC1N 3BG

Contact: William De Doncker

Chronic fatigue is a highly prevalent symptom across many diseases irrespective of disease burden. Our lab focuses on neural mechanisms independent of disease pathology, primarily investigating movement related sensory processing. We use a range of techniques from neuroimaging, non-invasive brain stimulation, behavioural paradigms to self-report. Alongside understanding mechanisms, we also develop brain-based therapeutic interventions.

We are always recruiting stroke survivors to take part in our research. If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with William De Doncker using the contact information found below.

Further information can be found at: https://the-effort-lab.wixsite.com/fatigue/participate-1

If you are interested in participating in this study, or have any further questions, please contact: willam.doncker.11@ucl.ac.uk or call 02034488774

Predicting Language Outcomes After Stroke (PLORAS)

Location: 12 Queen Square, WC1N 3AR

Contact: Kate Ledingham, Sophie Roberts

PLORAS is a research project looking at recovery of speech and language difficulties after stroke. Our aim is to give future stroke survivors a prediction about their speech and language recovery.

We are always recruiting stroke survivors to take part in our research. All stroke survivors who have experienced effects from their stroke that lasted longer than a week are eligible.

Further information can be found at: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ploras/

If you are interested in participating in this study, please register your interest in the study here: https://ploras.ucl.ac.uk/Registration/PLORAS

Alternatively, we can be contacted on 020 7813 1538 (mobile: 07984 111 585) or by email at ploras@ucl.ac.uk
SWAN project

Aim of our project:

- We are doing some research about aphasia and numeracy. Some people with aphasia have problems counting and difficulties with numbers in daily life. We have developed a digital game which aims to improve number skills.

Who are we looking for?

- Adults with aphasia who have number difficulties

The project involves:

- 4 sessions of assessments
- 3 weeks of intervention at home
- Remote guidance throughout this process
- An opportunity to give us feedback

When:

- January – May 2021

If you have any questions about our project, please get in touch via email swanproject@ucl.ac.uk.

You can also check out our website for more information www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/swan

Measuring Wellbeing Creatively

Location: Online

This project looks at ways we can find out about the wellbeing of people with aphasia, despite their communication difficulties.

Participants will take part in a museum session which we hope will be interesting and enjoyable - improving wellbeing. Participants will complete a number of wellbeing measures in sessions before and after the museum activity. This will include a new measure - making a colourful image without the need to use language at all.

We are planning that the project can be carried out remotely (online). Please get in touch if you are interested in taking part: communicationclinic@ucl.ac.uk
The ReCAPS Study

Location: 33 Queen Square, WC1N 3BG

Contact: Carys Evans, Jenny Lee

There is a talk available about this project here: https://engagement.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/projects/ucl-world-stroke-day/groups/arm-lab-recaps-research-project/

ReCAPS is a research study at UCL that explores **how brain activity changes** after someone has had a stroke that has affected their upper limb.

We also want to know whether **non-invasive brain stimulation** can be used to change brain activity after a stroke.

As part of the ReCAPS study, we are looking for volunteers who
  a) have suffered a stroke and still have problems using their arm or hand
  b) have not suffered a stroke

Please visit the website for more information: https://recapsstudy.wixsite.com/research
Or contact Carys (carys.evans@ucl.ac.uk) or Jenny (jenny.lee@ucl.ac.uk) if you would like to take part.
What is iTalkBetter? A new therapy app designed to improve naming.

Who is it for? The app is for people with post-stroke aphasia who have difficulties finding the right words to say.

How can you help? If you have had a stroke and would be able to practice naming at home then we would welcome you to take part in our research.

You will need to come to UCL and complete tests of your language and thinking skills and you will also need to have brain scans.

We will give you a computer tablet to take home so you can use the therapy app for 6 weeks.

Where: Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, Queen Square

COVID-19: Due to the pandemic, you may also be able to take part in the study remotely.

This would involve completing tests on Zoom and using the therapy for 6 weeks.

Contact us: Emily Upton: emily.upton.11@ucl.ac.uk