Neurotherapeutics Group

The Neurotherapeutics group investigates the rehabilitation of language and cognitive deficits caused by stroke. The group specialise in developing digital technology and therapy for the treatment to improve and understand language recovery after stroke.

Aspire CREATe

Our rapidly growing center investigates the applications of engineering and robotics technologies to rehabilitation and assistive technologies for conditions such as spinal cord and nerve injury, stroke, muscular dystrophy, and more.

Language & Cognition

One consequence of stroke can be aphasia - difficulty understanding and producing language. It limits a person's ability to take part in conversations.

There has been considerable progress in understanding difficulties with vocabulary in aphasia, but less progress in understanding difficulties with sentences. This is a problem as everyday talking involves sentences, and understanding and using sentences are critical for taking part in conversations. We have developed a new computer therapy and app that may help people to understand and produce sentences. For more information see https://www.cognitionandgrammar.net/utilise

PLORAS

Our goal in the Predicting Language Outcome and Recovery After Stroke (PLORAS) team is to create a clinical tool for patients and clinicians which will provide individualised predictions about the most likely course of recovery from aphasia after stroke, based on the patient's brain scans.
Multimodal communication in aphasia

Our research focuses on how people with aphasia and their communication partners understand and use gestures in everyday conversation. Our current project is funded by Brain Research UK and explores whether gestures help people with aphasia understand speech better and re-learn words during naturalistic interaction.

The National Brain Appeal

The National Brain Appeal raises funds to advance treatment and research at The National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery and the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology. We are funding a new aphasia service and supporting an exciting new innovation to use extended reality video gaming to aid stroke neurorehabilitation.

Different Strokes

Different Strokes supports working age and younger stroke survivors, helping them to reclaim their lives through active peer support and independent recovery.

Brain and Spine Foundation

The Brain & Spine Foundation is the only UK-wide charity providing information and support for every one of the over 470 neurological disorders which affect 1 in 6 people in the UK. We have a Helpline staffed by specialist nurses, Online Peer Support groups for patients and carers and Information on specific conditions.

ARNI

ARNI Institute is a Charity with over 160 accredited, insured and active instructors spread across the UK, who support the hospitals by providing a community-integration path when therapy finishes due to time & resources. They assist community stroke survivors with the performance of functional task practice, physical coping strategies & stroke specific resistance training.
10 am

**Technological advancements for upper limb conditions**
Dr Peter Snow, Rodrigo Mendez Leal, UCL Aspire CREATE, UCL WEISS, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Stanmore
Duration: 45mins

In this workshop we will showcase different technological advancements for use in stroke and other upper limb condition rehabilitation.

10:30 am

**Psychological Impact after Stroke**
Dr Catherine Doogan, Neurotherapeutics, UCL
Duration: 25mins

This talk will describe some of the emotional, cognitive behavioural changes that can happen after stroke. I will talk about the impact this has on the person living with stroke and the impact on the people who care for or about them. There will be advice on where to find psychological support.

**Pre-hospital Video assessment of Stroke: Right Place, Right Time, First Time**
Dr Rob Simister, UCLH NHS Foundation Trust and Stroke Research Centre, Institute of Neurology, UCL
Duration: 25mins

Pre-hospital video enabled clinical assessment for the possibility of a new stroke event offers the potential to reduce times to stroke reversal treatment and reduce rates of stroke recurrence. Dr Simister will describe current progress of this project in north London and a possible future model for pre-hospital emergency care.
11 am

**Carers Cafe**

Dr Catherine Doogan, Iona Scott & Lucy Taylor, Neurotherapeutics, UCL
Duration: 45mins

This session will address the impact and burden of stroke on the people who care for or care about the stroke survivor. We will discuss role changes, threats to identify and ways of coping with the changes. This session is for carers.

**How do we provide effective aphasia rehabilitation?**

Prof Rosemary Varley, UTILISE Project, UCL (funded by The Stroke Association)
Duration: 25mins

Many aphasia rehabilitation studies show that, to be effective, therapy must be delivered at high dose/intensity. One solution is to use remote, digital therapy, where individuals self-administer intervention. What are the challenges of this approach from the perspectives of people with aphasia, family members and clinicians, and how might we address them?

**Ethnicity and Stroke**

Rahael Kuruvilla, Different Strokes
Duration: 25mins

Stroke disproportionally affects Black and Asian people at a younger age. Join Rahael, (Black and Asian Stroke Survivors Project Officer) who had a stroke aged 22, to hear about the initial work that Different Strokes are doing in this area, the barriers they have identified, and the plans that they have to increase awareness of younger stroke within Black and Asian communities

11:30 am

**The Queen Square Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Programme (QSICAP)**

Prof Jenny Crinion, Neurotherapeutics, UCL (Funded by the National Brain Appeal and supported by the National Hospital of Neurology and Neurosurgery, UCLH)
Duration: 45mins

For many people living with chronic language problems after stroke (aphasia) it can be difficult to get ongoing rehabilitation many month or years after stroke. However the potential to recover and continue to improve language and communication skills after stroke does not have a ‘cut-off date’. It is never too late to get the right speech and language treatment that could make a big change to people’s lives. To address this unmet need we set-up an intensive comprehensive aphasia programme for people with chronic aphasia - the QSICAP. As we come to the end of our second year I will share what we’ve learnt from people with aphasia, their families and the treating clinicians and how we hope to continue this work in the future.
11:30 am

**My Stroke Companion**

Dr Rob Simister, UCLH NHS Foundation Trust and Stroke Research Centre, Institute of Neurology, UCL  
Duration: 25mins

Stroke is a life changing event but after hospital discharge there is no resource that delivers tailored, accurate information that updates along the pathway, is relevant to the local network and which connects survivors and their carers with people with similar experiences. This talk introduces My Stroke Companion which seeks to fill this gap.

1:45 pm

**My Neuro Survey - how stroke survivors are adversely affected**

Dr Georgina Carr, CEO, Neurological Alliance & Austin Willett, CEO, Different Strokes  
Duration: 45mins

Join Georgina Carr, CEO of the Neurological Alliance, and Austin Willett, CEO of Different Strokes, as they discuss the results of the recent neuro survey, showing systemic lack of support for stroke survivors, and how we can use the data to seek long-term improvements in rehabilitation and life after stroke.

**Language Recovery after Stroke**

Prof Cathy Price & Rachel Bruce, PLORAS, Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging, UCL  
Duration: 45mins

PLORAS is a research project investigating speech and language recovery after stroke. The team are developing a tool which will give stroke survivors a prediction about their most likely recovery. The speakers will give some examples of how these predictions are made and ask the audience for their opinions and advice on: the type of information that people with aphasia would like to receive; and how they would like to receive such information.
2 pm

Gesture in aphasia: when the hands do the talking
Prof Gabriella Viglioco, Isobel Chick, Marine Wang & Michi Aneez, Language and Cognition Lab, UCL
Duration: 45mins

When we talk, we gesture. But how are gestures affected by aphasia, and can gestures help people with aphasia learn words again and understand speech better? In this interactive workshop, we would like to explore how people with aphasia and their communication partners use gestures in everyday conversation.

2:45 pm

Robotic Medicated Therapy; State of the art, core technologies and open challenges
Prof Rui Loureiro & Dr Peter Snow, UCL Aspire CREATe, UCL WEISS, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Stanmore
Duration: 25mins

This talk will look at robotic medicated therapy initially for stroke rehabilitation which has been translated to other upper limb conditions such as neuropathic pain. We will look at what has been done, what the current state of the field looks like and challenges going forward.

3 pm

Yoga and Meditation for Brain Healing
Nikki May, Finding Your New Normal
Duration: 45mins

Join Nikki a 6 x stroke survivor as she leads you through a series of chair yoga moves designed to be accessible for everyone. Followed by a guided meditation to really help reduce tension. Nikki will also give tips for reducing anxiety after stroke.

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