



# **SIGHT** Research Newsletter

Issue 1, April 2019

## Hello and Welcome Everyone!

We hope you are having a good 2019 so far. The **SIGHT research team** is led by **Dr. Stéphanie Rossit at the University of East Anglia (UEA)** and this is our first newsletter. We would like to update you on the great progress we have made on the research projects and funding applications that you kindly supported. It's been a very successful time and **we are excited to share our exciting new results and research news**. We hope you enjoy reading about our work!

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## Thank You!

We would like to start by **sincerely thanking everyone who has contributed to our research at UEA**.

Several stroke survivors, carers and clinicians took part on focus groups and interviews in 2018 and kindly gave their opinions about our research ideas. **Your inputs have significantly helped shape our research and are critical to its success.**



# Recent research results

## Feasibility Trial of SIGHT in People's Homes Published

- A stroke can damage the brain, so that a person is not aware of anything on one side, usually the side of the body they also lost their movement. This condition is called spatial inattention or neglect. Currently, there is no clinically-proven therapy for neglect.
- **Spatial Inattention Grasping Home-based Therapy (SIGHT)** requires people to lift wooden rods of different lengths with their less affected hand.
- We treated 20 stroke survivors with **chronic spatial neglect or inattention** at their own homes. Once the participant was familiar with the task, they practised **on their own** at a time convenient to them **in their homes**.
- **CONCLUSION:** SIGHT is a feasible self-administered therapy with potential to reduce neglect, but **we need computerized ways to measure therapy adherence and further larger clinical trials to measure efficacy**.



Rossit S, Benwell C, Szymanek L, Learmonth G, McKernan L, Corrigan E, Muir K, Reeves I, Duncan G, Birschel P, Roberts M, Livingstone K, Jackson H, Hogg C, Castle P & Harvey, M (2019). Efficacy of home-based visuomotor feedback training in stroke patients with chronic hemispatial neglect. *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation*, 29, 251-272.

## Talk at Brain Injury Technologies Think (BITT) Tank Event

We presented our **novel computerized version of SIGHT (c-SIGHT)** at the 'Augmented and Virtual Reality applications in the brain injury care pathway' event, organized by **Cambridge Wireless** and **NIHR Brain injury MIC** in Cambridge on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2019.



## Research funding success

### NIHR Funding Awarded



In July 2018 we were awarded **seedcorn funding (£10,000)** from the **National Institutes of Health Research (NIHR) Brain Injury MedTech Co-operative** to continue the work with our industry partner **Evolv Rehabilitation Technologies**.

The goal of this research is to **incorporate feedback from stroke survivors, carers and clinicians** into the development of our computerized assessment and therapy tools (**c-SIGHT**) for spatial neglect and test how usable these are in stroke survivors' homes.

**We are currently recruiting community-dwelling stroke survivors for this study.** If you are interested or would like to hear more please **contact the SIGHT research team** (see details on last page).

### Prestigious Stroke Association Fellowship awarded



**Helen Morse**, has been awarded a **Postgraduate Fellowship from the Stroke Association (£87,000)** to work with Dr. Stéphanie Rossit (School of Psychology), Professor Valerie Pomeroy (School of Health Sciences) and Dr Allan Clark (Medical School) at **UEA**.

**Only 2 or 3 postgraduate fellowships are awarded each year so we are very grateful for this award.**



Helen's fellowship will begin in **October 2019** and will investigate the **feasibility** of our **computerized assessment and therapy tools in stroke survivors with spatial neglect**.

We will recruit from several clinical sites including the Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust (the lead trust) and Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

## Meet the team!

Each newsletter will feature a member of our team so you can find out who does what.

### Amy Jolly (MSc. student)



Amy has a **BSc. in Psychology** and is now completing a **MSc. in Cognitive Neuroscience** with Dr. Rossit at **UEA**. She plans to pursue a research carer in the future.

She is working on our **NIHR-funded** project **testing the usability of our computerised tools for spatial neglect in stroke survivors' homes**. As part of her research Amy is involved in:

- Contacting community-led brain injury groups and charities (non-NHS) to aid recruitment.
- Recruiting and testing community-dwelling stroke survivors with spatial neglect and their carers.
- Analysing the clinical trial data.

**Amy is currently recruiting community-dwelling stroke survivors with spatial neglect for a NIHR-funded home-based intervention trial of c-SIGHT. If you would like to hear more please contact the SIGHT research team (see below).**

## 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 our team** (details below).

If you know **anyone who may be interested** in **participating** or **receiving** this **newsletter**, please **pass on** our **contact details**.

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