

Visual Neuropsychology Research Group Newsletter - Summer 2023

Welcome!

It was a real pleasure meeting many of you over the past few months. We very much enjoy our visits to the community, local hospitals, and conferences. Thank you for your support and contributions to our research.

With this newsletter, we want to introduce a few team members and tell you a bit more about what happened in our research group in the last few months. We also have an opportunity for you to get involved.



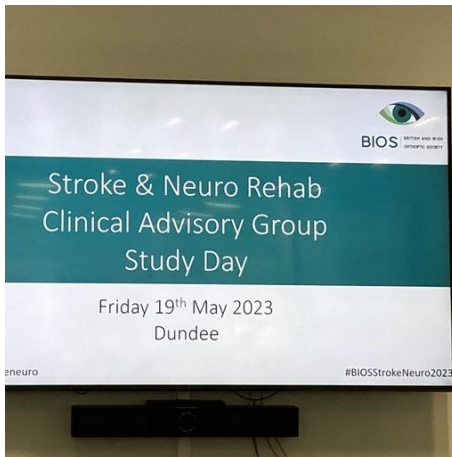
Validation study

We have started the validation study of the Oxford Visual Perception Screen or OxVPS. In this study, we research if OxVPS is as good at picking up visual perception difficulties after stroke as a gold standard test. Our gold standard test is the Rivermead Visual Perception Battery. It is a very accurate test, but it takes over an hour to complete, while OxVPS only takes 15 minutes. We have been visiting hospitals in Gateshead, Bishop Auckland, and Abingdon and the first 15 stroke survivors have now taken part in our study.



Events

We have presented our work at conferences in Nottingham, Glasgow, and Dundee. The psychologists, occupational therapists, and orthoptists seemed very interested and are keen to start using OxVPS.



Successes

Kate successfully presented her first poster at the World Federation of Neurorehabilitation.

Kathleen got awarded a price for Rising Star by the Organisation for Psychological Research into Stroke.



Take part

We are looking for healthy volunteers over 75 years old who are living in the North East. In a 20 min home visit, we will ask you to name pictures, read letters, and count stars. More info [here](#) or email kathleen.vancleef@durham.ac.uk

We want to hear from you

Later this year, we are planning a big launch event of OxVPS. We want to make it freely available for everyone in the NHS. We would very much like to include the voices of stroke survivors and healthcare professionals. This will help raise awareness about visual perception problems after stroke.

If you have lived experience of vision problems after your stroke such as difficulties reading, writing, drawing, finding your way, recognising things or people, accidentally bumping into things, or similar issues, we would like to hear from you.

If you are a healthcare professional looking after stroke survivors, we would love to hear your opinions on OxVPS. We can send you one of our prototypes to try it out.

Please, email us on kathleen.vancleef@durham.ac.uk or ring us on 0191 33 40108.



Meet the team

This time, we would like to put a spotlight on Kate Cowen. Kate is an occupational therapist who did her PhD research on the social life of older men. She brings a wealth of experience to the project from her previous work in social care. She is now the coordinating researcher on the validation study. She loves chatting to stroke survivors on the stroke units in Gateshead and Bishop Auckland. She also visits people at home. Her eye for detail and organising skills keep all of us in line.



We recently visited our collaborators at University of Oxford to set-up our validation study at their local hospital and train the team. Sam Webb and Andrea Kusec will now be seeing patients at the Oxfordshire Stroke Rehabilitation Unit or OSRU.

Questions? Reactions?

We like hearing from you, so don't hesitate to drop us an email at kathleen.vancleef@durham.ac.uk.

If you no longer want to receive these newsletters, let us know and we will remove your contact information.