

INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN A RESEARCH PROJECT

Title of the research:

A new conversation therapy to help with talking in sentences

Research SLT: Firlé Cooper

We would like to **invite** you to think about taking part in this **research** project, because **you** have **aphasia**.

It is testing out a new **speech and language therapy** (SLT) to improve **sentences** in conversation.

It involves being:



visited at home by a research SLT

for



2 hours a week 10:00 → 12:00

for



6 months.

Aug Sept

[Jan Feb Mar Apr May June] July

Oct Nov Dec

You do the therapy with a **family member** or a **friend**.

It involves being **videoed**.



THE PROJECT WILL START IN SUMMER 2008.

If you/your group are interested in hearing more:



Phone **Firle Cooper**, the researcher

on: **020 7679 4255**

to arrange a talk. There is no obligation to take part.

She will **talk** to you about the project and bring you an **information sheet**.



Information

You can ask her questions. Then she will leave.

**YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO SAY 'YES' OR 'NO' ON THE SPOT.
SHE WILL RING YOU IN A WEEK TO FIND OUT YOUR DECISION**

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS INVITATION

(Please see next page for further details)

A new conversation therapy to help with talking in sentences

University College London

We are starting to recruit subjects for a new Stroke Association therapy project being carried out at UCL (2008-2011).

Would you be interested in joining the project?

After a stroke, many people develop aphasia, a difficulty speaking and understanding speech. Some have a particular difficulty with sentences (agrammatic aphasia); they tend to only say key words, e.g. 'yesterday, doctors'.

Speech and language therapists (SLTs) help people to use full sentences by describing pictures, but people tend to carry on using key words in conversation at home. New research shows that people use different sentence types in picture description compared with conversation. Therefore, **therapy to improve sentences** may have more effect if it works **directly on conversation**.

The proposed study aims to test this new therapy with ten people with agrammatic aphasia, each working in a pair with their spouse, a family member or friend. All assessment and therapy will be carried out at your home. Tests will be carried out before and after therapy, to measure its effectiveness. Findings will lead to publication of the therapy as a rehabilitation programme for use by SLTs.

We are looking for people who:

- i) Have had a left CVA at least 6 months prior to involvement in the study,
- ii) Have No significant hearing loss, cognitive or psychiatric disorder which would affect participation,
- iii) Have a spouse, family member or friend who communicates with them daily and is keen to participate,
- iv) Are not having individual NHS SLT at the time of the study.
- v) Speak English as a first language

For each person with aphasia and their conversation partner, involvement in the therapy study will take a total of six months (this

includes pre- and post-therapy assessment). You will be visited once a week for 2 hours.

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There is a web link (currently under development) with details of the project:

www.ucl.ac.uk/HCS/research/projects/NCFTA

Does this sound like something you/your friend/relative would be interested in? Please read the letter of invitation below.

You can also phone or e-mail me on:

020 7679 4255/ f.cooper@ucl.ac.uk