

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS WANTED

Brain control of movement in health and Parkinson's disease

One of the interesting features of Parkinson's disease is that the symptoms of the disease do not begin to develop until years, perhaps as long as ten years, after brain cells which control movement begin to die. It appears that the brain has mechanisms which can effectively compensate for damage to the motor system for many years, yet these compensatory mechanisms are poorly understood. Researchers at Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) are looking for volunteers to participate in a study of how the brain compensates for damage in movement control. A better understanding of these compensatory mechanisms may help us develop new, more effective treatments for Parkinson's disease.

The study will involve an ultrasound of your head to obtain a picture of your brain. A neurologist will examine your movements and you will be asked to complete a short series of tests to assess thinking and memory. Some volunteers will then be asked to undergo magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and magnetic stimulation of the brain. Both procedures are safe, painless, and are routinely used in clinical and research settings. We will also do further movement tests, including fine hand movements.

To participate:

- You need to be between the ages of 55 - 65 years (male or female)
- Have no neurological or mental conditions

OR

- Be between the ages of 55-65 years and have Parkinson's disease and be able to delay your PD medications on the mornings of the study appointments until after the examinations are completed

Volunteers will be asked to attend one to three appointments at Neuroscience Research Australia in Randwick.

The research team includes Dr Gabrielle Todd from the University of South Australia, Dr Michael Hayes (Concord Hospital), Associate Professor Janet Taylor (NeuRA), Professor Caroline Rae (NeuRA) and is led by Associate Professor Kay Double (NeuRA).

The study is approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of New South Wales.

To register or for further information, contact

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