

Stroke Rehabilitation: retraining walking-from concept to commercialisation

Dr Nicola Hancock

In the UK alone 1.2 million people live with devastating effects of stroke and the numbers of younger people (20 – 64 years) having a stroke are rising. Many stroke survivors have difficulties walking, resulting in reduced ability to work and reduced community engagement. Learning to walk again is a priority for stroke survivors. The best way to improve walking is to practise walking – this is difficult, often impossible, for stroke survivors due to substantial weakness. Rehabilitation devices to retrain walking do exist, but are limited in their therapeutic impact due to cost, challenges in deployment or unsuitable produce design.

Dr Nicola Hancock and colleagues from the Advanced Brain Injury Research Group at UEA have designed a novel device which has the potential to revolutionise how stroke survivors are assisted to learn to walk again.

Funding from the NRP Translational Fund will be used to validate the product design with end-users and key decision makers, and generating a test-ready prototype. The work will also validate the commercialisation strategy.