

## **Occupational therapists required for qualitative research study into experiences of working with patients with progressive ataxia!**

People affected by progressive ataxia often have complex needs that may need to be addressed by an occupational therapist. At present there is limited evidence published to describe or support occupational therapy (OT) for people with progressive ataxia. As a consequence little is known about the OT role in this area, what works and does not work or how the therapists' experiences inform their decision making and clinical practice.

In order to gather and develop evidence in this area, a small research project is being undertaken as part of a supervised MSc programme, and has ethical approval from Brunel University. The study aims to explore the everyday lived experiences of occupational therapists working with adults with a progressive ataxia. In doing so the researcher will aim to try and understand how they make sense of their experiences and how these influence clinical reasoning and practice.

The researcher is looking to interview occupational therapists (Band 5-8c), who have worked with at least one or more adults (age 18 or above) with a progressive ataxia. Interviews may be conducted either face-to-face or via telephone and are anticipated to last approximately 60-90 minutes, however you may terminate the interview at any time without this affecting your relationship with Ataxia UK, myself, the university, or SSNP in any way.

Themes deriving from the interviews will be analysed and compared with the aim of sharing the findings in an academic journal to help inform practice and contribute to the evidence base. Participation in this project would be entirely voluntary and all information provided will be maintained with strict confidentiality.

If you or someone you know would like further information, or would like to take part in this study please e-mail me at [om07jlh@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:om07jlh@brunel.ac.uk), so that I can send you further information about the project and a consent form. Alternatively you could contact my research supervisor Elizabeth Cassidy on Tel: 01895 268736 or [elizabeth.cassidy@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.cassidy@brunel.ac.uk)

Your interest is most appreciated.

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