

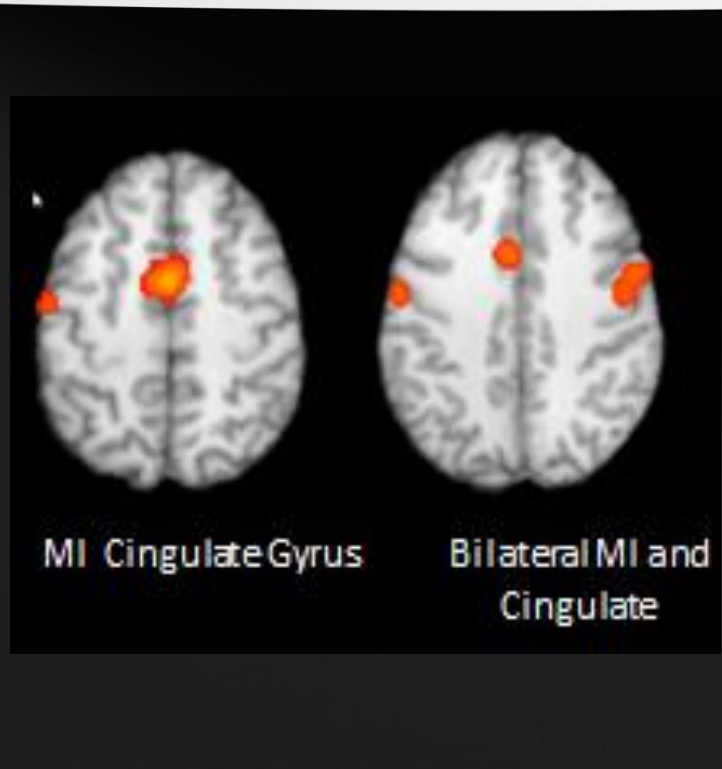
The Research Path – Challenges and Rewards

Clinical academic career

over to you →

Career Background

- My special interest is in stroke
- I am currently in a salaried Speech and Language Therapy Post, leading to a PhD
- I am on secondment in this post
- I am still employed by the NHS but the University pays my salary
- I have one clinical session per week
- I carry out some SLT duties related to research for my supervisor, as well as working on my PhD
- My PhD is in dysphagia post-stroke
- I previously completed an MPhil on Air Pulse Stimulation to stimulate swallowing in healthy volunteers, using fMRI and EMG



fMRI meta-analysis of brain activity during saliva swallowing from my MPhil

How you became a Clinical-Academic

2 days funding awarded from SLT Dept to do research

Completed an MPhil (2011)

Applied twice for NIHR PhD Fellowships (2010 & 2015)

Shortlisted and interviewed twice but not successful

PhD available through University & I was accepted (2016)



Top Tips

- Persistence is key
- Must identify the GAP your research addresses and why it should be funded
- RESEARCH TEAM a very important aspect > you need a team with a good track record and know you will be supported
- This could mean primary supervisors who are not SLTs
- Practise being interviewed & techniques for handling difficult questions
- Every setback is experience that will help you later down the line

The Impact

Benefits to my SLT Clinical Department

- Representation at National and International Conferences
- Highlighting the value and importance of research roles for AHPs in my employing organisation, including part of MDT research group
- Research link, such as advising on evidence based practice, highlighting important research resources, disseminating research opportunities, using evidence to inform funding bids
- Future plans include teaching workshops, for example, on critical appraisal, business case for innovative equipment

Benefits to research team

- Providing SLT expertise relevant to current research such as organising VFSS, advising on dysphagia scales and communication

Funding

Nottinghamshire Healthcare 
NHS Foundation Trust

- Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- University of Nottingham



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