The Patient Program

The patient research program is designed to develop a comprehensive database from which researchers can recruit patients for cognitive testing. The goal is to better characterize brain-behavior relationships by studying patients with relatively focal lesions, generally as a result of stroke or tumor, but also including patients with other relatively restricted lesions resulting from other types of injury (such as ruptured aneurysm or AVM).

The program is designed to investigate cognitive processes, such as language, vision, problem solving and memory, that are critical for everyday functioning. Patients participate in behavioral testing which includes answering questions, reading words and solving simple problems. The tests are administered by our research psychologists and neurologists, and the collected data are used to help answer theoretically-motivated research questions.

The research program depends on the generosity of our patients, who give so freely of their time and effort. We are indebted to them and their loved ones, who help to coordinate transportation and appointments. Clearly all those involved possess insight into the importance of neurological research.

Approximately 160 patients and control subjects have enrolled in more than 600 testing sessions since the beginning of the program.

Facilities

Our facilities include testing space in the Department of Neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, as well as testing rooms located at the University of Pennsylvania Center for Cognitive Neuroscience (CCN).

Additionally, we have encountered patients who would be delighted to participate in our studies but who are unable to travel to our offices. These patients have kindly offered to allow us to come to their homes so that they can work with us there.

State-of-the-art computers, eye-tracker and an extensive neuropsychological testing library are just a few of the resources available for behavioral testing. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) studies are conducted at the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Center in the Department of Radiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.
Ongoing Studies

**Dr. Sharon Thompson-Schill**
We are interested in memory, language, and attention deficits that occur following damage to the frontal lobe, and the relationship between these different functions.

**Dr. Martha Farah & Dr. Lesley Fellows**
We were awarded new funding from NINDS to expand our ongoing research program studying the regions of the brain that are involved in decision making. Among other things, we hope to better understand how focal brain damage sometimes leads to changes in level of motivation, and how such changes influence decision making.

**Dr. Anjan Chatterjee, Dr. Denise Wu & Dr. Sara Waller**
In a recent study, we examined 18 patients with left hemisphere damage. Patients received verbal and nonverbal (pictures) tasks to provide evidence for the distinction between concept and language. The performance of some patients demonstrated intact or relatively preserved understanding of concepts but impaired language comprehension/production. Their lesion sites were also obtained to shed light on the neural substrates of concept and language processing.

Presentations, conferences, and invited speaker engagements

**Dr. Anjan Chatterjee**

**Dr. Anjan Chatterjee**

**Dr. Lesley K. Fellows, & Dr. Martha J. Farah**

**Dr. Lesley K. Fellows, & Dr. Martha J. Farah**

**Dr. Lesley K. Fellows, & Dr. Martha J. Farah**

**Dr. Sharon L. Thompson-Schill**
*Donders Lecture "Broca’s Area Revisited: Selection, Language, & Prefrontal Cortex."* Max Plank Institute, Netherlands.
Recent publications


Patients sometimes ask what happens to the data we collect after they have left the laboratory.
Awards

Dr. Sharon L. Thompson-Schill was awarded the 2003 Young Investigator Award from the Cognitive Neuroscience Society. Also in 2003, she was named the Class of 1965 Endowed Chair, University of Pennsylvania.

Our Faculty Directors

Anjan Chatterjee, M.D.
H. Branch Coslett, M.D.
Martha Farah, Ph.D.
Sharon L. Thompson-Schill, Ph.D.

For More Information

Contact us at 215-615-3649 to learn more about our program and upcoming studies.