Lived Experience Ambassador

Position Description

NANO-3D Devices to Non-invasively Regulate the Brain-Draining Lymphatics to Treat Ischemic Stroke

Background

Many diseases that affect the brain and nerves, like stroke, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, and migraines, affect women more than men. This project aims to find better, easy to use, and affordable ways to treat ischemic stroke and similar conditions. It focuses on modulating the body's lymphatic system, which helps remove fluid and waste products from the brain, using simple and portable devices that work quickly and without causing pain. Although brain diseases affect more women than men, this project aims to benefit everyone, and we'd like your help.

Our vision is to improve recovery and transform the lives of people who have had an ischemic stroke.

Medical researchers at Monash University are working with Yale University to create a medical device that enhances the natural process of lymphatic drainage from the brain. Lymphatic drainage is the body's natural way of helping to clean the brain of substances that are produced by damage and diseases of the brain.

We will develop a prototype of a very small pump called a Nano-3D device to treat ischemic stroke by helping the lymphatics move excess fluid and waste products out of the brain, to help the brain heal and recover from ischemic stroke and potentially other brain injuries and disease.

If you have had an ischemic stroke, we'd really like to hear your story, and your thoughts on how we can develop the nanopump so it is easy to use.

We will provide a welcoming and accessible environment for you (and your carer) to share your experiences and meet with our team members, in person or via zoom.

We would ask you to:

- Meet 2-3 times a year
- For 30-60 minutes
- For a coffee in a quiet and accessible location, or via zoom.

About you:

- Have you had personal experience as an ischemic stroke patient?
- Are you willing to share your ischemic stroke experience?
- Would you be happy to offer suggestions for our project?

If you've said yes to these questions, we'd really like to hear from you.

In this role, we would ask you to:

- Share your stroke story and suggestions with our friendly medical researchers to help us build a medical device that is relevant to patients and easy to use.
- Provide advice in regular informal meetings/catch ups, 2-3 times a year.
- Join us at events to share your stroke story, but only if you are comfortable in doing so.

We'd like you to:

- Be willing to provide feedback and share your experiences for the duration of the project (2 years)
- Be comfortable talking to team members about experiences related to stroke
- Have an ability to communicate via speech, or text-to-speech, or in writing

Expenses associated with the position:

You will receive payment by honorariums. An honorarium is given for services that are offered nominally without charge, an honorary reward for voluntary services. Honorariums will be directly linked to services provided, and can take the form of sitting fees or an hourly rate dependent on level of participation. It is considered financial recognition for your time and contribution and is not a salary.

Monash University will reimburse the following expenses related to the fulfillment of this role, including out-of-pocket expenses such as car parking, travel and incidentals, where required:

- Meeting fee (1-3 hours): $400
- Meeting fee (full day): $1000
- Consultation and Advocacy: $50/hour

Please note: these payments are taxable in your hands, and Monash University is required to make a superannuation payment associated with any payment to you.