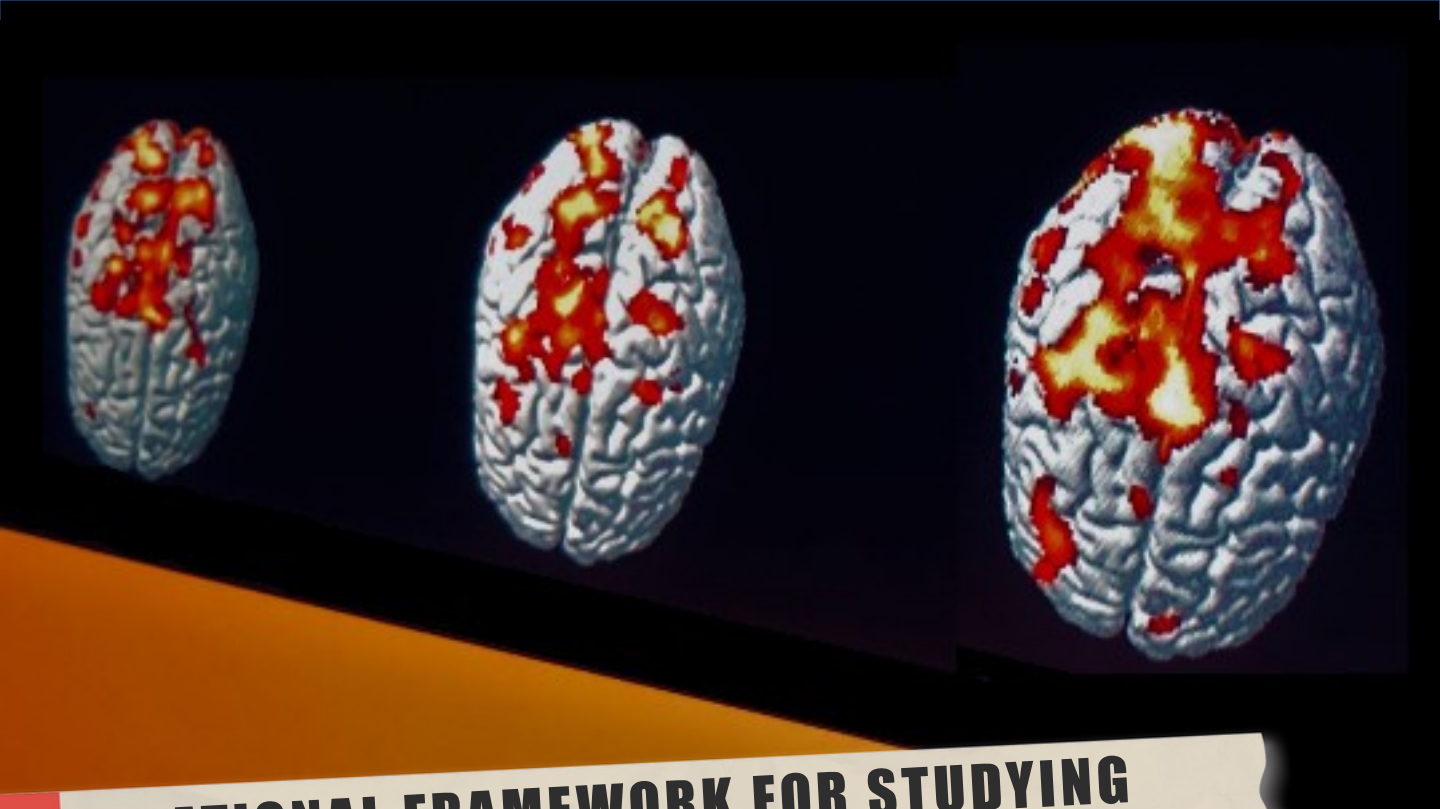

A RATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR STUDYING NEUROREHABILITATION INTERVENTIONS

A TALK BY NICK WARD

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY
UCL QUEEN SQUARE

21 MAGGIO
14:30

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SEMINARIO IN MODALITA' TELEMATICA

Stroke is the most common cause of neurological disability in the world. In the UK alone, there are more people living with the consequences of stroke than with dementia (1.2M vs 0.85M) with an estimated annual cost of £26B. Stroke is still considered a single incident disease with most resources targeted to the first few hours, days or weeks after onset. However, the consequences of stroke are very clearly long term and often progressive. Ongoing treatment to promote recovery and support independence is largely absent and many patients feel abandoned after they have left hospital. Concerted efforts are required to create an evidence base to justify a revolution in how we promote recovery after stroke are required. Accelerated progress requires a conceptual framework with which to underpin recovery-related research. The future of scientifically motivated, rational neurorehabilitation for stroke lies in understanding of the interactions between the three elements that determine recovery: the behavioural response (OUTPUT) to behavioural rehabilitation interventions (INPUT) and the dependence of this relationship on clinical, neurophysiological and brain STATES. We argue that all future recovery related research should conform to this framework. Doing so will shift stroke neurorehabilitation towards an evidence based practice where clinicians will have a clear rationale for providing individualised and optimised behavioural interventions to help each patient achieve their maximum recovery potential and personal rehabilitation goals.

NICK WARD is a Professor of Clinical Neurology & Neurorehabilitation at UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology and The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square. He has research grant income of over £13 million since 2003. His work seeks to understand the mechanisms of recovery of movement after stroke so that we might predict both optimal treatments of upper limb impairment and long term outcomes after stroke. He is lead of the first dedicated upper limb neurorehabilitation programme in the UK. He is Director of the UCLP Centre for Neurorehabilitation. He is Co-editor of the Oxford Textbook of Neurorehabilitation and is Associate Editor of both the Journal for Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry and Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair. He delivered the Stroke Association Royal Annual Address in May 2019.

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