**2019-2020 SHRS UQ Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **The meaning of music: Using musical instrument rehearsal as a therapy intervention post Acquired Brain Injury** |
| **Project duration:** | * 8 weeks * 25-30 hours/week |
| **Position/s available** | 2 |
| **Description:** | ***Background:***  Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) can result in a variety of different impairments that subsequently influence people’s potential to participate in tasks of everyday life. Previous research examining music interventions post ABI have determined that music interventions may be beneficial in improving particular functional outcomes (Magee, Clark, Tamplin, & Bradt, 2017). However, while results to date have been promising further research is necessary to expand the evidence base for music interventions prior to implementation into clinical practice (Magee, Clark, Tamplin, & Bradt, 2017).  ***Aim:*** The aim of this study is to examine the potential of musical instrument rehearsal as a therapeutic intervention to assist in rehabilitation after Acquired Brain Injury.  ***Hypothesis:*** It is suggested that the use of musical instrument rehearsal as a therapeutic intervention will:   1. result in the improvement of upper limb function for people who experience difficulties with upper limb function post Acquired Brain Injury, 2. increase self-reported motivation, satisfaction with and willingness to participate in therapeutic intervention and associated repetitive practice. 3. demonstrate increased gains in brain function as measured on functional MRI when compared with interventions currently used as part of standard clinical practice.   ***Approach:*** The study will represent a case study design. Cases will be represented by people who have experienced an Acquired Brain Injury and who are keen to return to playing a musical instrument they played prior to their injury. Mixed methods will be employed to collect and examine both quantitative and qualitative data to explore the outcomes of utilising music instrument rehearsal as a therapeutic intervention and compare these with the outcomes of interventions currently used as a part of standard clinical practice.  **Reference:**  Magee, W.L., Clark, I., Tamplin, J., & Bradt, J. (2017). Music interventions for acquired brain injury (Review). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2017*(1), 1 – 132. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD006787.pub3. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Applicants can expect to gain skills in advanced literature searching and reference management, concept/argument mapping and academic writing. Applicants will be expected to produce a comprehensive literature review and a short oral report on the current state of the research in the field. Further, the applicants will be expected to work as part of a research team and professionally collaborate with relevant stakeholders in order to contribute to the development of ethics applications, grant/funding applications and research protocols associated with the research. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from UQ enrolled School of Health and Rehabilitation students, preferably studying occupational therapy or physiotherapy, who have an interest in working with people with acquired brain injury. An understanding of music or the ability to play a musical instrument will be highly regarded but is not necessary for application. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Mrs Melanie Hoyle and Dr Tammy Aplin |
| **Further info:** | If applicants would like to discuss the role further, please contact:  Mrs Melanie Hoyle via:  Email: [m.hoyle@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.hoyle@uq.edu.au)  Phone: (07) 3365 6161 |