

# Stroke recovery: From compensation to recovery

**John W. Krakauer**

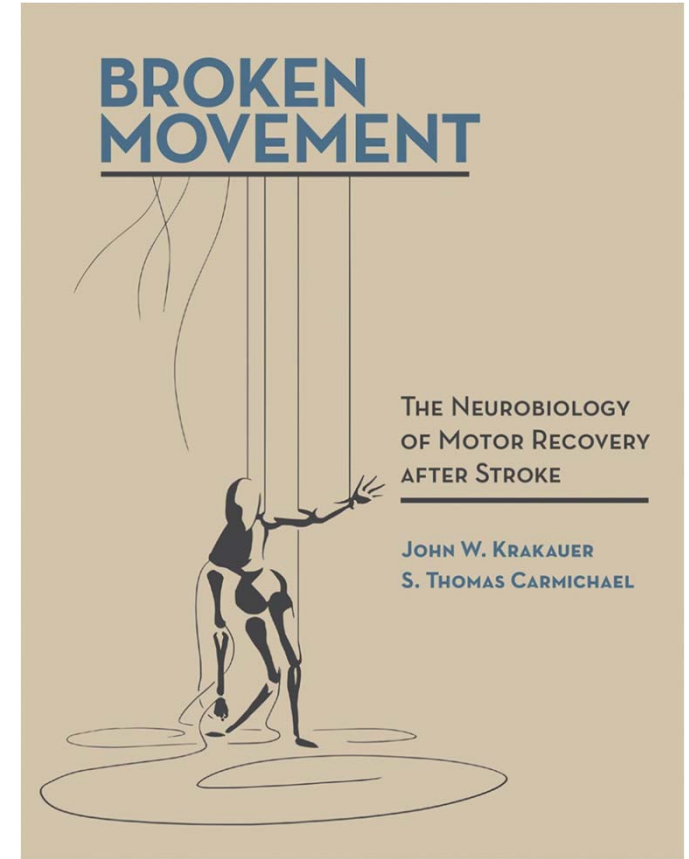
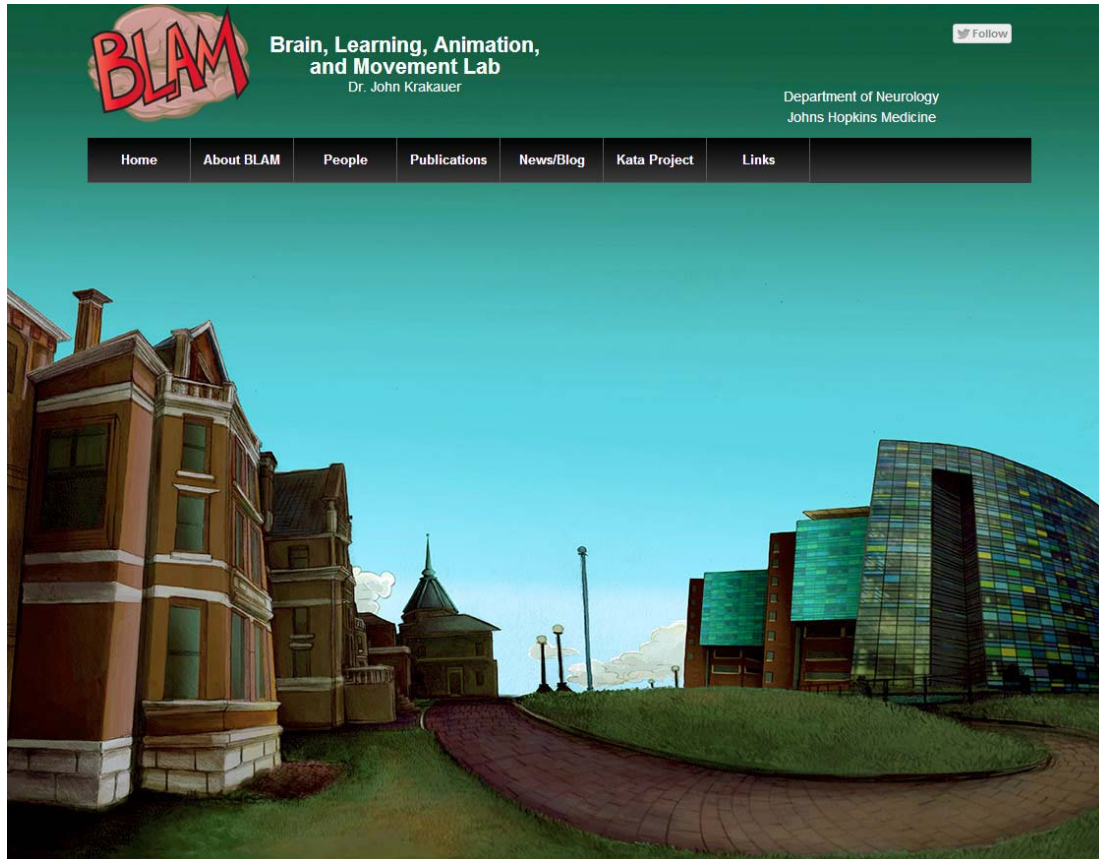
John C. Malone Professor

Professor of Neurology, Neuroscience, and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

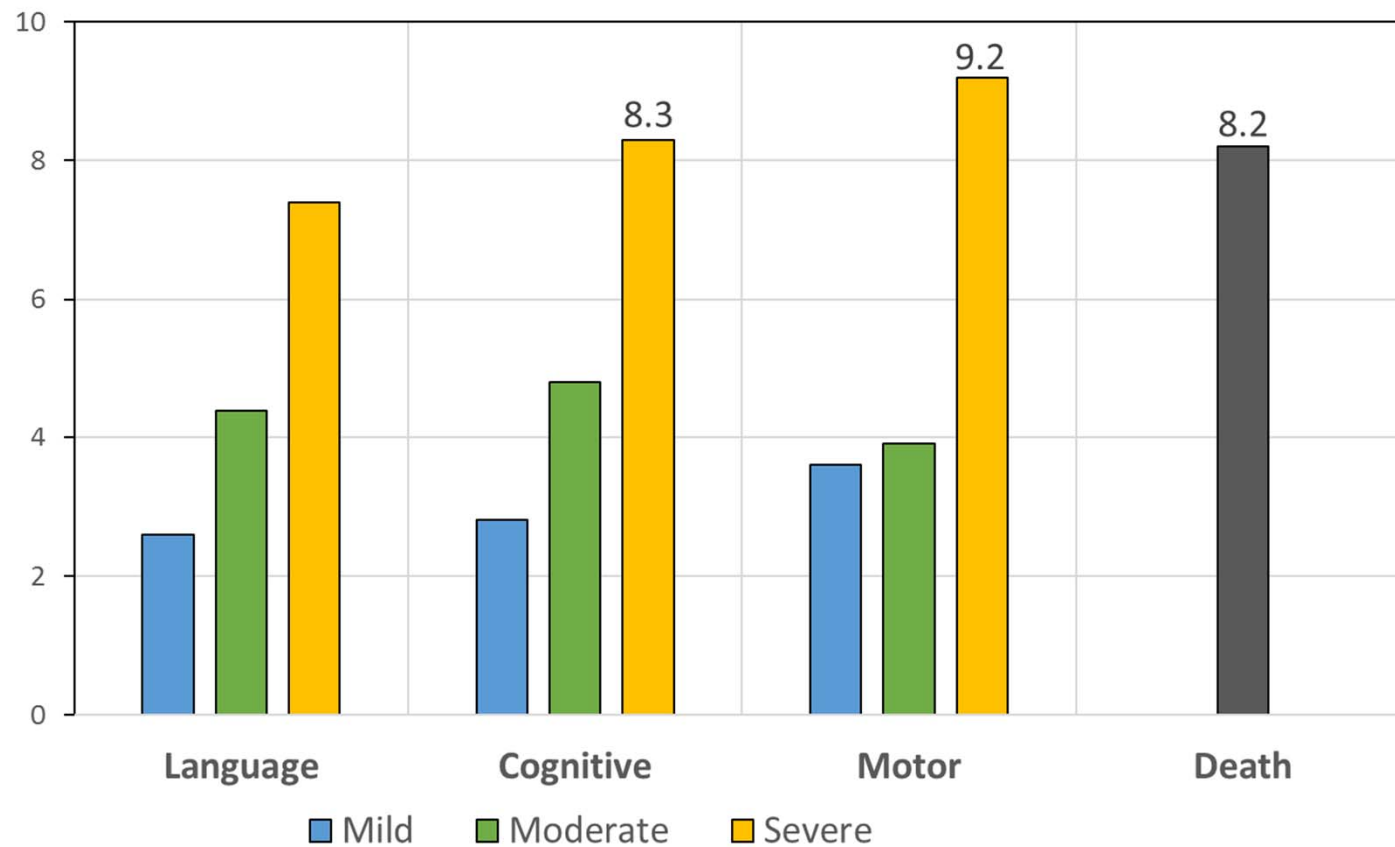
*Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*

[www.BLAM-lab.org](http://www.BLAM-lab.org)





# Aversion to Stroke Outcomes



Solomon et al. 1994

## INACTIVE AND ALONE



## **Motor recovery after stroke**

- Vexed issue of non-human animal models versus human studies.
- In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, neurology and systems neuroscience tracked each other for the study of hemiparesis. This physiological emphasis has waned and we need it back.
- Importance of careful analysis of behavior: kinematics.
- Need for behavioral interventions to be primary and drugs/brain stimulation secondary.

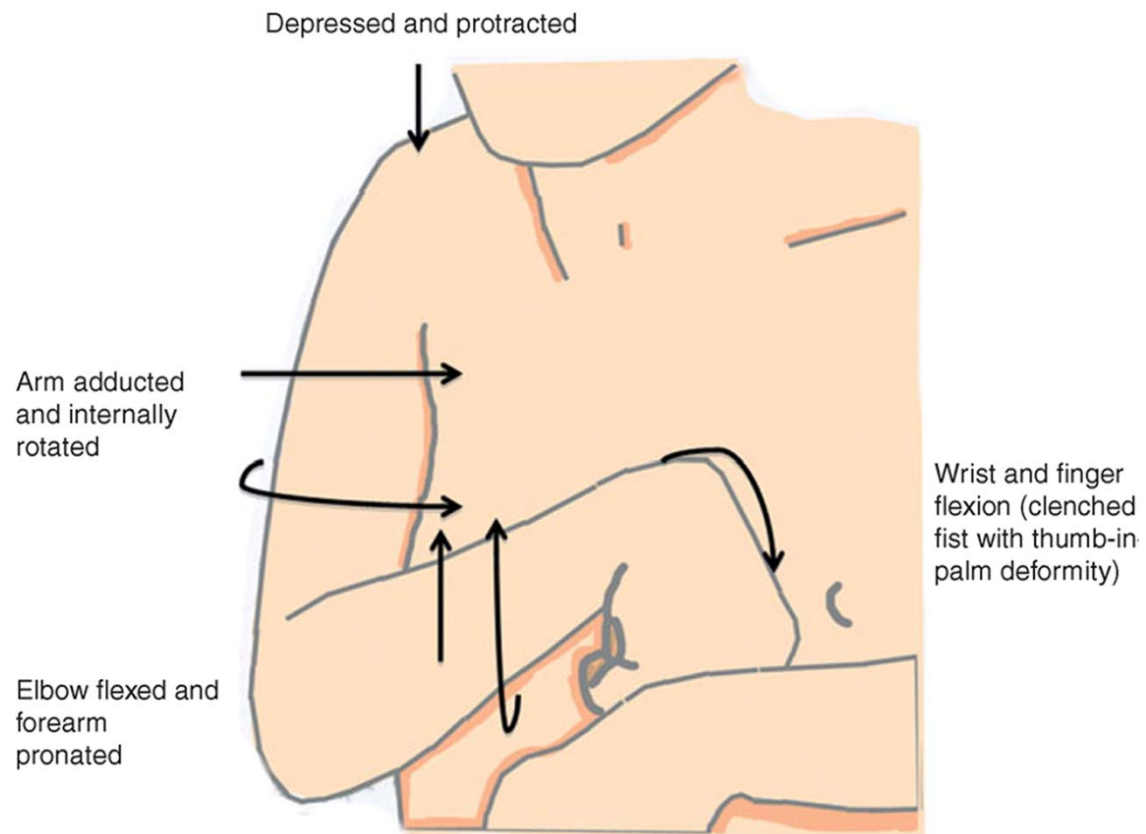
- “cortical disease led to two sets of symptoms, ‘**negative**’ from loss of the controlling cortex and ‘**positive**’ from the emergence of the lower center”

HUGHLINGS JACKSON

- The “dual nature of hemiplegia” – the combination of loss of voluntary movement and the intrusion of positive phenomena: spasticity and synergies

F.M.R. WALSH

Positive symptoms: synergies





OXFORD  
ACADEMIC

# BRAIN

A JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY



**Thomas Evans Twitchell**  
**M.D.**  
(1923-2017)

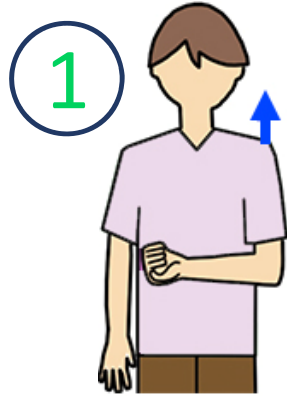
## THE RESTORATION OF MOTOR FUNCTION FOLLOWING HEMIPLEGIA IN MAN

BY

THOMAS E. TWITCHELL<sup>1</sup>

*Brain*, Volume 74, Issue 4, 1 December 1951, Pages 443–480

# Twitchell recovery sequence



Shoulder flex

## The Fugl-Meyer Scale for impairment



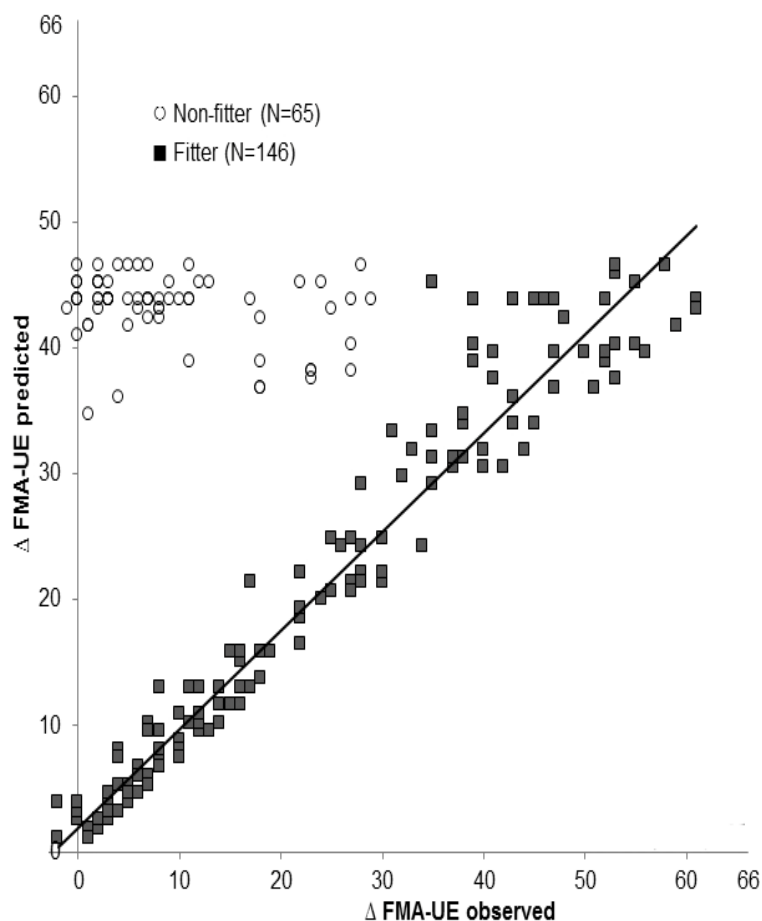
Arm: “within synergy”



Arm: “out of synergy”



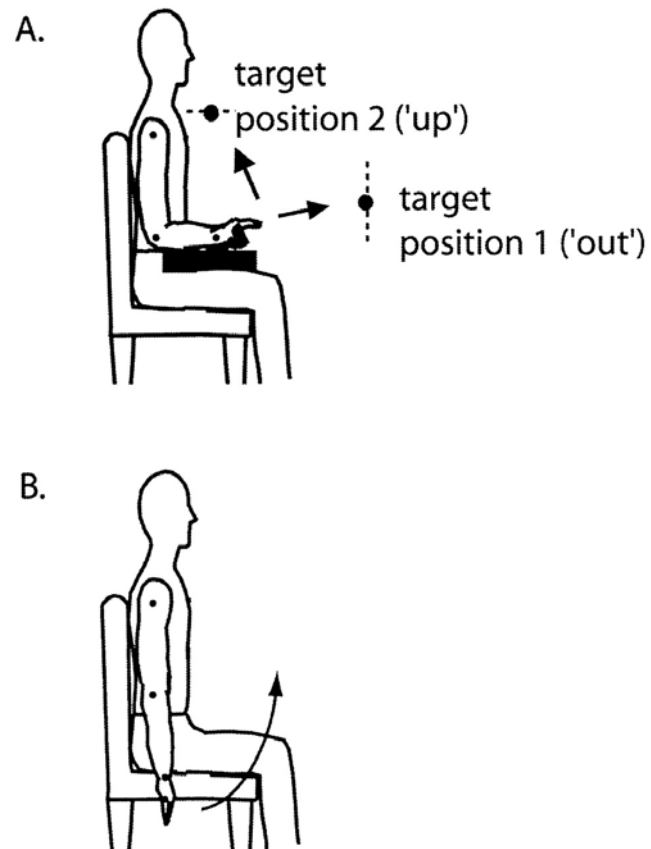
## Proportional Recovery: a rule for spontaneous biological recovery, its existence implies no effect of current rehabilitation



$$\Delta FM = \beta FM_{ii} \quad (\beta = 0.7)$$

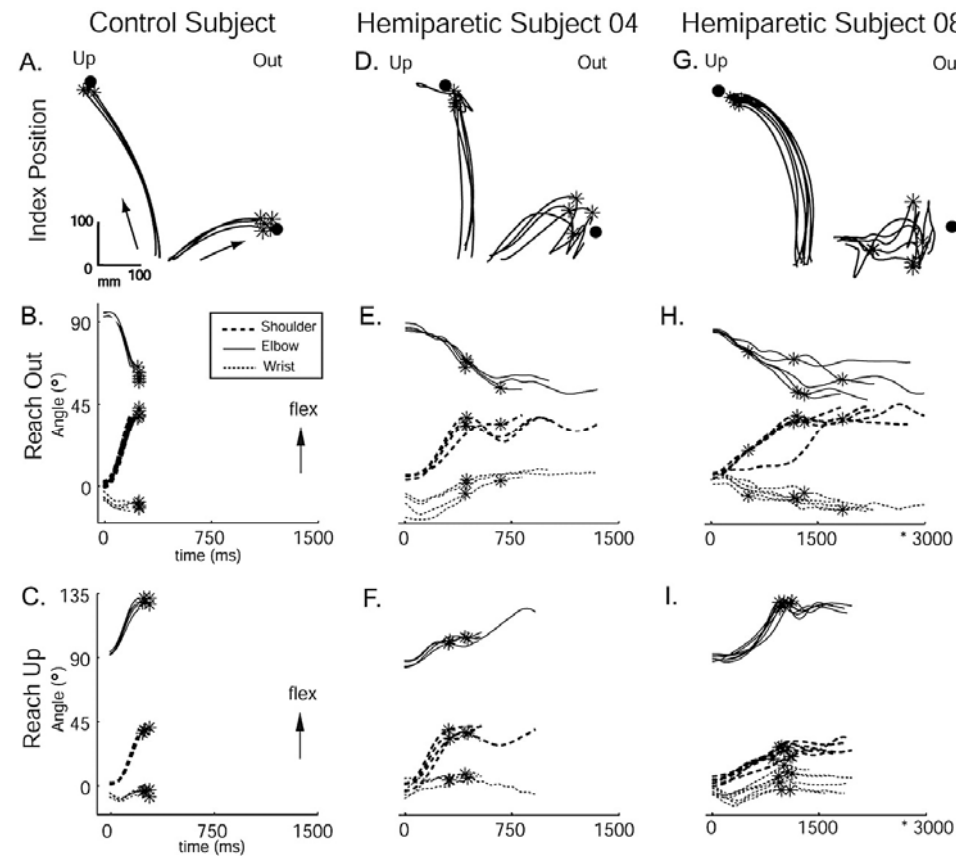
Prahbakaran et 2008 NNR;  
(Figure adapted from Winters et al. 2015)

**Fig. 1 Schematic of (A) reaching condition, target position 1 for reach 'out' and target position 2 for reach 'up'; and (B) shoulder individuation task.**



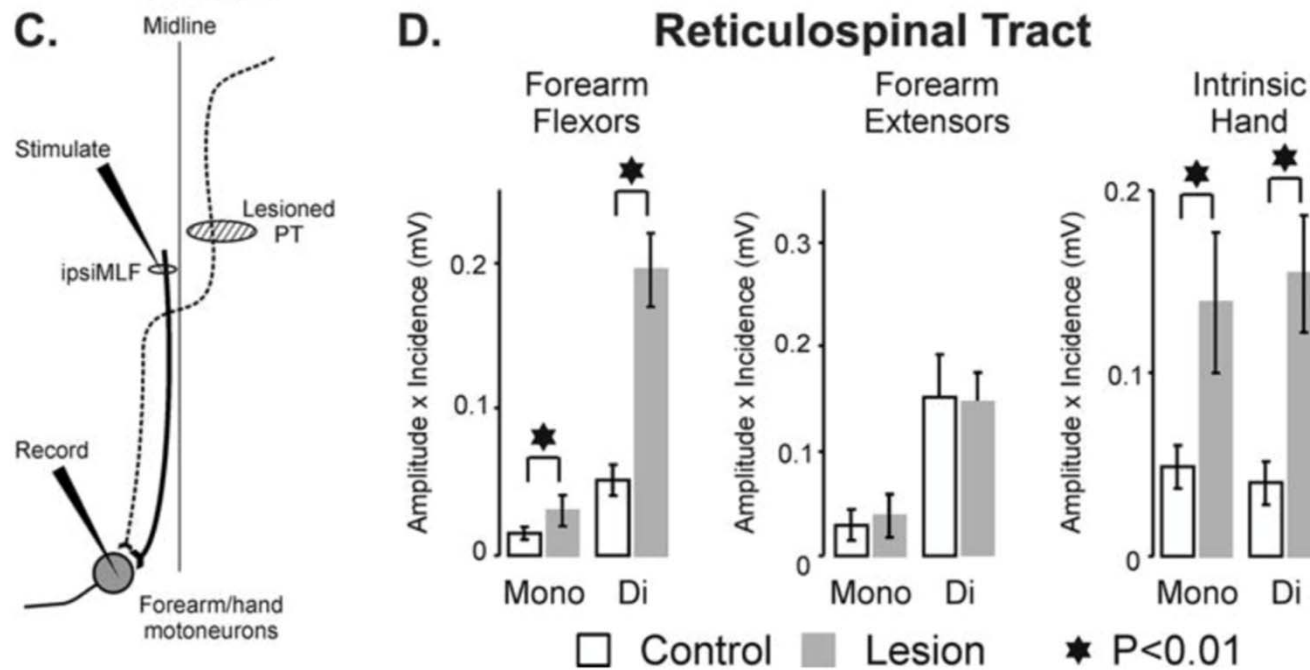
Zackowski K M et al. Brain 2004;127:1035-1046

**Fig. 2 Overlaid single trials for index finger paths, and associated excursions of the shoulder, elbow, and wrist joints from both reaching conditions ('up' and 'out').**



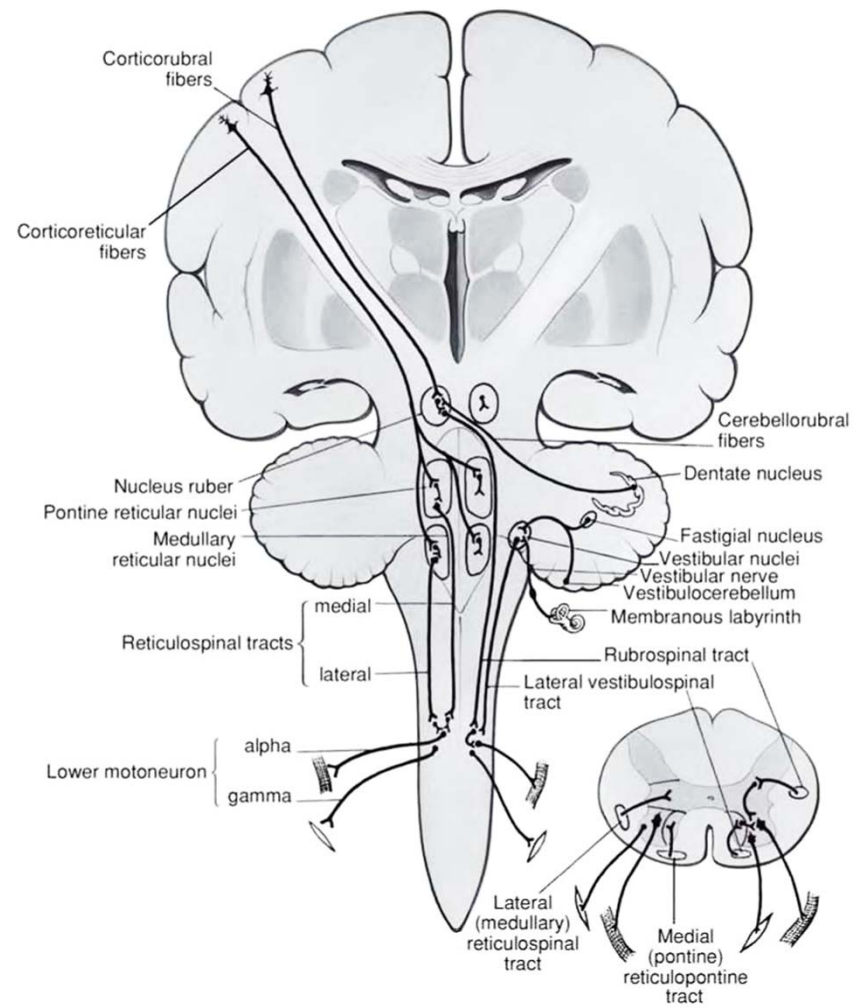
Zackowski K M et al. Brain 2004;127:1035-1046

Where so synergies come from? Upregulation of the RST after lesion of the CST



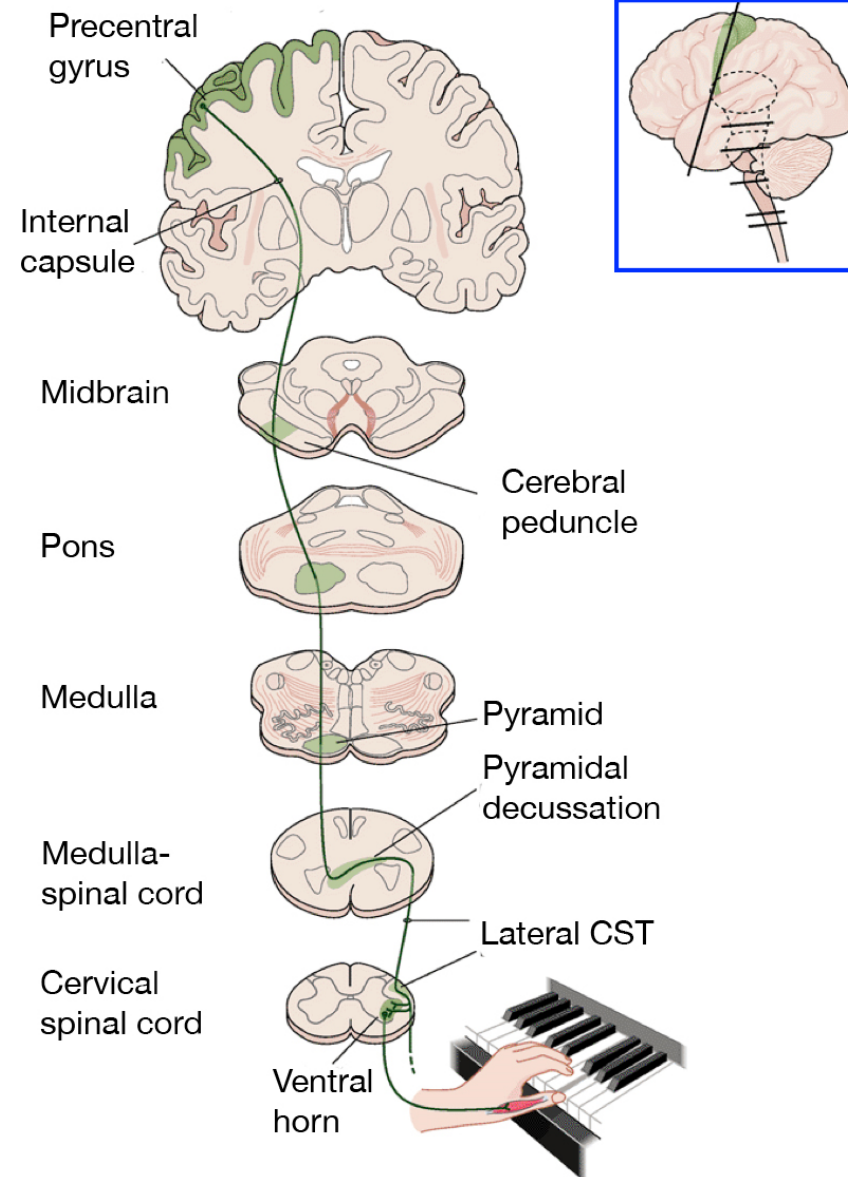
Zaaimi et al., *Brain* 2012

# RST

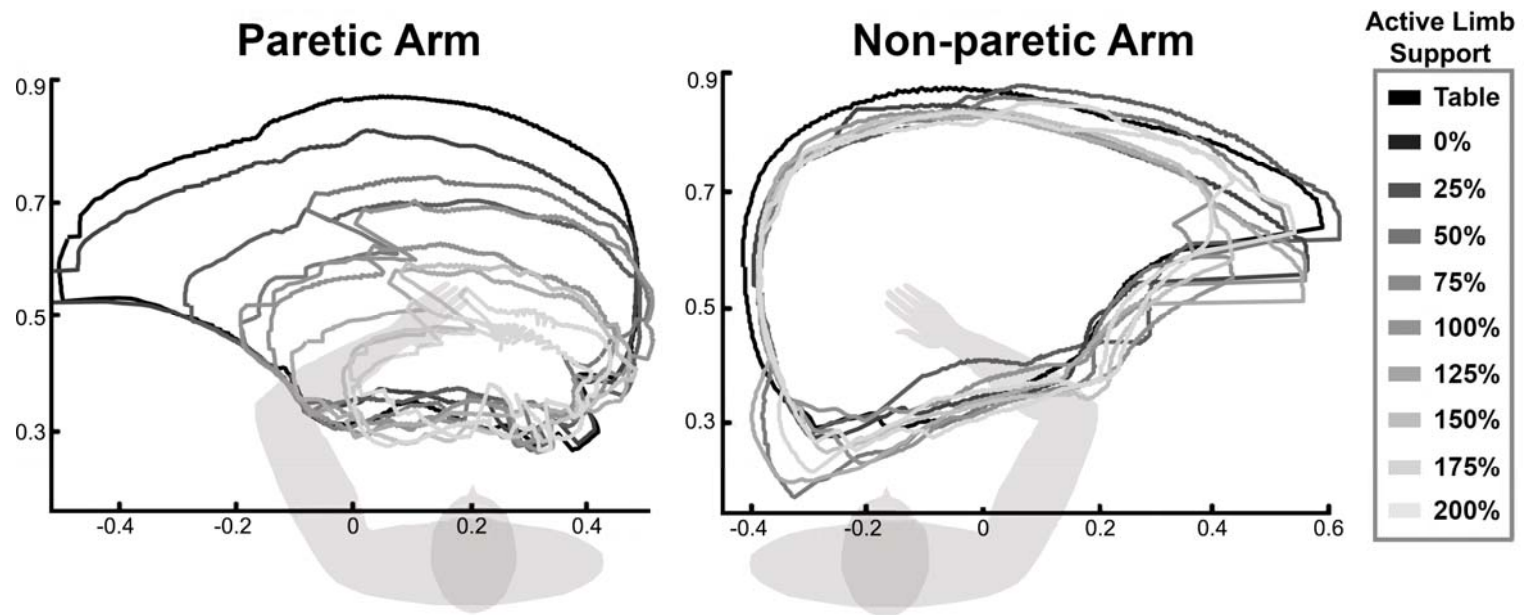




Negative symptoms: The pyramidal tract and  
prehension



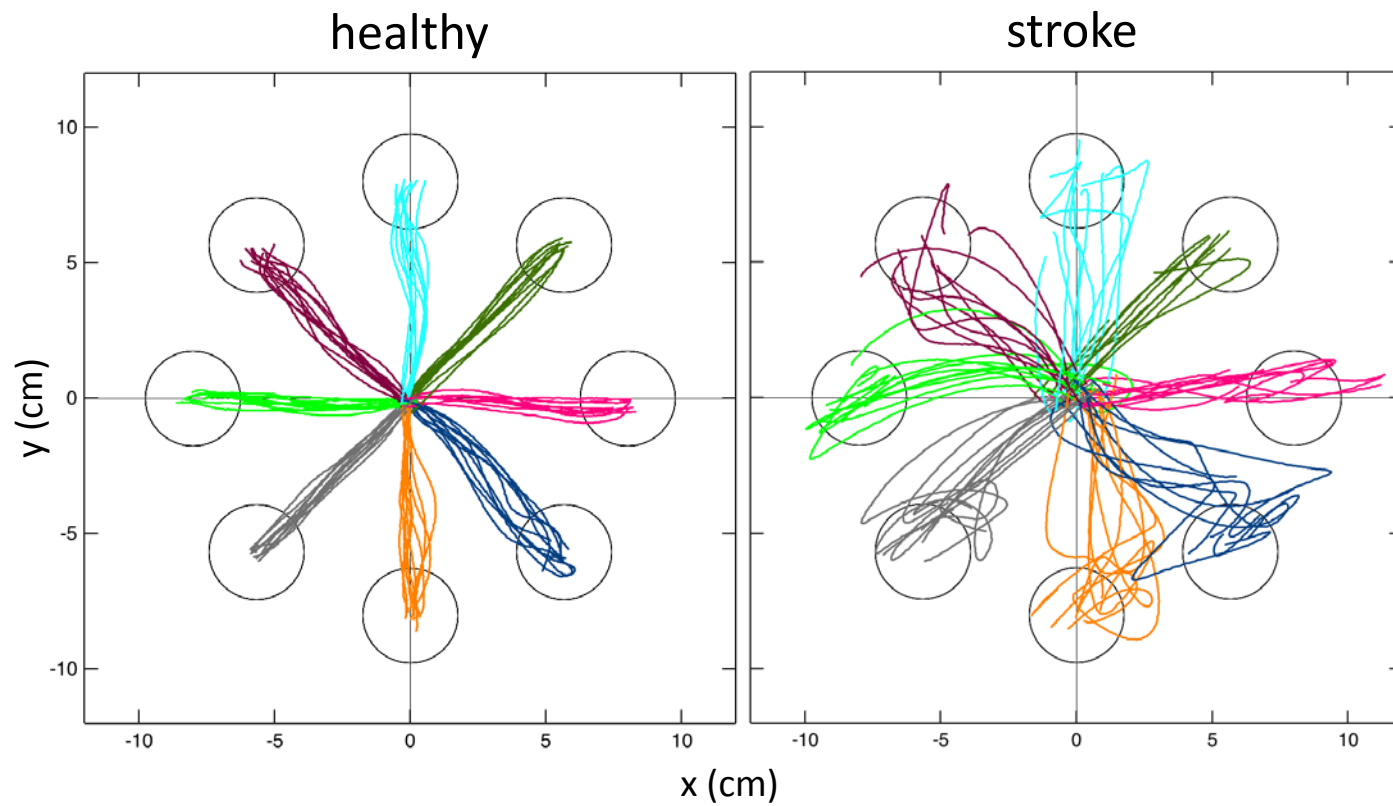
Supporting the weight of the arm reduces intrusion by flexor synergy due to  $\uparrow$ RST and allows expression of residual CST capacity



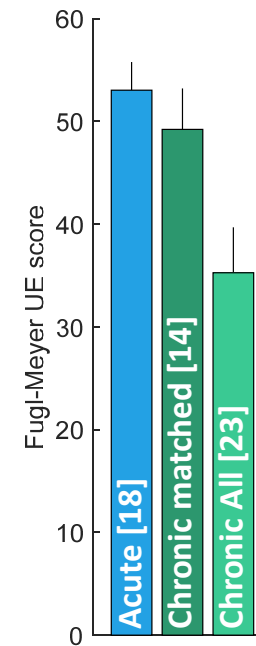
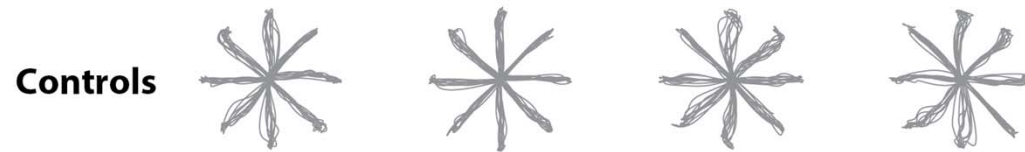
Courtesy of Jules Dewald



# stroke disrupts arm trajectories



# Uncoupling between synergies and motor control during recovery

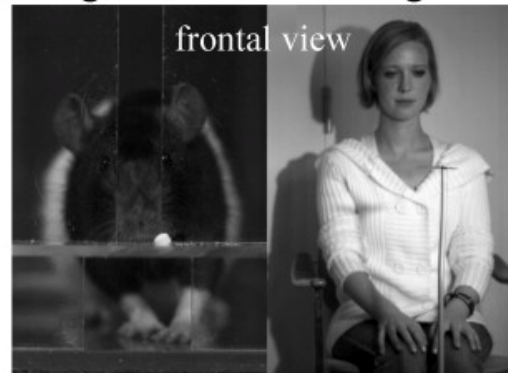


## A critical window for post-stroke training

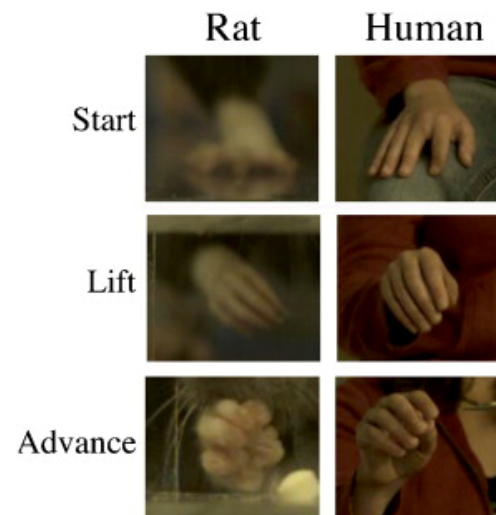


**Steve Zeiler**

## A Single Pellet Reaching Test



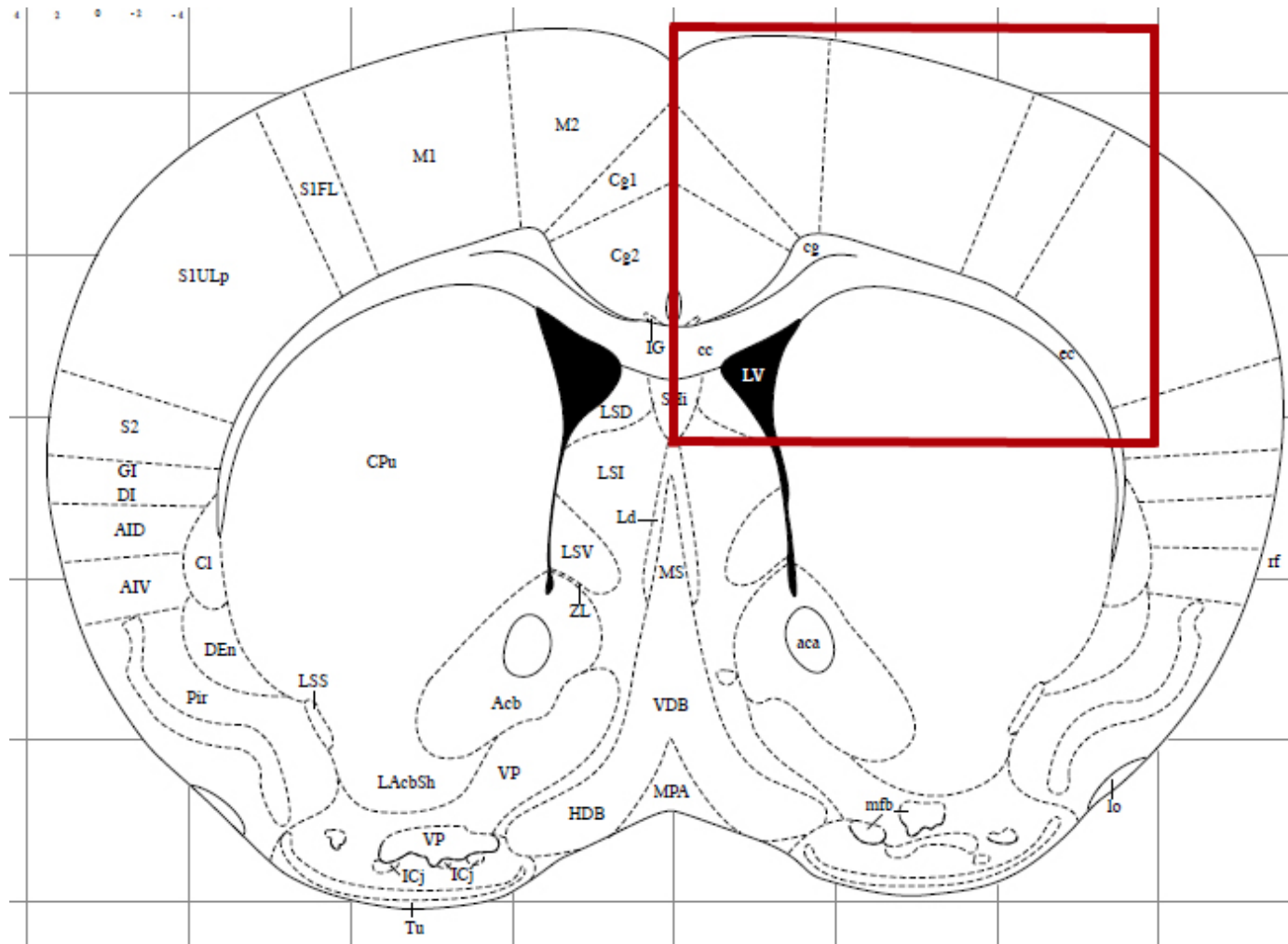
## B Comparison of hand shaping movements

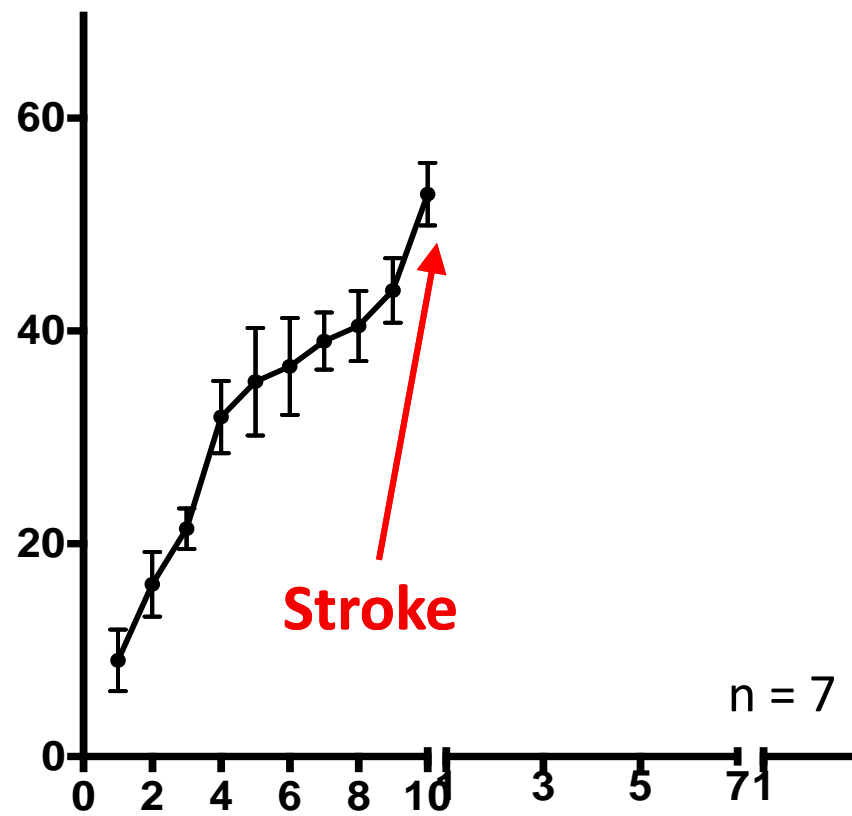






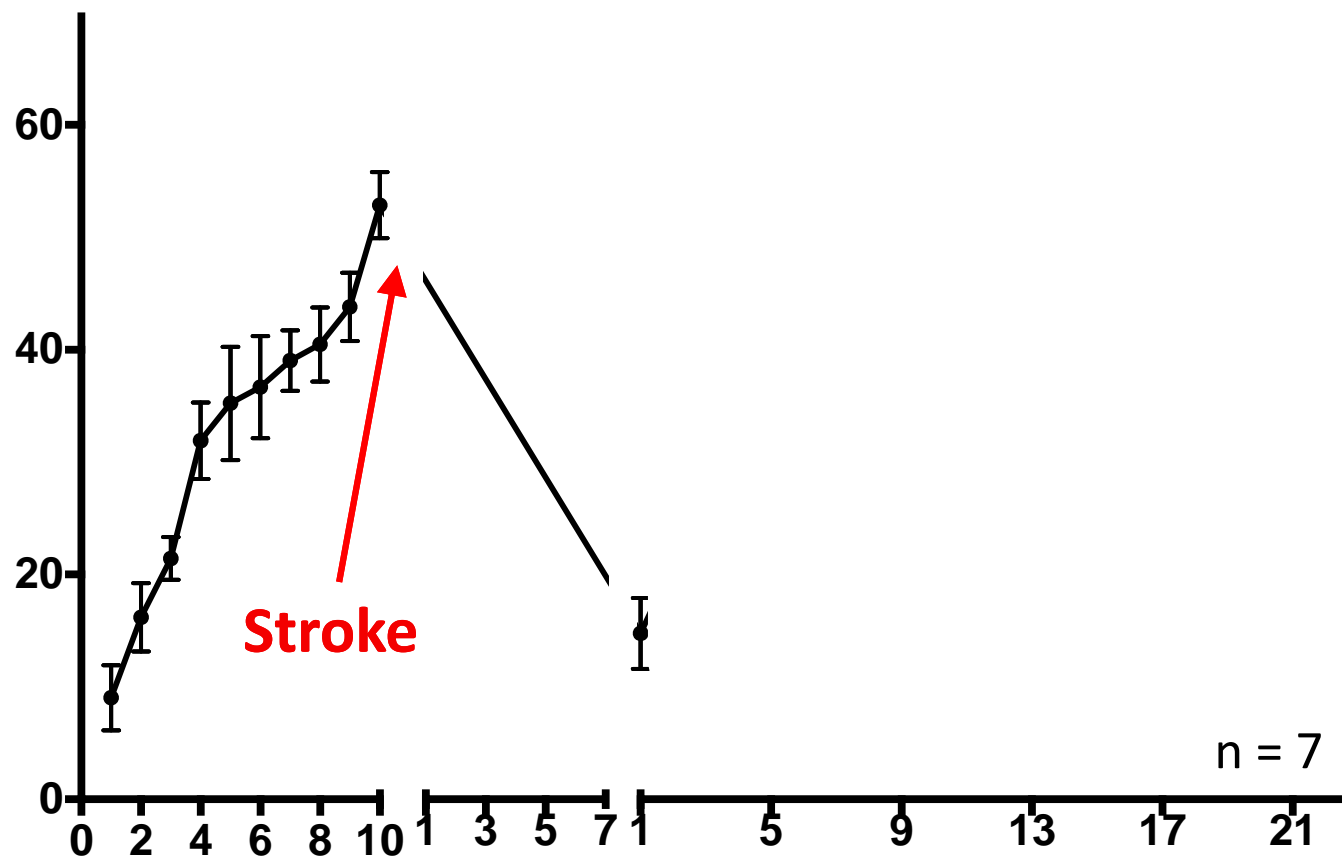
# Mouse stroke



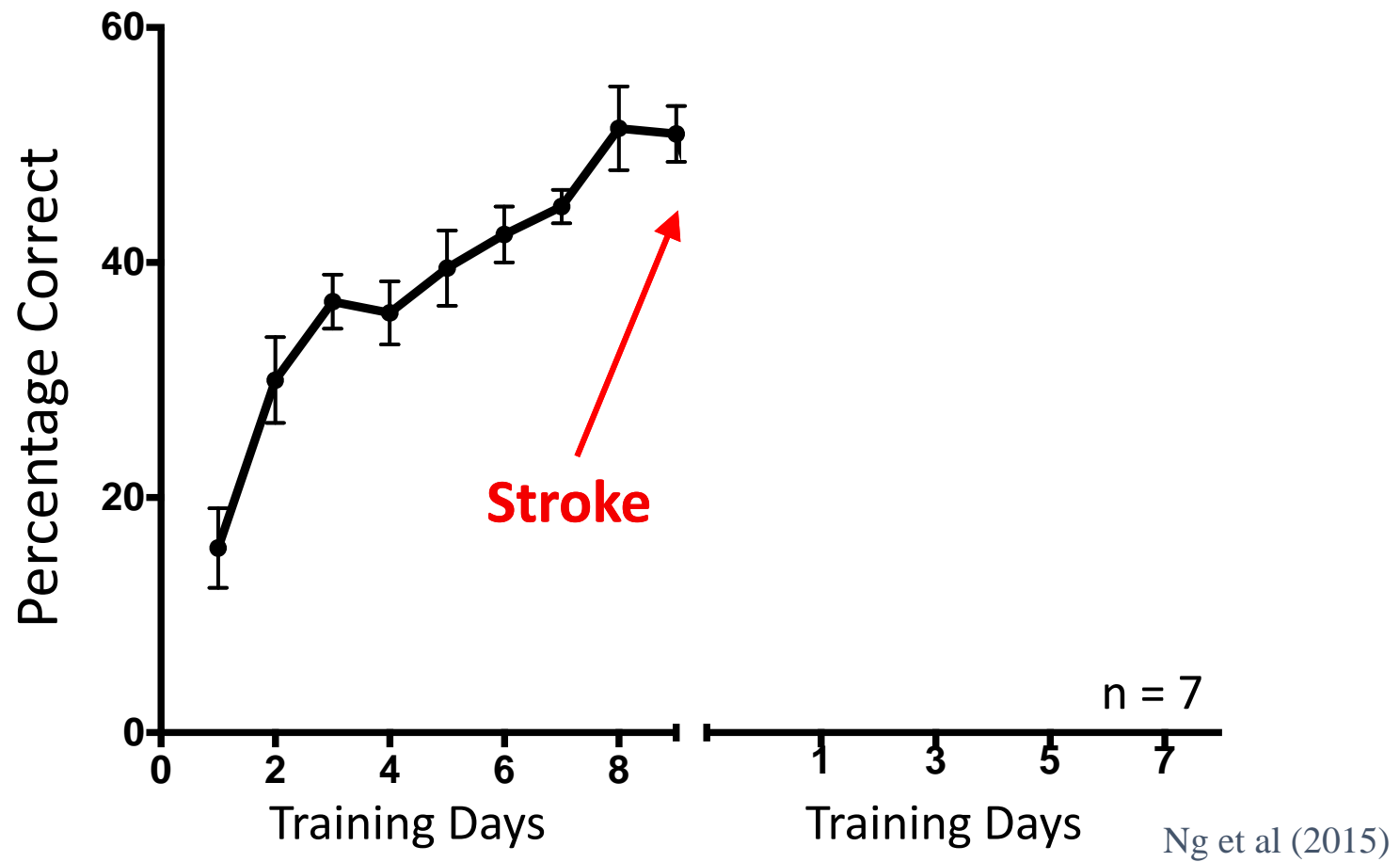


Ng et al (2015)

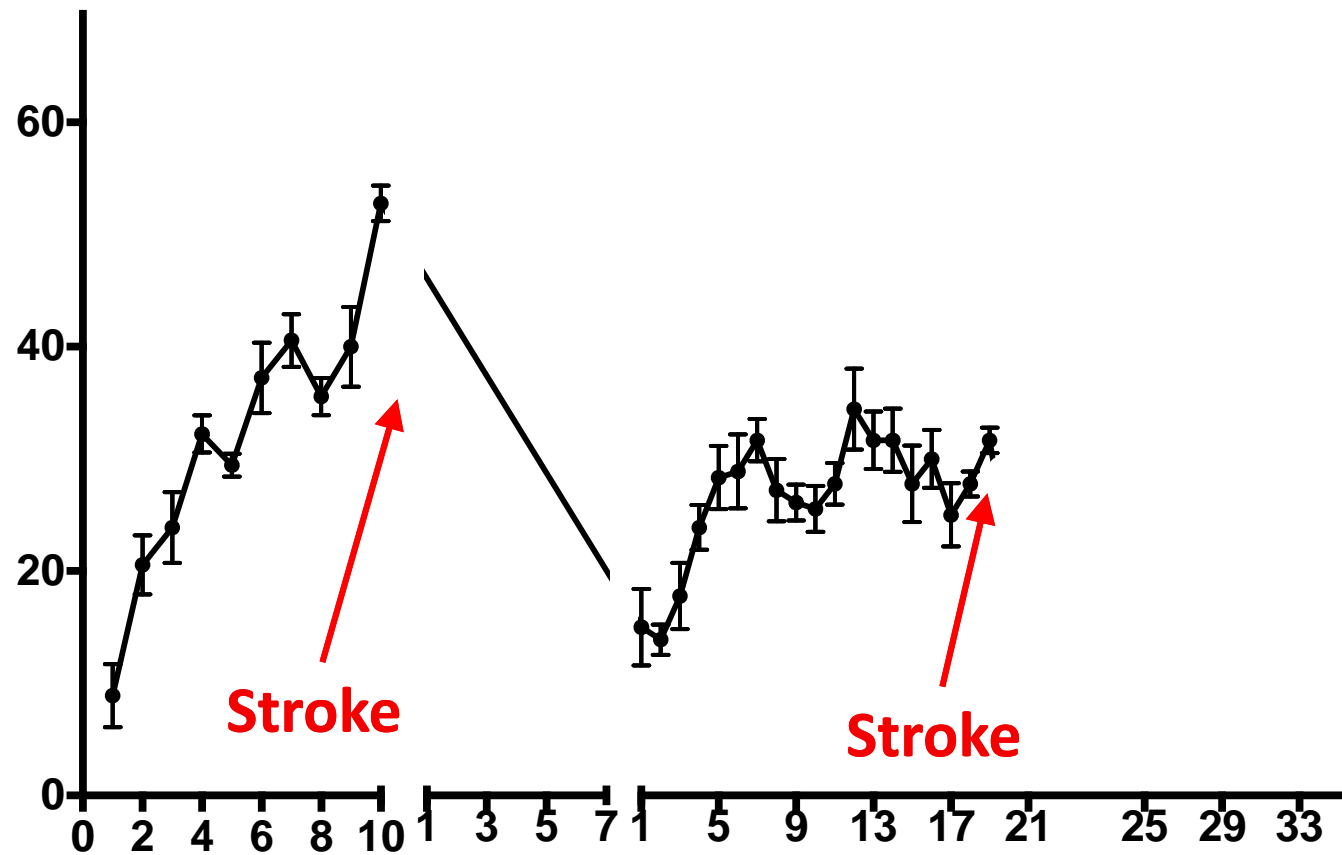
## Delayed Retraining



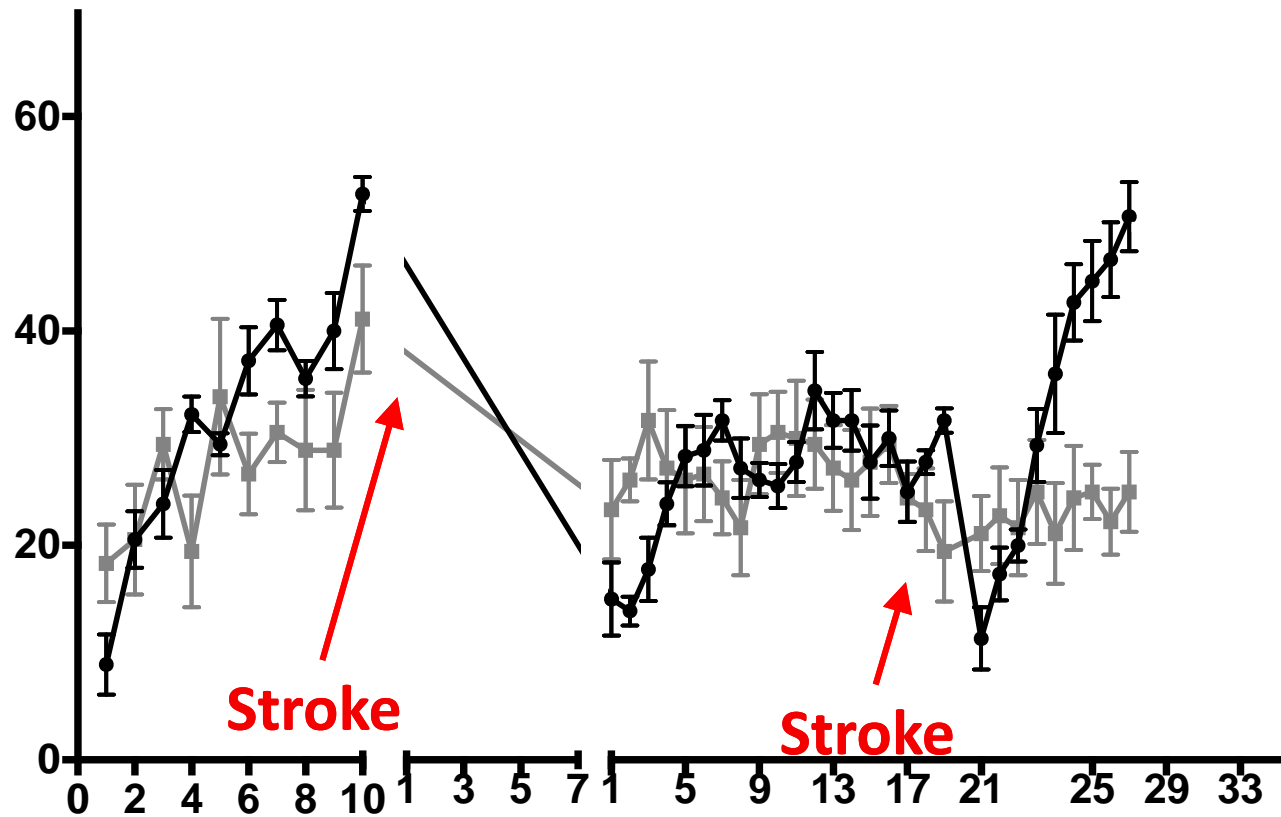
## Early Retraining



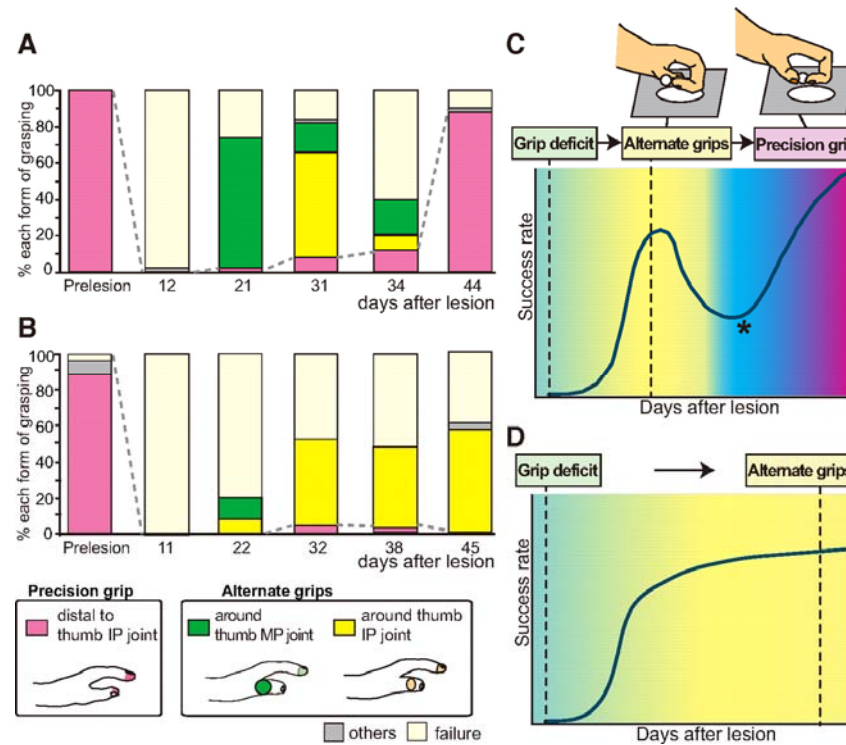
Sensitive period can be reset with a second stroke



Sensitive period can be reset with a second stroke



## Training vs. Spontaneous Biological Recovery in non-human primate



Murata et al. 2008

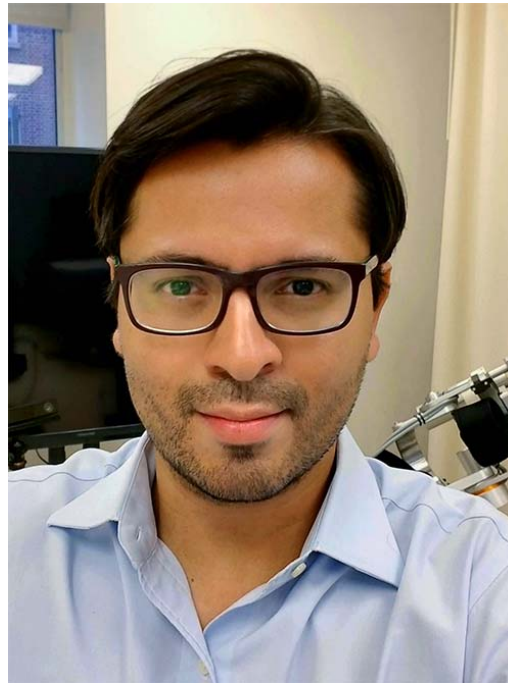
Humans: acute stroke



Study of Motor Learning and Acute Recovery  
Time-course after Stroke  
**SMARTS**

John Krakauer, Andreas Luft, Pablo Celnik, Tomoko Kitago, Joel Stein  
Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University and University of Zurich  
Funded by the JAMES S. MCDONNELL FOUNDATION

The arm after stroke

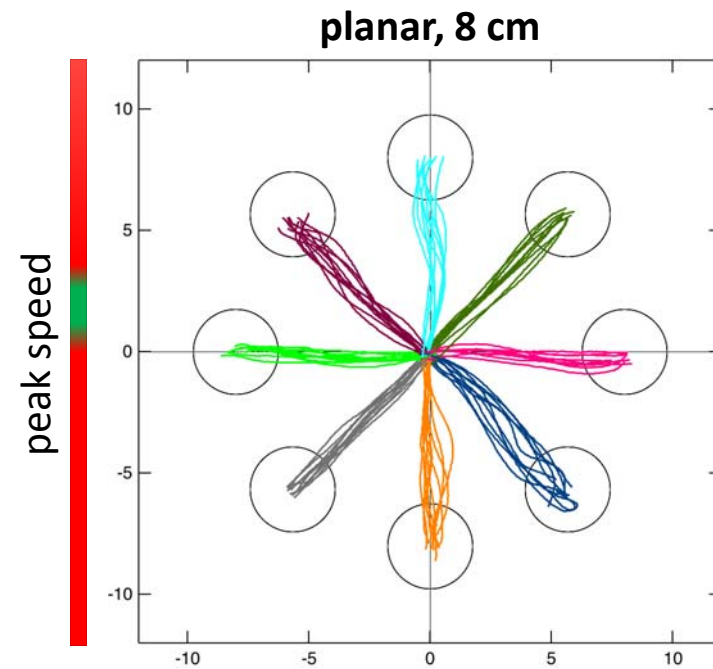
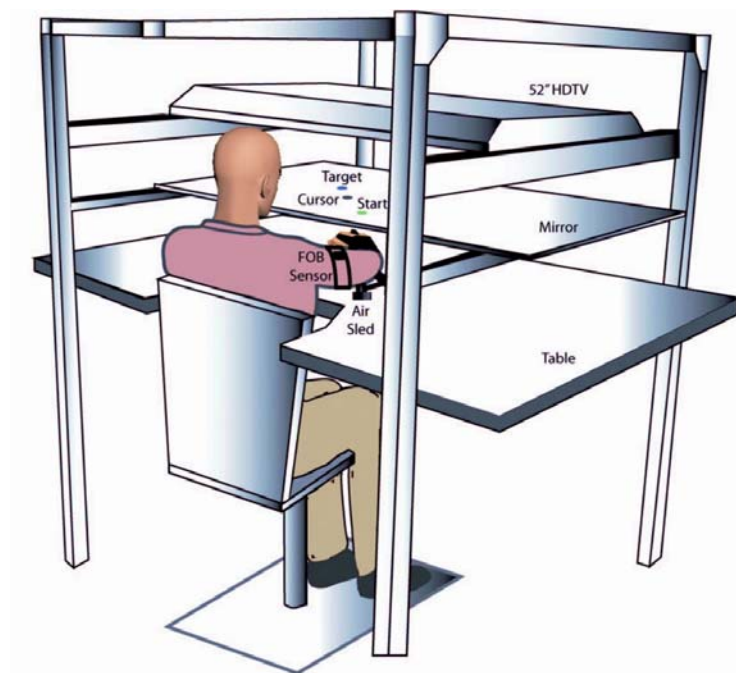


Juan Camilo Cortes



# planar motor control task

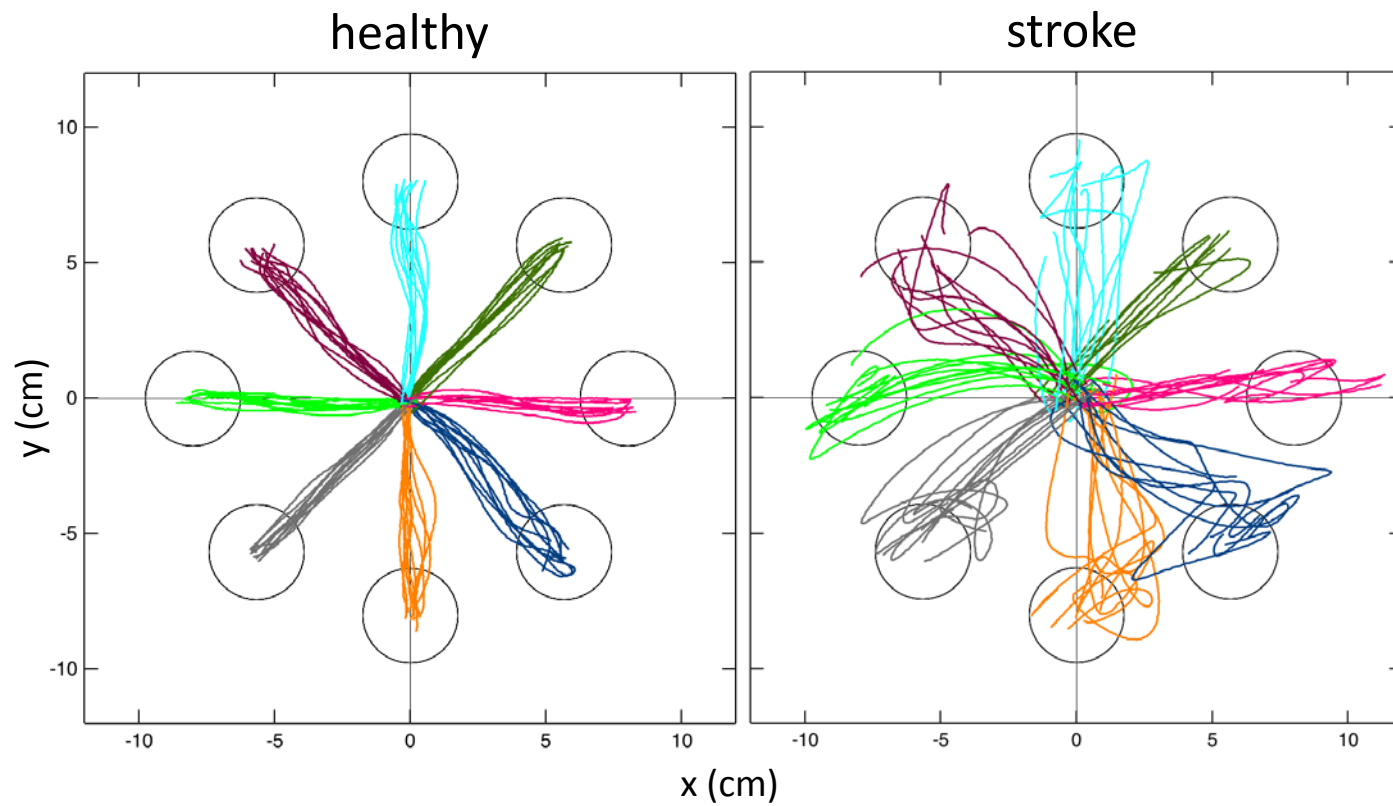
minimize compensation and antigravity effort



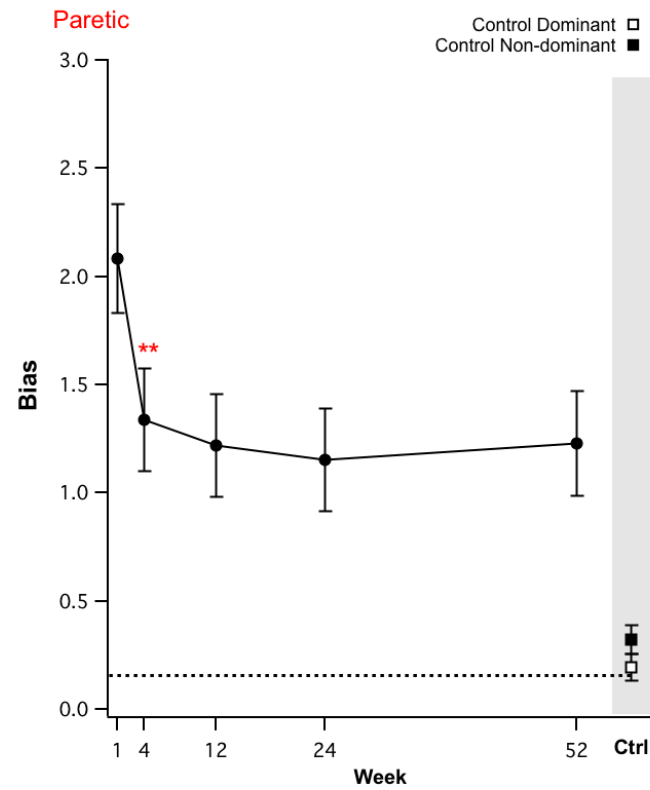
KineReach® figure adapted from Mani and Sainburg et al. *Brain* 2013



# stroke disrupts arm trajectories



## Spontaneous recovery of motor control of the arm is over in about a month



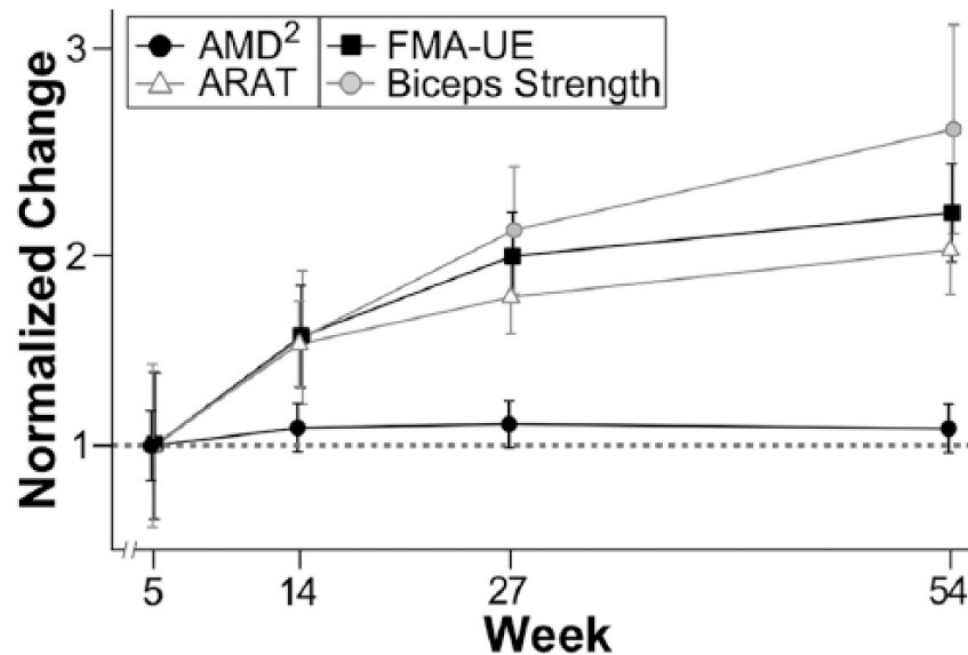


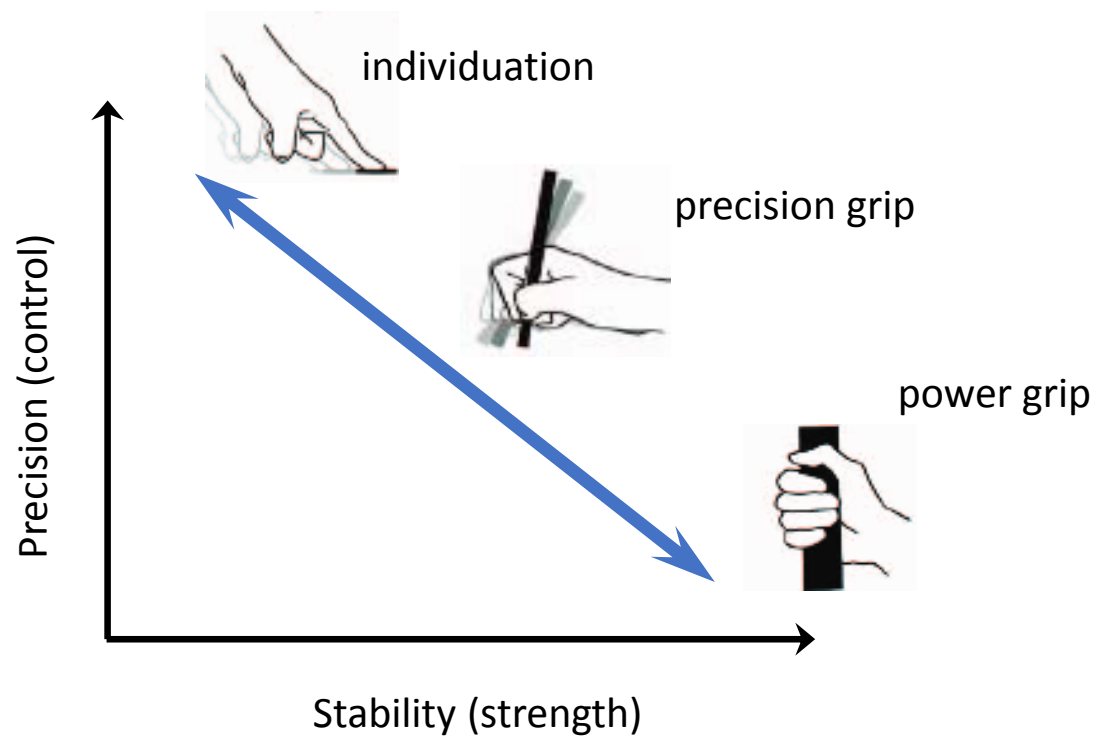
Figure 5. Normalized time course for all outcome variables: AMD2, Action Research Arm Test (ARAT), Fugl-Meyer Assessment of the upper extremity (FMA-UE), and biceps dynamometry (strength) Z-score. The dotted line indicates the normalized value of the recovery achieved between the first and the second visit for each measure, which is 1. AMD2 plateaued at week 5, while all clinical measures continued to improve through the first year after stroke.

The hand after stroke



Jing Xu

# Taxonomy of hand movements

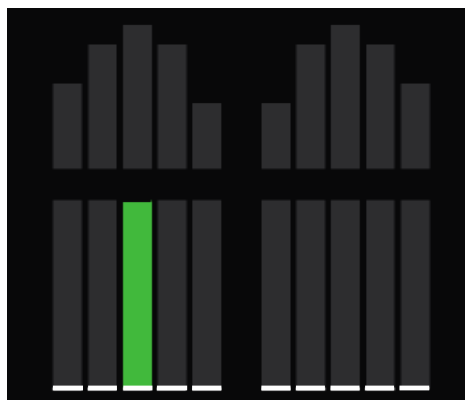




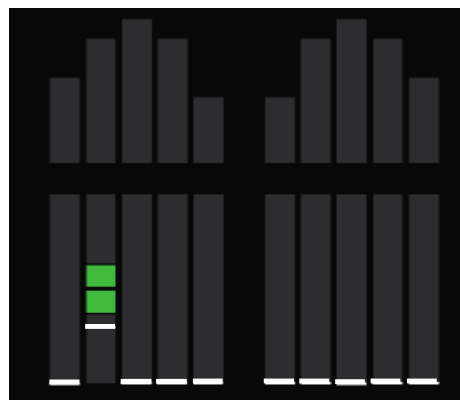
# The individuation paradigm



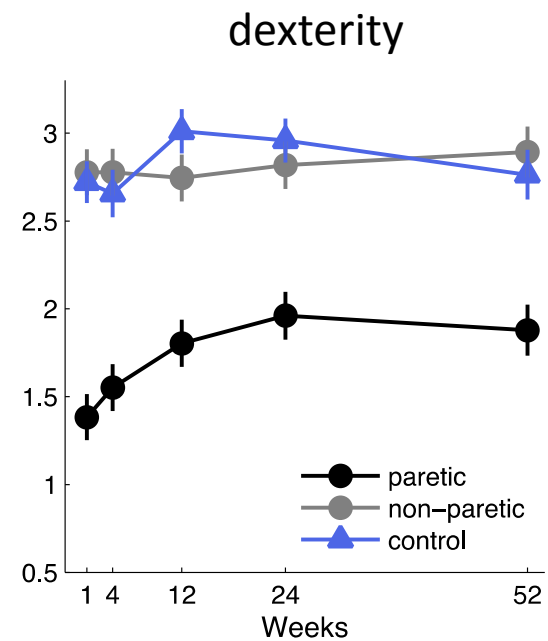
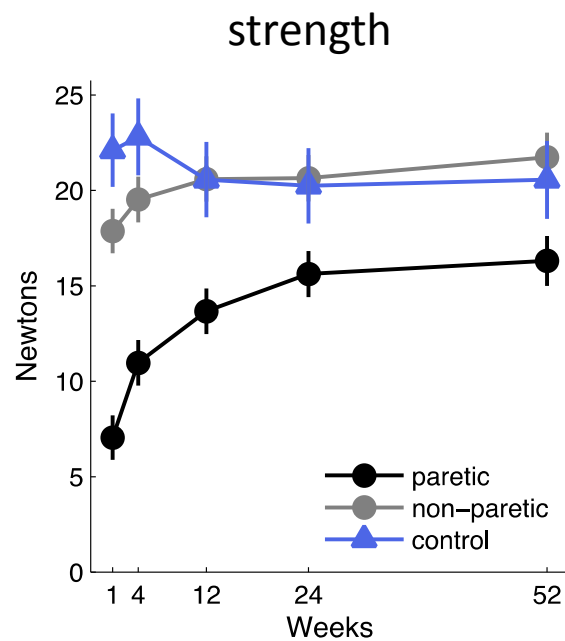
Maximum Voluntary Contraction (MVC)



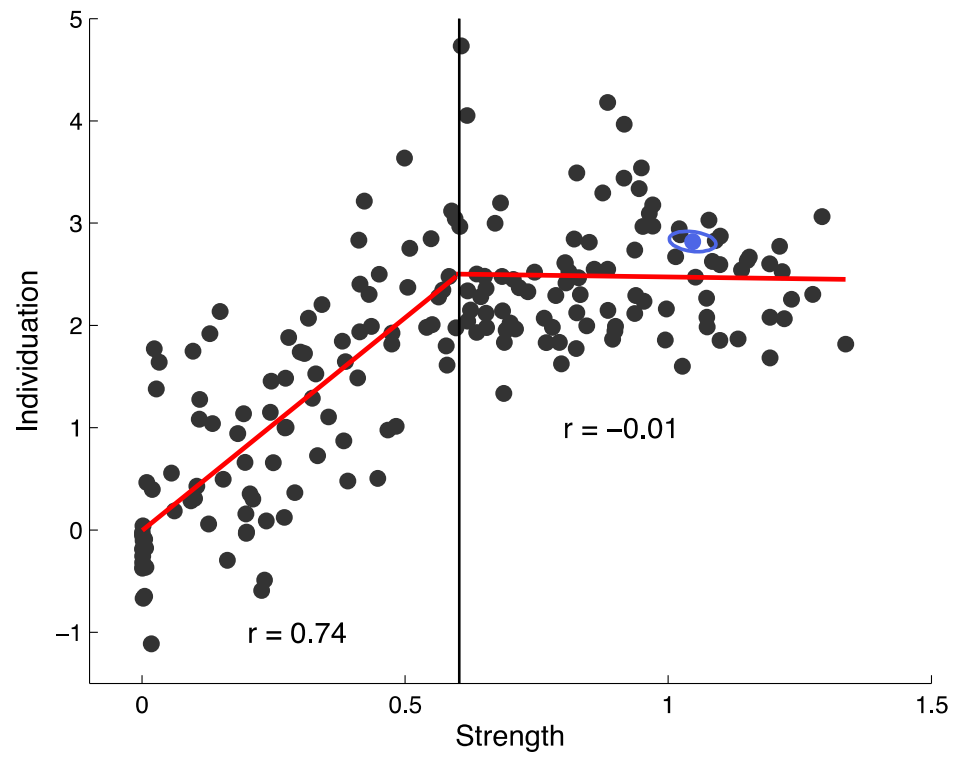
Individuation



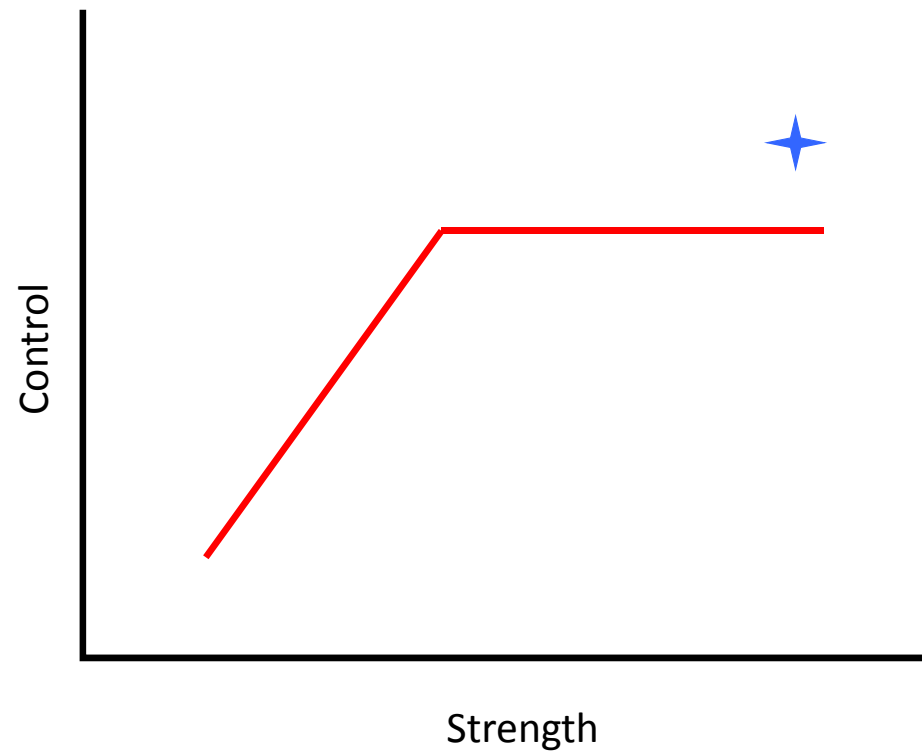
Most recovery occurs in the first 3 months



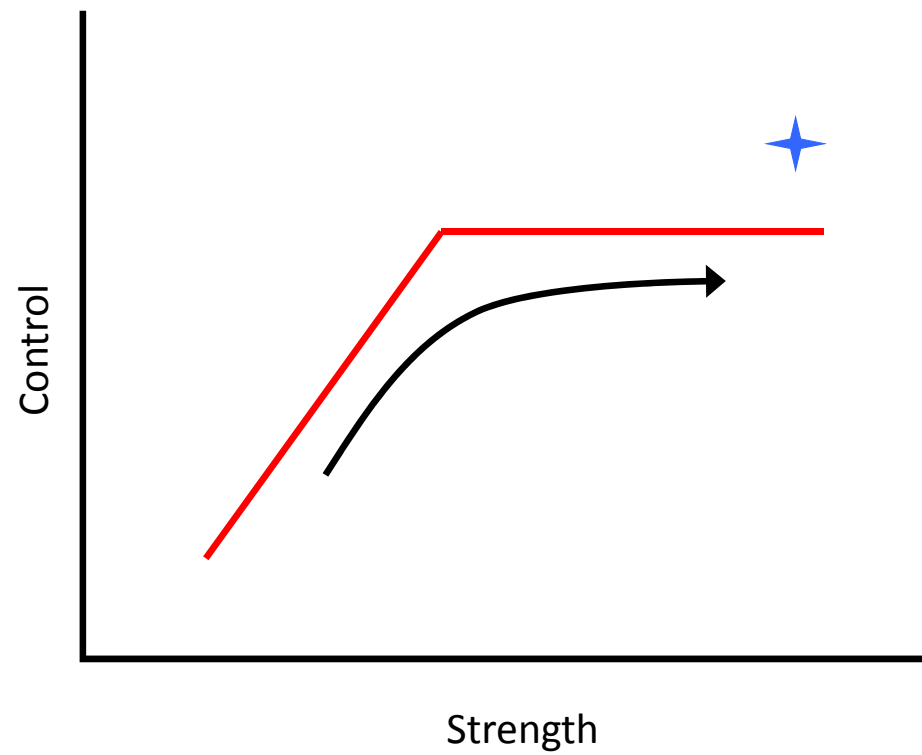
Patients N = 53  
Controls N = 14



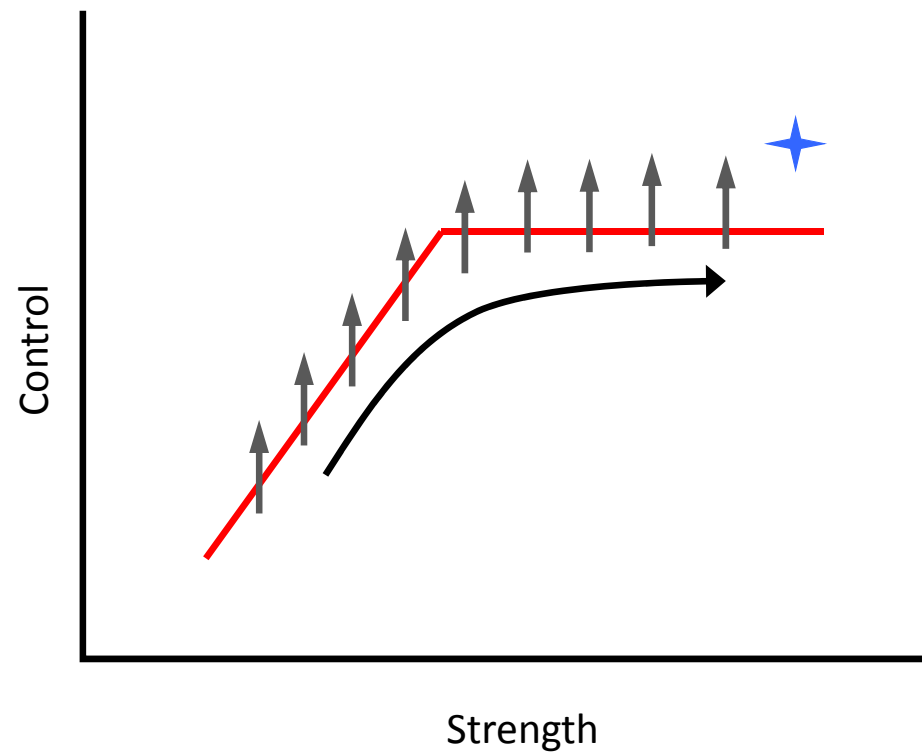
Time-invariant relationship between strength and control

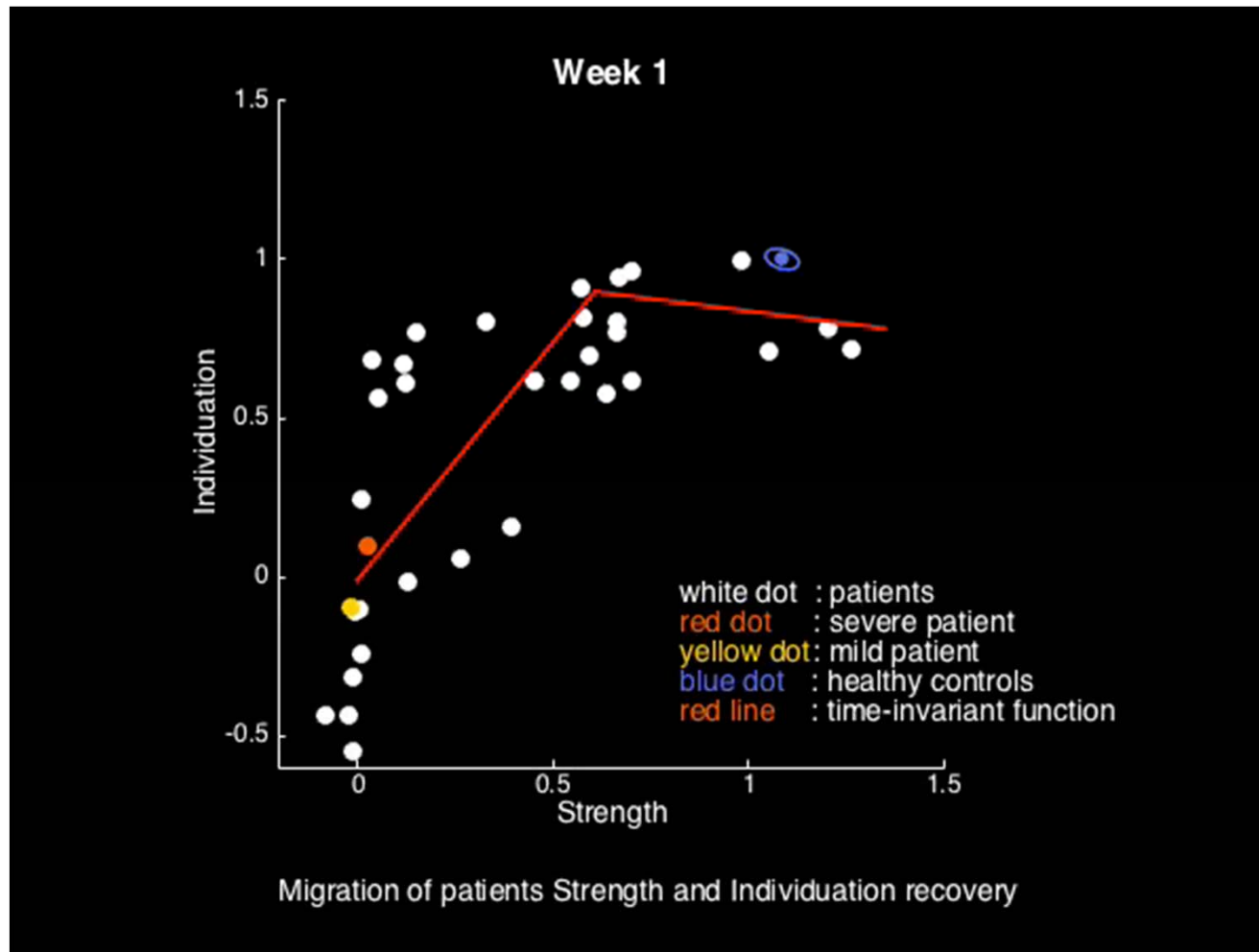


Main recovery traverses the time-invariant function



Two recovery systems for strength and control



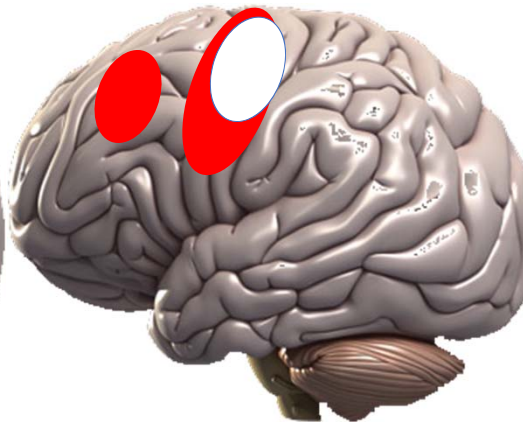


**Normal**



Brain = **normal**  
Plasticity = normal

**Acute  
Post-Stroke**



Brain = damage  
Plasticity = **hyper**

**Chronic  
Post-Stroke**



Brain = damaged  
Plasticity = normal

*Zeiler and Krakauer, 2013*



# **Likely irrelevant to motor recovery after stroke**

## **Use-dependent plasticity**

*Broken Movement – Krakauer & Carmichael 2017 (MIT press)*

## **Motor learning**

*Broken Movement – Krakauer & Carmichael 2017 (MIT press)*

## **Changes in inter-hemispheric imbalance**

*Broken Movement – Krakauer & Carmichael 2017 (MIT press);  
Stinear et al 2017; Xu et al 2018 (under revision)*

## **Changes in motor cortical excitability**

*Bestmann & Krakauer 2015; Stinear et al 2017*

## ***Changes in cortical maps***

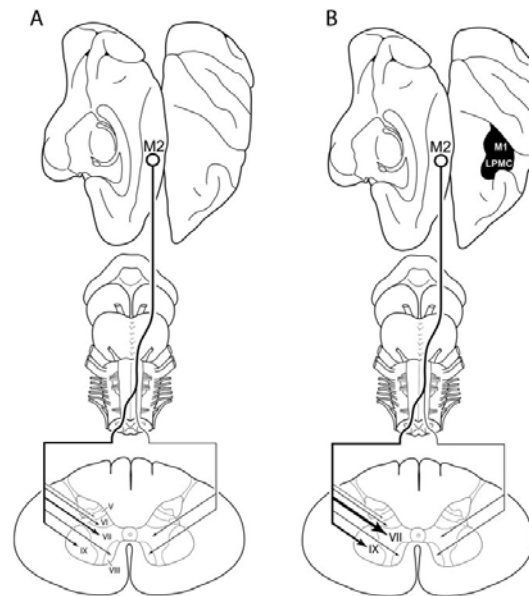
*Broken Movement – Krakauer & Carmichael 2017 (MIT press)  
Makin, Diedrichsen, & Krakauer (in press)*

## **Changes in cortical functional connectivity**

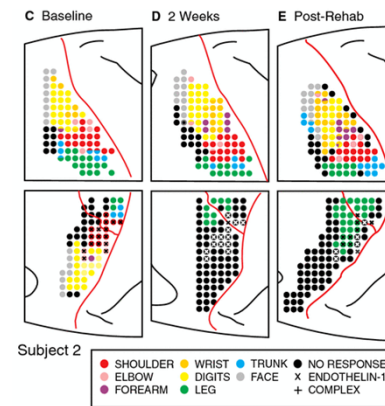
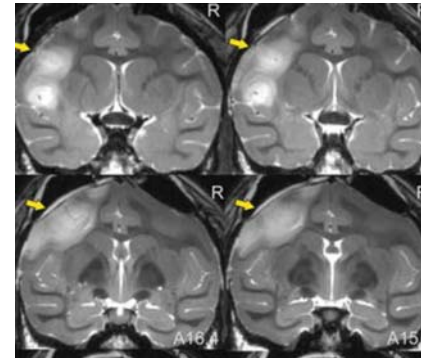
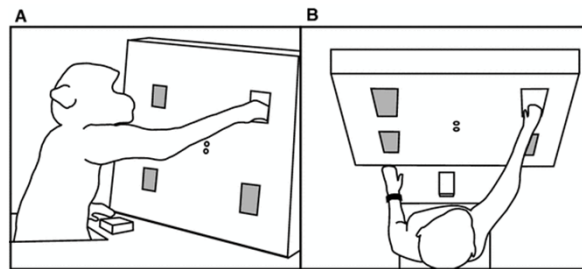
*Nijboer et al 2017; Brandscheidt et al (in prep)*

**Hence: NIBS (TMS and tDCS) and Robotics also likely to have minimal therapeutic use**

**Cortico-subcortical changes a more plausible mechanism for recovery :  
selective long-term facilitation of the corticospinal projection from SMA  
following recovery from lateral motor cortex injury**

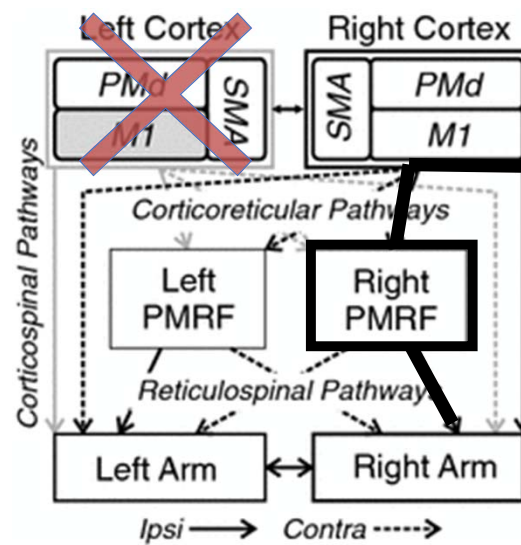


## Another example of subcortical reorganization



Herbert et al. 2015

Recovery via cortico-subcortical interactions



Herbert et al. 2015



## A Model of Recovery

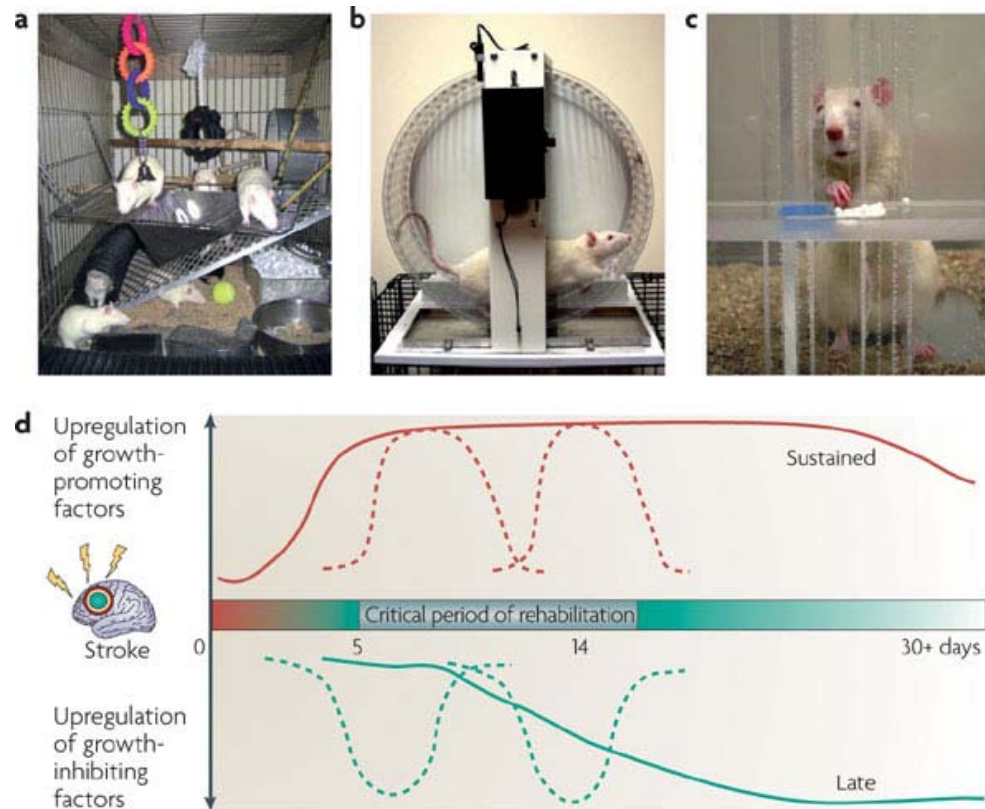
$$Restitution_{[magnitude]} = Behavior_{[dose]} \times Representation_{[residual\ amount]} \times Plasticity_{[level]}$$

***Broken Movement: The neurobiology of motor recovery after stroke***  
Krakauer & Carmichael (MIT press, 2017)

**Spontaneous biological recovery & responsivity to training:  
incomplete knowledge**

	SBR	Increased Responsiveness to Training
Rodent	?	✓
Non-human Primate	✓	✓
Humans	✓	?

## Enriched, playful environments promote general motor recovery



Nature Reviews | **Neuroscience**

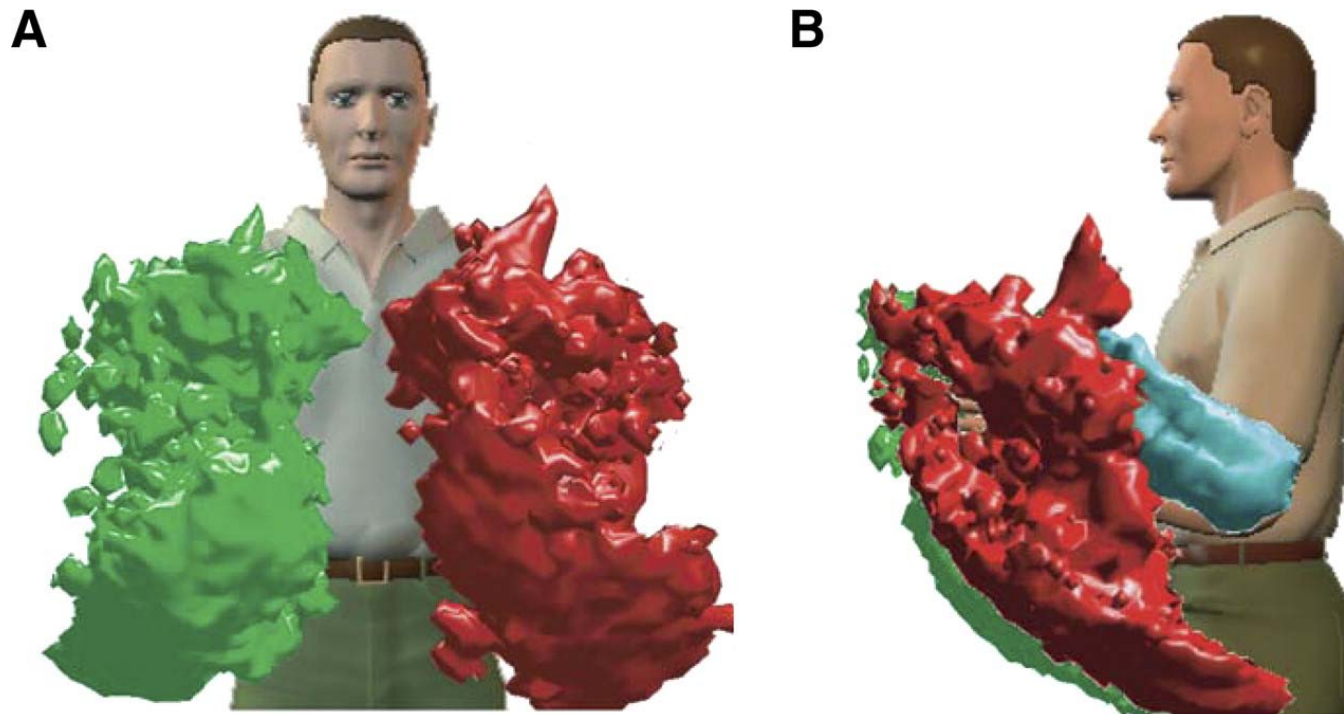
“Getting Neurorehabilitation right: What can we learn from animal models?” Krakauer et al. *NNR* (2012);

“The interaction between training and plasticity in the post-stroke brain” Zeiler & Krakauer *COiN* (2013)

Way Forward



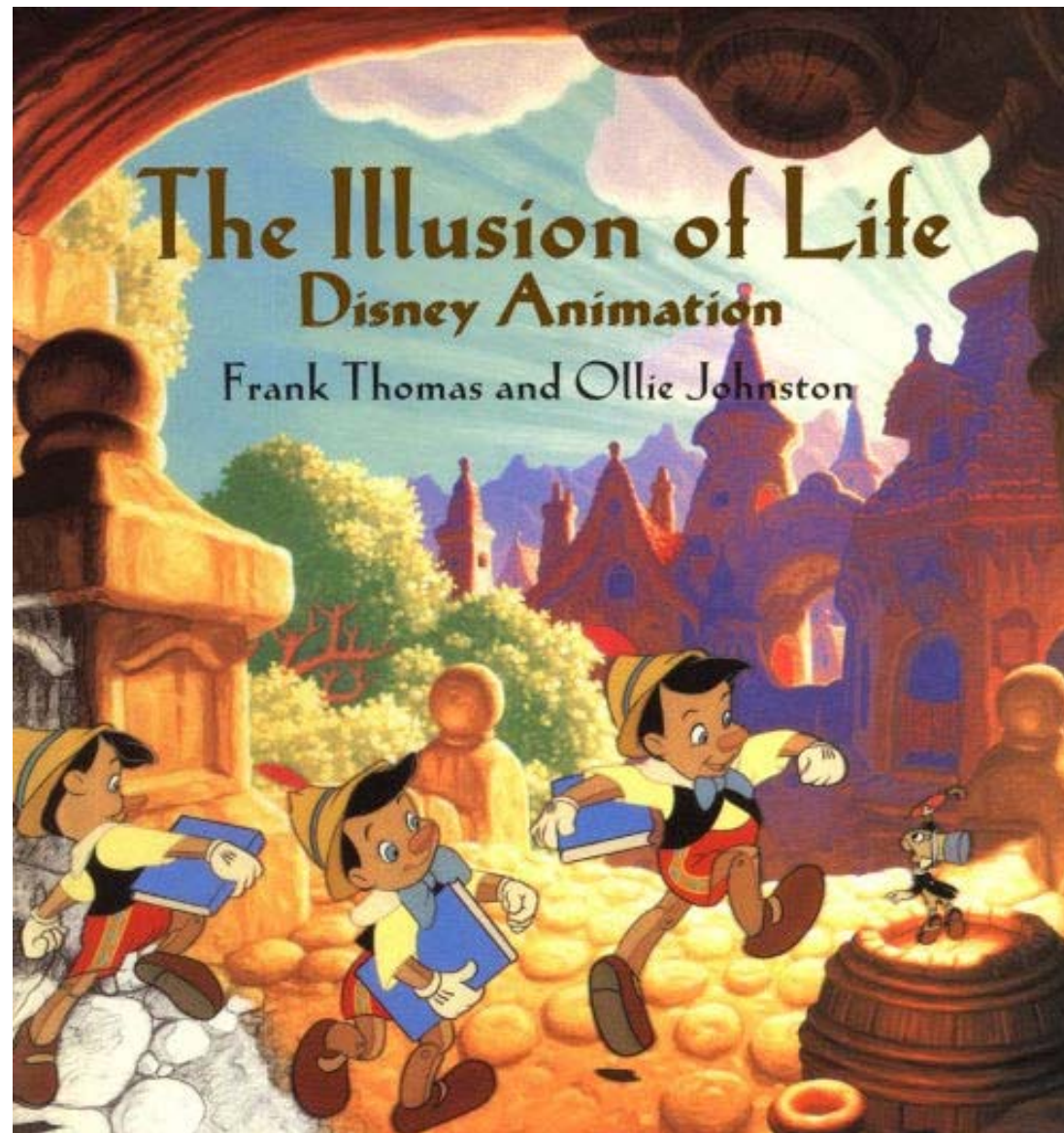
## THE STATISTICS OF ARM MOVEMENTS IN EVERYDAY LIFE



Ian S. Howard et al. J Neurophysiol 2009;102:1902-1910

Journal of Neurophysiology

- What would an enriched environment for patients look like ?
- How should we promote playful non-task based exploratory behavior ?



# SMARTS II

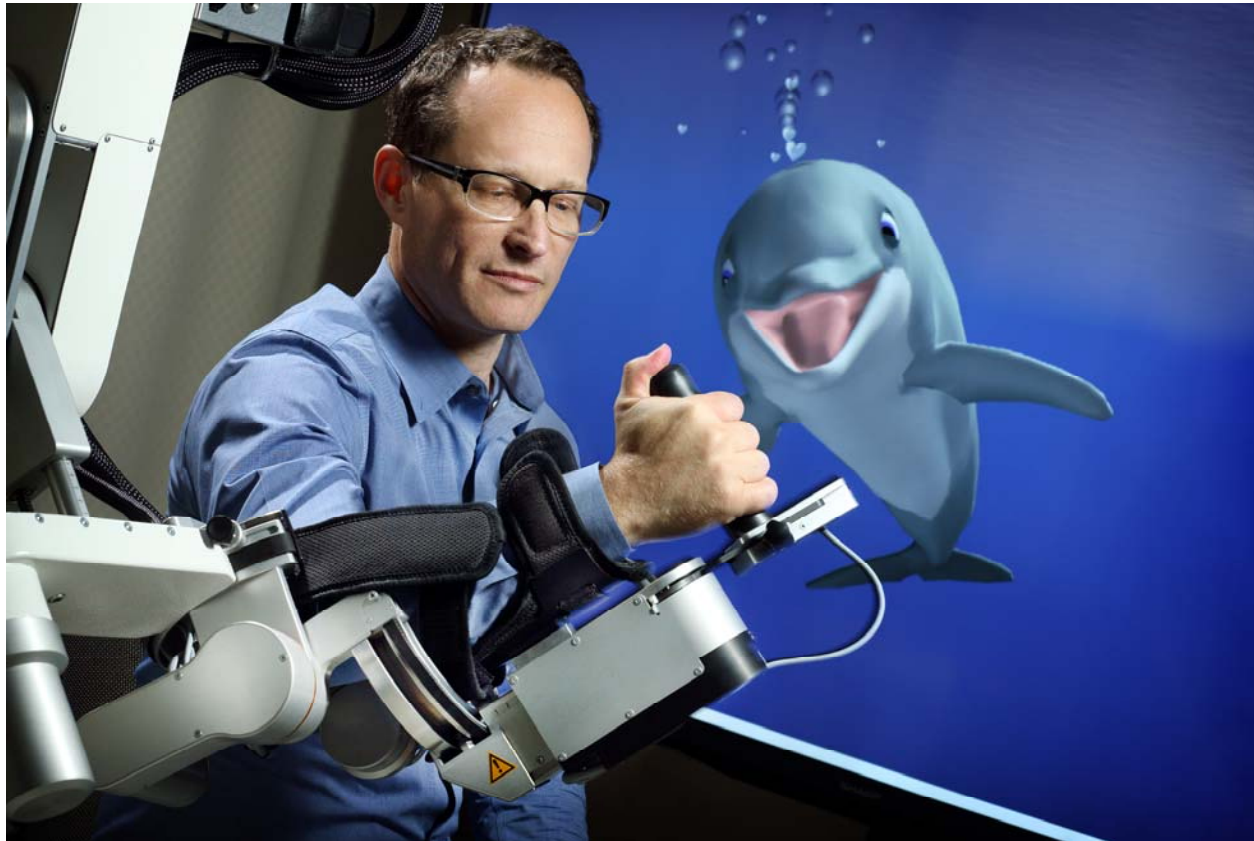
Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University and  
University of Zurich

Funded by the JAMES S. MCDONNELL FOUNDATION

**TRACKING AND ALTERING THE TIME COURSE OF  
SPONTANEOUS BIOLOGICAL RECOVERY AFTER STROKE (SMARTS II)**

(JOHN KRAKAUER PI)

PABLO CELNIK (Johns Hopkins), ANDREAS LUFT (Zurich, Cereneo), JOEL STEIN, TOMOKO KITAGO (Columbia)  
(Funding: McDonnell Foundation)



# **Study to enhance Motor Acute Recovery with intensive Training after Stroke (SMARTS2)**

**Study Type** : Randomized Clinical Trial

**Enrollment** : 21 participants

**Intervention Model:** Parallel Assignment

**Blinding:** Single (Outcomes Assessor)

**Study Start Date** : May 2015

**Completion Date** : December 2017

**Sponsor:**

Johns Hopkins University

ClinicalTrials.gov identifier:

**NCT02292251**

James S. McDonnell Foundation:

**JSMF220020220**

**Collaborators:**

Columbia University

University of Zurich

# **Study to enhance Motor Acute Recovery with intensive Training after Stroke (SMARTS2)**

## **Inclusion Criteria:**

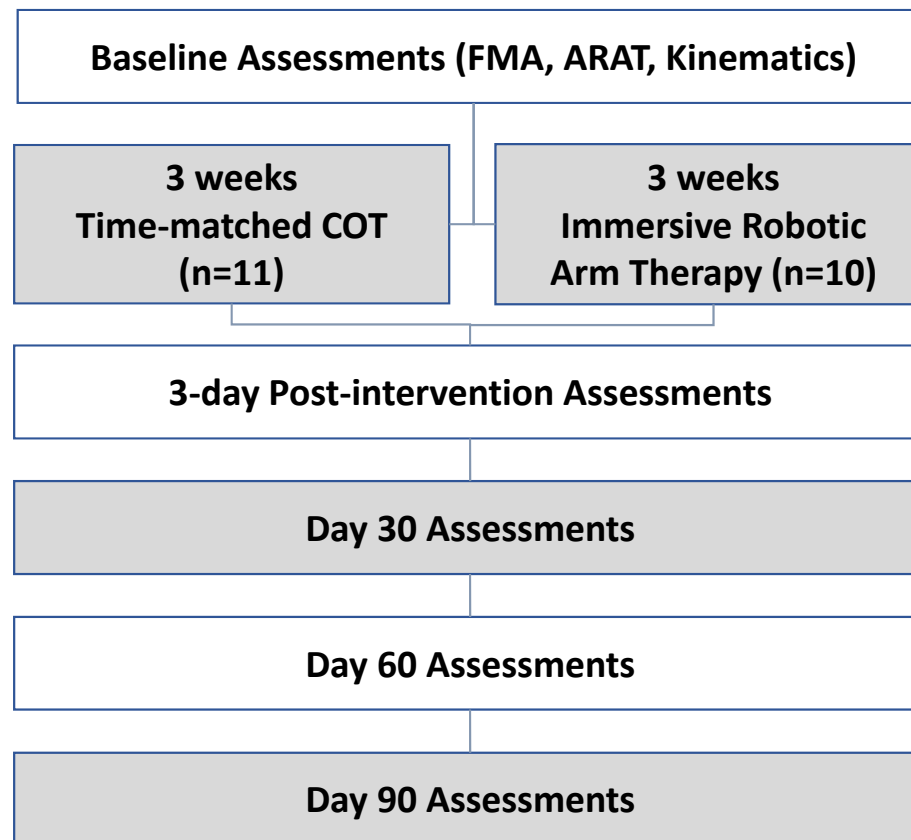
- ✓ Ischemic stroke confirmed by imaging within the previous 6 weeks
- ✓ No history of prior stroke with associated motor deficits
- ✓ Residual unilateral arm weakness with FMA 6-40
- ✓ Ability to give informed consent and understand the tasks involved

## **Exclusion Criteria:**

- ✗ Space-occupying hemorrhagic transformation or associated ICH
- ✗ Cognitive impairment, with score on MoCA  $\leq 20$ .
- ✗ Inability to sit in a chair for one hour at a time
- ✗ Terminal illness

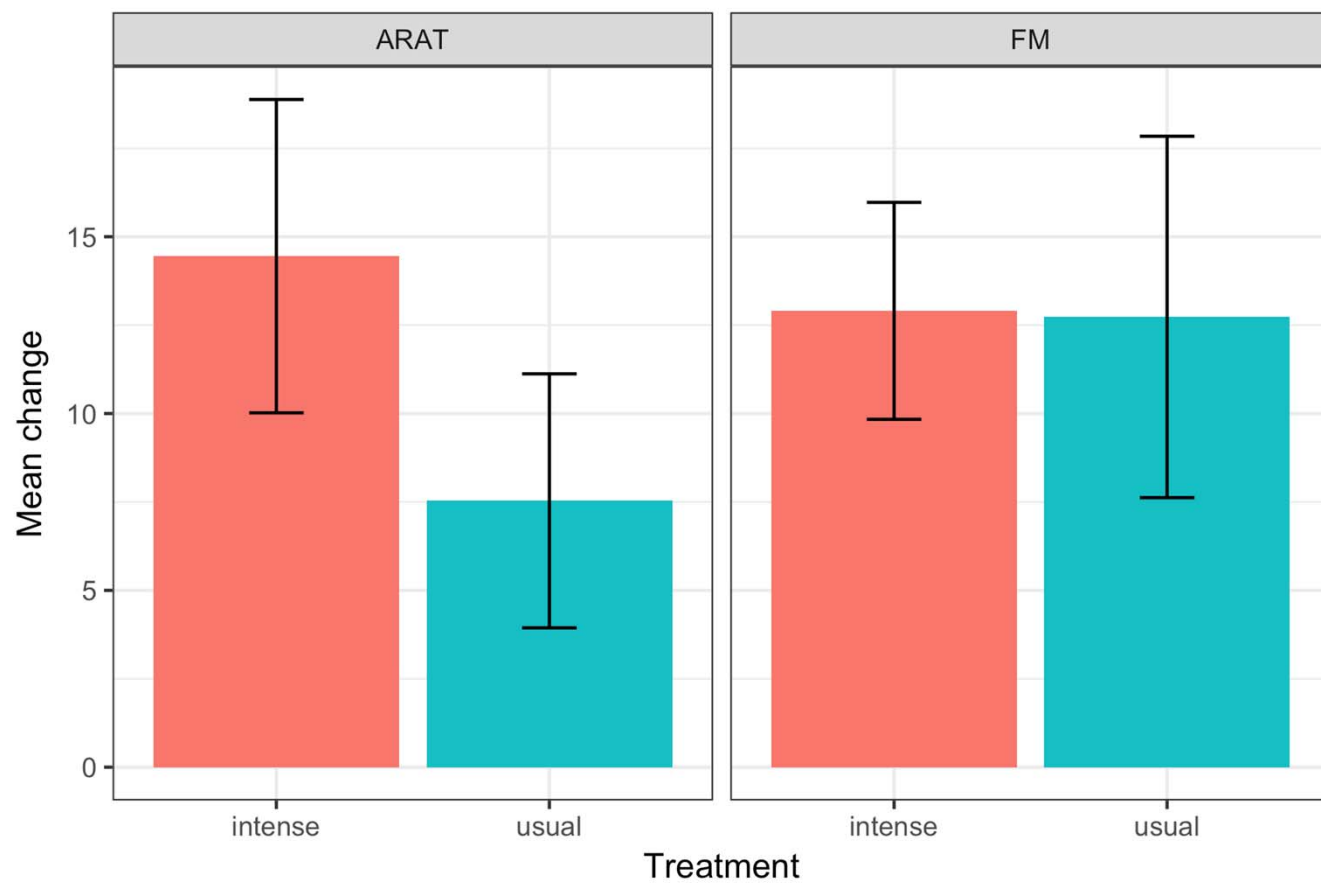


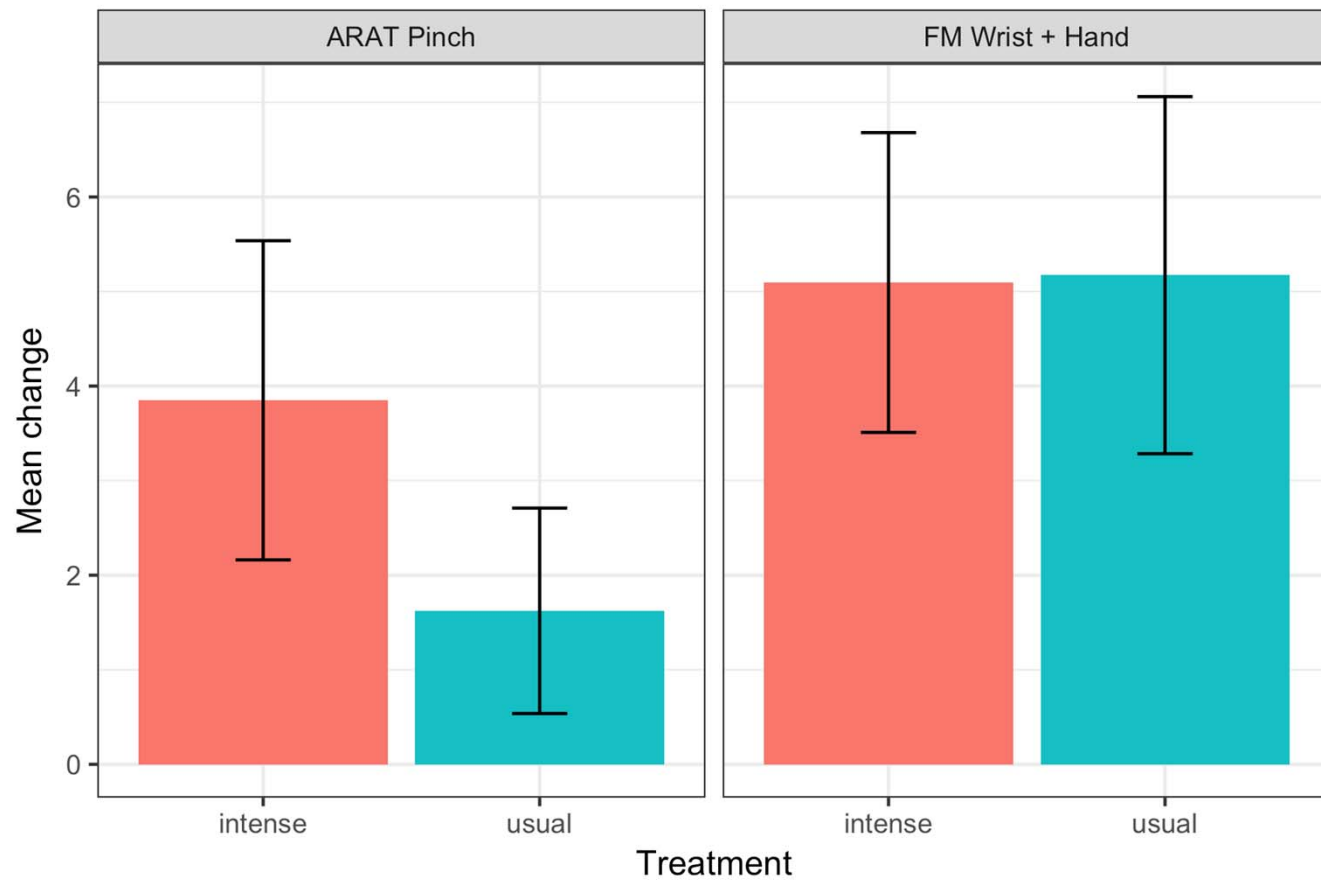
# Study to enhance Motor Acute Recovery with intensive Training after Stroke (SMARTS2)





## PRELIMINARY SMARTS 2 RESULTS





# Dose Response of Task-Specific Upper Limb Training in People at Least 6 Months Poststroke: A Phase II, Single-Blind, Randomized, Controlled Trial

Catherine E. Lang, PT, PhD,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Michael J. Strube, PhD,<sup>4</sup>  
Marghuretta D. Bland, PT, DPT, MSCI,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Kimberly J. Waddell, MSOT, OTR/L,<sup>1</sup>  
Kendra M. Cherry-Allen, PT, DPT,<sup>1</sup> Randolph J. Nudo, PhD,<sup>5</sup>  
Alexander W. Dromerick, MD,<sup>6</sup> and Rebecca L. Birkenmeier, OTD, OTR/L<sup>1,2,3</sup>

**Interpretation:** Overall, treatment effects were small. There was no evidence of a dose-response effect of task-specific training on functional capacity in people with long-standing upper-limb paresis poststroke.


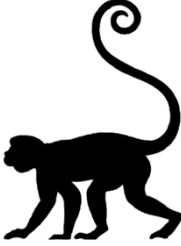




ANN NEUROL 2016;80:342–354

	Acute	Chronic
ARAT	↑	↑
FMA	—	↑

**Goldstein** et al JAMA 2018  
**RATULS** – Turner et al 2018  
**EXPLICIT** - Kwakkel et al NNR  
**SMARTS 2** Krakauer et al

**Ward** et al  
**NICHE** trial – Harvey et al STROKE 2018  
**McCabe** et al APMR 2015  
**Allman C** et al Sci Transl Med. 2016

- **Thus far early intervention seems to have an effect on prehension (negative symptoms)**
  -
- **May need a physiological approach to the movement disorder (positive symptoms)**

						
						
Motor Control	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?
Strength	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Synergy	N/A		N/A		✓	?
Compensation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Andi Luft



Tomoko Kitago



Pablo Celnik



Joern Diedrichsen

Omar Ahmad  
Amy Bastian  
Meret Brandscheidt  
Kelly Casey  
Juan Camilo Cortes  
Sandra Deluzio  
Naveed Ejaz  
Jeff Goldsmith  
Alkis Hadjiosif  
Robert Hardwick  
Michelle Harran  
Kevin Olds  
Promit Roy  
Heidi Schambra  
Belen Valladares  
Jing Xu  
Steve Zeiler

