THE EFFECTS OF ROBOT COGNITIVE STIMULATION GAMES ON COGNITIVE FUNCTION IN HEALTHY OLDER ADULTS

Information sheet

We are investigating whether robot cognitive stimulation games can improve cognitive function in healthy older adults relative to a control group. This is a multi-site study between New Zealand and Korea. Dr Geon Ha Kim, an Assistant Professor from Ewha Women’s University will be leading the research activities conducted in Korea. In New Zealand, we aim to recruit 40 English-speaking older adults who have normal cognitive function.

What is involved?

- A quick pre-screening session to assess your eligibility to participate.
- An initial session (approx. 60 minutes) to administer a questionnaire, which is delivered on an iPad. We will also ask you to fill out depression and anxiety questionnaires.
- You will also be randomly allocated to the robot or non-robot group.
- If you are in the control group, nothing will change for you and you will not use the robot.
- If you have been allocated to the robot group, you will be scheduled to play games on the robot twice a week (60 minutes), for 12 weeks.
- After 12 weeks, you will be asked to fill out a follow-up cognitive assessment on the iPad (up to 90 minutes) and the depression and anxiety questionnaires.
- The research procedures will take place at the University of Auckland or Selwyn Heights.
- You will be provided with a $50 voucher for your time.

Consent
Participation is your choice. You can withdraw from the study at any time without giving any reason. Your individual data can be withdrawn up to seven days after you complete the last questionnaire. If you are a student of the researchers we give our assurance that your participation or non-participation in this study will have no effect on your grades or relationship with the University.

Confidentiality
All the information obtained from this study will be treated confidentially and will only be available to the researchers. No information which could personally identify you will be used in any reports on this study. All data will be coded with a number instead of names and will be stored in locked files. Data will be stored for 6 years in a locked cabinet and locked office and will then be destroyed. A research assistant will be involved in the data collection process, but they will first sign a confidentiality agreement.

Results
A summary of the results from this study will be sent to you if requested. A report will be written from the results. Results will be published in a scientific journal and presented at conferences. No-one will be personally identified in any of the publications.

Benefits and Risks
You may enjoy feeling involved in the research process, and may benefit from interacting with the robot. We do not anticipate any risks associated with participation. However, you can contact the research assistants during business hours and we will also show you how to turn off the robot. Note that this project is being funded by Ewha Women's University who are developing robots to improve cognitive functioning in older adults.

For more information or to participate in this study please email ngas906@aucklanduni.ac.nz or call/text: 02108760774 or 02108803830

You can contact other members of the research team on:
ph: 373 7599 ext. 86756 (Elizabeth Broadbent), ext. 88157 (Bruce MacDonald)

For any queries regarding ethical concerns you may contact the Chair, The University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09 373-7599 ext. 83711. Or email: humanethics@auckland.ac.nz

APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND HUMAN PARTICIPANTS ETHICS COMMITTEE ON 29/10/2019 for three years, Reference Number 023830