

Information Flyer

Development of innovative insole technology to enhance active living in people with foot nerve damage

Researchers at The University of Queensland are seeking volunteers to participate in a research project which seeks to understand foot problems experienced by, and factors associated with balance and walking in, people with foot nerve damage (peripheral neuropathy). We are seeking to understand the potential use of special shoe insoles to improve active living, and what features of this technology would meet the needs of people with peripheral neuropathy.

What is required:

Volunteers will participate in one small group discussion (focus group), approximately 1-2 hours duration, at The University of Queensland (St Lucia Campus) or via video conference. The focus group will explore foot problems, foot care practices, balance and mobility concerns, and how special shoe insoles could be used to support these factors. Volunteers will also be asked to provide feedback on a proposed insole technology solution for people with peripheral neuropathy.

Who is eligible:

- People (aged over 18 years) with a diagnosis of peripheral neuropathy due to ageing, diabetes, or multiple sclerosis
- Health professionals who guide people with peripheral neuropathy in their disease management related to their movement and foot care

Why is this important:

Given the rising popularity of wearable technologies, including shoe insoles, to help improve active living, this project aims to better understand the extent of foot problems, and their impact on daily living, in people with peripheral neuropathy. This information is essential to guide the development on an innovative insole technology, which is designed to improve balance, mobility, and foot self-care practices, in people with peripheral neuropathy.

The project marks a critical step in engaging consumers in the co-design of a potential new self-management technique for people with peripheral neuropathy.

Are you interested to find out more:

If you are interested in volunteering for this project, or would like further information, please contact Dr Anna Hatton on a.hatton1@uq.edu.au or (07) 3365 4590.