

# Enhancing Physical Activity and Quality of Life in People with Severe Physical Disability: Could Standing Frame Programmes Help?

Jenny Freeman

Faculty of Health and Human Sciences

Plymouth University

**RESEARCH**  
**WITH**  
**PLYMOUTH**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Freeman/London ACPIN/May2016



# Outline of talk

- Related to people with MS
- Why increase physical activity?
- What's the evidence for standing programmes?
- Our research: The SUMS Study

## Could Standing Frame Programmes Help?



# Lowered physical activity level

*Physical activity and multiple sclerosis: a meta-analysis*

Robert W Motl\*, Edward McAuley and...

Department of Kinesiology, University of...

Using meta...

The cumulative evidence suggests that people with MS are less physically active than non-diseased populations.

Inactivity worse when:

- using objective versus self report measures
- progressive > relapse remit

Mult. S.

Cavanagh et al 2011 , Sandroff et al 2012,  
Rietberg et al 2014

**SPECIAL COMMUNICATION**

# Development of Evidence-Informed Physical Activity Guidelines for Adults With Multiple Sclerosis



Amy E. Latimer-Cheung, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Kathleen A. Martin Ginis, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Audrey L. Hicks, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Robert W. Motl, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Lara A. Pilutti, PhD,<sup>b,c</sup> Mary Duggan,<sup>d</sup> Garry Wheeler, PhD,<sup>e</sup> Ravin Persad, BSc,<sup>f</sup> Karen M. Smith, MD<sup>g,h</sup>

## Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines and Canadian Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines

[www.csep.ca/guidelines](http://www.csep.ca/guidelines)

Use the links below to download or order the [Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines and Canadian Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines](#) info sheets and related resources. For more information and background on the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines and Canadian Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines, please visit the [Background Information page](#).

Link to page: [Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines for Adults with Multiple Sclerosis](#)

### Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines for Adults with Multiple Sclerosis

Guidelines Info Sheet	UPDATED! September 2013 Guidelines for MS Toolkit	UPDATED! September 2013 Toolkit Insert

Freeman&Gear/MSTrust/2015

**NICE** National Institute for  
Health and Care Excellence

## Multiple sclerosis

management of multiple sclerosis in primary and secondary care

Issued: October 2014

NICE clinical guideline 186

# Guideline Recommendations: for people with mild to moderate MS

## Resistance Exercise:

2x/week

moderate intensity (60-80% 1RM,  
10 – 15 repetitions, 1-3 sets) minimum 8 weeks



## Aerobic Exercise:

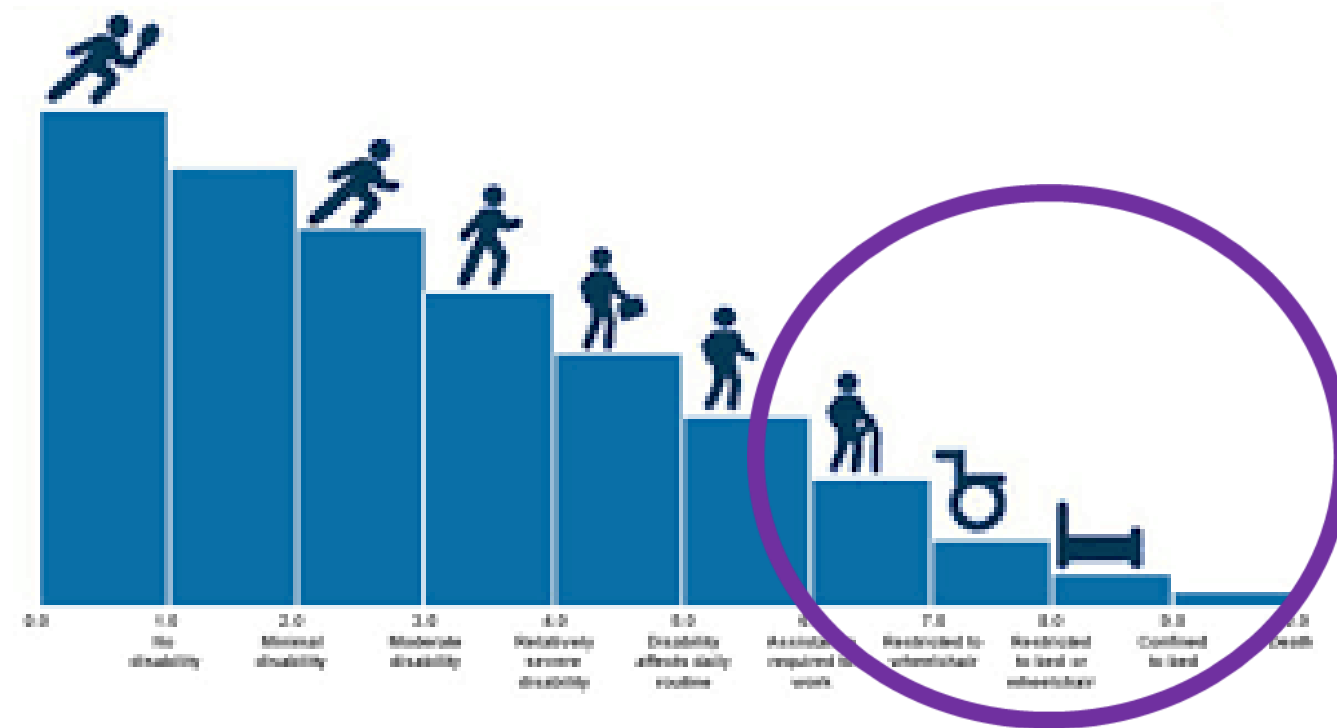
2-3/week

mod intensity (60-80% max HR) 30 minutes  
minimum 4 weeks

# Natural History of MS

An estimated:

- 66% move to a progressive phase within 8 years
- 50% are unable to walk unaided in 15 years
- 25% will become dependent on a wheelchair:
  - Difficulty changing positions
  - Maintaining activity levels



# Relative dearth of evidence in those with: progressive forms of MS severe disability (> EDSS 6.5)



## Progressive multiple sclerosis 2

### Treatment of progressive multiple sclerosis: what works, what does not, and what is needed

*Anthony Feinstein, Jenny Freeman, Albert C Lo*

*Lancet Neurol* 2015; 14: 194–207

See [Comment](#) pages 132 and 133

This is the second in a [Series](#) of three papers about progressive multiple sclerosis

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada (Prof A Feinstein MD); Faculty of Health and Human Sciences, Plymouth University, Plymouth, UK (J Freeman PhD);

Disease-modifying drugs have mostly failed as treatments for progressive multiple sclerosis. Management of the disease therefore solely aims to minimise symptoms and, if possible, improve function. The degree to which this approach is based on empirical data derived from studies of progressive disease or whether treatment decisions are based on what is known about relapsing-remitting disease remains unclear. Symptoms rated as important by patients with multiple sclerosis include balance and mobility impairments, weakness, reduced cardiovascular fitness, ataxia, fatigue, bladder dysfunction, spasticity, pain, cognitive deficits, depression, and pseudobulbar affect; a comprehensive literature search shows a notable paucity of studies devoted solely to these symptoms in progressive multiple sclerosis, which translates to few proven therapeutic options in the clinic. A new strategy that can be used in future rehabilitation trials is therefore needed, with the adoption of approaches that look beyond single interventions to concurrent, potentially synergistic, treatments that maximise what remains of neural plasticity in patients with progressive multiple sclerosis.





## Is sitting slowly killing you?

### Sedentary behavior among UK adults

#### Daily time spent sitting or laying down



4.7 hours a day  
29% of the  
time per  
week



4.9 hours a day  
31% of the  
time per  
week

#### Most sedentary age group

16-24 years

#### Average daily time on TV/Laptop



Women  
26% of their  
free time



Men  
25% of the  
time per  
week

#### Health hazards of sedentary lifestyle



112% higher risk of type 2 diabetes



147% higher risk of cardiovascular issues



49% increase in risk of premature death

Sources:

<http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/fitness/pages/sitting-and-sedentary-behaviour-are-bad-for-your-health.aspx>  
<http://www.bhfactive.org.uk/research-and-evaluation-resources-and-publications-item/335/index.html>

Regardless of time spent in formal exercise, spending prolonged periods in sitting can contribute to premature morbidity and mortality



# In people with MS ....

↑ incidence of:

- Osteoporosis (Cosman 1998, Dobson 2013), and associated fractures (Bhattacharya 2014)
- Depression (Zorzon et al 2001)
- Fatigue (Petajan & White 1999)
- Cardiovascular diseases (Bronnum-Hansen 2004, Jadidi 2013, Motl 2011)

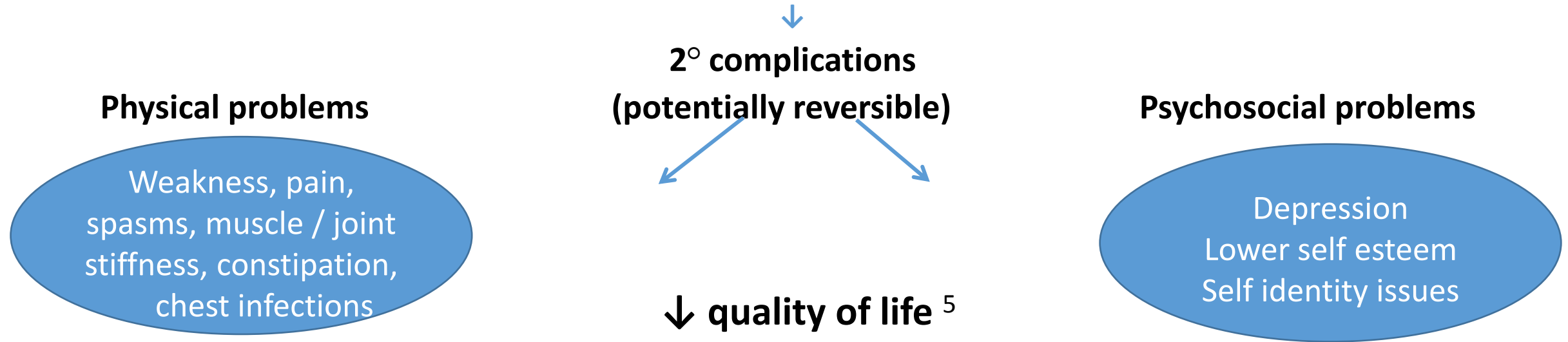
There is:

- ↓ aerobic capacity (maximal O<sub>2</sub> consumption) (Mostert et al 2002)
- ↓ muscle activation, mass and strength (Dalgas 2008)
- conflicting info re ↑ resting HR, ↑ diastolic blood pressure (Anema et al 1991, Pepin et al 1996)

**Co-morbidities are higher in those in the progressive phase of the disease** (Marrie 2010, 2013 2015; Simpson 2014)

# Impact of prolonged sitting in MS

25% of people with MS spend much of their day sitting



## Significant economic costs:

- ~ 15% of pwMS develop pressure sores (costs of a single sore range from £1,064 (grade 1) to £24,214 (grade 4)<sup>6</sup>.
- Average cost per wheelchair dependent patient is 4–5 times > ambulatory patient<sup>7</sup>.
- Significant ↑ in emergency hospital admissions in people with progressive neurological disability, including MS.

# Managing these issues is a key goal of therapists:

But....

- How difficult is it to achieve this in people who have precarious balance / difficulty walking to go to local gyms or exercise classes?
- Do you struggle with designing exercise programmes to suit their needs?
- How easy is it for people to undertake the exercises you prescribe them?
- Do they/ their carers struggle undertaking them regularly and over the long term?
- How much time is spent sitting down?
- .....even when they are exercising!



Effective self-management strategies are needed..... but challenging

Could use of a standing frame programme within a self-management programme at home be a potential option for addressing this?





# What's the evidence? (1)

Clinical

Therapeutic standing for people with multiple sclerosis: Efficacy and feasibility

Karen Baker, Elizabeth Cassidy, Shari Rone-Adams

***Baker et al (2007) Int J Ther Rehabil 14(3):104-9***

**Pilot cross-over pilot RCT**

**Home based standing 30 min/daily/3weeks versus exercise programme**

**Participants: n=6, >EDSS7.0, 2° progressive MS**

**Outcomes: spasticity, spasms, range of motion LL joints (0.3.6. weeks)**

**Results: in standing groups sig ↑ hip and ankle ROM ( $p<0.05$ ) ; trend ↓ spasticity and spasms**

# What's the evidence? (2)

Disability  
and  
Rehabilitation

An international, multidisciplinary journal

<http://informahealthcare.com/dre>  
ISSN 0963-8288 print/ISSN 1464-5165 online

Disabil Rehabil, Early Online: 1–8  
© 2014 Informa UK Ltd. DOI: 10.3109/09638288.2014.957790

**informa**  
healthcare

---

## RESEARCH PAPER

### **A pilot mixed methods investigation of the use of Oswestry standing frames in the homes of nine people with severe multiple sclerosis**

W. A. Hendrie<sup>1</sup>, M. J. Watson<sup>2</sup>, and M. A. McArthur<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>MS Centre, Icen Court, Norwich, UK and <sup>2</sup>School of Allied Health Professionals, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

- Mixed-methods approach:
- 9 in-depth single case studies (ABC design)
- 6 women, 3 men; Using wheelchair as predominant means of mobility ; Able to be assisted into standing position
- Regular standing over 1 year, 30 minutes/ 3x weekly
- Stat. sig. improvements in strength, ADL, spasms ( $p < 0.05$ ) (but not pain, bowel frequency)
- Subjective improvements in continence, clonus and fall rate



# Hendrie et al 2014: Qualitative component

Phenomenological perspective: lived experience of standing

In-depth interviews at three time points with 9 participants (n=27) over the year

## **Overarching findings:**

The programme reinstated a sense of belonging and optimism by restoring important life roles, a sense of achievement and feelings of normality



## **Regaining Skills**

“You feel as if you are doing something to make it better, you are more in control” (John)

## **Changed Body, Changed Mind**

“When you are sitting you get shorter and shorter...but when you stand up you feel proud and great again...” (Frances)

## **Relationship Roles**

“I know I can't go out much now, suddenly I can go up and I'm part of it anyway” (Louise)

## **Optimism for the Future**

“When you stand and achieve things, the feel-good factor overflows emotionally and you start to feel good about other things, so you start to plan other things.....” (Sue)

# What's the evidence (3)

*Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, 2012; Early Online: 1–9  
© 2012 Informa UK, Ltd.  
ISSN 1748-3107 print/ISSN 1748-3115 online  
DOI: 10.3109/17483107.2012.678031

**informa**  
healthcare

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

## On an equal footing: adults' accounts of the experience of using assistive devices for standing

Birgitta Nordström<sup>1,2</sup>, Annika Näslund<sup>2</sup> & Lilly Ekenberg<sup>1</sup>

**Aim:** to illuminate the meaning that standing holds for persons who use standing devices

**Approach:** phenomenological/hermeneutical; in-depth interviews n = 15 (7 progr; ? n = MS)

All had been using standing devices (tilt tables, standing frames, standing wheelchairs) > 1yr

### Overarching findings :

- the upright body position opens up an opportunity for connection to the outside world.
- has both physical and psychological benefits
- may be something that unites the body and self.

## **Alters the Person's Sense of Self**

Standing creates the sensation of having a living body

It gives a feeling of the body being in training & standing, to do what one could for one's body.

"...but it becomes another thing, then I am not as insignificant... I become more like others, it is more normal."

## **Augments the Person's Availability to the Outside World**

Standing opened up the sensation of independence and provided the opportunity to look at the world with new eyes.

'Oh is it here, at this height, that it all happens,' where I was before... nowadays you see everything from below. All of a sudden I was a normal person!

## **Strengthens Social Interplay**

"I think that collaboration works better when one is standing up; it is obvious, when one is lying down... you can't collaborate..."

## **Changes a Person's Motivation and their Expectations over Time**

Standing was a way to ensure that one's body would be able to cope with what the future would bring.

# What's the evidence? (4)

80% of pwMS have  $\uparrow$  in muscle stiffness due to passive stiffness and/or spasticity.

## Methods

- Lab-based study
- Joint position measured using 3D motion analysis
- Applied force by torque transducers.
- Slow (50/s) & fast (1700/s) stretches applied via a motor to measure stiffness

Results: duration and magnitude of force required to  $\downarrow$  stiffness in hypertonic LL muscles was only achieved in supported standing position with greater disability

## Investigating 4 different Stretches

WALL



STEP



FRAME



PULL



27 pwMS (EDSS 4.5-7.0) were compared to 15 age and gender matched controls.



Marsden, Ofori and Freeman 2013<sup>9</sup>



# What's the evidence? (5)

## **The effect of supported standing in adults with upper motor neurone disorders: a systematic review**

**Meredith Newman and Karen Barker**

Clinical Rehabilitation  
26(12) 1059–1077  
© The Author(s) 2012  
Reprints and permissions:  
sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav  
DOI: 10.1177/0269215512443373  
cre.sagepub.com  


Static frames and tilt tables

Methodology:

- 17 RCT's (SCI, ABI, PD, CP, Stroke, MS )
- n = 540 participants, 73% non-ambulant
- One pilot RCT in MS (Baker [2007] )



# Newman et al 2012 :

## What were the effects of standing?

Outcome	Number of studies / 17	Improved Outcome
Spasticity	9/17	7/9
Range of Movement	7/17	5/7 *
Bowel function	7/17	5/5
Bladder function	4/17	4/4
Spasms	4/17	3/4
Weakness	2/17	2/2
Activities Daily Living	2/17	2/2
Posture	2/17	2/2
Respiration	2/17	2/2
Pressure Ulcers	2/17	2/2: 17% & 37% improved
Pain	1/17	32% improved

Conclusions: more robust evidence is required

# SuMS

## Standing Up in Multiple Sclerosis

**A multi-centre randomised controlled trial to assess the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of a home-based self-management standing frame programme plus usual care versus usual care in people with progressive MS who have severely impaired balance and mobility.**

Investigators: J Freeman (CI), W Hendrie, L Jarrett, A Barton,  
S Creanor, A Hawton, J Marsden, J Zajicek



***National Institute for  
Health Research***

Freeman/London ACPIN/May2016



# Aims of SUMS study

## Primary aim

- to assess the clinical and cost effectiveness of the home-based standing frame programme plus usual care versus usual care

## Secondary aim

- to qualitatively explore the impact of this programme from the perspective of the person with MS and their carer

# Objectives of SUMS study

1. Assess clinical effectiveness in improving motor function (primary outcome) and quality of life.
2. Assess clinical effectiveness in improving balance, muscle strength, joint and muscle range, painful spasms, respiratory, bladder and bowel function, number of falls (secondary outcomes).
3. Establish cost effectiveness
4. Explore the subjective experience of using a standing frame within the home (pwMS and carer perspective).



# SUMS Trial Design

- Pragmatic multi-centre RCT with blinded outcome assessment and full economic evaluation.
- 3 year study
- 140 people with progressive MS
- Standing programme over 20 weeks plus 16 week follow up
- Blinded assessments by research therapist at local centres: 0, 20, 36 weeks
- Audio diaries 20 people throughout study



Participant information sheet given to participant

Telephone screening to:  
- Check entry criteria  
- Arrange an appointment for assessment

**Week 1**  
-Opportunity to ask questions  
-Consent  
-60 minute baseline assessment by independent assessor  
-Random Allocation to intervention/ usual care group

**Weeks 1 – 20  
Standing Frame Group**  
-Standing Frame ordered and delivered  
-Two NHS physio. sessions set up the standing programme  
- Standing 3x weekly for 30 minutes (20 weeks)  
- 6 telephone calls by physiotherapist to check progress  
- Monitoring of adverse events  
- Audio diaries (sub set)

**Weeks 1 – 20  
Usual Care Group**  
-Continue with usual physiotherapy and healthcare  
- Monitoring of adverse events

**Week 20**

60 minute baseline assessment by independent assessor  
Continue with usual care / standing programme

**Week 36**

60 minute baseline assessment by independent assessor  
End of study

**Fidelity Checking**



# 8 Study Centres

1. Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care Trust
2. Northern Devon Trust
3. Livewell South West (nee Plymouth Community Health)
4. Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust
5. Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CFT) (nee Peninsula Community Health)
6. Norfolk Community Health and Care Trust
7. Suffolk Community Health and Care Trust
8. East Coast Community Health Care CIC

Each site has on average seven teams involved in delivering physiotherapy within the community



# SUMS: Where are we now?

As of 14.5.16

55 participants :

- 28 South west
- 27 East Anglia

SUMS Study Web-site

[www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/sums](http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/sums)

If you know of any other people with MS who may be interested in participating in this study, please do let us know.

Jenny Freeman: 01752 588835

[jenny.freeman@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:jenny.freeman@plymouth.ac.uk)

[SUMSstudy@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:SUMSstudy@plymouth.ac.uk)



# Summary

- People with progressive MS generally lead sedentary lives, and find it difficult to increase their activity levels. As physio's it can be very challenging supporting them to change this.
- Preliminary evidence suggests supported standing:
  - help to confirm and build a person's trust in his/her body and self
  - may have positive physical outcomes for people with progressive MS who have severely impaired balance and mobility
- No evidence to date looks at cost effectiveness
- Watch this space for more definitive evidence (2018) on the SUMS Study Web-site [www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/sums](http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/sums)

# References

1. Sutliff MH. Contribution of impaired mobility to patient burden in multiple sclerosis. *Current Medical Research Opinion* 2010; 26: 109.
2. Heesen C et al . Patient perception of bodily functions in multiple sclerosis: Gait and visual function are the most valuable. *Multiple Sclerosis* 2008; 14:998–991.
3. National Institute of Clinical Excellence. Multiple Sclerosis: national clinical guidelines for the diagnosis and management in primary and secondary care, 2003
4. McCrone P et al. Multiple sclerosis in the UK: service use, costs, quality of life and disability. *Pharmaco Economic* 2008; 26: 847–860
5. Jones S et al. The burden of multiple sclerosis: A community health survey. *Health Quality of Life Outcomes* 2008; 6:1 doi:10.1186/1477-7525-6-1
6. Royal College of Physicians The national audit of services for people with multiple sclerosis 2011. Royal College of Physicians, London.
7. Kobelt G et al. Costs and quality of life of multiple sclerosis in the United Kingdom. *European Journal of Health Economics* 2006; 7: S96-104
8. Hendrie W et al. A pilot mixed methods investigation of the use of Oswestry standing frames in the homes of nine people with severe multiple sclerosis. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 2014. DOI: 10.3109/09638288.2014.957790
9. Marsden J et al. Factors influencing the applied torque during manually applied plantarflexor stretches in people with Multiple Sclerosis (Abstract). *MS Frontiers Conference*, London, 2013.
10. Baker K et al. Therapeutic standing for people with multiple sclerosis: Efficacy and feasibility. *International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation*, 2007; 14 (3): 104-109.
11. Newman M & Barker K. The effect of supported standing in adults with upper motor neurone disorders: a systematic review. *Clinical Rehabilitation*. 2012; 26(12): 1059- 1077
12. Nordström B e al . On an equal footing: adults' accounts of the experience of using assistive devices for standing. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, 2012; Early Online: 1–9

Thank you for listening: any questions?

**Faculty of Health and Human Sciences  
Plymouth University**

[Jenny.freeman@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:Jenny.freeman@plymouth.ac.uk)

**RESEARCH  
WITH  
PLYMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY**

