Focus Groups - first thoughts

# Short version

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| Inputs | Focus Groups | Outputs |
| **GOAL:** We want to design an effective system that can help people with tetraplegia facilitate their independence, in activities of daily life.    **AIM:** To design better tools, we want to understand the  *Ideal features and control systems for an assistive tool or robot for people with tetraplegia*    **WHO**   1. Carers of people with tetraplegia: Include caring staff and family 2. Friends of people with tetraplegia: family and friends of people with tetraplegia 3. Employers of people with tetraplegia | * + What people want to achieve, depending on context (ADLs, recreational, professional)   + Daily needs and wants of people with tetraplegia (What do they want to achieve, outputs)   + How they control devices (inputs)     (Plenty of questions down below) | * + Technical specs for robotic (or other) systems in the following spheres:      * + Activities people want to perform with such a system      |  | | --- | | Activities of Daily Living sphere | | Recreational sphere | | Vocational sphere |      * + Control devices preferences and ideas, *including interface* |

We need input in designing a better system

Need to do some reading…

* Do people prefer fully automated tools? Just granular control? Mix of both?
* Ongoing review paper answers what devices work for people

For control of robotic systems, most solutions are imperfect and experimental

# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

* 1. Define the purpose: Define the purpose of your focus group, the research objectives, and the questions you want to ask. This will help you identify the appropriate participants, structure the discussion, and select the appropriate venue and time.

## OBJECTIVE: Better understand the daily needs of people with tetraplegia.

*"We need help in* ***designing tools*** *that can* ***increase independence*** *in* ***people with severe disabilities****."*

## AIMS:

* 1. To better design tools, we want to better understand the daily needs and wants of people with tetraplegia
  2. We want to design an effective system that can help people with tetraplegia facilitate their independence, in activities of daily life, recreation and work.

### WHAT CONTEXT

Split according to context. Independence for activities of **daily life**, **recreation** and **work.**

Rather than family members, it *might be better* to split into **context "spheres"**(?)

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| --- | --- |
| What would allow greater home independence? | Activities of Daily Living sphere |
| What would improve time with friends and family? | Recreational sphere |
| What would enable better work opportunities? | Vocational sphere |

### DESIRED OUTPUT SYSTEMS

(For the robot, not for the focus groups)

What should the system accomplish? What tasks? What is desired?

Identifying barriers, current status and desires.

### 

### PREFERED INPUTS METHODS

How to control this system? What inputs? What interface? What works best for you?

## OUTPUTS FROM THE FOCUS GROUPS

* 1. *Ideally*, the output would be detailed functional requirements. Design of the system as they want it.
  2. Notes about the ***interface*** and preferences
  3. Common activities people would like to perform

EXISTING SYSTEMS? -> Might distract from new options?

*Answered in my ongoing review*

LITERATURE ANSWER-> Regain control of hands is the third most important (\cite{}). Area to tackle Somewhat constrained by my skillset in robotics.

* 1. What would they want to do if they had more independence?
  2. What are the main priorities if they had hand control?
  3. How do they want to do it?

* 1. Identify participants: Identify the right participants for your focus group. Select people who have the experience, expertise, and perspectives that are relevant to your research objective.

# PARTICIPANTS

## Potential participants

* 1. Individuals with tetraplegia
  2. Carers of people with tetraplegia: Include caring staff and family
  3. Friends of people with tetraplegia: family and friends of people with tetraplegia
  4. Employers of people with tetraplegia

Boundaries will probably be quite blurry

## Recruitment

Through:

* 1. [Charities](onenote:#Charities&section-id={7F1A0576-29DF-4373-A487-38849F9E9771}&page-id={F07B1919-4FB0-4F65-8AE3-41E0117A1B09}&end&base-path=https://uweacuk-my.sharepoint.com/personal/emanuel2_nunezsardinha_live_uwe_ac_uk/Documents/Emanuel%20@%20UWE%20Bristol/PhD.one) & disability organizations
  2. Social media (?)
  3. [Contacts](onenote:#Potential Participants&section-id={7F1A0576-29DF-4373-A487-38849F9E9771}&page-id={2A818AFA-02C1-4D4B-B5D2-04518848C653}&end&base-path=https://uweacuk-my.sharepoint.com/personal/emanuel2_nunezsardinha_live_uwe_ac_uk/Documents/Emanuel%20@%20UWE%20Bristol/PhD.one)
  4. [Companies](onenote:#Companies&section-id={7F1A0576-29DF-4373-A487-38849F9E9771}&page-id={FAFED1FC-30A6-4DEC-AD1A-027BD197554C}&end&base-path=https://uweacuk-my.sharepoint.com/personal/emanuel2_nunezsardinha_live_uwe_ac_uk/Documents/Emanuel%20@%20UWE%20Bristol/PhD.one)

# METHODS

* 1. Choose the moderator: Select an experienced moderator who can guide the discussion and ensure that all participants are heard. The moderator should be neutral, knowledgeable, and skilled in managing group dynamics.

?!?!?!?!?!?!?

Marcela?

…Nancy?

Do we need to hire someone?

* 1. Plan the logistics: Plan the logistics, including the venue, date, and time. Choose a location that is comfortable and convenient for the participants, and make sure that the venue has the necessary equipment, such as audio and video recording devices.

* 1. *Ideally the lab* (book the *big seminar room* or the *Robotics Innovation Facility), however,* meeting place will highly depend on participants conditions and availability.
     + Maybe *visit them* at a hospital or center?
     + Should we split on multiple sessions depending on availability?
  2. We probably need a lot of equipment to make discussion easy. Small groups, big projectors, allow participants and carers to participate. Make super accessible
  3. Should we ask for financial support from UWE for this?

* 1. Develop the discussion guide: Develop a discussion guide that outlines the questions you want to ask, the order in which they will be asked, and any follow-up questions or probes that may be needed.

# Leading questions courtesy of chatgpt

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| --- |
| * + - In what aspects of your daily life do you encounter the most challenges or limitations due to your tetraplegia?     - Can you share specific examples of situations where you feel your independence is restricted? How would you envision overcoming those challenges?    ADLS  * + - What types of tools or assistive technologies do you currently use to enhance your independence? Are there any limitations or improvements you would like to see in those existing tools?     - How do you manage household tasks and activities independently? Are there any specific activities where you face significant difficulties or require assistance?     - When it comes to mobility, what obstacles do you frequently encounter in your environment? How do these barriers impact your ability to move around independently?     - What are your experiences with communication and accessing information? Are there any barriers you face in effectively communicating your needs or accessing information you require?    Family and friends (Recreational sphere)  * + - In terms of recreational activities and hobbies, are there any particular ***interests or passions*** that you find challenging to pursue **due** (**or despite?**) to your tetraplegia? How do you think those activities could be made more accessible?       * Phrase more carefully     - In an ideal world, what would your daily life look like in terms of independence and accessibility? Are there any specific features or innovations you would like to see in tools designed for individuals with tetraplegia?    Technology  * + - What are your thoughts on the current ***availability and affordability*** of assistive technologies? Are there any specific areas where you believe improvements can be made to enhance accessibility?     - Can you describe any ***positive experiences*** you've had with tools or solutions that have ***significantly improved your independence?*** What made those solutions effective or valuable to you?     Remember, these questions are meant to stimulate discussions and gather diverse perspectives. Feel free to tailor them to the specific needs and experiences of the individuals participating in the focus group. |

# RESULTS

…we'll get here when we get here

* 1. Conduct the focus group: Conduct the focus group according to the discussion guide, and make sure that all participants have an opportunity to share their views. Encourage open and honest discussion, and be respectful of different viewpoints.

* 1. Analyze the results: Analyze the results of the focus group to identify key themes, insights, and trends. Use the results to inform your research objectives, and to develop recommendations for action.

# DISCUSSION

* 1. Report the findings: Report the findings of the focus group in a clear and concise manner, and share them with key stakeholders. Use the findings to inform decision-making and to guide future research.

## TIPS (GPT)

There are several ways to set up focus groups for people with disabilities. Here are some tips that can help you get started:

* 1. **Recruit participants**: You can recruit participants through disability organizations, social media, or by posting flyers in public places.
  2. **Choose a location**: Make sure the location is accessible for people with disabilities. This includes wheelchair accessibility, accessible restrooms, and parking.
  3. **Provide accommodations**: Provide accommodations such as sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or materials in alternative formats.
  4. **Use inclusive language**: Use inclusive language that is respectful and avoids stereotypes.
  5. **Facilitate the discussion**: Facilitate the discussion by asking open-ended questions and encouraging everyone to participate.
  6. **Provide refreshments**: Provide refreshments such as snacks and drinks.
  7. **Compensate participants**: Consider compensating participants for their time and effort.

These are just some tips to help you get started. You can find more information on how to set up focus groups for people with disabilities by visiting [Scope UK](https://www.scope.org.uk/advice-and-support/meeting-new-people-making-friends/) or [Citizens Advice](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/CitizensAdvice/Equalities/How%20to%20run%20focus%20groups%20guide.pdf).

From <[*https://www.bing.com/search?OCID=MY02AP&FORM=ANSRW1&q=Bing+AI&showconv=1*](https://www.bing.com/search?OCID=MY02AP&FORM=ANSRW1&q=Bing+AI&showconv=1)>

# Chat GPT going nuts

Good for ideas, rephrase as it can be blunt

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| **Legend** |
| Sounds good! |
| …Careful |

Select few (2-3?) of each.

Maybe we should have the same standard questions for the *spheres* categories.

Questions for

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Input Devices | Output Devices | ADLs | Recreational | Professional |
| * 1. Can you share specific examples of situations where you feel your independence is restricted? How would you envision overcoming those challenges?      * 1. What types of tools or assistive technologies do you currently use to enhance your independence? Are there any limitations or improvements you would like to see in those existing tools?      * 1. How do you manage household tasks and activities independently? Are there any specific activities where you face significant difficulties or require assistance?      * 1. When it comes to mobility, what obstacles do you frequently encounter in your environment? How do these barriers impact your ability to move around independently?      * 1. What are your experiences with communication and accessing information? Are there any barriers you face in effectively communicating your needs or accessing information you require?      * 1. What are your thoughts on the current availability and affordability of assistive technologies? Are there any specific areas where you believe improvements can be made to enhance accessibility?   2. Can you describe any positive experiences you've had with tools or solutions that have significantly improved your independence? What made those solutions effective or valuable to you?       From <[*https://chat.openai.com/?model=text-davinci-002-render-sha*](https://chat.openai.com/?model=text-davinci-002-render-sha)> | * 1. In what aspects of your daily life do you encounter the most challenges or limitations due to your tetraplegia, specifically in terms of receiving output or feedback from devices?      * 1. Can you share specific examples of situations where you feel your independence is restricted due to limitations in receiving output or feedback from devices? How would you envision overcoming those challenges in terms of accessing and interpreting information?      * 1. What types of tools or assistive technologies do you currently use to enhance your independence and receive output from devices? Are there any limitations or improvements you would like to see in those existing tools, particularly in terms of output systems?      * 1. How do you currently interact with and interpret information from household devices, technology, or communication systems independently? Are there any specific activities where you face significant difficulties or require assistance with accessing and understanding device output?      * 1. What are your experiences with different output methods, such as visual displays, tactile feedback, auditory cues, or alternative interfaces? Are there any specific output systems or technologies that you find particularly effective or challenging to use?      * 1. In terms of recreational activities, communication, or accessing information, are there any particular interests or passions where receiving output or feedback presents challenges? How do you think those activities could be made more accessible in terms of output systems and information interpretation?      * 1. What are your thoughts on the current availability and affordability of assistive technologies with diverse output systems? Are there any specific areas where you believe improvements can be made to enhance accessibility and affordability in terms of device output?      * 1. In an ideal world, what would your daily life look like in terms of independence, accessibility, and receiving output or feedback from devices? Are there any specific features or innovations you would like to see in output systems designed for individuals with tetraplegia?       From <[*https://chat.openai.com/?model=text-davinci-002-render-sha*](https://chat.openai.com/?model=text-davinci-002-render-sha)> | * 1. In what basic everyday life activities do you encounter the most challenges or limitations due to your tetraplegia? How do these challenges affect your sense of independence and autonomy?      * 1. Can you share specific examples of situations in basic everyday activities where you feel your independence is restricted? How would you envision overcoming those challenges to increase your level of independence?      * 1. What are the primary barriers you face in accomplishing basic everyday tasks independently, such as personal hygiene, dressing, eating, or household chores? How do these barriers impact your overall well-being and quality of life?      * 1. Are there any specific tools, assistive devices, or techniques you currently use to enhance your independence in basic everyday activities? Are there any limitations or improvements you would like to see in those existing solutions?      * 1. How do you navigate the physical environment to ensure accessibility and ease of movement in basic everyday tasks? Are there any specific modifications or adaptations you would like to see in the environment to facilitate your independence?      * 1. What are your experiences with communication and social interaction during basic everyday activities? Are there any barriers you face in effectively expressing your needs, participating in conversations, or engaging in social settings?      * 1. Can you describe any positive experiences you've had with tools, adaptations, or support systems that have significantly improved your independence in basic everyday tasks? What made those solutions effective or valuable to you?        * 1. In an ideal world, what would your daily life look like in terms of independence, accessibility, and engagement in basic everyday activities? Are there any specific features or innovations you would like to see in tools or environments designed for individuals with tetraplegia?       From <[*https://chat.openai.com/?model=text-davinci-002-render-sha*](https://chat.openai.com/?model=text-davinci-002-render-sha)> | * 1. What recreational activities or hobbies do you enjoy or have an interest in pursuing? How does your tetraplegia impact your ability to engage in these activities independently?      * 1. What are the primary barriers you face in participating in recreational activities or hobbies?      * 1. Are there any specific adaptations, modifications, or tools you currently use to overcome these barriers and increase your independence?      * 1. How do you currently access information or resources related to recreational activities? Are there any limitations or challenges you face in finding relevant information, joining communities, or accessing necessary equipment?      * 1. Are there any particular recreational activities or hobbies that you find inaccessible or difficult to adapt due to your tetraplegia? How do you think these activities could be made more inclusive and accessible?      * 1. What are your experiences with assistive technologies or adaptive equipment designed for recreational activities?      * 1. Are there any specific tools or innovations that you find particularly helpful or lacking in the current market?      * 1. In terms of social and group activities, how do you experience inclusion and participation? Are there any specific challenges you face in joining recreational activities with others, and how do you think those challenges could be addressed?     In terms of recreational activities or hobbies related to basic everyday life, are there any particular interests or passions that you find challenging to pursue? How do you think those activities could be made more accessible and enjoyable?    From <[*https://chat.openai.com/?model=text-davinci-002-render-sha*](https://chat.openai.com/?model=text-davinci-002-render-sha)> | * 1. What professional or vocational activities are you interested in or currently engaged in? How does your tetraplegia impact your ability to pursue these activities and advance in your career?      * 1. Can you share specific examples of professional or vocational situations where you feel your independence or advancement is restricted due to your tetraplegia? How would you envision overcoming those challenges to enhance your professional growth and success?      * 1. What are the primary barriers you face in your professional or vocational activities? Are there any specific adaptations, accommodations, or tools you currently use to overcome these barriers and increase your independence and productivity?      * 1. How do you currently access information, collaborate with others, or perform tasks related to your professional activities? Are there any limitations or challenges you face in terms of communication, accessing resources, or using technology?      * 1. Are there any specific professional or vocational activities that you find inaccessible or challenging to adapt due to your tetraplegia? How do you think these activities could be made more inclusive and supportive of individuals with tetraplegia?      * 1. What are your experiences with assistive technologies or adaptive equipment designed for professional or vocational activities? Are there any specific tools or innovations that you find particularly helpful or lacking in the current market?      * 1. In terms of career advancement and professional networking, how do you experience inclusion and equal opportunities? Are there any specific challenges you face in terms of access to education, job opportunities, or professional development?      * 1. What are your thoughts on the current availability and affordability of assistive technologies and resources that support professional or vocational activities? Are there any specific areas where you believe improvements can be made to enhance accessibility and affordability?      * 1. Can you describe any positive experiences you've had with adaptive equipment, workplace accommodations, or supportive programs that have significantly improved your independence and success in your professional or vocational activities? What made those solutions effective or valuable to you?           From <[*https://chat.openai.com/?model=text-davinci-002-render-sha*](https://chat.openai.com/?model=text-davinci-002-render-sha)> |

Identifying barriers would be quite nice

# Literature to check

* <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1468794120941846?journalCode=qrja>
* <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/eb045757/full/html>
* <https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/article/8/5/499/1843013>
* Focus Groups: A Practical Guide for Applied Research, By Richard A. Krueger
* Moderating Focus Groups: A Practical Guide for Group Facilitation, By Thomas L. Greenbaum

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