Jo Patterson is Professor of Speech & Language Therapy (SLT), based at the University of Liverpool and continues to balance her time between clinical and academic activities. She leads Head and Neck Cancer Survivorship theme at the Liverpool Head and Neck Cancer Centre. She specialises in speech, voice and swallowing outcomes and rehabilitation

Jo qualified as a SLT in 1991, previously working in head and neck cancer units in the South East, East Midlands and North East England. In 2004, she completed a Masters in Advanced Dysphagia at Newcastle University, with distinction. Her thesis focused on oedema (swelling) following head and neck cancer treatment. Jo was awarded a Department of Health Research Capacity Doctoral Fellowship 2005-2010 and gained a PhD from Newcastle University, in Swallowing Outcomes following (Chemo)radiotherapy. Following this, she was awarded a NIHR Clinical Lecturer Fellowship (2013-2016). During this time, she developed a novel intervention, which combined a talking therapy with a swallowing therapy programme (Cognitive-behavioural enhanced swallowing therapy) to address both the mechanical and psychosocial issues of living with swallowing difficulties.

Jo is involved in a number of national and international studies, focusing on improving patient outcomes and minimising the side effects of cancer treatments. She is committed to patient and public involvement in research, to ensure outputs are of high quality, high impact and relevance. Some examples of these studies include; reducing the intensity of radiotherapy treatment to improve swallowing outcomes[1] low level light laser therapy to reduce mucositis during radiotherapy[2] comparing cancer treatments to see which one is better for swallowing outcomes[3] using hypnotherapy to improve taste function after radiotherapy[4].

Jo supervises and mentors numerous Masters and Doctoral students. Topics include: Developing a swallowing outcome package for Kuwait, Route and patient experience of a diagnosis of head and neck cancer, Understanding the respiratory-swallow cycle, Return to work following head and neck cancer, Early swallowing outcomes following Transoral Robotic Surgery.

Jo is a Fellow and Professional Advisor for the Royal College of SLTs for research and head and neck cancer; she chairs the NIHR ENT national specialty group, providing strategic direction for AHP research in ENT practice; sits on the NCRI Head and Neck Epidemiology and Survivorship group, and is a SLT NIHR Training Advocate – providing support and advice for SLTs wanting to develop a clinical-academic career.

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1 https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/find-a-clinical-trial/a-trial-looking-at-treatment-after-surgery-for-hpv-positive-oropharyngeal-cancer-pathos

2 https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/find-a-clinical-trial/a-study-looking-at-whether-laser-therapy-helps-reduce-the-pain-and-impact-of-mouth-sores-in-people?_gl=1*xubhu4*_gcl_dc*R0NMLjE1OTY2MzgxOTUuQ0xYYYl9PdWtoT3NDRmNTTUd3b2RKS0lFdFE.&_ga=2.162525436.1552630558.1603713307-942783557.1588082327

3 https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02984410

4 https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/application-summaries/research-summaries/hypnosis-for-taste-in-head-and-neck-cancer-hyp-enhance/