

# Eye tracking in opsoclonus Myoclonus Ataxia Syndrome

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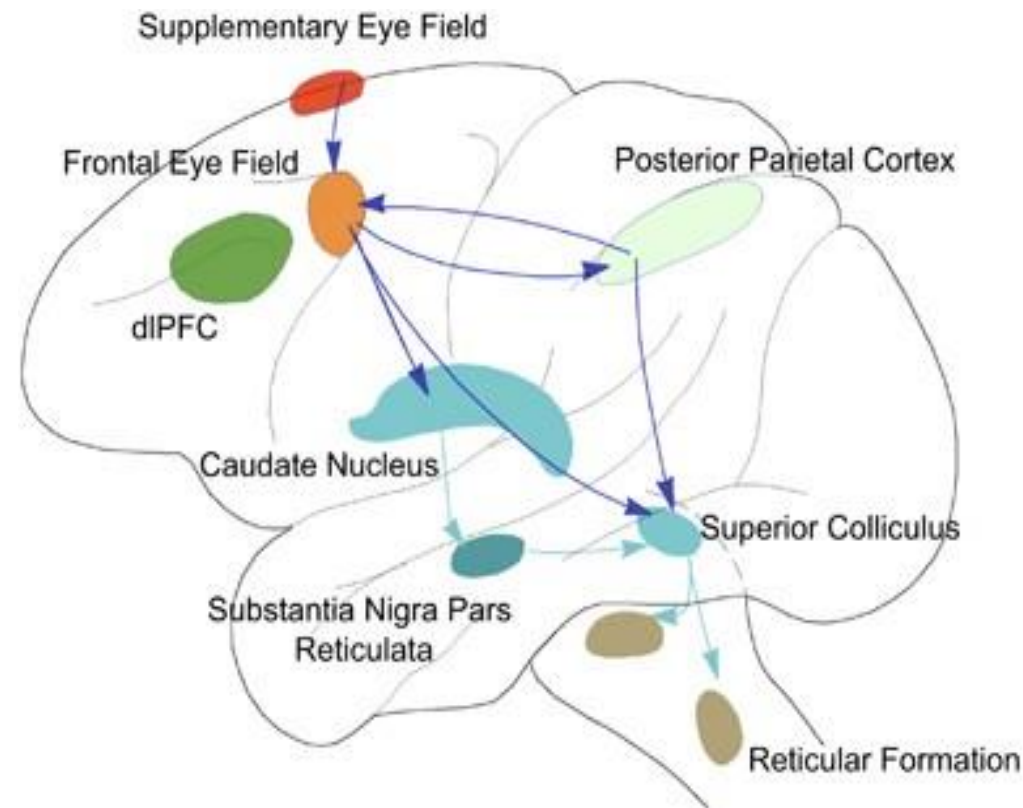
Garry Hurvitz  
Centre for Brain  
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# Disclosures

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# Eye movements and outcomes in OMAS




- Altered circuit dynamics in the brainstem reticular formation are known to associate with OMAS

*Original Article*

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# Brain Volumes in Opsoclonus-Myoclonus Ataxia Syndrome: A Longitudinal Study

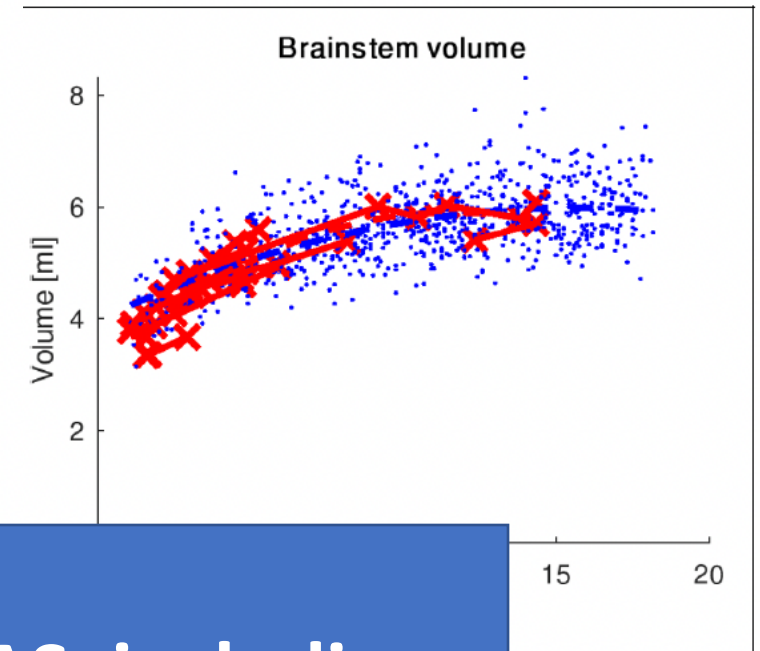
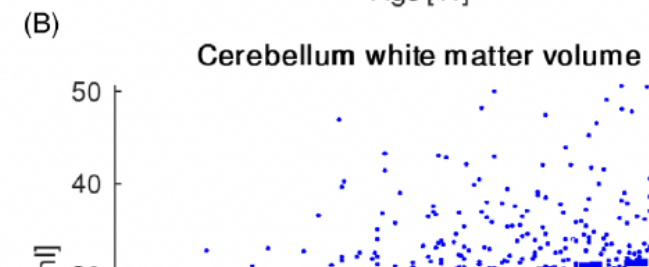
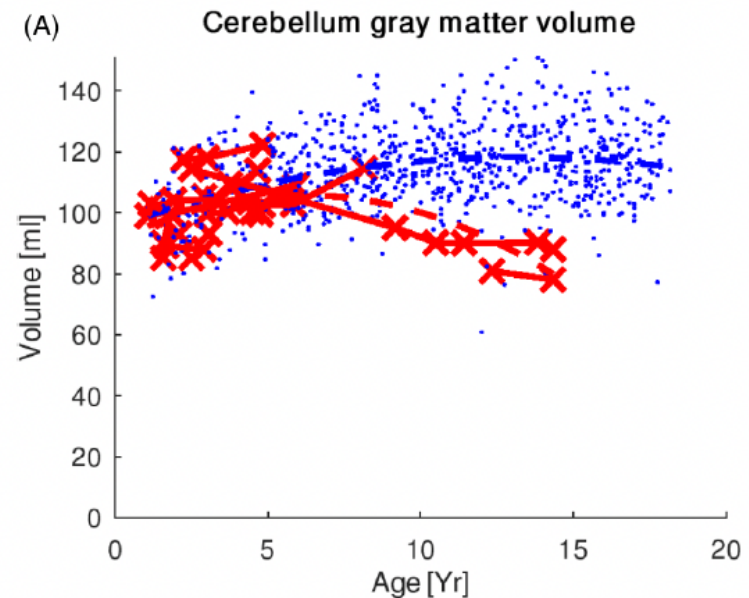
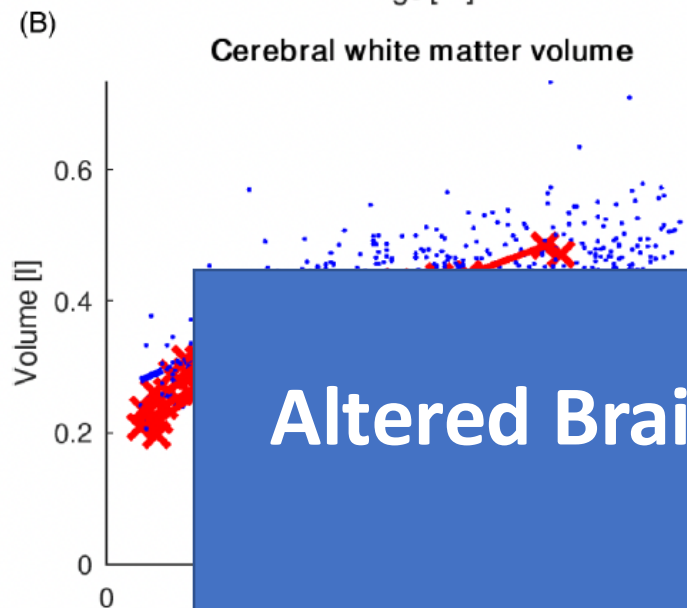
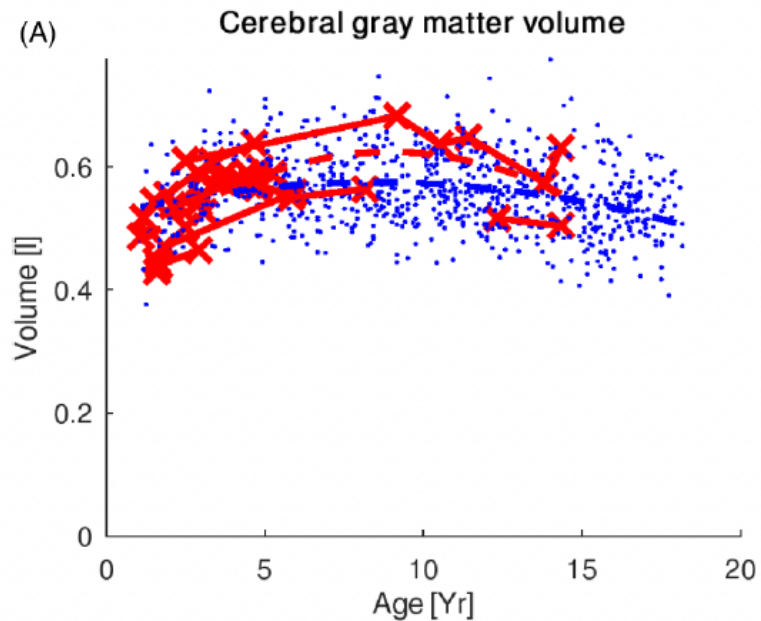
Montaha Almudhry, MD<sup>1</sup>, Matthias W. Wagner, MD<sup>2,3</sup>,  
Giulia Longoni, MD<sup>1,4</sup>, Carmen Yea, MSc<sup>1</sup>, Logi Vidarsson, PhD<sup>2</sup>,  
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**Altered Brain Growth trajectory in OMAS, including brainstem**

# Long term: Cognition



Tested 5 Cognitive Domains:

1. Set-Shifting
2. Inhibitory Control
3. Working Memory
4. Episodic Memory
5. Language

OMAS performed significantly worse than HC

## Dimensional Change Card Sort (DCCS) Task (SET SHIFTING)

	OMAS (n=8)	HC (n=12)	t df p
Median corrected score	76.5	108.5	-3.301 18.000 <b>0.004</b>

## Flanker Task (INHIBITORY CONTROL)

# Cognitive abnormalities in OMAS: inhibitory control

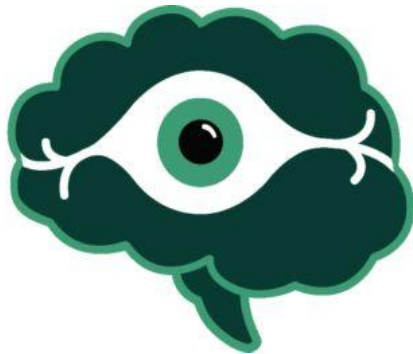
Median corrected score	89	103.5	-2.293. 14.000 <b>0.038</b>
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Do ongoing alterations in circuit dynamics exist?

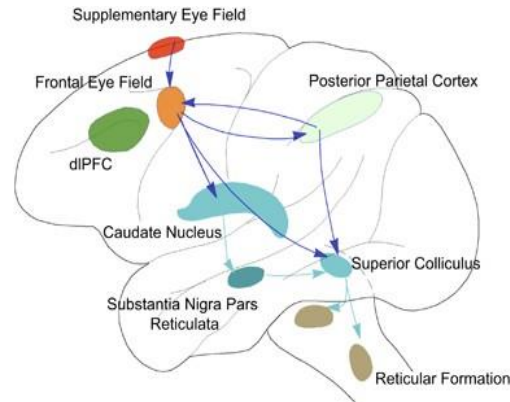
How do these abnormalities, if present, associate with functional outcomes in this population?

Is there an accessible way to ask these questions?

# Eye Tracking



Eye movements + fixations  
are *functional outcomes* →  
cognitive processes<sup>6</sup>



Good understanding of  
neural circuitry that  
regulates eye movements<sup>7</sup>



**Saccadic eye movements:**  
rapid eye movements that **shift the focus of attention** from one part of the visual field to another<sup>8</sup>

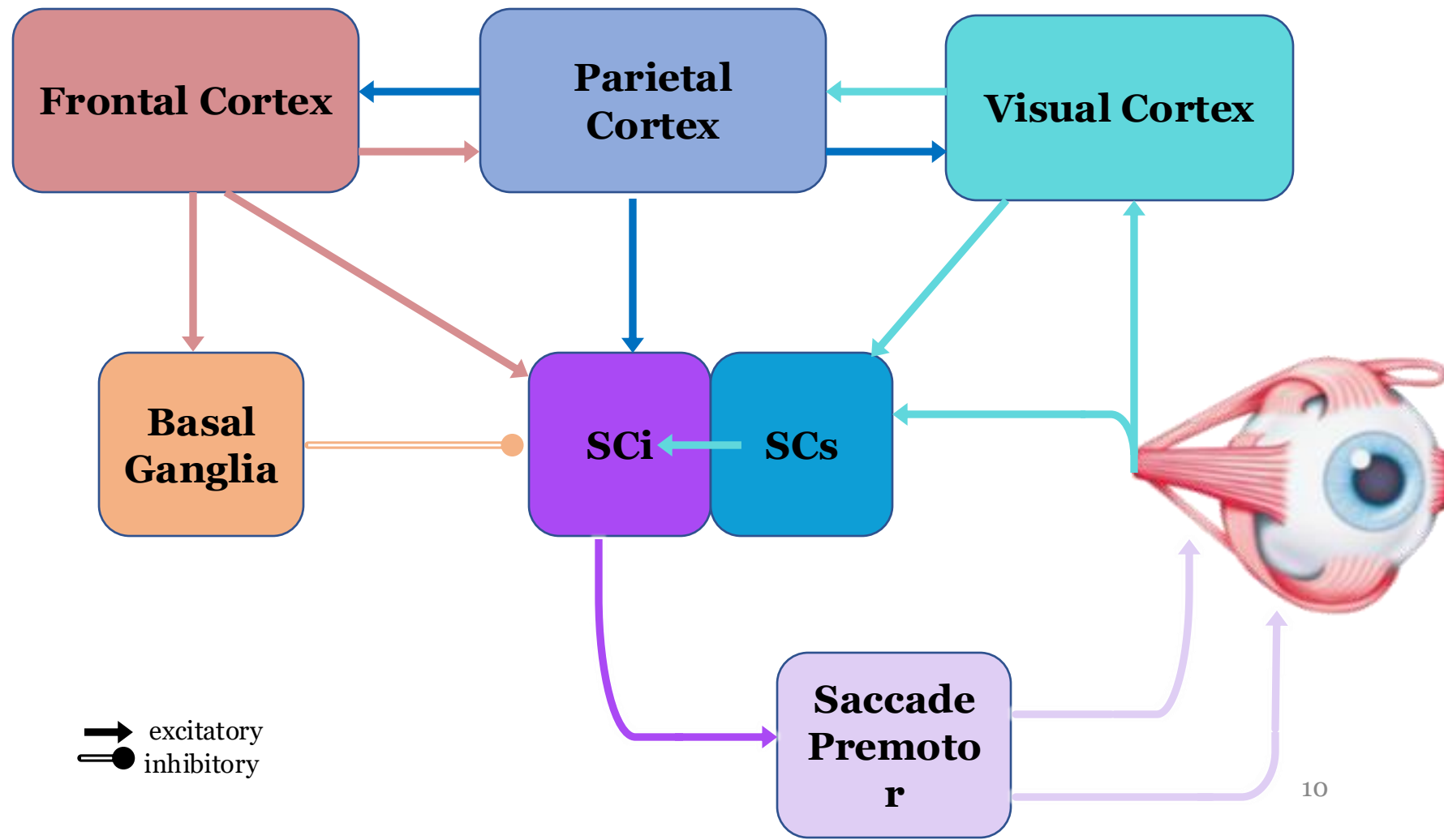
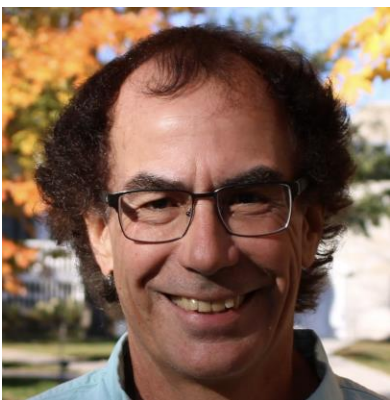
<sup>6</sup> Munoz, D. P., Armstrong, I., & Coe, B. (2007). Chapter 5 - Using eye movements to probe development and dysfunction. In *Eye Movements* (pp. 99–124). Elsevier Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-008044080-7/50007-0>

<sup>7</sup> Pouget, P. (2015). The cortex is in overall control of "voluntary" eye movement. *Eye (London)*, 29(2), 241–245. <https://doi.org/10.1038/eye.2014.284>

<sup>8</sup> Wong, A. M. F. (2008). *Eye movement disorders*. Oxford University Press.



# Saccade Control Circuit



# LOOK AWAY: THE ANTI-SACCADE TASK AND THE VOLUNTARY CONTROL OF EYE MOVEMENT

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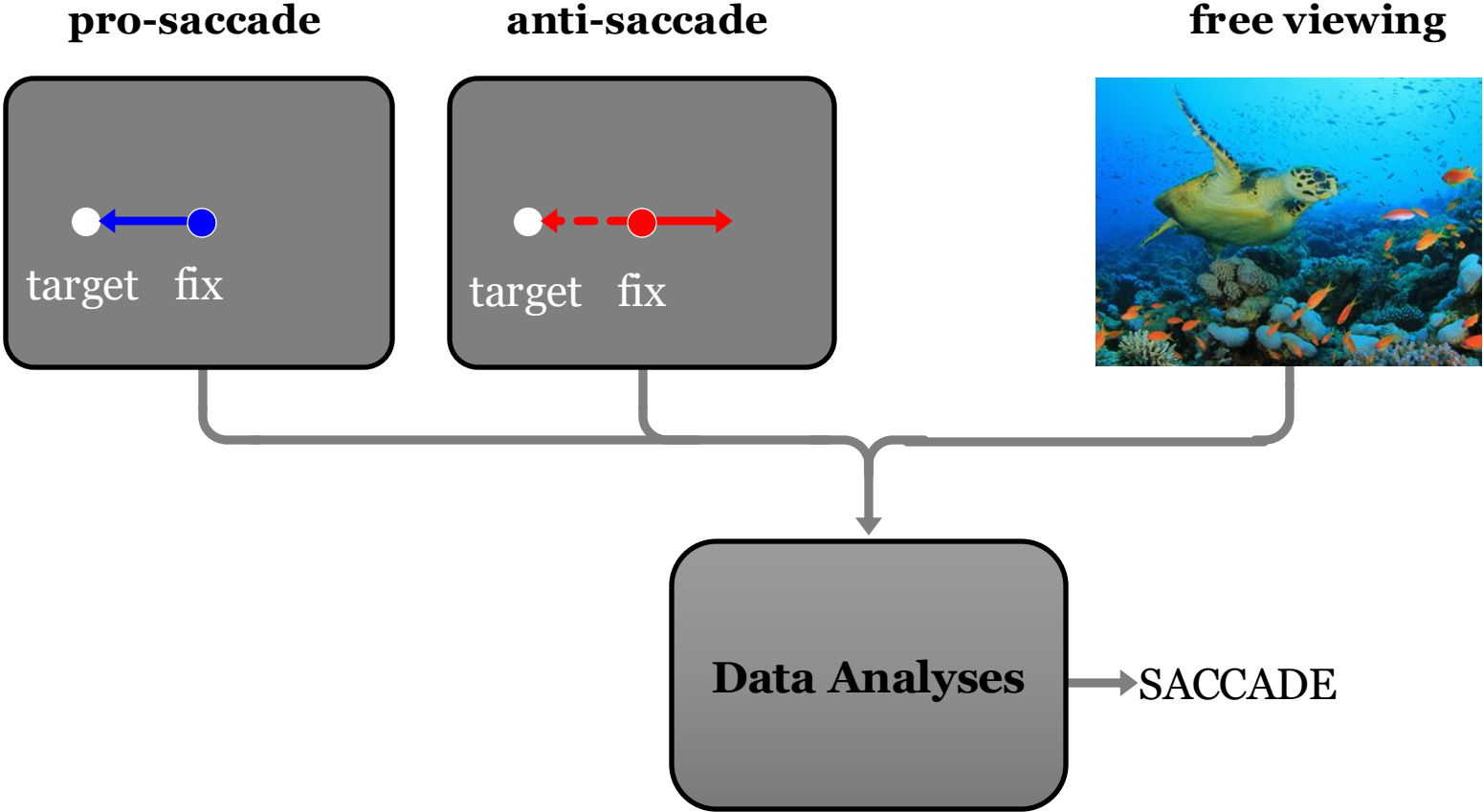
*Douglas P. Munoz<sup>\*</sup> and Stefan Everling<sup>†§</sup>*

**Eye Tracking can be used to evaluate executive  
function**

# What is eye tracking?

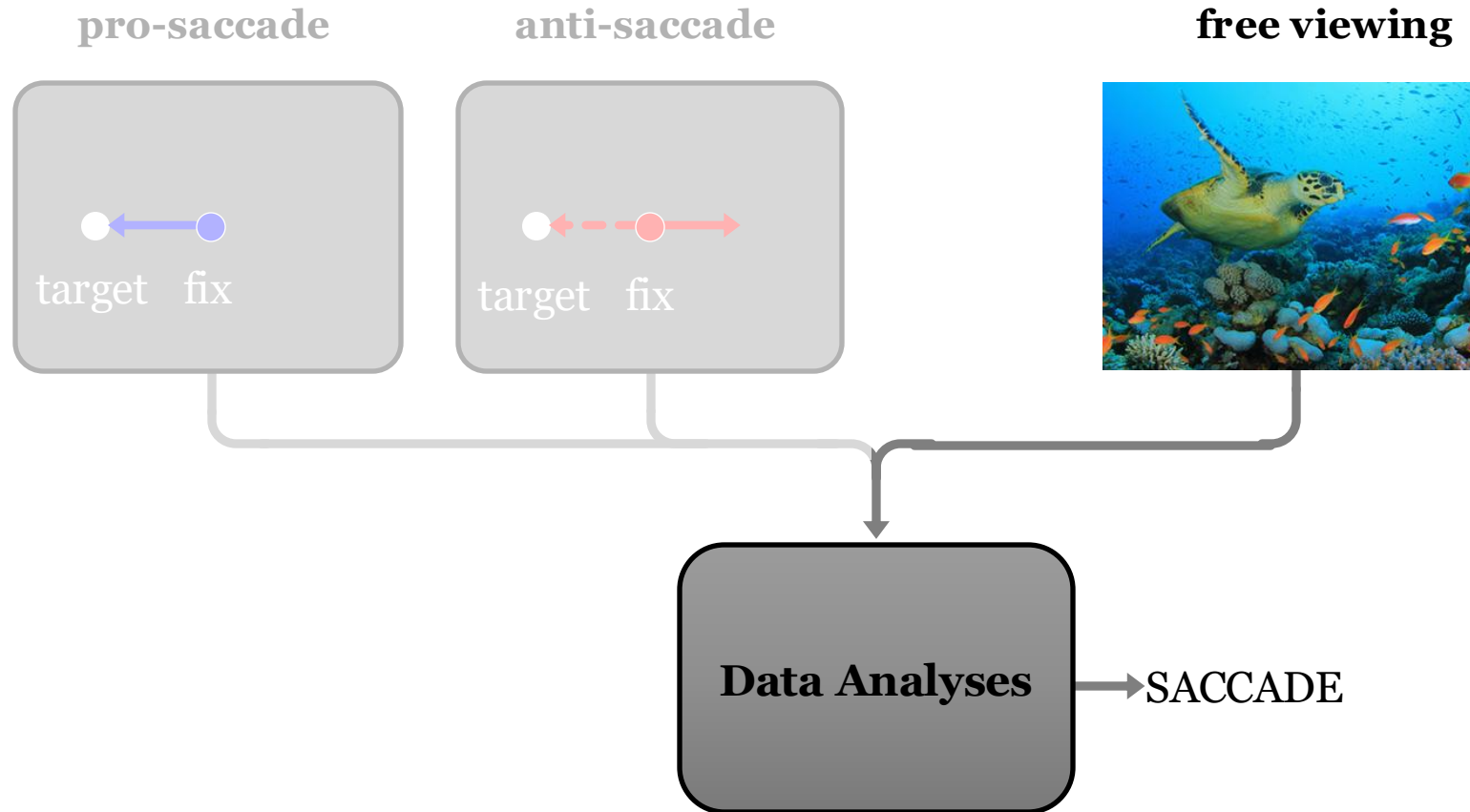
## STRUCTURED<sup>9</sup>

## UNSTRUCTURED<sup>10</sup>



Adapted from Doug Munoz

<sup>9</sup> Tao, L., Wang, Q., Liu, D., Wang, J., Zhu, Z., & Feng, L. (2020). Eye tracking metrics to screen and assess cognitive impairment in patients with neurological disorders. *Neurological Sciences*, 41(7), 1697–1704. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10072-020-04310-y>  
<sup>10</sup> Habibi, M., Oertel, W. H., White, B. J., Brien, D. C., Coe, B. C., Riek, H. C., Perkins, J., Yep, R., Itti, L., Timmermann, L., Best, C., Sittig, E., Janzen, A., & Munoz, D. P. (2022). Eye tracking identifies biomarkers in  $\alpha$ -synucleinopathies versus progressive supranuclear palsy. *Journal of Neurology*, 269(6), 4920–4938. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-022-11136-5>

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## UNSTRUCTURED

free viewing



Data Analyses

SACCADE

## Why Free Viewing (FV)?

1. Easy to administer – optimal for young children<sup>9</sup>
2. Rich assessment of saccade behaviour in a dynamic visual setting<sup>10</sup>
3. FV reveals saccadic parameters<sup>10</sup>

Free-viewing eye tracking (EyeLink 1000 Plus)

EyeLink 1000 Plus

- Video-based monocular eye tracker – recorded eye position, pupil size, and blink rate at 500Hz



17-inch  
LCD monitor

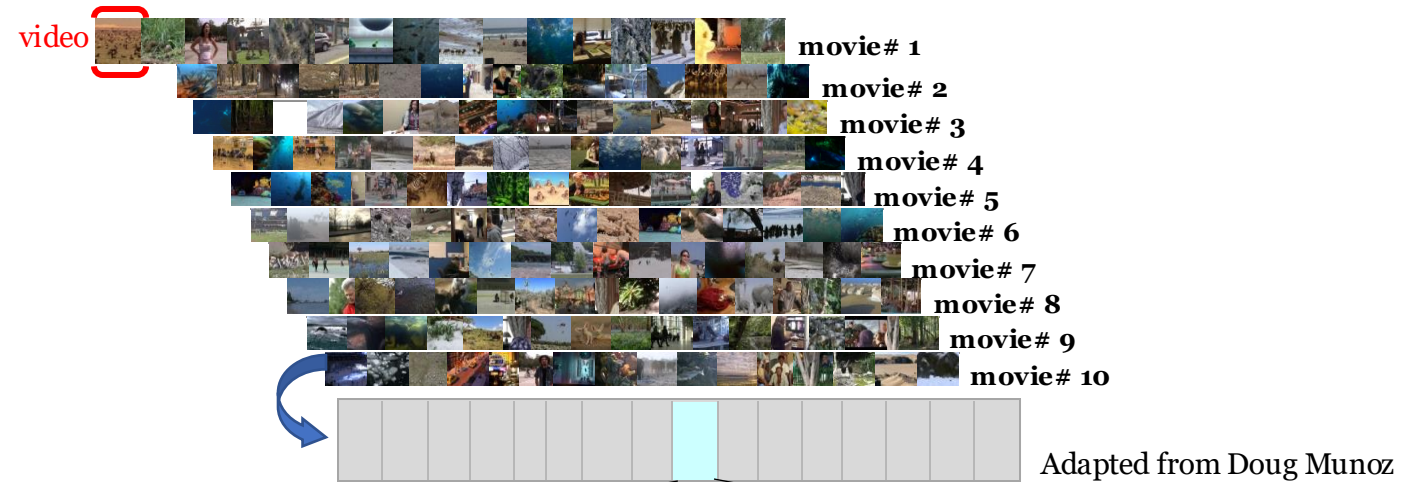


Task 1: Free-viewing eye tracking (EyeLink 1000 Plus)

video



Clip Change = large visual perturbation<sup>12</sup>



Automated analysis pipeline to extract  
saccade and fixations parameters<sup>13</sup>

SACCADES

FIXATIONS

Saccades, Fixations and Pupillary Behavior have been tied to cognitive outcomes



# Are there ongoing abnormalities

Eye tracking localizes abnormalities to the superior colliculus

RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Saccade and pupil changes in children recovering from opsoclonus-myoclonus ataxia syndrome reveal midbrain alterations in oculomotor circuits

Douglas P. Munoz<sup>1,\*</sup> , Brian J. White<sup>1</sup>, Donald C. Brien<sup>1</sup>, Kajaal Parbhoo<sup>2</sup>, Carmen Yea<sup>2</sup> & E. Ann Yeh<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Neuroscience Studies, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

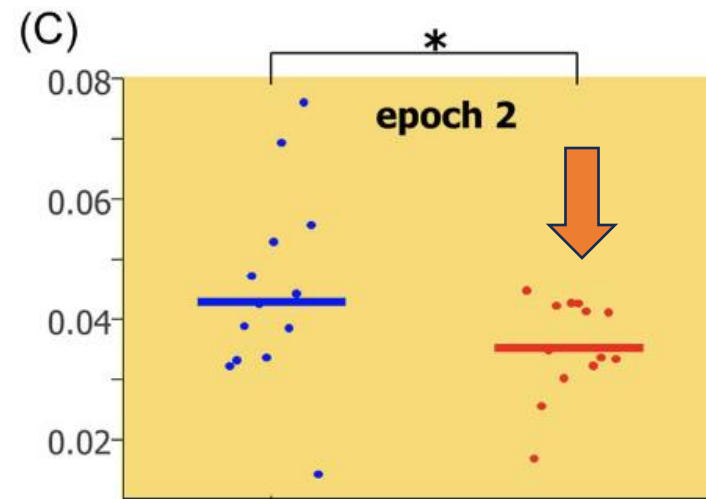
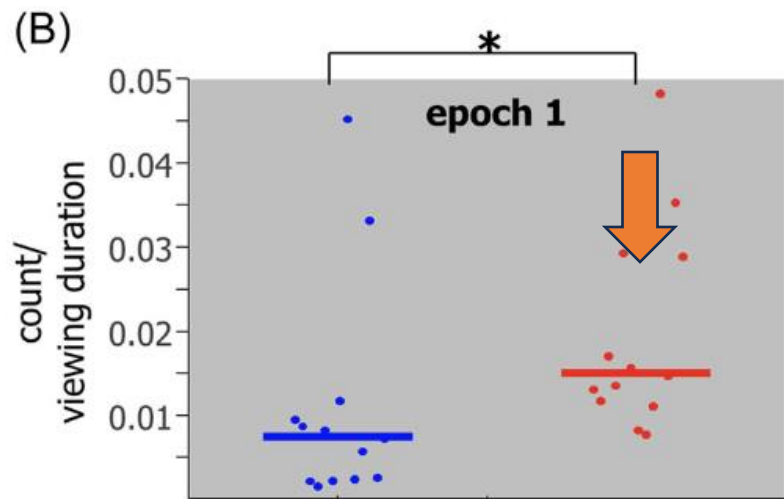
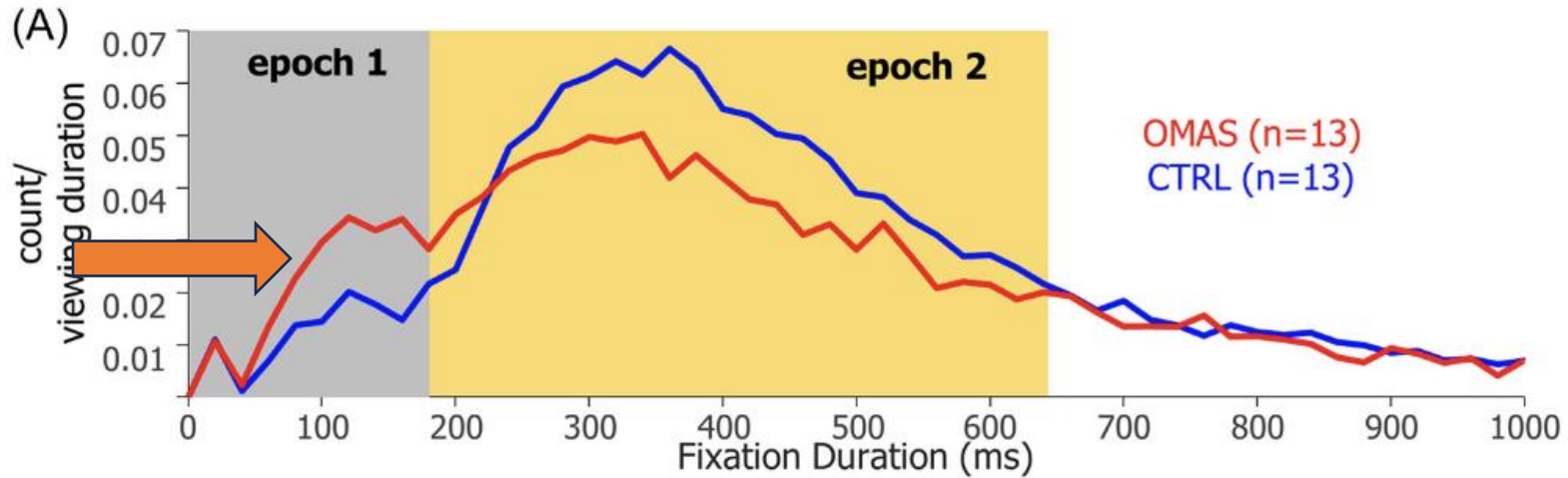
<sup>2</sup>Division of Neurology, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada



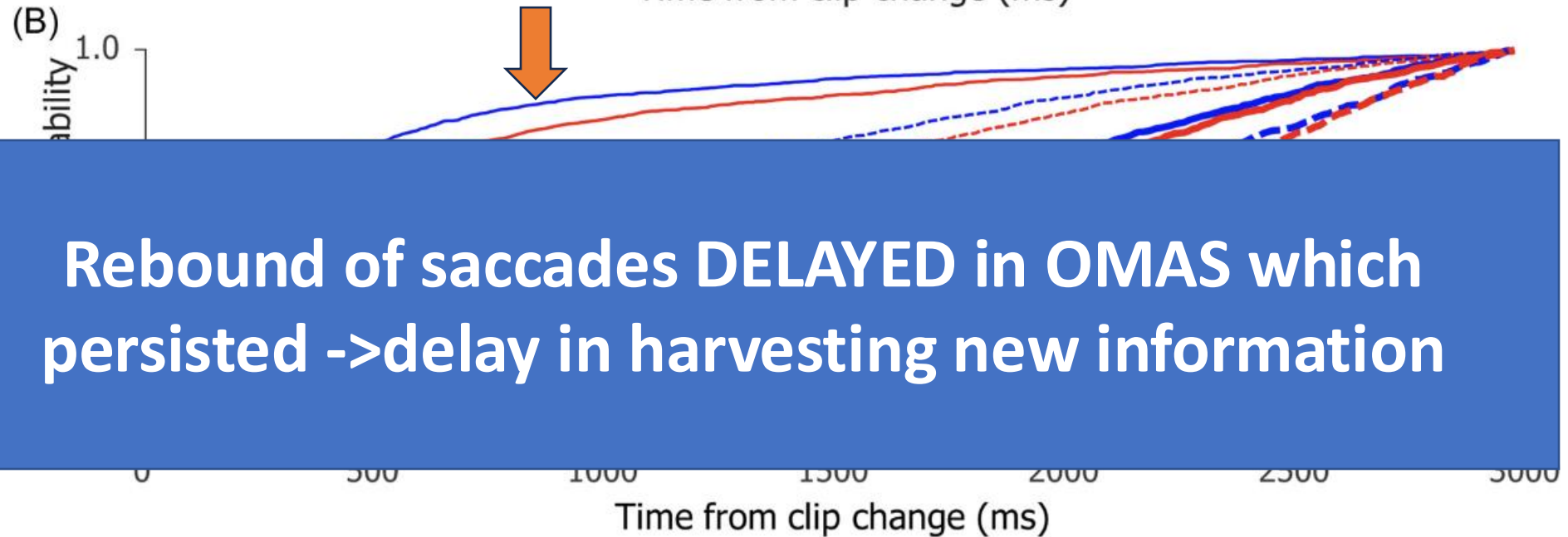
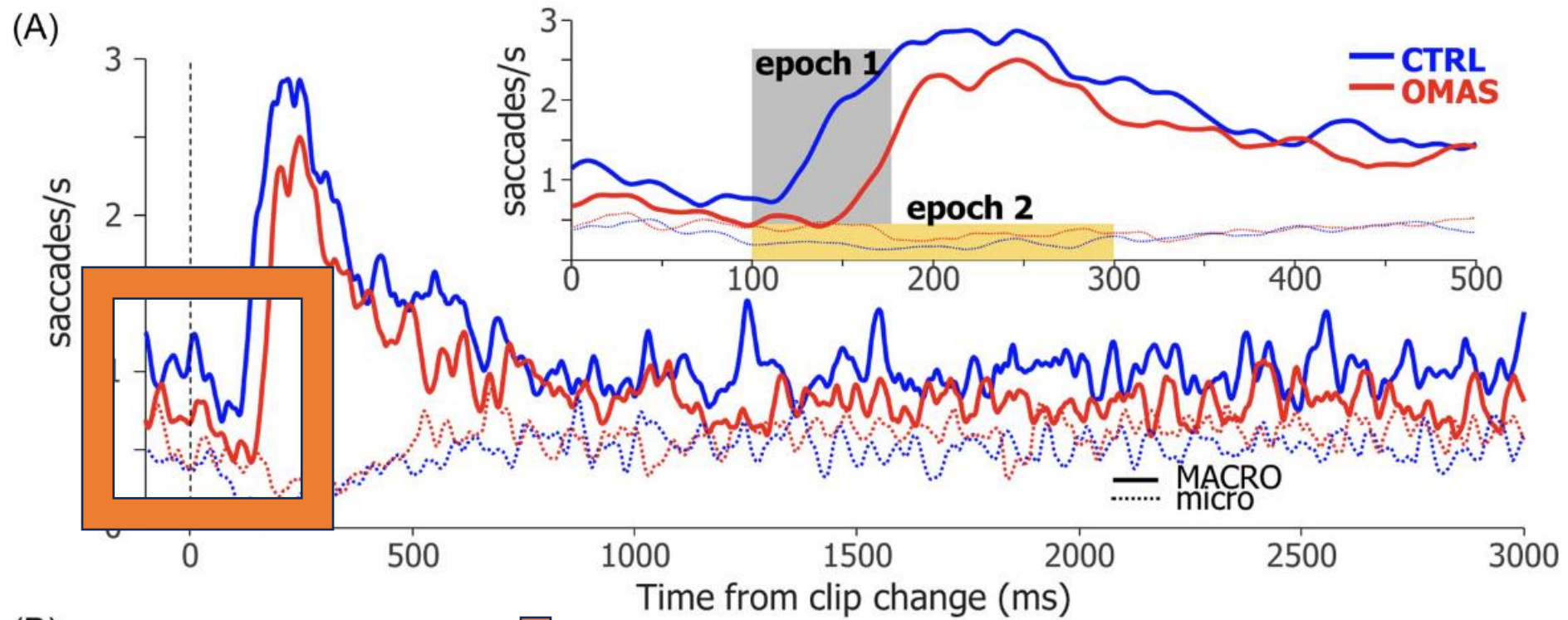
**Table 1.** Patient characteristics.

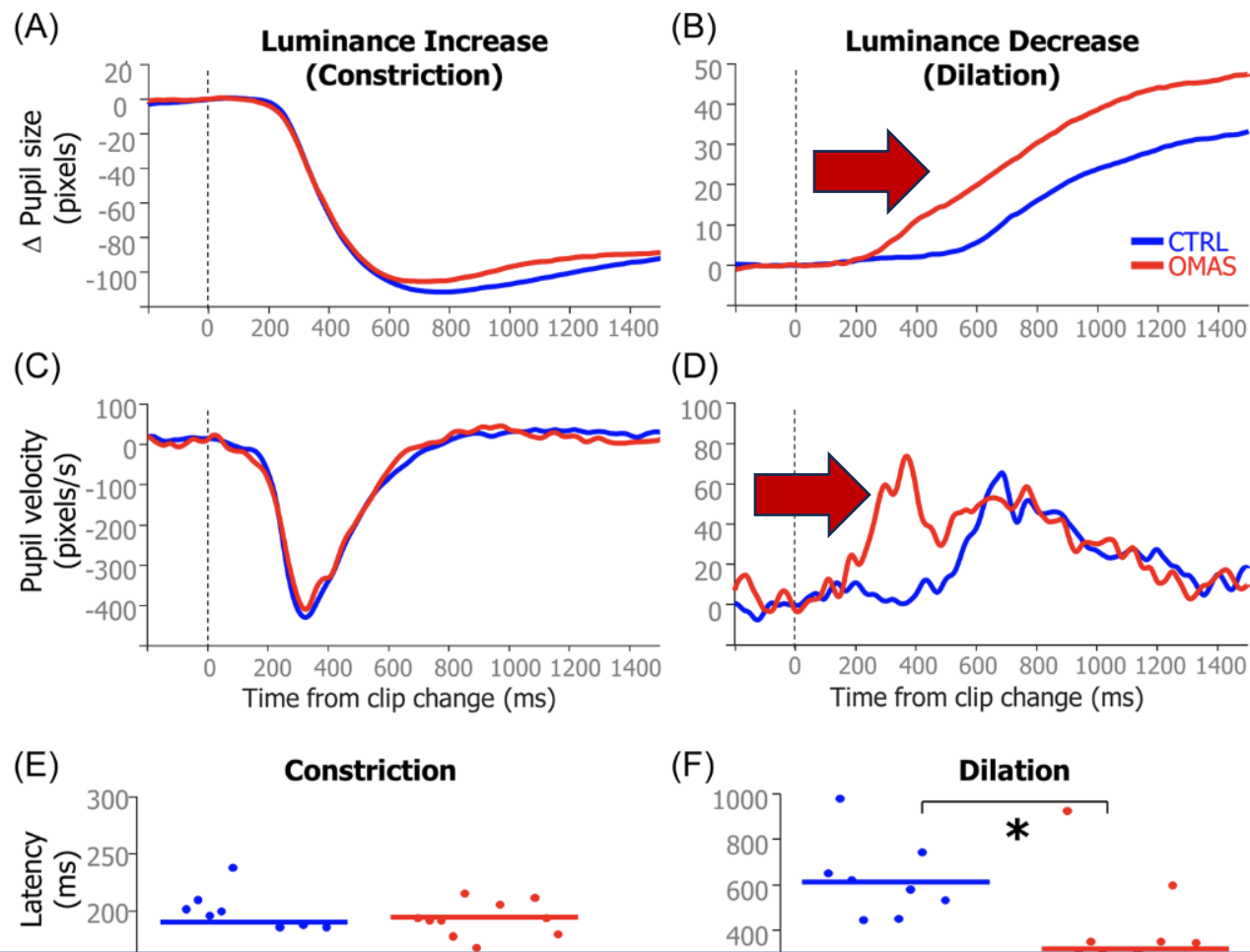
Number of patients	13 children (10 female, 3 male)
Median age of OMAS at eye-tracking	5.3 years (IQR: 2.3–5.9)
Median age at onset of OMAS	1.8 years (IQR: 1.5–2.4)
Median OMAS score at onset	8 (IQR: 5–10)
Median time from onset to first MRI	6 days (IQR: 5–17)
Structural MRI abnormalities at onset <sup>a</sup>	1
Median time from first MRI to first steroids	5 days (IQR: 2–13)
Median time from onset to eye tracking	2.3 years (IQR: 1.0–5.2)
Median OMAS score at eye tracking	1 (IQR: 1–2.2)
Median opsoclonus score at eye tracking	0 (no patients with ongoing opsoclonus)
Median time from onset to follow-up MRI	2.8 years (IQR: 1.4–3.9; range: 1.1–13.3)
Number of CTRL	13 children (10 female, 3 male)
Median CTRL age at eye tracking	5.0 years (IQR: 3.3–6.9)





More short duration fixations, fewer longer fixation durations





Reduced pupil dilatation latency, greater pupil dilatation speed

# Bottom line

- More short duration fixations
- Delayed rebound in macro-saccade rate following clip change
- Reduced pupil dilatation latency, greater pupil dilatation speed

**Ongoing oculomotor abnormalities persist even after clinical recovery**

Can eye tracking provide a  
window to cognition in OMAS?





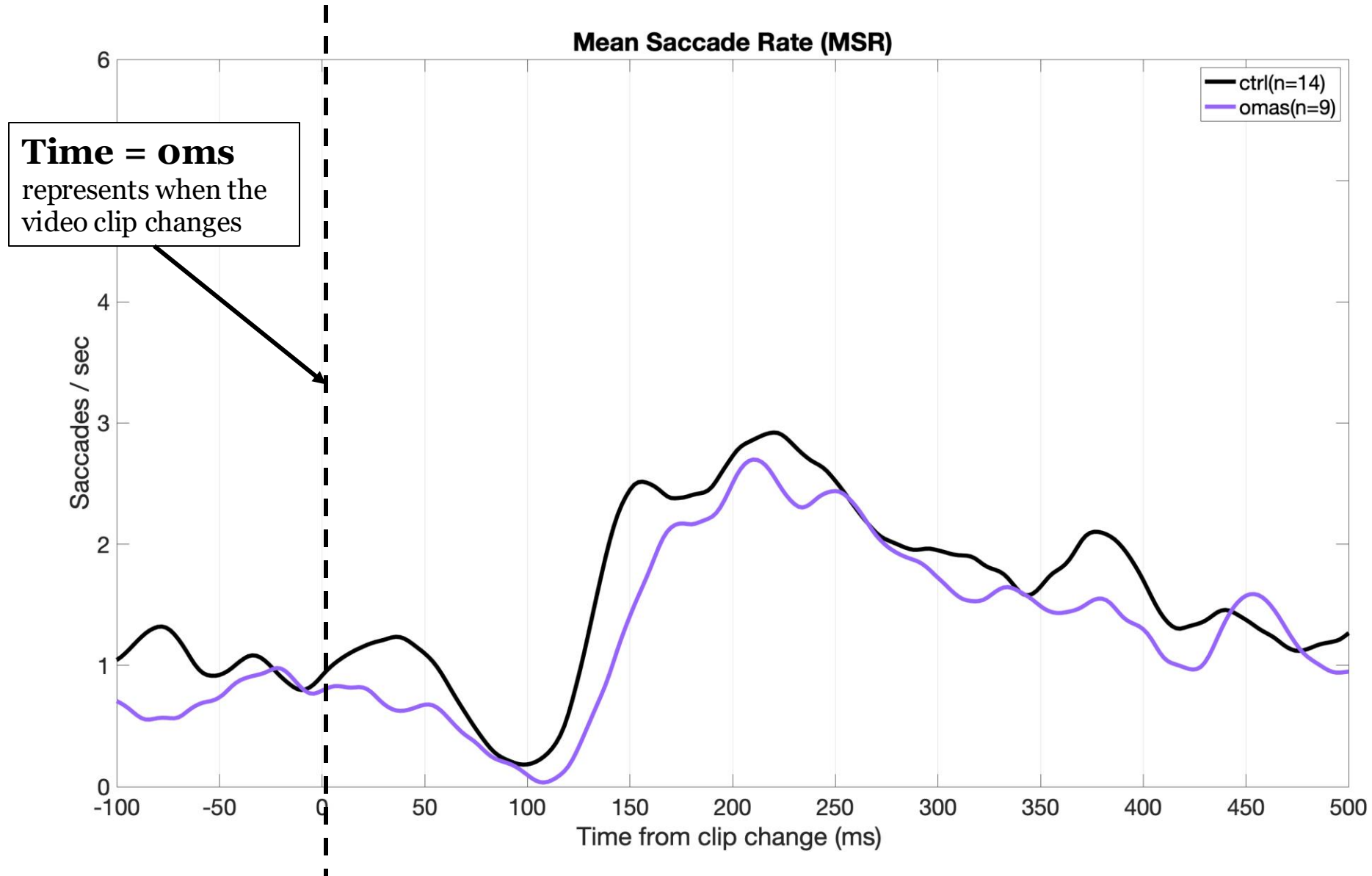
# Detecting OMAS: associations of eye tracking metrics with cognitive outcomes

**Susana Wu**<sup>a,b</sup>, Brian J. White<sup>c</sup>, Donald C. Brien<sup>c</sup>, Brian C. Coe<sup>c</sup>, Agnes M.F. Wong<sup>a,b</sup>, Douglas O. Cheyne<sup>a,b</sup>, Carmen Yea<sup>b</sup>, Douglas P. Munoz<sup>c</sup>, E. Ann Yeh<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>University of Toronto, Toronto ON M5S 1A1, <sup>b</sup>The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto ON M5G 1X8, <sup>c</sup>Queen's University, Kingston ON K7L 3N6

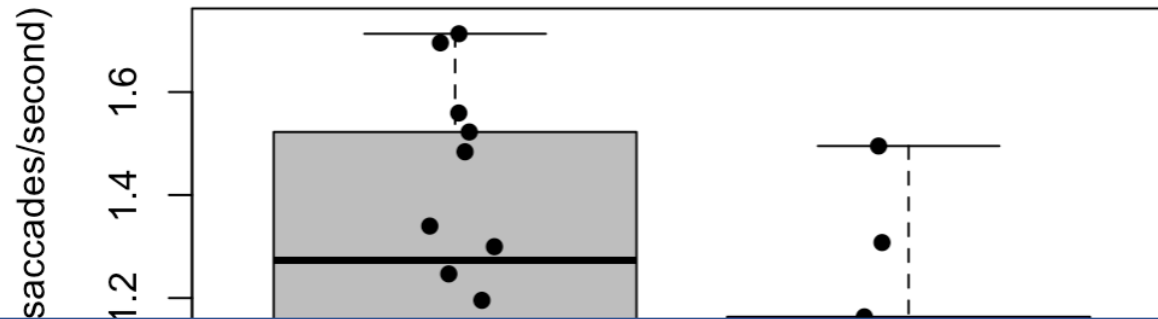
## Demographics

	HC Participants (N=15)	OMAS Participants (N=11)	p-value
Female, n (%)	12 (80%)	9 (82%)	0.912
Age (months), mean (SD)	114.467 (56.342)	102.000 (50.976)	0.562
Race, n (%)			
White	6 (40%)	4 (36%)	0.858
Non-White	9 (60%)	7 (64%)	
Time from Symptom Onset to Data Collection (years), mean (SD)	---	6.2 (4.3)	---



	HC (n=14)	OMAS (n=9)	p-value	effect size
Mean Saccade Rate (saccades/sec)	1.260	0.900	<b>0.033</b>	<b>1.026</b>

Boxplot of MSR

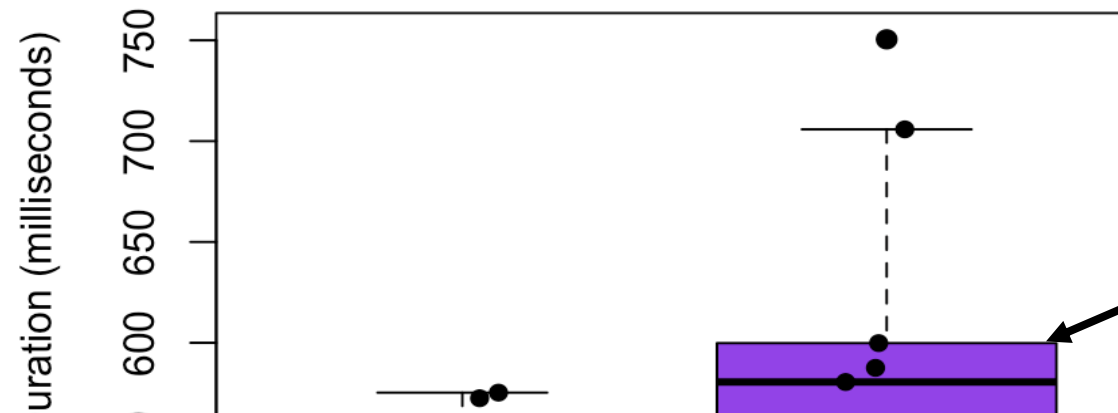


Deficits in the *initiation* and *execution* of saccades to shift attention when  
visual

Mean Saccade Rate is lower in OMAS than HC

	HC (n=13)	OMAS (n=9)	p-value	effect size
Mean Fixation Duration (milliseconds)	499.548	579.461	<b>0.043</b>	<b>1.045</b>

Boxplot of MFD

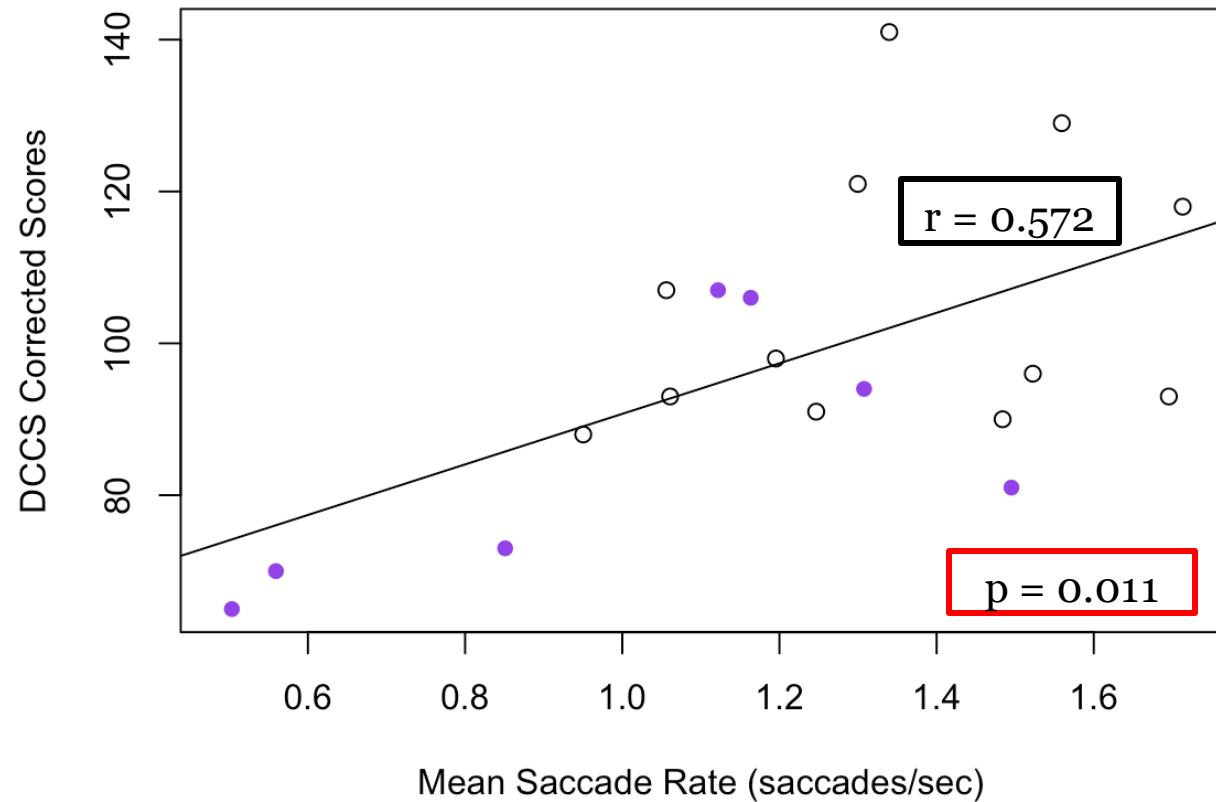


Children with OMAS are less efficient in harvesting new visual information through the generation of saccades

Mean Fixation Duration is higher in OMAS than HC

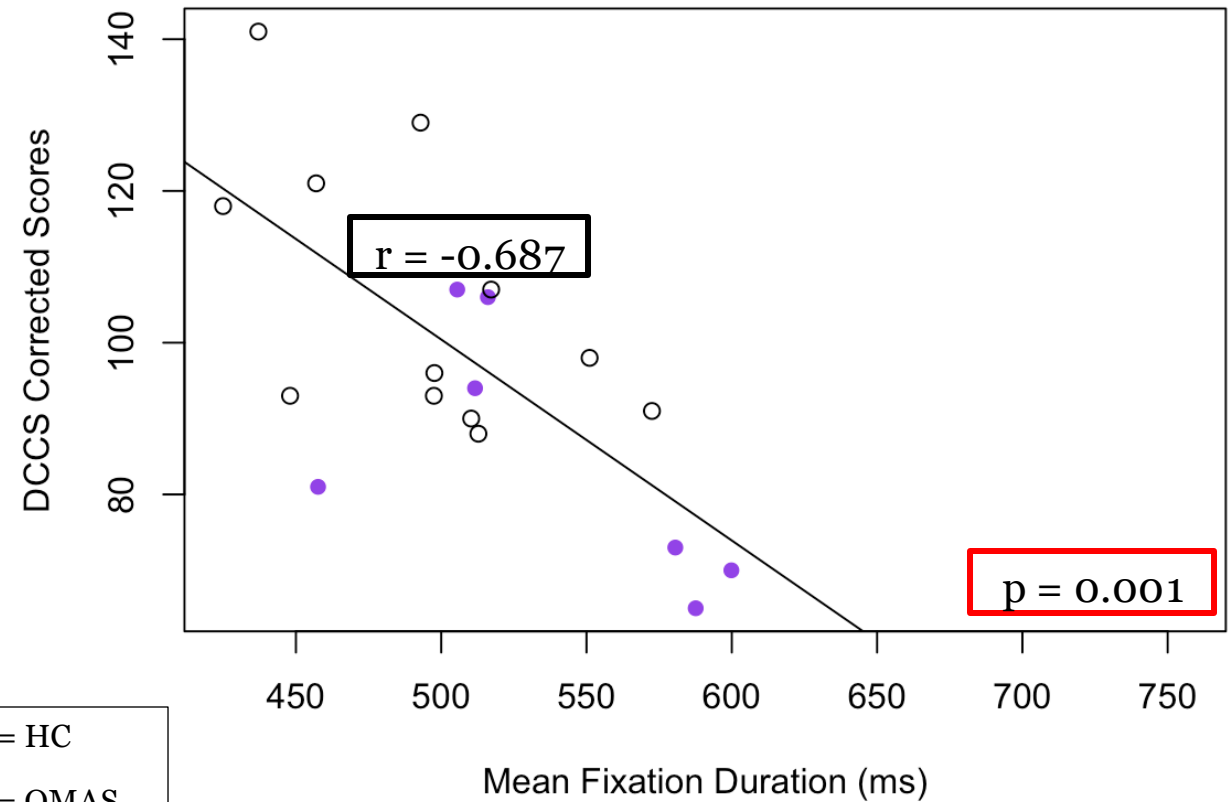
Lower MSR is correlated with lower scores on the Dimensional Change Card Sort Task (DCCS)

**MSR vs DCCS**



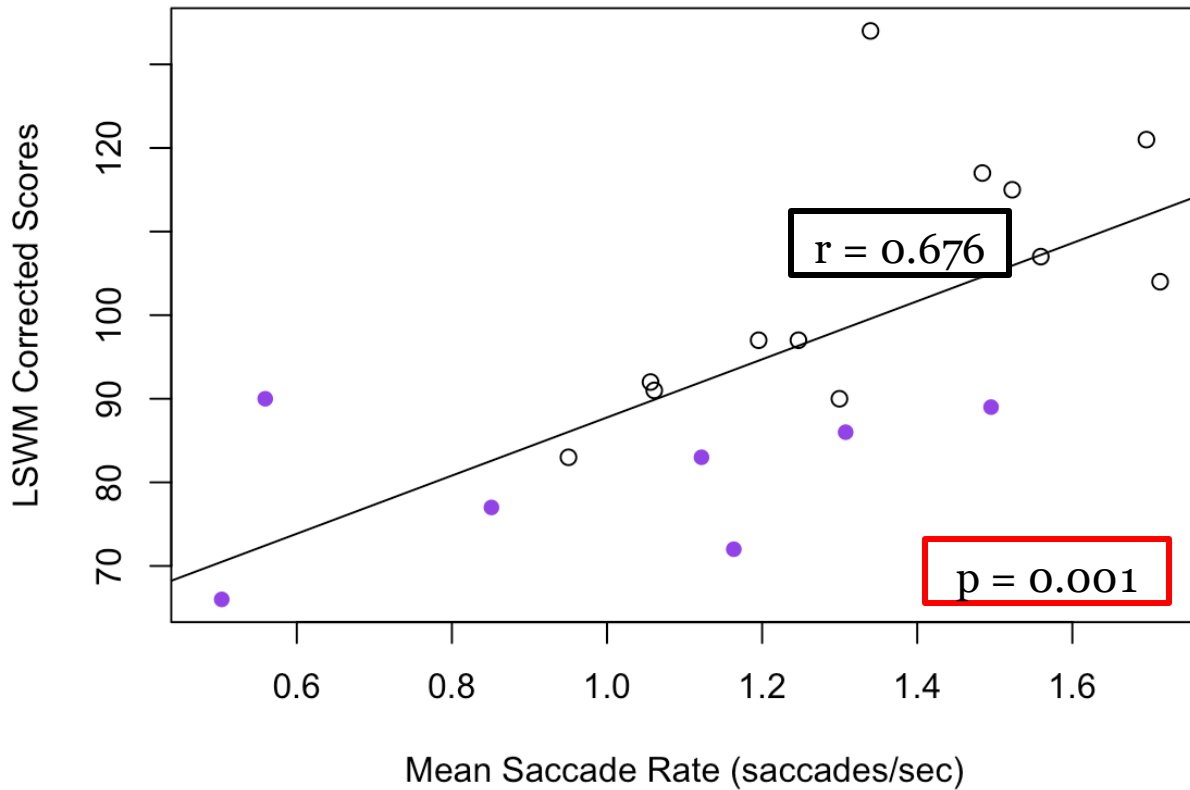
Longer MFD is correlated with lower scores on the Dimensional Change Card Sort Task (DCCS)

**MFD vs DCCS**



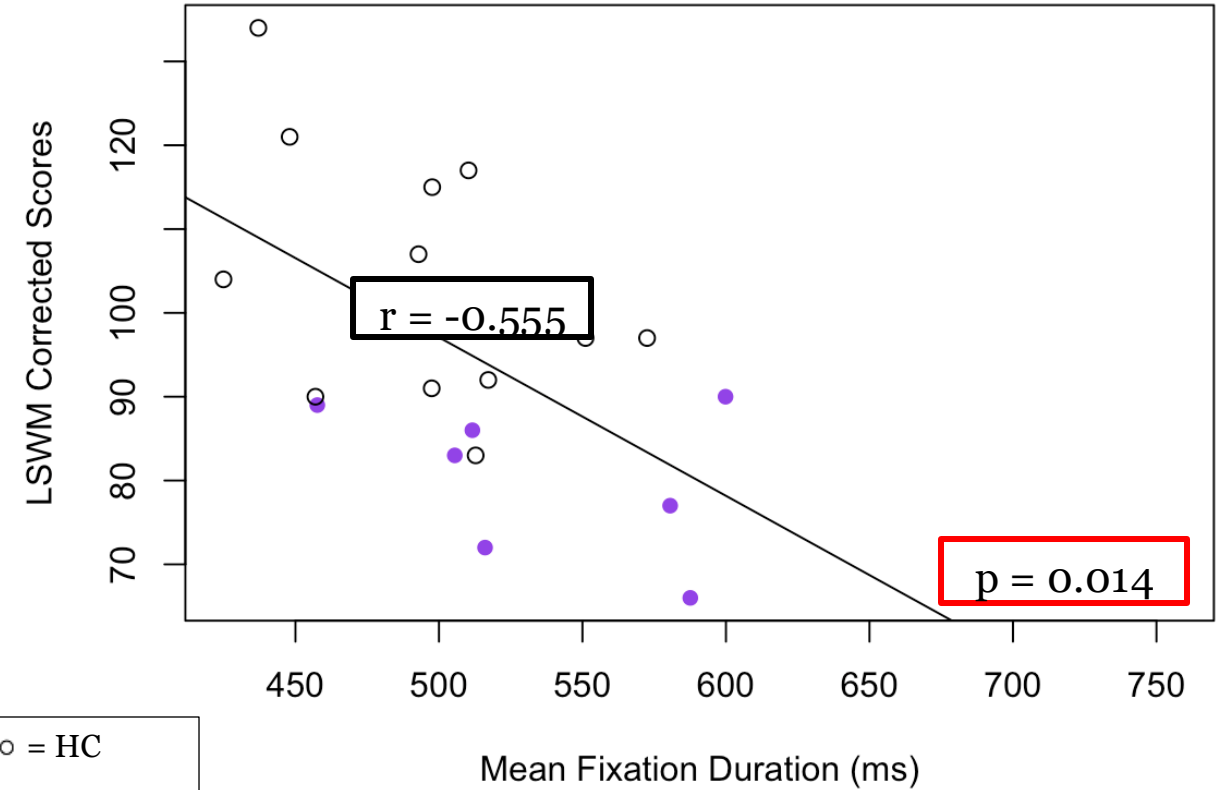
Lower **MSR** is correlated with lower scores on the **List Sorting Working Memory (LSWM) Test**

**MSR vs LSWM**



Longer **MFD** is correlated with lower scores on the **List Sorting Working Memory (LSWM) Test**

**MFD vs LSWM**



○ = HC  
● = OMAS

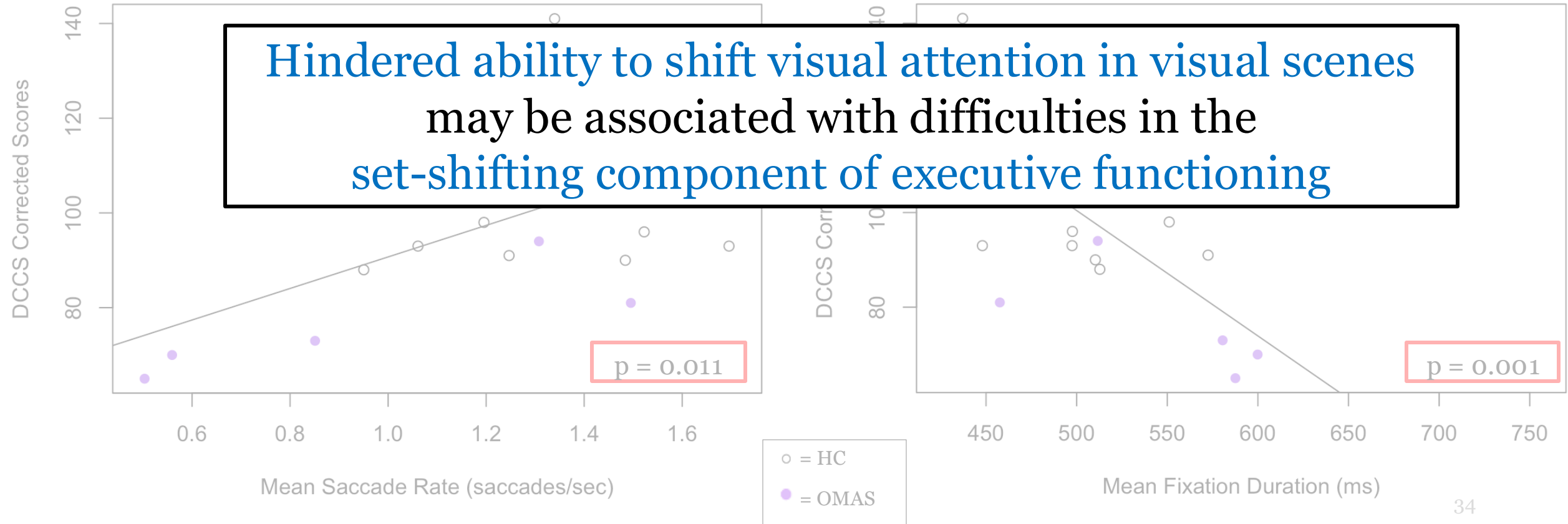
Lower MSR is correlated with lower scores on the Dimensional Change Card Sort Task (DCCS)

Longer MFD is correlated with lower scores on the Dimensional Change Card Sort Task (DCCS)

MSR vs DCCS

MFD vs DCCS

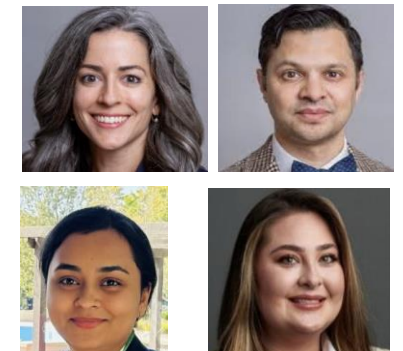
Hindered ability to shift visual attention in visual scenes may be associated with difficulties in the set-shifting component of executive functioning





- **Small cohort size!**

# Larger, Multi-Site Pilot underway



# Conclusions

- Eye tracking abnormalities are present even after recovery in children with OMAS
- Brain structure and cognitive function abnormalities are also seen
- Eye tracking is a window to cognitive function
- Preliminary data suggests the presence of correlations between eye tracking abnormalities and specific cognitive outcomes
- Multi-site studies are underway

# Acknowledgements

- SickKids/Yeh team
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