

## Master thesis opportunity

### **Persistent postural-perceptual dizziness (PPPD): Evaluation of the responsiveness of a newly developed questionnaire**

#### **Background:**

PPPD is considered a chronic functional vestibular disorder. Although 15-20% of patients reporting dizziness suffer from PPPD, there are no valid assessments for German-speaking patients to record the subjective complaints of this group of patients and to document their course of disease in relation to treatment. Measurement tools that have a more general focus on dizziness often do not reflect the typical problems that patients with PPPD report. The Niigata PPPD-Questionnaire by Yagi et al. (2019) is a subjective assessment tool that measures the complaints of patients with dizziness diagnosed with PPPD. Originally written in Japanese, it was translated into German by the Reha Rheinfelden study team and additional items were created and reviewed. The German version of the new questionnaire has not yet been tested for its responsiveness.

**Aim:** The aim of the present investigation is to evaluate the responsiveness of the German PPPD. In this context, the term responsiveness refers to the ability of this new questionnaire to measure a meaningful or clinically important change in the clinical state of a PPPD-patient.

**Taks:** The successful candidate will perform this investigation by firstly choosing the appropriate responsiveness coefficients which depends on whether the change in the sample is more homogeneous or heterogeneous. Secondly, the chosen statistical methods such as calculating the Minimal detectable change, the correlation between the German PPPD and a further gold standard measurement or a ROC curve analysis etc. need to be applied.

#### **Requirements:**

- Interest in dealing in depth with the topic of PPPD
- Proficiency in use of MS Office
- Basic knowledge of statistical analysis with appropriate software
- Highly motivated and team-oriented working morale

#### **Offer:**

- Introduction and supervision throughout the entire project
- Exciting opportunities in an interdisciplinary environment of clinical research and rehabilitation
- Possibility to visit various departments involved in rehabilitation of neurologic and orthopaedic patients.

#### **Time period:**

Begin is negotiable. Duration: 6 to 9 months.

For further questions, please contact PD Dr. phil. C. Schuster-Amft, Research Department, Reha Rheinfelden ([c.schuster@reha-rhf.ch](mailto:c.schuster@reha-rhf.ch)). To view other opportunities at our department, go to: <https://www.reha-rheinfelden.ch/ueber/themen-fuer-masterthesen>