FMS Study 2

This is a study to investigate how pain processing is altered in fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS). The study participants will be women with FMS, and healthy women for comparison, who are 19-60 years old, with no history of neurological injury or disease. The purpose of the study is to better understand the neural processes involved with how humans feel pain, and how these processes are different in FMS. This study involves 2 visits to Queen’s University, and the first visit has two parts. The first part of the visit will be to familiarize the participant with the heat pain that will be applied to the right hand, and to adjust the temperature for each participant’s sensitivity. We will have each participant fill in a questionnaire about any history of mental illness and general MRI safety procedures. We will also familiarize the participant with using a scale for rating their pain, and with the study procedures. The participant will also experience the MRI environment in a “sham” MRI system so that they know what to expect during imaging. The second part of the visit will be in the actual MRI system. The participant will be positioned lying on their back inside the MRI system, with a mirror to view a rating scale and instructions during each imaging run. During each imaging run we will take images of the spinal cord and brainstem repeatedly over time. During imaging, the participant will sometimes feel the heat pain on their right hand, and other times they will not feel anything. The total visit will take about 2 hours. The second visit is another imaging session, and will take about 1 hour. The visits are in two parts in order to avoid fatigue.