Body state, mood disorder and acquired brain injury

Acquired brain injury (ABIs), such as from stroke or traumatic brain injuries, can cause dramatic changes in awareness of body parts and sensations. ABIs are also associated with an almost 5-fold increased risk of mood disorder compared to people from the general population. To date, we know little about links between bodily sensation and mood following ABI, for example, whether distorted/changed interoceptive signals influence affective experiences and how mood changes may modulate sensation and awareness. Given our current lack of awareness, a useful project would include interviews with ABI survivors about changes in sensation and awareness and the adaptation of existing measures for survey within this group. This should give rise to tractable hypotheses for experimental manipulation, for example, the effect of mood enhancing contexts on bodily awareness.