Postdoctoral Researcher – Examining Neural Circuits of Autism & Organization of Language using human neuroimaging

The D'Mello Lab in the Department of Psychiatry and Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, under the direction of Dr. Anila D'Mello, is seeking to hire a Postdoctoral Fellow beginning in Fall 2023. The position is a minimum of a two-year commitment. The D'Mello Lab combines human functional neuroimaging, behavioral experimentation, and neuropsychological assessment to understand the neurocognitive basis of language and social cognition across typical and atypical development. We are particularly interested in the role of the cerebellum in higher-order cognition across autistic and non-autistic children and adults. Please visit D'Mello Lab for more information on our lab's focus and ongoing projects.

The postdoctoral fellow will contribute to several ongoing projects examining the neural circuits underlying cognitive strengths and challenges in autism (funded by the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative, SFARI), as well as projects investigating the development and functional organization of language. Primary responsibilities for the position will include (1) designing and implementing behavioral and fMRI experiments, (2) preprocessing and analysis of behavioral and neuroimaging data, (3) presentation and publication of experimental results, and (4) coordinating and training a team of research assistants. The postdoctoral fellow will also have the opportunity to develop their own projects, contribute to ongoing collaborations with other researchers nationally and internationally, travel to national and international conferences, and contribute meaningfully to the lab's research direction. The postdoctoral fellow will benefit from access to a vibrant human neuroimaging community at UTSW and several surrounding institutions and centers (University of Texas at Dallas, the Center for Vital Longevity, the Center for BrainHealth, and the Callier Center for Communication Disorders), and high-resolution imaging technology (several 3T scanners, 7T scanner).

Candidates must hold Ph.D. (and/or M.D.) in cognitive neuroscience, psychology, or a related field. Excellent organizational, time management, problem solving, interpersonal and communication skills are required. Prior human subject data collection and human neuroimaging experience with a track record of leading projects to publication is preferred. Candidates with experience working with special populations (e.g., young children, autism) are strongly encouraged to apply. Technical skills (e.g. Python, R, Unix) are also highly desired, but not required. Salary will be commensurate with NIH guidelines (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-070.html). This position provides an excellent opportunity for individuals seeking to develop neuroimaging expertise in individuals with and without neurodevelopmental conditions who seek to pursue a career in the field of cognitive neuroscience.

Information on our postdoctoral training program, benefits, and a virtual tour can be found at http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/postdocs.

Interested individuals should provide a CV, cover letter describing research experiences and goals, and a list of three references to: Anila D'Mello, PhD (Anila.dmello@UTSouthwestern.edu).

Questions about the positions may be directed to Anila D'Mello (Anila.dmello@UTSouthwestern.edu).