Postdoctoral Fellowship in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience & and Infant Neuroimaging

The Developmental Mechanisms Program directed by Dr. Laurie Wakschlag within the Department of Medical Social Sciences (MSS) at Northwestern University is seeking a postdoctoral fellow in developmental cognitive neuroscience.

Program Overview
This is a unique opportunity for individuals at all levels to be involved in collaborating on and participating in innovative developmental science clinical research studies focused on identifying and preventing the origins of early life mental health problems. The MSS Developmental Mechanisms Program is a translational research program at the interface of developmental and clinical science, with central emphasis on emergent disruptive behavior pathways. Housing multiple NIH-funded studies, the program is nationally recognized for generating novel paradigms to measure early childhood disruptive behavior and elucidating prenatal and its neurodevelopmental mechanisms and prevention. Multiple state-of-the-art, developmentally-sensitive methods are used including behavioral observations, parent interviews and infant natural sleep MRI. Our highly collaborative team includes experts in areas from clinical psychology and developmental cognitive neuroscience, to communication sciences and prevention.

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience & and Infant Neuroimaging.

A full-time postdoctoral fellowship is available for a candidate with interest and experience in MRI studies of neurodevelopment from infancy through adolescence within the Developmental Mechanisms Program of Northwestern’s Department of Medical Social Sciences. The emphasis of this position is on the neurodevelopmental basis of psychopathology in early life, with increasing emphasis on the intersection of irritability and language in early atypical pathways. Studies include (1) the When to Worry Study, which investigates atypical patterns and neural bases of irritability in the first years of life (12-36 mos.) via state-of-the-art, multi-modal, neurodevelopmental measurement longitudinally in a sample of 350 infants including natural sleep MRI; (2) the MAPS study, designed to characterize how brain-behavior atypicalities in early childhood shape psychopathology pathways at the transition to adolescence; and (3) the Promoting Healthy Brain Development Project, which employs developmental assessments and neuroimaging methods to examine neurodevelopmental impact of a prenatal stress reduction intervention. The postdoctoral fellow will be an integral member of the scientific team and will be encouraged to lead and collaborate on publications from the study. S/he will have ready access to rich extant data including longitudinal imaging data linked to nuanced phenotypic characterization, genetic and inflammatory and ERP data. The fellow will also be encouraged and supported to develop supplementary studies via the NIH NRSA mechanism. The postdoctoral fellow will oversee MRI scan familiarization and acquisition and neurobehavioral assessments of emergent executive function using eye-tracking methods, under the primary direction of the project’s lead neuroscientist, Elizabeth Norton, PhD. The translational investigative team also includes experts in developmental psychopathology, epidemiology and longitudinal modeling (Margaret Briggs-Gowan, Amelie Petitclerc, & Ryne Estabrook), language atypicalities and biomarkers, and LENA assessment (Elizabeth Norton, Megan Roberts), and developmental cognitive neuroscience (John Gilmore, Ellen Leibenluft, Susan Perlman, Daniel Pine & Joel Voss).

The position requires a PhD or MD/PhD in a neuroscience-related field. This position requires prior experience with acquisition and processing of pediatric structural and functional MRI data including scan acquisition and computer-assisted image analysis pipelines, ideally with experience in infant MRI analysis. The successful candidate will have an excellent publication record with demonstrated interest in developmental science and neuroscience, and will combine a collaborative orientation with the ability to function well independently. We are seeking an energetic, dynamic individual who seeks a team science environment and brings a high level of initiative, drive, and spirit of inquiry. Please send CV, research statement, and names of three references to Elizabeth Norton (enorton@northwestern.edu).
For detailed information on the position, please visit the following link: http://devsci.northwestern.edu/devsci-commons/my-commons/groups/viewdiscussion/31-full-time-postdoctoral-fellowship-in-developmental-cognitive-neuroscience-and-infant-neuroimaging?groupid=12

Northwestern University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer of all protected classes, including veterans and individuals with disabilities. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the United States.