Research Intern, Psychiatric & Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital - Fall 2019

Research Intern, Psychiatric & Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit (PNGU), Center for Genomic Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital - Dr. Jeremiah Scharf Laboratory
Estimated start date: September

The mission of PNGU is to identify and characterize the genetic basis of psychiatric, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorders and to translate these discoveries to improvements in clinical care and public health. The student will work closely with the Clinical Research Coordinator and research team of Jeremiah Scharf, M.D., Ph.D. in a professional research setting on studies investigating the genetic basis and shared behavioral components of Tourette Syndrome (TS), Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder, and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

Current studies examine clinical predictors of tic persistence and severity in adulthood through an online re-contact study and assess prenatal/perinatal risk factors for TS through electronic health records. An additional study that will start in the Fall focuses on recontacting individuals who previously participated in our study years ago. We hope these findings will help us better understand why tics persist into adulthood for some individuals and not for others.

Tasks include data entry from clinical interviews and intake packets, recruiting and guiding participants through the current research studies, and helping to coordinate the collection of blood draws from our participants. Opportunities to observe clinical visits with participants and/or patients may be available. Overall, there will be ample opportunity to be involved in many aspects of the clinical research realm, and to gain exposure to the operations of a clinical research team. The intern will likely learn a great deal about Tourette Syndrome and related neuropsychiatric conditions (OCD, ADHD, anxiety).

Desired Qualifications: Some knowledge of psychological terms and abnormal psychology helpful. Experience with research and data entry desired.

Skills: Must have good organizational skills and attention to detail, as well as the maturity and capability to contact participants directly.

Personal Qualities: Interest in research and/or clinical neurology/psychiatry. Must feel comfortable working in a team atmosphere. Good interpersonal skills required.

General commitment/timeline: At least 8 hours/week required. Commitment may vary depending on your availability and/or your university’s requirements.

Transportation:
- Green Line: Get off at Government Center. Upon exiting the stairs, turn right and walk down Cambridge Street (passing the JFK building on your left). The Simches Research Center is in the Charles River Plaza, located on the right side of the street, next to CVS.
- Red Line: Get off at Charles/MGH. Walk up Cambridge St. away from the river, passing the Wyndham Hotel and an Au Bon Pain on your left. Take the stairs on the left up to the Charles River Plaza Shopping Center. The Simches Research Center is located next to the CVS and Whole Foods.

Contact: Daisy Noriega, Clinical Research Coordinator II, dtnoriega@mgh.harvard.edu

Application materials should be sent to Daisy Noriega at dtnoriega@mgh.harvard.edu and MUST include a resume or CV AND a cover letter. Prior research experience, experience with data entry, and a strong GPA are preferred. Thank you!

Last updated 8.15.2019 for Fall 2019