

## Research Intern, Psychiatric & Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital - Spring 2018

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

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 focuses on collecting blood samples and coordinating skin biopsies to generate induce pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) that may be used to generate patient-specific TS/OCD neurons for *in vitro* studies.

**Tasks** include data entry from clinical interviews, recruiting and guiding participants through research studies, calling study participants on a regular basis, and helping to coordinate the collection of biospecimens from participants. Opportunities to observe clinical visits with participants 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.

**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.

**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 10 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:** Angela Essa, Clinical Research Coordinator II, [aressa@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:aressa@mgh.harvard.edu)

**Application materials should be sent to Angela Essa at [aressa@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:aressa@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!**