The Commonwealth Research Center (CRC) at Massachusetts Mental Health Center is seeking applicants for a research volunteer position for the spring of 2018 and/or the summer of 2018. We are seeking highly motivated and detail-oriented undergraduates or recent graduates who are able to commit to a minimum of 10-15 hours/week during the spring semester and/or a minimum of 20 hours/week during the summer.

The CRC is located in the Longwood Medical Area and is dedicated to the investigation of the intervention and prevention of psychotic disorders through various behavioral and biological methodologies. Within the CRC, we are recruiting volunteers for the North American Prodrome Longitudinal Study (NAPLS). Our research team (PI: William Stone, PhD; Project Director: Michelle West, PhD) specifically focuses on the mechanisms and predictive biomarkers associated with the onset of schizophrenia and other psychotic illness, and is one of nine NAPLS sites across North America.

Responsibilities may include:

- Interviewing and guiding participants through our research studies
- Assisting in the administration of EEG in the Longwood Medical Area
- Assisting in the administration of MRI at the Martinos Imaging Center in Charlestown, MA
- Handling biological samples (blood/urine/saliva) and preparing collection kits
- Assisting with Institutional Review Board (IRB) and manuscript preparations
- Data entry and other administrative duties, e.g. preparing study materials
- Attending weekly staff and diagnostic meetings, grand rounds, and seminars

Depending on volunteers’ level of commitment and interests, there are opportunities to become more involved with the procedures of the study, including the administration of MRI, EEG, and cognitive testing procedures (after thorough training on relevant procedures). Students who are particularly motivated are also encouraged to complete a scholarly project, supervised by RAs and a psychologist, and have the experience of presenting it to our group. The project may involve conducting a literature review and/or performing analyses on available data.

This position provides valuable learning opportunities for individuals who are considering applying to graduate school in clinical psychology or medical school, especially those who are interested in research on the development and progression of psychosis. Additionally, other studies in the CRC are often also seeking volunteers; we may be able to connect appropriate applicants who are not selected for the NAPLS position with these other options in our system.

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to Ryan Guest, rguest@bidmc.harvard.edu. Selected applicants will be invited for an interview with Ryan (NAPLS Study Coordinator), Kelly Farrell (NAPLS Research Assistant), and Dr. Michelle West (NAPLS Project Director).