

**Research Assistant Position in Preschool Developmental Cognitive
Neuroscience
Laboratory for Child Brain Development
Department of Psychiatry, Washington University – St. Louis
www.jobs.wustl.edu (search Job #49532)**

The Laboratory for Child Brain Development (LCBD-PI: Dr. Susan Perlman) currently has an opening for a research assistant to work on a NIH study of biological stress unfolding during early childhood and other studies within the laboratory examining neural circuitry development during infancy and early childhood.

The applicant's main appointment will be in the Laboratory for Child Brain Development (LCBD; <http://www.childbrainlab.com>) in the Department of Psychiatry in the Washington University, School of Medicine, William Greenleaf Eliot Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (<https://childpsychiatry.wustl.edu/>). The LCBD is dedicated to using multi-modal methodology to understand the trajectories of emotional development from infancy to middle childhood (with a strong preschool focus). Currently, the LCBD has several ongoing projects including: 1) Biological changes in children experiencing stressful life events; 2) Longitudinal development of preschool irritability as a predictor for psychopathology; 3) Interpersonal brain synchronization in early childhood psychopathology, including autism spectrum disorder; 4) The impact of treatment for disruptive behavior on brain development and; 5) Brain development in preschool children who were born dependent on opioids, in addition to several local and national collaborations. The research assistant will mostly be working on a new study investigating the biological unfolding of stress and how it predicts the onset of psychopathology in 4-6 year-old children. This longitudinal study, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health employs intensive, state-of-the-art, multi-modal, neurodevelopmental measurement including functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS), HPA axis measurement (hair and salivary cortisol), and inflammatory markers. Additional, multi-modal studies within the laboratory employ eye tracking, facial expression and behavioral coding, and sleep actigraphy, hair cortisol.

This is an ideal position for a candidate looking to gain research experience before applying to graduate or medical school. The research assistant will be an integral member of this scientific team and will have opportunities to earn authorship on publications and present posters at scientific meetings.

Position requires a bachelor's degree in psychology, neuroscience, or a related field. The ideal candidate will demonstrate interest in child development, strong motivation, work ethic, and organizational skills, and will combine collaborative

orientation with the ability to function well independently. Flexibility in scheduling during some weekend and evening hours is required. This position requires experience in a research laboratory environment (whether through previous work experience or during undergraduate studies). Experience with a brain imaging modality (fMRI, EEG, fNIRS) and/or psychophysiology (heart rate, skin conductance, pupillometry) is preferred. Previous experience with children and families is required. The research assistant will be expected to cooperate fully with the lab's Covid-19 protocol for safe data collection in children.

This position is open immediately, although start date is flexible. Applicants who intend to spend a minimum of 2 years in the position will be preferred. The position will extend 5 years, depending on progress, with the possibility of extending the position pending future funding. Applicants will be considered until the position is filled. For more information, please contact Dr. Perlman directly at perlmansusan@wustl.edu.