

Research Intern, Psychiatric & Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital – Fall 2022

Research Intern, Psychiatric & Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit (PNGU), Center for Genomic Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital - Scharf Lab

Estimated start date: September 5th

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: A longitudinal TS clinical and genetic study, in which we assess participants' tic, OCD, ADHD, mood, and anxiety symptoms at baseline and biospecimen collection for DNA biobanking and subsequent genome-wide genotyping and sequencing. Subjects will then be assessed with brief follow up questionnaires on a six-month basis. We hope these findings will help us better understand why tics persist into adulthood for some individuals and not for others.

Tasks include the recruitment of research participants via phone, logging participant correspondence on Excel, guiding participants through the current research studies, and helping to coordinate the collection of blood/saliva from our participants. Overall, there will be ample opportunity to be involved in many aspects of the clinical research process, and to gain exposure to the operations of a clinical research team. The intern will also learn a significant amount 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 communication with participants desired.

Skills: Interns must have excellent communication skills, be well organized and have great attention to detail. The intern must also have the maturity and capability to contact participants directly.

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

General commitment/timeline: At least 8-10 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.

COVID-19 Vaccination: The MGB COVID-19 vaccine mandate applies to all MGB employees, including student interns. Interns must share their vaccine status with MGB Occupational Health.

Contact: Evan Realbuto, Clinical Research Coordinator II, erealbuto@mgh.harvard.edu

Applicants should send a resume AND a cover letter to Evan Realbuto at erealbuto@mgh.harvard.edu by August 10th, 2022. Thank you!