

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Language Lab
PI: Cheryl Corcoran, MD

Description of the Position

The Department of Psychiatry at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, NY is seeking to appoint a research assistant under the supervision of Dr. Cheryl Corcoran, head of the Language Lab and Program Leader in Psychosis Risk. The Language Lab at Mount Sinai focuses on identifying brain mechanisms that underlie language disturbance and thought disorder in schizophrenia and its risk states. This position is available for two years minimum with the option of extension. The successful candidate will work within a multidisciplinary team to assist with various aspects of the research lab including data collection and administrative duties. Prior experience with adolescents and young adults with psychosis or psychosis-risk is a plus.

Our websites provide more information about our Clinical High Risk for Psychosis (CHR) program:
<https://www.cuemountsinai.org>
<https://www.mountsinai.org/care/psychiatry/services/schizophrenia/psychosis-risk>

Ongoing and Upcoming Research Studies in our Lab

- Psychosis Risk Outcomes Network (ProNET): CHR individuals will be recruited across the ProNET network of 26 international sites. Multimodal biomarker data will be collected that span brain structure-function (MRI and EEG), psychopathology and cognition, genetics, body fluid analytes, natural speech/language, and passive/ecological momentary digital phenotyping, and map these biomarkers onto clinical outcome measures and trajectories.
- Schizophrenia Spectrum Biomarkers Consortium (SSBC): The purpose of this study is to identify biological markers for schizophrenia and related illnesses by gathering data on clinical diagnoses, brain images, genetic material (DNA), blood and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).
- Thought Disorder and Social Cognition in Clinical Risk States for Schizophrenia: This study aims to identify mechanisms underlying language and social cognitive deficits in CHR individuals through the use of neuroimaging, electrophysiology and automated speech analysis.
- Reward, Salience and Value Processing in Youths at Risk for Psychosis: the RSVP study
- Computational phenotyping of face expression across stages of psychosis
- Pilot studies of language in autism, Alzheimer's dementia and other neuropsychiatric disorders

Duties and Responsibilities

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Conduct routine and standardized human subjects research using appropriate interview techniques specific to subject matter of the research project, providing support to the Principal Investigator, research faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and other research staff.
- Assist in the activities related to clinical research including, but not limited to: obtaining informed consent, screening participants for eligibility, administering questionnaires, computer and pen-and-paper tasks, cognitive testing, and collecting speech samples.
- Collect and curate neuroimaging and biological data, and archive research data at NIMH.
- Schedule participants for all visits and coordinate study activities. Track participant visits and study procedures. Update tracking logs in an organized, timely and accurate manner.
- Conduct recruitment and screening of potential participants for study eligibility, which may include conducting phone screens, obtaining and reviewing physician referrals, developing advertisements, and giving talks/presentations.

- Track progress of the study and data collection. Entry and verification of data into database for statistical analysis.
- Maintain source documents and subject files in accordance with Mount Sinai policies and procedures. Ensure accurate, confidential and complete compilation of data.
- Compile and organize paperwork regarding vendor payment and processing of invoices paid through grants.
- Assist with organizing and completing necessary paperwork for grant submissions.
- Prepare and organize IRB documents, submit new applications for IRB review and maintain IRB approval of existing protocols.
- Assist with manuscript preparation.

Opportunities

- Receive training and certification in clinical and cognitive assessments, such as SIPS, PSYCHS, PANSS, BPRS, C-SSRS, MATRICS, and PennCNB.
- Observe data collection with clinical populations using EEG and fMRI.
- Analyze previously collected data, present research at scientific conferences and co-author manuscripts.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in any area of psychology, neuroscience, clinical science, biomedical sciences, data science, or related fields is required.
- The candidate must have strong organizational and interpersonal skills; the ability to work well with clinical populations; a willingness to tackle complex tasks in an independent manner; and a strong work ethic.
- Experience with any of the following would be an added advantage:
 - The psychosis or psychosis-risk population, adolescent and young adult population
 - Preparation and submission of grant applications
 - Clinical and neuropsychological assessments, and neurophysiology
 - Microsoft Excel, statistical programs (e.g. SPSS) and coding (e.g. Matlab or Python)
- We strongly encourage bilingual or multilingual applicants, and applicants from diverse backgrounds, minoritized groups, and those who are under-represented in the profession.

To Be Considered for This Position

Please send the following materials to Shaynna Herrera, PhD at Shaynna.herrera@mssm.edu:

- 1) Cover letter; 2) CV/resume; 3) Two letters of recommendation; 4) Writing sample of your choice