

RESEARCH SPECIALIST: **DECISION NEUROSCIENCE AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY LAB AT UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH (PI: ALEX DOMBROVSKI)**

The candidate will work on several NIH-supported lines of research in close collaboration with Michael Hallquist's Developmental Personality Neuroscience Laboratory at UNC Chapel Hill. Our lab studies decision-making and learning in mental disorders including borderline personality, depression, and suicide. We are particularly interested in social decision-making and in how people resolve the tradeoff between exploiting known valuable options and exploring unfamiliar ones. The position will support 3 ongoing projects in the lab. All projects use reinforcement learning models applied to behavioral and neuroimaging data to study:

1. examine how in depressed older adults, high cognitive demands and impaired decision making can lead to progression from suicide ideation to action
2. examine neural mechanisms of interpersonal dysfunction and decision making deficits in the predisposition for suicidal behavior
3. a novel 28-day EMA protocol collecting mood, EEG, EKG data to examine affective instability in daily life and how mood relates to reward learning in borderline personality disorder

More information about our lab can be found on our website: dnpl.pitt.edu.

Responsibilities for the current position include, but are not limited to, assistance with research design and protocols, data collection, data management, participant recruitment and retention, lab administration, and analysis of behavioral and neuroimaging data. Successful candidates should have keen attention to detail; clinical, interpersonal, and communication skills to deal with sensitive topics; and strong organization, problem solving, and analytic skills. Prior background in the following is **a plus but not required**. *Programming Languages*: R, Matlab, Bash or similar. *Clinical interviewing*: SCID, MINI, SIDP, common depression & suicide risk scales, neuropsychological assessments. *Neuroimaging*: fMRI. Above all, we seek a candidate who is motivated and ambitious, who is prepared for a hands-on research experience including the use of new tasks and techniques. Extensive training opportunities will be provided to learn the above skills. Successful candidates will have opportunities for independent projects.

The default position for a recent graduate is Research Specialist. The candidate will be expected to **relocate** to Pittsburgh and start in **February 2021**. Majority of the responsibilities can be done working from home but there will be some in person duties (fMRI scanning).

Education

Required: BA/BS in neuroscience, psychology, engineering, economics, statistics, math, or any relevant science field.

Given the extensive training required, a 2- or 3-year commitment is preferred. To apply, please submit a CV, cover letter that describes research interests, and a list of three references to Amy Lu (qlu@pitt.edu). Review of applications will begin **immediately** and will continue until the position has been filled. We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions or any other characteristic protected by law.