Research Specialist: Decision Neuroscience and Psychopathology Lab at University of Pittsburgh (PIs: Alex Dombrovski, Timothy Allen, and Vanessa Brown)

The candidate will work on several NIH-supported lines of research provided to our lab, which works in close collaboration with Michael Hallquist's Developmental Personality Neuroscience Laboratory at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. The candidate's primary responsibility will be to assist with the design, implementation, and administration of research protocols focusing on personality, psychopathology, neuroscience, and computational modeling. One focus of this position will be to implement a NIMH-funded K01 study examining how aversive learning deficits contribute to severe negative affect found in most forms of psychopathology. The project synthesizes structural equation modeling, functional neuroimaging, and associative learning theory to characterize the neurobehavioral systems that contribute to maladaptive threat responding. Another study is anticipated to assess how aversive uncertainty learning is altered in anxiety and affects anxious avoidance. The study will incorporate behavioral and ecological assessment, computational modeling, and neuroimaging. Candidates will also be expected to contribute to other lab projects that use reinforcement learning theory to examine decision-making processes involved in suicide, depression, and borderline personality disorder.

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. The ideal candidate will have strong quantitative skills, programming experience, some experience in psychology or neuroscience research, and an interest in cognitive neuroscience as it pertains to psychopathology.

The following skills are preferred: programming (R, Matlab, Bash or similar); [f]MRI processing and analysis (FSL, AFNI, SPM); experience with psychopathology and behavioral assessment.
The lab environment is collaborative, and staff have the opportunity to acquire a variety of technical skills, as well as a rich theoretical foundation. Successful lab members get support with independent data projects.

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 ***Mandy Collier (collieral@upmc.edu)***. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the positions have 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.