Paid Research Assistant Position: Emotion, Decision Making & Public Health

Date posted: 6/5/2023

Exciting opportunity to work on experiments in the interdisciplinary field of emotion, decision making, and public health. Specifically, our tobacco-cessation project seeks a student research assistant who can join our vibrant research team at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. This cutting-edge project will generate new insights into factors that drive addictive behaviors and suggest better-informed approaches to improve public health interventions.

Project Leaders:

[Prof. Vaughan Rees](#) is the Director of the Center for Global Tobacco Control, whose mission is to reduce the global burden of tobacco-related death and disease through training, research, and the translation of science into public health policies and programs. He directs the *Tobacco Research Laboratory* at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health. His studies examine factors that influence use and individual risk, including emotions, product design and communications, to inform policy and other interventions to control tobacco-related harm.

[Prof. Jennifer Lerner](#) is the Thornton F. Bradshaw Professor of Public Policy, Management and Decision Science at the Harvard Kennedy School. She holds academic appointments in Harvard's Kennedy School, Department of Psychology, and Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences. Drawing insights from psychology, economics, and neuroscience, her research examines social and emotional underpinnings of decision processes. Across all areas, her work aims to expand the evidentiary base for designing policies that maximize human wellbeing.

Responsibilities:
The research assistant will work under the supervision of a study coordinator and support multiple aspects of the study, including:
- Assist with recruiting, screening and scheduling research participants
- Assist with running research protocol and collecting data in laboratory sessions
- Conduct data cleaning
- Assist with administrative tasks (e.g., IRB submissions and revisions)

Required qualifications:
- Ability to commit at least 2-3 mornings (8am-1pm) or afternoons (1pm-5pm) per week
- Fluent speaker and reader of English
- Excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills
- Excellent attention to detail
- Ability to organize data in Excel
- Prior experience running studies with human subjects (preferred but not required)

Compensation: $20-$25 per hour, commensurate with experience

Application Guidelines:
Prepare one PDF document containing all of these: (a) a resume; (b) an unofficial transcript; and (c) a cover letter addressed to Drs. Vaughan Rees and Jennifer Lerner. Send the PDF document to Mr. Jason Thompson at the following address: jthompson@hsph.harvard.edu

Review of applications begins immediately and will take place on a rolling basis.