Postdoctoral Scholar
Department of Psychiatry
University of California, San Diego

Neuropsychology of Vascular Aging and Alzheimer's Lab

Neuropsychology of Vascular Aging and Alzheimer's (NOVAA) Lab
We are seeking a postdoctoral scholar with a research emphasis in neuropsychology and/or epidemiology of aging to join our NOVAA Lab at UCSD in the Department of Psychiatry (Directors: Kelsey Thomas, PhD & Katherine Bangen, PhD, ABPP-CN). Our work focuses on the preclinical and prodromal phases of Alzheimer's disease and vascular cognitive impairment and understanding the best approaches for capturing subtle cognitive declines. Biological markers (e.g., plasma, PET, CSF, MRI) of Alzheimer's disease, vascular disease, and neurodegeneration are incorporated to better understand possible mechanisms of early cognitive changes. Cognitive changes associated with diabetes and other vascular risks are also a focus in the lab. Our lab is a highly collaborative environment with multiple grants funded by NIH/NIA, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Alzheimer's Association.

Start date: As soon as possible (ideally by 9/1/24); review of applications will begin immediately

Primary Responsibilities: Analyzing data from large cohort studies, writing manuscripts

Compensation: Expected $64,480 plus benefits (UC postdoc rate)

How to Apply: Email a CV and cover letter to Kelsey Thomas, PhD at kthomas@health.ucsd.edu

Specific Project Information
This position is funded by a new NIH/NIA R01 grant (PI: Kelsey Thomas) focused on examining the heterogeneity of the earliest cognitive changes to occur prior to progression to cognitive impairment consistent with mild cognitive impairment or dementia. The grant will use two large and diverse aging cohorts, the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study and the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA), to determine data-driven subtle cognitive decline phenotypes using neuropsychological measures. Mid- and late-life health, physical activity, and biomarker variables will be used to predict subtle cognitive decline phenotypes and then the phenotypes will be examined longitudinally to determine rates of cognitive and functional decline and neurodegeneration by group. The postdoctoral scholar would work directly with Dr. Thomas and multiple study collaborators. The primary responsibilities will be to conduct statistical analyses and write manuscripts. At least 2 years of funding are available.

Requirements:
- Doctoral degree in clinical psychology, epidemiology, or related field
- Training and/or experience with neuropsychology, aging, and/or AD

Questions? Unsure if you should apply? Reach out to Kelsey Thomas at kthomas@health.ucsd.edu

Preferred qualifications:
- Evidence of research productivity, including first-author publications
- Training and experience in statistical analysis using large and complex cohort study data
- Competencies with statistical software such as R and/or Mplus

Additional Opportunities
- Additional research opportunities on projects within the lab or with collaborators are available.
- For clinical neuropsychology postdocs, if interested, opportunities to conduct clinical assessments in a neuropsychology clinic can likely be arranged.
- The postdoc will have access to UCSD resources and didactics, including but not limited to grant writing workshops, professional development series, Clinical Neuropsychology Seminar, and the Cognitive Interest Group through the UCSD Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.