

SLEEP/WAKE-BEHAVIOUR RESEARCH LAB: VOLUNTEER RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

WHO ARE WE?

We are a transdisciplinary network of researchers, scientists, clinicians and community members who work to improve health outcomes of children with (and without) neurodevelopmental conditions and sleep problems. The Sleep/Wake-Behaviour Research Lab is lead by Dr. Osman Ipsiroglu (MD, PhD); onsite at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, the team is comprised of undergraduate, graduate and staff members.

WHAT DO WE DO?

The research at the Sleep/Wake-Behaviour Research Lab (S/W-Lab) addresses the growing clinical and public health concern of unaddressed sleep problems in children with neurodevelopmental and mental health conditions such as autism spectrum disorder, anxiety, Down syndrome, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). By applying qualitative, observation-based research, our team have shown that missed sleep problems lead to a cascade of diagnoses and medication prescriptions that complicate clinical presentations.

WHAT ARE WE CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING?

Our current projects focus on the association between movement patterns and sleep disorders with particular focus on "H-behaviours" (hyperkinesia, hypermotor-restlessness, and hyper/hypo-arousability). Using novel technologies, 2D and 3D videos, and behavioural observations, we hope to develop automated (machine learning) algorithms to explore the problem, facilitate screening/diagnoses, and improve care.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The volunteer research assistant(s) in this position will support our ongoing projects

involving the qualitative and quantitative analysis of video recordings. The ideal candidate is interested in the work we are doing, highly attentive to detail, collaborative, able to follow structured protocols, and communicative.

HOW MANY POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

We are looking for up to six volunteers to join us during the summer.

WHAT KIND OF WORK WILL BE DONE?

The volunteer(s) will annotate video recordings according to a prescribed framework; the data will be analyzed using a specialized coding software. We will offer training in applying structured and naturalistic behavioural observations for the analysis of video recordings.

WHERE WILL THE WORK BE DONE?

The research will be conducted at the Sleep/Wake Behaviour Clinic and Research Lab at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (950 w 28th Ave, Vancouver, BC), under the direct guidance of Drs. Osman Ipsiroglu and Gerhard Kloesch (of the Medical University of Vienna who will join the endeavour as a guest researcher).

WHAT TYPE OF POSITION IS THIS?

This is a volunteer position; however, we do encourage interested candidates to apply for funding from applicable sources.



Phase 1: We recommend for interested individuals to submit a cover letter, resume, and unofficial transcripts to Mai Berger (mberger@bcchr.ca). Selected students will be interviewed in an individual and/or group setting and evaluated based on the overall applications (CVs, interests, grades).

Phase 2: After the interview process, we will invite the applicants to join us at the lab on a short-term volunteer basis (2 – 8 hrs). We are trying to create a team that is not only based on academic achievements and marks, but also on the degree to which the selected candidates would add value and fit well with the team, given the framework for our trans-disciplinary approach. This will also familiarize the individuals with the type of work they will be doing and allow them to assess if it is a good fit.

Phase 3: Selected volunteer(s) will begin their work in May 2017, and they will be supported in their training for the first few months by the current research team (undergraduate, graduate students).

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