

POST-DOCTORAL POSITIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND NEUROSCIENCE

University of Southern California (USC)

Two new postdoctoral positions are available in environmental neuroscience and neuroepidemiology:

- To work on a study of air pollution and brain development in the Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development (ABCD) study. A cohort of 10,000 children recruited at age 10, in cities across the U.S., has had baseline assessment of behavior and cognition, and is being followed to assess cognition yearly and brain MRI every other year through age 21. The cohort is one of the world's premier resources for the study of adolescent brain development. The scope of work will be to examine the relationships of exposure and contextual social covariates to brain structure and cognitive function, cross-sectionally at baseline and prospectively in 1000 study participants for whom the first follow-up MRI data are available.

Applications from a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds will be considered, including epidemiology, neuroscience and neuroimaging, exposure assessment, biostatistics (or related bioinformatics, precision medicine, and data science).

- To work on the newly funded Air Pollution and Autism Study in a pregnancy cohort of 400,000 mother-child pairs in Southern California with high quality electronic medical record and follow-up data. The study will examine associations of autism and autism phenotype with pollution, characteristics of pregnancy that increase susceptibility to exposure, and biological markers for exposure and oxidative stress, based on adductomic measurements from dried blood spots available from all newborns in California.

Applicants with doctoral degrees in epidemiology or biostatistics with experience in analyzing omics data are preferred, but exceptional candidates with neuroscience, exposure assessment and other backgrounds will be considered.

These are unique opportunities that could launch the career of a junior investigator. The successful candidates will be expected to lead manuscripts and to participate in the development of new applications to leverage more fully the opportunities afforded by these remarkable resources. Resources that are available for early investigators to strengthen the skills and knowledge base needed for career advancement include guidance in developing career directions and priorities, in grant writing, making effective presentations, preparing manuscripts, and developing multidisciplinary research teams. Several environmental health Centers support a Career Develop Program with an established track record of success in helping junior investigators to obtain faculty positions or first NIH awards.

Applications will remain open to candidates with a visa to work in the U.S., until the positions are filled. To apply, please send a letter describing research interests, curriculum vita, copies of one or two recent publications, if applicable, and contact information for three individuals who are familiar with academic accomplishments to Megan Herting, PhD, E-GT32@usc.edu. Please include "Neurological disease" in the subject line.