

## NIH Fetal Brain Research Laboratory Seeking Post-Doctoral Fellow in Developmental Brain Science

### Overview

Dr. Moriah Thomason in the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute and Department of Pediatrics and Wayne State University, and the intramural NICHD/NIH/DHHS Perinatology Research Branch (<http://www2.med.wayne.edu/prb/>) Perinatal Neural Connectivity Unit ([www.brainnexus.com](http://www.brainnexus.com)) invites applications for a postdoctoral fellow position funded by a 5-year NIMH BRAINS R01 entitled, “*In utero* assessment of the human neural connectome and later child behavior”. This project uses MRI techniques to examine neural networks at the beginning of human life, and addresses how variation in network properties relate to child neurobehavioral development. We use a number of approaches, including fetal and neonatal MRI, mother-child dyadic observation, interviews, questionnaires, child EEG, actigraphy, and home visits to characterize both the environment and also individual development. The ultimate goal is to understand biological bases of neurodevelopmental disorders, and to better understand factors in the environment that increase or mitigate risk. Fellows may be funded for up to 4 years pending performance and grant support. The position is located at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

### Essential Functions

The postdoctoral fellow will supervise longitudinal data collection, and will leverage the existing extensive dataset to test hypotheses linking early brain biomarkers to neurobehavioral development. Applicants with experience and interest in developmental psychopathology, especially mood-disorders and cognitive control deficits, among underserved and predominantly minority populations, as well as prenatal disease origins, infant mental health, and risk/protective mechanisms are especially encouraged to apply. Experience with MRI, early-childhood behavioral assessments, EEG, computer programming, statistical modeling are desirable but not necessary. The position includes ample RA support, collaborations with graduate students and faculty, and close collaboration with the Primary Investigator. The PI is committed to providing mentorship opportunities and supporting the fellow in establishment of skills needed for directing an independent program of research. To this end the PI will support the fellow in submitting and publishing research papers, presenting research at conferences, and writing new grant proposals.

### Responsibilities

- Supervision of data collection personnel (research assistants, student volunteers)
- Ensuring that research data from fetal and infant fMRI and behavioral visits are stored and maintained in a uniform fashion and in compliance with all standards set by the university for human participant research
- Initiating and directing data quality assurance protocols and data sharing procedures
- Data analyses, conference presentations, manuscript preparation

### Required Qualifications

- PhD in a relevant discipline (e.g., clinical psychology, neuroscience, developmental psychology) by the time of position initiation

### Preferred Qualifications

- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Background in developmental neuroscience research
- Experience in functional MRI, functional connectivity, DTI, and/or EEG
- Programming skills (e.g., Matlab, Mplus, R)
- Expertise in statistics
- A promising publication record

### To Apply

Applicants should submit a cover letter, names and contact information for 3 reference writers, and a CV. Please send as a single PDF via email with subject heading “postdoctoral fellowship applicant” to [jobs@brainnexus.com](mailto:jobs@brainnexus.com)

