

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Position Vacancy Listing

PVL # 91927

Please Note: A change was made to this position announcement on 11/30/17

Working Title:

RESEARCH SPECIALIST

Official Title:

SR RESEARCH SPEC(T16BN) or RESEARCH SPECIALIST(T16DN) or ASSOC RESEARCH SPEC(T16FN)

Degree and area of specialization:

A Bachelor's degree is required. A degree in Psychology, Neuroscience or a related field is preferred.

Minimum number of years and type of relevant work experience:

Well-qualified applicants will have the following required experience:

- A minimum of 1 to 2 years of experience in a large human subjects' research laboratory. Relevant undergraduate experience may be considered.

Well-qualified candidates will have the following preferred work experience:

- Experience with community samples and/or minority or aged populations.
- Research experience in behavioral, psychophysiological and/or neuroimaging data collection, processing and analysis.
- Computer programming skills in Bash, Python, and/or MATLAB.
- Familiarity with FSL and/or Freesurfer.
- Familiarity with R or similar statistical programs.
- Experience using Windows, Mac, and Linux in a secure environment.

Position Summary:

The Center for Healthy Minds (CHM) was founded and is led by neuroscientist Richard J. Davidson. CHM's mission is to cultivate well-being and relieve suffering through a scientific understanding of the mind. CHM is a leader in rigorous, interdisciplinary, basic and translational research aimed at understanding the mind and how to nurture well-being in ourselves and others. CHM communicates these findings to the world, inspires scientists to conduct further research and engages influencers to shift the culture to embrace well-being.

The Research Specialist will be responsible for data collection, data processing, and participant screening and scheduling for both the Neuroscience Project component of the longitudinal Midlife in the United States (MIDUS; <http://midus.wisc.edu>) study, as well as a comparative study in a cohort from the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention (WRAP; <http://www.wai.wisc.edu/research/whatiswrap.html>).

MIDUS is a collaborative, multi-site, national longitudinal study of health and well-being that has been following participants since 1995. The collective aim is to investigate the role of behavioral, psychological, and social factors in accounting for age-related variations in health and well-being in a national sample of Americans. Over 900 publications have been published using MIDUS data as of 2017. In addition to studying age-related variations in brain structure and function, the primary goal of the MIDUS Neuroscience Project is to identify how individual differences in the neural bases of different emotional response styles contribute to health and well-being vs. vulnerability to stress and disease throughout the lifespan.

WRAP is the world's largest longitudinal research study on adults whose parents were diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease (AD), and has been following individuals for the past 16 years to better understand the factors (biological, medical, environmental and lifestyle choices) that increase a person's risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. The main goal of the WRAP Emotion Project is to better understand how different emotional response styles may promote resilience vs. increase vulnerability to the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

Stacey M. Schaefer heads the MIDUS Neuroscience Project and the WRAP Emotion Project teams in collaboration with Richard J. Davidson.

Principal duties:

80% Data Collection, Data Management, and Data Processing:

- Conduct data collection involving self-report, behavioral, neuropsychological, psychophysiological, and neuroimaging-based methods.
- Assist with data processing of self-report, behavioral, neuropsychological, psychophysiological, and neuroimaging data.
- Ensure the quality and integrity of data collection by performing periodic quality assurance checks, problem solving, and managing research supplies.
- Track all study participants and complete data collection logs.
- Train personnel in data collection procedures.

- Study team coordination and management of undergraduate student workers.

20% Research Participant Recruitment & Screening:

- Screen participants and coordinate their participation schedules.
- Provide additional information to potential participants as needed.
- Work with participants to facilitate travel arrangements and provide support to ensure study retention.
- Follow up with participants as necessary.

Additional Information

A Criminal Background Check will be performed.

**A criminal background check will be conducted prior to hiring.
A period of evaluation will be required**

Employee Class:

Academic Staff

Department(s): L&S/CTR FOR HEALTHY MINDS

Full Time Salary Rate: **Minimum** \$31,113 ANNUAL (12 months)
Depending on Qualifications

Term: This is a renewable appointment.

Appointment percent: 100%

Anticipated begin date: JANUARY 22, 2018

Number of Positions: 1

TO ENSURE CONSIDERATION

Application must be received by: JANUARY 17, 2018

HOW TO APPLY:

How to Apply: Please click on the Apply Now button to start the application process.

An applicant may be hired in to an Associate Research Specialist, Research Specialist, or Senior Research Specialist title dependent upon experience. Title will be determined upon hire.

For questions on the position, contact: Cassandra Kuen, cassandra.kuen@wisc.edu or 608-262-0196.

To apply for this position you will need to upload a cover letter, resume and contact information for at least three professional references, including your current supervisor. References will not be contacted without advanced notice.

Your cover letter should address your qualifications as they pertain to the minimum number of years and type of relevant work experience listed above.

Questions about the position can be directed to:

Cassandra Kuen Phone: 608-262-0196

625 W Washington Ave Fax: N/A

Kennedy Dairy Building Email: cassandra.kuen@wisc.edu

Madison, WI 53703-2637

Relay Access (WTRS): 7-1-1 (out-of-state: TTY: 800.947.3529, STS: 800.833.7637) and above Phone number (See [RELAY SERVICE](#) for further information.)

If you need to request an accommodation because of a disability you can find information about how to make a request at the following website: <http://www.oed.wisc.edu/478.htm>

NOTE: Please indicate in writing if you request that your identity be kept confidential. If you do not indicate your preference to remain confidential, the University may be required to disclose your identify and/or application materials. The identity of finalists and successful candidates will be revealed upon request. See Wis. Stat. sec. 19.36(7).

UW-Madison is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

We promote excellence through diversity and encourage all qualified individuals to apply.

Feedback, questions or accessibility issues: ohrwebmaster@ohr.wisc.edu

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