Minnesota Twin Registry (MTR) Interviewer
Position Description (Job ID: 313450)

Minnesota Twin Registry (MTR) Interviewer
Job Code: 8352R2 (Researcher 2)
Civil Service, Non-exempt
Target Start Date: October 15, 2016
Hourly rate range: $15.00 - $17.00 ($31,200 - $35,360 per year)
Term: A term (12 mo.)
Percentage: 100% FTE (40 hrs)
Number of Positions: 2-3

Dr. Glenn I. Roisman of the Institute of Child Development and Dr. Bob Krueger of the Department of Psychology, Co-Principal Investigators on a five year NIH-funded grant to follow-up the large Minnesota Twin Registry (MTR) cohort into late life, seek to hire two Research Assistants (8352R2: Researcher 2) responsible for interviewing study participants (aged 60-80 years) in their homes. In addition to questionnaires that participants and their marital partners will complete online (or by mail) before the in-person visit, assessments conducted by the Research Assistants will include: an hour-long interview with the twin participants about their childhood experiences, objective assessments of twin participants’ physical health (including body measurements and a blood draw), and standardized measures of cognitive health. Research Assistants will review data to assure quality and prepare data for analysis and publication. They will work closely with the MTR research participants, MTR co-investigators, and the MTR project coordinator who schedules visits, so a bachelor degree is required and research experience, knowledge and skills plus outstanding communication and problem-solving skills are preferred. In addition, applicants must have a valid driver’s license and be willing to use their own car to travel for assessments of the older twins in this study. Research Assistants will be compensated for mileage at University rates.

Applications are accepted at: https://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs (click on “External Faculty and Staff Applicants” and then enter 313450 for “Job Opening ID”).

Major Responsibilities

- (70%) Interviews Research Participants:
  - Conduct formal 4-hour (on average) assessments with participants in their homes, including an hour-long interview with the study participants about their childhood experiences, objective assessments of physical health (including measurement of height, weight, blood pressure, assessments of mobility, etc.), conduct a blood draw to acquire biomarkers of physical health and DNA, and administer standardized measures of cognitive health, plus other psychological assessment instruments.
• (10%) Acts as Research Participant Representative:
  o MTR Research Assistant greets study participants and then describes study goals, assessment
tasks, confidentiality limitations and potential risks;
  o Obtains informed consent;
  o Answers participant questions and conducts a de-briefing at the end of the visit;
  o Maintains required assessment documentation.

• (10%) Recruits participants:
  o As directed by project coordinator, schedules, updates, and cancels appointments with
  participating twins in the research study;
  o Sends out participant questionnaires by email and regular mail, including sending
  attachments with information regarding appointment and directions.

• (10%) Participates in Quality Control Review:
  o Research Assistant meets with Principal Investigators, Co-Investigator, and Project
  Coordinator to evaluate interview validity and reliability and implement feedback as required
  by MTR quality standards.

Essential Qualifications
• Bachelor’s degree in psychology or child psychology, or an equivalent combination of
  psychology-related education and/or research experience totaling at least four (4) years, to
  include a minimum of one (1) year of related research experience.
• Must be able to work evenings and weekends with ability to accommodate a flexible work
  schedule.

Preferred Qualifications
• Prior research experience conducting structured clinical interviews, neuropsychological tests,
anthropometric assessments (e.g., height, weight), and/or phlebotomy. Note that extensive
training will be provided in all assessments, even if applicants have prior experience. In addition,
prior training in phlebotomy is not an essential qualification, though a willingness to acquire
blood from participants is an essential qualification.
• Availability over the next five years
• Excellent verbal communication skills.
• Problem-solving skills and attention to detail to work independently and assure accuracy.

Minnesota Center for Twin and Family Research
The MTR is embedded within the Minnesota Center for Twin and Family Research (MCTFR) in the
Department of Psychology. The MCTFR seeks to identify environmental and genetic influences on
psychological traits and includes studies of twins, adoptees, and biologically related adolescent
siblings. MCTFR participants are involved in a variety of projects including: assessment of
psychopathology, neuropsychological function, social adjustment, psychophysiology and collection
of DNA samples. The MTR study in which Research Assistants will be based has as its primary
focus an examination of the contributions of personality traits (e.g., conscientiousness) and
relationship experiences (e.g., quality of marital relationships) to physical health outcomes in late
life and is currently funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA).
Institute of Child Development
This appointment will run through the Institute of Child Development (ICD) at the University of Minnesota, which has long been a premier center for scholarship, teaching, and outreach devoted to the understanding and fostering of successful development across the lifespan. Founded in 1925, the Institute is one of the oldest departments in the United States studying children’s development. From its inception, a key tenet of the department has been to “give away” child psychology. This philosophy has created an environment rich with collaborations, new ideas, and exciting interdisciplinary work.

Appointment
Our Research Assistants report to the Principal Investigators of the MTR (Roisman and Krueger) and to its project coordinator. Each position is 100%-time, 12 month civil-service position with possibility of reappointment annually until assessment specific aims are completed. Current NIA support for the current research runs for five years total. Salary is competitive and commensurate with education and experience.

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. This document is available in alternative formats upon request.