PSY 390 Research Opportunity – Spring 2022

Students may also enroll via their departmental independent study mechanism, with advisor approval.

Laboratory Information
Neurodevelopmental Family Lab
http://Nddfamilylab.weebly.com

Principal Investigator: Dr. Bridgette Kelleher
Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior
Director, Purdue Autism Research Center
https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/psy/directory/faculty/kelleher_bridgette.html

Primary Contact
Veronika Peskova (please refer to in emails as “Veronika”)
Research Associate

Description of Neurodevelopmental Family Lab
Dr. Kelleher’s lab conducts research on the early development of children with neurodevelopmental disorders in order to identify early markers of risk and resilience in clinical populations. Kelleher lab methods include clinical assessments, behavioral observation, psychophysiological data collection (e.g. heart activity, EEG), use of wearable sensors, and ecological momentary assessments. Information about Dr. Kelleher’s broader research interests are available at nddfamilylab.weebly.com.

Description of Research Team
Students recruited into this position will primarily work on Dr. Kelleher’s e Purdue Early Phenotype Study (PEPS) and Optimizing telehealth methods for identifying and treating distress among caregivers of individuals with PWS and WS (WellCAST) projects. PEPS is a longitudinal online survey for families of children with neurogenetic disorders aimed at characterizing early development in areas such as communication, sleep and autism features. The WellCAST project is an intervention study with a goal to identify the key needs of treatment-seeking caregivers of individuals with Prader Willi Syndrome (PWS) and Williams Syndrome (WS), and to determine which telehealth-based treatments might be most feasible, acceptable, and effective in addressing these needs.

Our lab family includes a large, diverse team of staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students. We typically involve over 15 undergraduate students in research activities each semester across a variety of project teams.

Description of Undergraduate Participation
Undergraduate participation may involve a combination of the following:

1. Assisting with participant management
2. Data management
3. Cleaning and entering data
4. Professional development activities
5. Independent or team-based research projects and presentations

All students involved in the Kelleher lab complete a combination of lab-focused research tasks (~60% of time), professional development (~15%), and a research poster than is often completed in teams (~25%; if students do not elect to do a poster, this time is spent
on research tasks). Students who join the lab in the spring frequently wait to join a poster team until the following fall.

**Research setting**
For this position, all research tasks will be completed in person in Dr. Kelleher’s laboratory. Option to complete some tasks remotely will be based on amount of research credits registered.

2 credits = 6 hours (1 hour might be completed remotely)
3 credits = 9 hours (2 hours might be completed remotely)

**Number of assistants needed**
3

**To apply**
- Complete our lab application at [https://nddfamilylab.weebly.com/future-team-members.html](https://nddfamilylab.weebly.com/future-team-members.html). Here, you can also view a syllabus from past 390 courses.
- Email your application to Veronika Peskova at vpeskova@purdue.edu.
- Indicate you are interested in the PEPS/WellCAST Team within your email and application.
- Veronika Peskova will provide additional information about virtual interviews.

**Additional comments**
Due to the advanced training involved with joining the lab, a 2-semester commitment is required. Preference will be given to students who plan to remain in the lab for 3+ semesters. Freshmen and sophomores are encouraged to apply.

Our lab is an inclusive space for students with a variety of research/academic backgrounds, including students with limited prior exposure to the research process. We provide substantial mentorship to support students in developing skills over time. Mentorship includes both peer-to-peer supports, engagement with graduate students and staff, and group and individual meetings with Dr. Kelleher.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to our lab’s mission and values. We are committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive, and valuing environment to all students, faculty, staff, and guests, consistent with Purdue’s Nondiscrimination Policy Statement. All are welcome at our lab table, regardless of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. Moreover, we fully believe that working in an environment that includes and centers diverse perspectives benefits us all as scientists, practitioners, and humans.