Pathologomics of Essential Tremor

The Department of Neurology at UT Southwestern Medical Center is a nationally recognized leader in the comprehensive management of neurological conditions. Our vibrant department comprises more than 75 full-time faculty in 12 subspecialty sections, supporting a spectrum of complex and innovative approaches to neurological care, a broad range of novel research programs, and a panoply of educational opportunities for trainees. The department offers access to the latest innovative treatments in one of the most rapidly advancing fields of medicine and features an Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center and a Level-4 NEAC Epilepsy Center. Through collaborations with the O'Donnell Brain Institute, the department is building state-of-the-art facilities for drug and device testing and bringing current and new faculty together for collaborative research on brain disease therapy.

Dr. Elan Louis, the Chair of the Department of Neurology, is interested in hiring a full-time, paid, post-doctoral trainee who will be involved in the Pathologomics of Essential Tremor and COGNET studies. The goal of these clinical research projects is to understand the postmortem brain tissue changes that occur in essential tremor, comparing these changes to those seen in patients with other neurological diseases, and especially the degenerative changes that occur in the cerebellum. At the same time, the COGNET study will allow for the assessment of cognition as the participants age. These studies, funded by the NIH, draw on the expertise of clinical neurologists and neuropathologists, and partners with a motivated essential tremor community.

This position is perfect for a motivated person who is interested in obtaining additional clinical research training. As part of their educational experience, the post-doctoral trainee will learn about the cause of neurological diseases, the development of methods for clinical evaluation of patients with a broad range of tremor disorders, methods of analyzing clinical human subjects’ data for research purposes, and tools available for clinic-pathological studies of human disease. The trainee will also shadow at the Movement Disorders Clinic and attend Neurology Grand Rounds. These meetings will allow the post-doctoral trainee to learn to recognize a range of involuntary movements in the study participants and to learn about the other research studies that are currently being conducted by the department.

The post-doctoral trainee will learn about numerous aspects of clinical research from study design and planning, questionnaire development, preparation of materials for institutional review board evaluation, and selection of appropriate methods to evaluate and track study subjects. Opportunities for independent research will be available to the post-doctoral trainee and are strongly encouraged. Thus, the post-doctoral trainee will learn about statistical analyses methods to interpret study data and how to prepare and publish first author, peer-reviewed manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals. The trainee’s publication portfolio will center around the clinic-pathological findings that are elucidated during the execution of these projects.

It is expected that this educational experience will serve as an educational link between the trainee’s graduate experience and their future academic/educational advancement into a clinical research career. Pathologomics and COGNET are not clinical trials but part of prospective clinical-pathological studies. The post-doctoral trainee’s activities will include the recruitment and enrollment of study subjects, data collection and management. The trainee will also act as the liaison between brain donors, their families and physicians, pathologists, and funeral homes to create personal brain donor plans that ensure that donation is carried out at the time of death. As well, the trainee will act as the liaison between the New York Brain Band, the principal investigator, and the laboratory technicians. Miscellaneous administrative tasks will include conducting follow-up phone calls with brain donors who were previously home visited, requesting, and collecting deceased brain donors’ medical records. The COGNET study will allow the candidate to interview participants in person and learn to perform standardized neurological assessments and administer different cognitive assessment tests. This will require travelling across the country. The trips will not involve more than one week per month. All expenses are paid by the grants.
Preferred qualifications/experience:
Candidates are required to provide a cover letter detailing their past experience/skills and interest in the position. Candidates must possess and be able to demonstrate the following preferred qualifications/experience:

- Candidates with an M.D. are preferred
- Must have excellent interpersonal, organizational, and communication skills
- Basic computer skills such as word-processing, database management and Internet research are required.
- Candidates must commit at least 2 years for this position
- Experience conducting phone interviews with neurological and elderly patients, preferred
- Experience handling sensitive information in a tactful and professional manner, preferred
- Prior clinical research experience, preferred
- Familiarity with SPSS and REDCap, preferred

If interested, please address a cover letter and CV to Dr. Elan Louis and email to Dr. Nora Hernandez at nora.hernandez@utsouthwestern.edu.

*UT Southwestern Medical Center is committed to an educational and working environment that provides equal opportunity to all members of the University community. As an equal opportunity employer, UT Southwestern prohibits unlawful discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, citizenship status, or veteran status.*