Research Opportunity in Psychoneuroimmunology!

The BMED Lab (Biobehavioral Mechanisms Explaining Disparities), led by Dr. Fagundes in the department of Psychology, is seeking motivated students to fill the position listed below. The BMED Lab integrates theories and methods from psycho-oncology, developmental psychology, psychoneuroimmunology, and autonomic psychophysiology to understand how the mind and body interact to affect those confronted by stressful life events such as cancer or the loss of a loved one. We are particularly interested in why (a) certain population groups do not benefit from the same health status as others, and (b) how past and current adversities contribute to one’s health status. By understanding biobehavioral mechanisms, medical professionals will be better able to identify and treat the factors that disproportionately enhance the burden of cancer and cancer-related symptoms among certain individuals compared with others.

Position Title: Student Research Assistant
Department: Psychology
Education: Open to undergraduate, post-bac, and graduate students
Reports to: Research Coordinator, Principal Investigator
Compensation: Work-study positions or course credit are available for Rice Students and highly encouraged; volunteer positions may also be available
Function: Performs activities in support of multiple research projects within the fields of psychoneuroimmunology, psychophysiology, and psycho-oncology. These tasks will include collecting and processing data related to heart rate variability, metabolism, endocrine function, and immune function. Tasks include: screening participants via phone, making recruitment calls, inputting data in spreadsheets, and performing research protocols related to the study (i.e., interacting with participants!). Students will also have to opportunity to learn how to utilize SPSS and related statistical software to manage data on a large scale basis. Such experience is valuable for those who are interest in a career in any research domain, as well as for those considering a career in data management (e.g., computer scientists). This is a volunteer research position with opportunity for advancement. Excellent recommendation letter offered, if appropriate.

If interested, please email bmed.research@gmail.com for more information on how to apply.