Infant/Toddler MRI Technologist/Coordinator

Developmental Mechanisms Program, Department of Medical Social Sciences,
Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University

This is a unique opportunity for individuals interested in participating in brain-based assessment in developmental studies in early childhood. We are seeking a candidate with experience/training in developmentally-based neuroimaging assessments, engagement of diverse families and interest in joining a dynamic, multidisciplinary research team investigating markers of developmental health and risk in the first years of life.

The main responsibility of the MRI Technologist/Coordinator will be coordinating and overseeing MRI visits across multiple inter-related studies of prenatal and early childhood risk and neurodevelopmental outcomes. This individual will join a team across multiple funded studies of longitudinal child development directed by developmental/clinical psychologist. Laurie Wakschlag, PhD and developmental cognitive neuroscientist, Elizabeth Norton, PhD.

The Technologist/Coordinator will lead sessions collecting MRI data from infants and toddlers during natural sleep, and coordinate the scheduling of MRI sessions, prepare children for scanning, set up equipment, run the MRI acquisition computer, monitor the child during the scan, and other activities as needed. There are additional opportunities to engage in EEG/ERP and behavioral data collection and analysis, as well as to engage in scientific products (meetings, presentations, papers) as appropriate. This individual will engage with the Developmental Mechanisms (DevMech) program, a vibrant interdisciplinary team of researchers and clinicians across disciplines. This is an ideal position for someone considering future graduate study or a research staff career in developmental research coordination/science. The candidate will also have the opportunity to join the University-wide interdisciplinary community of the Institute for Innovations in Developmental Science (DevSci), which provides a range of career development and engagement opportunities with over 150 faculty and 150 trainees at all levels participating.

The ideal candidate will have experience operating an MRI scanner and leading MRI acquisition sessions. Experience conducting MRI sessions with neonates, infants, and toddlers and comfort working with children and families is strongly preferred. Familiarity with MRI image quality control (monitoring data quality in real time) is also preferred.

DevMech conducts research at the intersection of developmental and clinical science, spanning the prenatal period through early childhood. DevMech's research aims to characterize early developmental patterns marking emergent mental health and other neurodevelopmental risks, as well as prenatal influences on these pathways, and application to prevention. Multiple developmentally sensitive methods are used (including EEG/ERP, MRI, and eye tracking), as well as behavioral and family assessments and assessments of the social ecology, with emphasis on risk and resilience.

This position requires a highly motivated individual with a strong attention to detail. The candidate must be able to interact comfortably and professionally with diverse families and young children. The ability to work flexibly across multiple demands and balance administrative skills related to study coordination is crucial. This individual will assist the project manager in monitoring study performance, assist in development/implementation of new protocols and ensuring that all processes, protocols, and procedures are functioning well.

The ideal candidate is a team player who is willing to take initiative and learn a variety of responsibilities. Ability to think on your feet and a capacity to proactively identify and solve problems are essential traits. Flexibility in hours, including evenings and weekends, is required. The candidate must have strong

written and spoken English skills and be safe to work in the MRI environment. A two-year commitment is strongly preferred.

To formally apply for this position, please fill out an application through the Northwestern University Career website through the following link.

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Applicants are also requested to send the following documents to Dr. Renee Edwards (renee.edwards@northwestern.edu):

- a cover letter describing background/qualifications, interest in the position, and career goals
- a resume
- contact information for three references (to be contacted for finalists)

Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging:

MSS is strongly committed to diversity and equity is critical to the mission of advancing excellence in academic programs, world-class research, and health programs. As our healthcare and academic institutions serve increasingly diverse constituencies, it is vital to understand the ways in which differences in gender, class, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, and other identities can both divide us and offer us better ways of thinking and working. Applications are encouraged from diverse applicants and the Department is committed to supporting staff to work in an increasingly diverse society by promoting equity and justice for all individuals, actively working to eliminate barriers and obstacles created by institutional discrimination. Engagement in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, military service, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression will not be tolerated. MSS has a central objective to advance the health and wellbeing of diverse populations. The importance of respecting and valuing this aspect of diversity permeates interactions and activities with faculty, trainees, and staff. Northwestern University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer of all protected classes, including veterans and individuals with disabilities. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply. Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the United States.