Postdoctoral Biostatistics Scholar, UC San Diego

Supervisor:

The Supervising Professor, **Steve Edland, PhD**, has a joint appointment in the UC San Diego Department of Neurosciences and the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health, and conducts research with colleagues at the Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center. He is a biostatistician and clinical trialist with over 25 years of experience supporting clinical, bench, and epidemiologic research studies of aging and neurodegenerative disease, as statistician and manager of the University of Washington Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC) Biostatistics Core from 1990 to 1999, and as founding Director of the Biostatistics Core of the Mayo Clinic ADRC from 2001-2005. Prof. Edland has directed the Biostatistics Core of the UC San Diego ADRC for the past 16 years. He has provided statistical support to a number of nationally recognized epidemiologic investigations of Alzheimer’s disease, including the Consortium the Establish a Registry of Alzheimer’s Disease, the first nationwide longitudinal cohort study of Alzheimer’s disease, and multiple other NIA program project Alzheimer’s disease model patient registries.

For a complete list of Professor Edland’s published work, please refer to: [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1LCE61CuJWXQW/bibliography/48037761/public/?sort=date&direction=ascending](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1LCE61CuJWXQW/bibliography/48037761/public/?sort=date&direction=ascending)

Prof. Edland’s overarching research interest continues to be **Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroepidemiology** – the epidemiology, treatment, and prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD). The successful Postdoctoral Biostatistics Scholar will assist Prof. Edland with the development and application of statistical methods for high dimensional data, including EWAS, GWAS, GWS, and longitudinal exposure and phenotypic data. Potential applications are for neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease.

The Research Environment:

US News and World Report currently ranks **UC San Diego** as the 8th Best Global University for Neuroscience and Behavior. Complementing this, UC San Diego’s Behavioral Neuroscience graduate program is ranked 4th in the US and the Cognitive Psychology program ranks 8th. This reflects the extraordinary quality of the faculty and research interests that span the size and temporal spectra of neuroscience investigations. The faculty is collegial and highly interactive.

The **Department of Neurosciences** was the first department so named in the United States and was uniquely charged with developing faculty and programs that embraced and joined the efforts of basic scientists, translational neuroscientists, clinician-investigators and neurologists. The Department has prospered under a series of dynamic, visionary leaders. At present, it lists more than 110 full-time faculty and 28 adjunct faculty whose primary appointments are in other departments or at its nearby sister institutions. The Department has enjoyed a sterling reputation for research and training and maintains its No. 1 ranking in NIH funding among neuroscience departments.

The **Department of Family Medicine and Public Health** is home to seven divisions including Behavioral Medicine, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Epidemiology, Family Medicine, Global Health, Health Policy, and Preventive Medicine. Each division is led by an appointed chief and pursues active investigational
and educational interests many of whom are actively involved in aging research. The Department (approved by the UC system in 2019 to become a School of Public Health), is currently physically housed within the Stein Institute for Research on Aging, and is home to a number of renowned longitudinal aging studies, including the Rancho Bernardo Cohort Study, and the UCSD Center for Healthy Aging.

The Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC). The ADRC is one of the original five Alzheimer’s Disease Centers supported by the NIH National Institute on Aging. It was established in 1984 to translate research advances into improved diagnosis and care for persons with Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) while simultaneously working to prevent, treat, and ultimately eradicate the disease. Its mission is to:

- Carry out research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of Alzheimer’s disease
- Act as a local and national resource by providing research subjects, data, and materials to researchers in AD and related disorders
- Provide training opportunities for clinicians and researchers, and
- Educate professionals and the community regarding AD, and
- Provide outreach to the diverse San Diego community regarding diagnosis, treatment, and care for persons with AD.

In accordance with its mission, it is organized into the eight cores: Clinical Core, Outreach Recruitment and Engagement (ORE) Core, Neuropathology Core, Latino Core, Biomarkers Core, Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell (iPSC) Core, Research Education Component (REC), and the Data Management and Statistics Core, under the Direction of Steve Edland.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Details:

The position is a twelve-month appointment, with salary commensurate with experience and as governed by NIH guidelines. Extension of the appointment is possible but not guaranteed. The position will remain open until filled, with an initial application deadline of March 15, 2020.

Who is the optimal candidate?

A creative researcher eager to participate on an interdisciplinary team to advance the knowledge of Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroepidemiology, and/or quantitative methods to improve research in the field.

Requirements:

The fellow must possess excellent writing and communication skills, with demonstrated ability to organize, analyze, interpret, evaluate, and present research findings in a variety of formats, such as manuscripts and grant proposals. The ideal candidate is an early career researcher in a field related to Aging or Neuroscience. Additional requirements include:

- A Ph.D. in statistics, biostatistics, or a related quantitative field
- Programming experience in R or its equivalent
- Quantitative research experience in a related field.

How do I apply?
Send your résumé or CV, a cover letter, and the email addresses of three recent references to: sherithompson@health.ucsd.edu. The cover letter should describe your current research interest and experience, how you would plan to contribute to these activities, what excites you about the position, and what you would like to accomplish during this kind of postdoctoral fellowship opportunity.