Active Research Projects / Ongoing Child & Adolescent Recruitment Needs*

*Clinical research depends on active and consistent referral of potential participants. To make a referral or to learn more about each project, please use the contact information listed for each study. Staff associated with each study can provide a full project description, as well as provide you with HH IRB-approved advertisements to give to potential participants.

rTMS Treatment of Teens with Depression (PI Stevens). This study seeks to identify the effects of standard transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) treatment on adolescents with Major Depressive Disorder. Individuals will undergo a baseline visit consisting of an fMRI scan, psychological interviews, and questionnaires. Individuals will receive 5 weeks of daily TMS treatment conducted at the IOL. This is followed by a final visit re-administering fMRI procedures and questionnaires. **Recruitment Needs:** Adolescents ages 12-19 diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder. This study is enrolling 30 participants. Individuals can be on antidepressant medications or not currently taking any medications. Contact Zoe at the Olin center, 545-7897.

An fMRI Study of Working Memory Training in ADHD (PI Stevens). This study will examine how a cognitive training therapy for ADHD changes brain activity. The project provides 5 weeks of “at home” computerized training in working memory to qualified adolescents with ADHD and uses non-invasive fMRI to evaluate baseline and outcome brain function. **Recruitment Needs:** This study recruits patients with Combined-subtype ADHD ages 12-18. For more information, please contact Alexandra at the Olin Center, 545-7888.

Brain Correlates of Anti-Anxiety Drugs in the Treatment of Anxiety in Autism Spectrum Disorders (PI Assaf). This study will examine brain activity in addition to anxiety and social communication symptoms severity to evaluate how the brains of people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) respond to treatment with Buspirone. **Recruitment Needs:** This study recruits patients with ASD, ages 5 to 21, who are about to start treatment with Buspirone, as determined by their psychiatrist (our research protocol will not alter the treatment regimen). MRI scans will be done to patients 8 years old or older. Patients will be evaluated before treatment initiation and 8-12 weeks into the treatment. For more information, please contact Dr. Michal Assaf at the Olin Center, 545-7792 or Massaf@harthosp.org.

Characterizing Two Distinct ADHD Neurobiologies with fMRI (PI Stevens). This NIMH-funded 5-year study will explore neural correlates of impulsivity in adolescents (12-18) with ADHD and link evidence for dysfunction in two separate neural pathways to genetic markers. **Recruitment Needs:** The study is actively recruiting both healthy control and ADHD-diagnosed teens. Over the next 4 years, 130 ADHD and 130 healthy controls are needed. Referral from private practice clinics and structured IOL treatment programs are both welcome. Contact Katie, 545-7531, www.harthosp.org/adhd.

Motivation and Emotion Neural Function in Adolescent Depression: An fMRI Study (PI Stevens). The study is collecting data examining abnormalities within brain systems engaged for motivation and emotional processing in teenagers diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder. **Recruitment Needs:** In the next year the goal is to recruit and collect fMRI data from 25 adolescents ages 12-18 with MDD (limited other psychiatric co-morbidities). Researchers are interested in collecting data that compare youth who are taking SSRI or other antidepressant medication and those who are unmedicated. Referral from private practice clinics and structured IOL treatment programs are both welcome. Contact Alexandra, 545-7888.

Bipolar Schizophrenia Network on Intermediate Phenotypes (B-SNIP) (PI Pearlson). The purpose of the B-SNIP study is to discover how the risk for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder is transmitted in families, to identify the most important risk genes and to measure brain structure and function, personality and cognitive abilities affected by the disorders. This is a study of patients with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder and 1st degree relatives (mother/father/brothers/sisters/children). **Recruitment Needs:** Although the study is open to adults up to age 65, the project will recruit teens age 16+. Contact Kasey 860-545-7106 or Koneil01@harthosp.org. (www.b-snip.org).
Active Research Projects / Ongoing Child & Adolescent Recruitment Needs, Continued

**Functional Neuroimaging of Alcoholism Vulnerability: Glutamate, Reward, Impulsivity, and Pavlovian-to-Instrumental Transfer (PIT)** (PI Pearlson). This 5-year NIAAA-funded project explores the effects of memantine, a non-competitive NMDA receptor antagonist, on alcoholism risk-relevant tasks. **Recruitment Needs:** Researchers are planning to recruit and collect fMRI data from right-handed individuals aged 18-25 years. Researchers are interested in collecting data that compare individuals who have first- or second-degree relatives with a history of alcoholism to individuals who do not have any first- or second-degree relatives with a history of alcoholism. For more information, please contact Rachel Kelly at 860-545-7179 or at rjiantonio@harthosp.org. *(Pending IRB approval).*

**Functional and Structural Brain Changes in Pediatric Athletes Recovering from Concussion/Mild Traumatic Brain Injury** (PI Stevens). This pilot study will examine brain structural and functional recovery in a population of adolescent and young adult athletes (<19 years old) who sustain a mild TBI. **Recruitment needs:** This study is looking to recruit 20 participants between the ages of 12-19 years old, who are able to come in for an MRI within one week of suffering from a concussion/mild TBI. This study receives patient referrals from the Hartford Hospital Concussion Clinic, under the direction of Dr. Seetharama. Contact Katie, 860-545-7531.

Active Research Projects/Affiliated Institutions

**Examining the Effects of Varenicline on Reward Responses, Cognition and Tobacco Cues in Adolescent Smokers** (PI Krishnan-Sarin, Yale University School of Medicine). The purpose of this research study is to look at how a medication called Varenicline (Chantix®) affects cognitive functioning and nicotine craving in adolescents who are current cigarette smokers. Participants will receive Varenicline or placebo for fourteen days followed by an fMRI. **Recruitment needs:** This study is recruiting adolescent smokers ages 16-19 who do not currently want to quit smoking. Contact Amanda at (203)974-7814 or amanda.liss@yale.edu.

New Child & Adolescent Research Grants

Information on newly awarded grants to be published in the winter newsletter. Stay tuned!

Research Opportunities / Project Development / Grant Submissions

**Residency Research Fellowship Opportunities**

Each year, awards/fellowships are available for psychiatric residents to engage in research career development activities. Application deadlines typically are in early October. If interested, please contact Dr. Michael Stevens (545-7552) or Dr. Lynn Mangini (545-7493).
**Recent Publications / Presentations**


**General Child & Adolescent Research News/Reminders**

Please direct any inquiries/corrections about the contents of this newsletter to Dr. Michael C. Stevens, Director of Child & Adolescent Research at the Institute of Living: msteven@harthosp.org / (860) 545-7552.

If you did not receive this quarterly newsletter directly, but would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Laci-Ann Mosher at (860) 545-7800 or lmosher@harthosp.org.