

Carnegie Mellon University

Open Post-doctoral Position Valerie and Jeff Montgomery Postdoctoral Fellowship in Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience at Carnegie Mellon University

We are seeking a creative and energetic postdoctoral auditory cognitive (neuro)scientist to join our research team.

The position will be supported by the *Valerie and Jeff Montgomery Research Fund* to wed the joint expertise of Drs. Barbara Shinn-Cunningham, Lori Holt and Richard Randall (Carnegie Mellon University) to advance our understanding of how specific dimensions of complex sound acquire salience in capturing attention. The long-term goal of this collaborative, inter-disciplinary research program is to arrive at an understanding of the behavioral and brain bases of auditory attention and how auditory attention may be dysregulated in listeners with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and to explore whether, and how, music may alleviate PTSD symptoms. The phase of this research lays a scientifically sound foundation that will initiate a novel, cross-cutting research program inspired by the ultimate goal of understanding what, specifically, it means for PTSD to have disrupted attention. In the long term, this information will serve as a roadmap to guide future development of evidence-based PTSD intervention strategies.

This postdoctoral position will involve carrying out the research program described above using psychophysics, behavioral training studies, and scalp electrophysiology.

The position also will involve many opportunities for professional development and cross-lab training. The candidate will join a growing and highly interactive Pittsburgh Cognitive Auditory Neuroscience (PCAN) collective, a research grouping committed to understanding human auditory behavior and its psychological and biological bases. Carnegie Mellon University's strengths are complemented by those of the immediately adjacent University of Pittsburgh. Together, the two institutions boast research strengths in human and nonhuman animal as well as clinical approaches to understanding auditory behavior. The successful candidate will be welcomed into a thriving, interdisciplinary intellectual community. Researchers in this highly supportive environment seek to span disciplines and employ multiple methodologies in their research. Facilities include a state-of-the-art MRI facility, EEG, NIRS, and MEG systems, and large-scale, high-performance computing clusters situated in a highly collaborative environment.

Pittsburgh, home to Carnegie Mellon University, is consistently rated among the most livable cities in America. With low cost-of-living, a thriving restaurant scene, a wealth of outdoor activities, and an accessible and diverse artistic and cultural landscape, there are ample opportunities to cultivate good work-life balance while advancing your scientific goals.

Qualifications:

- A PhD in neuroscience, psychology, engineering, or related fields
- One or more years of expertise in auditory cognitive (neuro)science; prior experience with human electrophysiology and psychophysics is highly desirable

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- Broad experience with neuroscience or psychology literature; previous expertise with auditory cognitive neuroscience is advantageous
- One or more years of experience with coding, data analysis, or computational modeling
- Fundamental curiosity about how the brain coordinates auditory behavior, and a willingness to engage in collaborative research in a workplace that values intellectual playfulness
- Statistical and programming skills (e.g., Matlab, Python, R)
- Enjoyment of working with and teaching others; willingness to play a role in mentoring more junior researchers in the group
- Fluency in speaking and writing in English
- Demonstrated ability to write results for publication in the scientific literature
- Flexibility, and an ability to learn quickly
- The ability to work independently as well as part of a scientific team is very welcome.

Compensation will be aligned to the National Institutes of Health salary pay scale, according to experience. The initial appointment will be one year, with further funding possible for additional years upon satisfactory performance.

**We believe that equity and diversity make for better science.
We especially encourage candidates from diverse backgrounds to apply.**

Please apply to the Valerie and Jeff Montgomery Postdoctoral Research Fellowship with a cover letter expressing your research expertise, qualifications, interests, and research/career goals. Please also include a CV and the names of at least two references in an email to Christi Gomez (cladams@andrew.cmu.edu). You may direct questions and/or applications to Professor Lori Holt (loriholt@cmu.edu). The position is open immediately and candidates will be sought until the position is filled.

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