MCTFR ABCD Research Assistant
Position Description (for posting 307829)

The Minnesota Center for Twin and Family Research (MCTFR) seeks to hire three ABCD Research Assistants (8352R2: Junior Researcher 2) responsible for executing all tasks associated with the ABCD (Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development) protocol which include eighteen neurocognitive assessments and seventy interview or self-report instruments designed to assess eligibility criteria, psychopathology, medical health, parental/peer/romantic relationships, impulsivity/temperament/personality, and nicotine/alcohol/drug use. Research Assistants will review data to assure quality and transfer data to ABCD Informatics Center. They will work closely with the ABCD research participants assessing complex psychological traits so a bachelor degree is required and research experience, knowledge of DSM plus outstanding communication and problem-solving skills are preferred.

Major Responsibilities

- **(70%) Interview Research Participants:**
  - Conduct interview and self report assessments including: ABCD eligibility criteria, KSADS (child psychopathology), PhenX demographics, Child Behavior Checklist, Child and Youth Resilience, Peer & Romantic Relationships, PhenX Early Adolescent Temperament, PhenX Big Five Inventory, Parental Monitoring, PhenX Children's Motivation Scale, Peer Group Deviance, PhenX Peer Substance Use and Tolerance, PhenX Disapproval of Substance Use and Perceived Harm, PhenX Patterns of Use, Alcohol/Tobacco/Marijuana Expectancies Questionnaires, Hangover Symptom Scale, Cannabis Withdrawal Scale, Subjective Response to Alcohol/Tobacco/Marijuana, PhenX Anthropometrics, PhenX Tanner Staging, Pubertal Development Scale plus other assessment instrument;
  - Conduct neurocognitive assessments – including: NIH Toolbox Visual Acuity Test, Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test, Flanker Inhibitory Control and Attention Test, Oral Symbol Digit Test, Picture Sequence Memory Test, Stroop Task, Phenx Delayed Memory Task, Emotional Go NoGo, Iowa Gambling, Delayed Discounting plus other neurocognitive tasks;
  - Complete in-person and phone assessments quarterly, annually and bi-annually.

- **(10%) Acts as Research Participant Representative:**
  - ABCD Research Assistant greets study participants and then describes study goals, assessment tasks, confidentiality limitations and potential risks;
  - Obtains informed consent;
  - Runs participants through the mock MRI scanner;
  - Answers participant question and conducts a family de-briefing at the end of the visit;
  - Maintains required assessment documentation.

- **(10%) Reviews and Codes Interviews for transmission to ABCD Informatics Center:**
  - ABCD Research Assistant reviews, codes and scores interviews post interview to assure completeness, readiness for data entry and ABCD Informatics Center review.

- **(10%) Participates in Quality Control Review:**
  - ABCD Research Assistant meets with ABCD staff to evaluate interview validity and reliability and implement feedback as required by ABCD Coordinating Center periodic reviews.

Essential Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in psychology, or an equivalent combination of psychology related education and/or research experience totaling at least four (4) years, to include a minimum of one (1) year of related research experience.
• Required to work evenings and weekends with ability to accommodate a flexible work schedule.

Preferred Qualifications
• Prior research experience interviewing research participants, conducting structured clinical interviews, and neuropsych tests.
• Excellent verbal communication skills.
• Problem-solving skills and attention to detail to work independently and assure accuracy.

MCTFR/ABCD
The Minnesota Center for Twin and Family Research seeks to identify environmental and genetic influences on psychological traits. Focusing on adolescent children and their parents, the MCTFR includes studies of twins, adoptees, and biologically related adolescent siblings. MCTFR participants are involved in a variety of projects including: assessment of psychopathology, psychophysiology and collection of DNA samples in collaboration with the National Institute of Health's Genetics Consortium. The ABCD Study Consortium is a collaborative effort of 19 sites across the US that will seek to address many questions related to substance use and development that will help inform prevention and treatment research priorities, public health strategies, and policy decisions, including: (1) What is the impact of occasional versus regular use of marijuana, alcohol, tobacco, and other substances, alone or in combination, on the structure and function of the developing brain; (2) How does the use of specific substances impact the risk for using other substances; (3) What are the brain pathways that link adolescent substance use and risk for mental illnesses; (4) What impact does substance use have on physical health, psychological development, information processing, learning and memory, academic achievement, social development, and other behaviors; (5) What factors (such as prenatal exposure, genetics, head trauma, and demographics) influence the development of substance use and its consequences?

Appointment
ABCD Research Assistants are appointed by the MCTFR’s Director and reports to him and ABCD Coordinating Center (UCSD) staff. Position is 100%-time and classified as a civil-service appointment. It is contingent upon the availability of funds and/or work for the position. Appointment will provided health, dental, vacation and sick-time benefits plus is covered by Social Security and Minnesota State Retirement System. Position requires a background check and applicant must verify authorization to work in United States. Appointment is renewable with acceptable performance. Salary is competitive and commensurate with education and experience.