Utting Postdoctoral Fellowship in Quantitative Psychology (Montreal, Quebec)

December 1, 2017

Dr. Brett Thombs
Jewish General Hospital
http://www.ladydavis.ca/en/brettthombs
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There is an opening for an Utting Postdoctoral Fellow in Quantitative Psychology at the Jewish General Hospital and McGill University. The Fellowship involves training in individual participant data (IPD) meta-analysis with a focus on the diagnostic test accuracy of depression screening tools. The Fellow would work under the supervision of Dr. Brett Thombs, a clinical psychologist, and Dr. Andrea Benedetti, a biostatistician with expertise in IPD meta-analysis. Training would include methodological aspects of IPD meta-analysis and the study of diagnostic test accuracy analysis, as well as the conduct and publication of IPD meta-analyses using data from the DEPRESsion Screening Data (DEPRESSD) Project.

The DEPRESSD Project is a collaborative endeavor that was set up to conduct IPD meta-analyses of depression screening tools. In addition to Drs. Thombs and Benedetti, Steering Committee members include Dr. Simon Gilbody, Dr. Pim Cuijpers, Dr. John Ioannidis, Dr. Scott Patten, and other international leaders in the field. To date, the DEPRESSD team has accumulated large (18,000 patients and larger) databases for the most commonly used depression screening tools in primary care (Patient Health Questionnaire-9; PHQ-9), perinatal care (Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale; EPDS), and hospital care (Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale; HADS).

The main responsibility of the postdoctoral fellow will be to conduct IPD meta-analyses and to work with Drs. Thombs and Benedetti and other Steering Committee members to advance IPD meta-analysis methodology using the DEPRESSD databases, including simulation studies. The fellow will be involved in the development of prediction models that will allow us to use our large datasets to move beyond crude dichotomous analysis of screening tool accuracy and assess individual probabilities of casesness based on screening test scores and other patient characteristics. The fellow will also gain experience in the management of large IPD databases, grant writing, manuscript development (including first-authored publications), peer review, supervision of students, and dissemination of results via national and international conferences and other mechanisms.

The position is a one-year position. Applicants should have recently completed a doctoral degree in quantitative psychology or in another area of psychology with a strong focus on quantitative methods and statistics. The doctoral degree should be obtained by the date of hire. Anticipated start date is September 1, 2018 (negotiable).

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, reprints or preprints of representative published articles, a curriculum vitae, an unofficial transcript, and contact information for three references. The position will remain open until filled.

Inquiries regarding this position and submission of applications should be sent via email to Dr. Brett Thombs (brett.thombs@mcgill.ca).