

SUBJECT: DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY – PSYCHOLOGY AND PAIN RESEARCH

The laboratory on pain directed by Gabrielle Pagé at the Research Center of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM) is looking for a doctoral student in psychology or related domains to collaborate on a research project on stress and pain.

The student, under the supervision of the principal investigator, will integrate a multidisciplinary research team and will work on a project funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research that will examine the associations between stress and pain in a clinical sample of individuals with low back pain. More specifically, the student will be exposed to quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, participate in data collection and analyses, and presentation of research findings to various scientific events.

Research project :

Stress leads to the production of glucocorticoids that can have paradoxical effects on pain, including hyperalgesia and analgesia. Decades of research has been cumulating to identify four specific characteristics of situations or events that will systematically trigger a physiological stress response, namely Novelty, Unpredictability, Threat to ego, and Sense of low control (N.U.T.S.). The study of stressful characteristics of pain, such as unpredictability and controllability is not new, but research typically focused on isolating one of the NUTS components without any integration within a comprehensive framework. A systematic investigation of the N.U.T.S. framework among chronic pain patients is needed to lay the foundation for personalized interventions that will target triggers of physiological stress response among patients and thereby improving pain and related psychological outcomes. The overall study aim is to examine the association between stress and multidimensional pain outcomes among chronic low back pain (CLBP) patients using the N.U.T.S. framework.

Qualifications :

- Master's degree in psychology or related domains
- Canadian citizen, permanent resident in Quebec, or having a valid work permit
- Being interested in mixed methods and multidisciplinary research
- Being committed to submitting scholarship applications at provincial and national levels
- Fluent in spoken and written French, fluent in written English
- Autonomy, rigor, able to work in teams

Conditions:

- Full-time (start date Fall 2021 or earlier)
- Location : Research center of the CHUM
- Duration of scholarship: 3 years

Process:

Please send the following documents to Gabrielle Pagé (gabrielle.page@umontreal.ca) before October 2020:

- Cover letter indicating academic background, objectives and career goals
- Curriculum vitae
- Graduate transcripts (undergraduate and graduate studies – non official transcripts are accepted at this stage)
- Name and contact information of two referees

All candidates will be evaluated based on academic excellence, extracurricular activities and potential for graduate studies.

Only successful candidates will be contacted for an interview.