Neuroscape News
July 2023

Neuroscape is advancing the world of neuroscience and technology every day. Stay current with this quarterly update, and also follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest news.

NOW PLAYING:

Modern CTO: Intersection of Video Games and Neuroscience

Our Executive Director Adam Gazzaley participated in the Modern CTO podcast, discussing the intersection of video games and neuroscience, including the work behind the first FDA approved video game for treating ADHD.
**OPPORTUNITY:**

**Participate: UCSF At-Home Research Study for Typically Developing Adolescents**

Neuroscape is recruiting for a remote research study to help us understand attention in typically developing children and adolescents aged 12-17. Study activities can be completed in less than 1 hour, and participants will receive a $30 Amazon gift card after all study tasks are complete.

Children are eligible if they:
- Are aged 12-17 years old
- Have normal or corrected-to-normal vision and hearing
- Are fluent in English
- Do not have any diagnoses of neurodevelopmental or mental health conditions, or learning differences (for example: no diagnoses of ADHD, autism, anxiety, depression, or dyslexia)

If your child is interested, please read this flyer and contact the study coordinator using the email (or QR code) in the flyer.

We are also actively recruiting participants for several other exciting studies to advance understanding and improvement of cognition and mental health. You may be eligible if you fit one of these groups:

**POET Study**
- Open to U.S. veterans age 18-76 years old with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Get more information.

**Video Game Studies in Memory and Attention**
- Open to healthy adults 65-85 years old willing to complete a few in-lab visits (fMRI) and multiple at-home sessions. Get more information.

**Study on Emotional Well-Being in Adults**
- Healthy adults 65-85 years of age willing to complete an in-lab fMRI session and to potentially participate in a remote, app-delivered intervention study. Get more information.

We are not currently recruiting for any psychedelic studies, but please check our studies participation page for updates.
STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Working at the Nexus of Brain Exploration

After reading Oliver Sack's book *Musicophilia* when she was 16 years old, Avery Ostrand stayed up all night to learn about reward pathways in the brain. She was hooked, driven to answer the question: How could music give us access to the brain in new ways?

Ostrand would go on to study biopsychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, hoping to work on music in the brain. After graduating, she saw the work that Ted Zanto was doing at Neuroscape to study rhythm and the brain and decided to move to San Francisco to try to intern at the Center. “I pretty much just persistently emailed Ted until he responded,” she recalls. Ostrand interned for more than a year with Zanto, working on studies on rhythm and tACS brain stimulation until she was hired full time.

Now an Assistant Clinical Research Coordinator at Neuroscape, Ostrand is coordinating psilocybin research in the Psychedelics Division, as well as remote clinical trials using the online platform Nexus. A recent high point for Ostrand was running the MRIs for a CNN special on magic mushrooms. Ostrand scanned the brain of the CNN correspondent before and after he went to a psilocybin retreat in Jamaica. “That was a really unique experience and not an opportunity that happens at most labs,” she says.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:
A Surreal Summer of Psychedelics Research

When Eric Steinberg was 16 years old, he read Michael Pollen’s book *How to Change Your Mind*. It lit a fire under him to better understand psychedelic science. Now a rising junior at Emory University volunteering at Neuroscape this summer, he gets to work with psychedelics researchers everyday.

“To actually be working at a place that is helping to contribute to this research never ceases to be the coolest thing ever for me whenever I step into the Mission Bay campus,” he says. “I am getting to work regularly with legendary figures and institutions in the psychedelic research world that I’ve known about for years—it’s all quite surreal, in the best possible way.”

Steinberg is volunteering with Lorenzo Pasquini, PhD, an assistant professor at the Weill Institute for Neurosciences, as well as Tyler Toueg, a PhD student at Berkeley, researching how psychedelic experiences with psilocybin and LSD can create long-lasting changes to gene expressions in animals and, ideally, in humans. He has enjoyed deepening his neuroscience knowledge set, whether through research review, reading articles with peers, attending presentations, and casual conversations around campus. But it has been the rich and varied interactions with others that will stick the most in his memories.

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**BRAIN NEWS ROUNDUP:**
These news picks include articles about research and technology related to Neuroscape:

- This company’s video game could be a drug-free ADHD treatment for adults
- Akili Releases EndeavorOTC Video Game Treatment to Improve Attention in Adults with ADHD
- A Little Help for Our Friends Podcast: Can we treat mental health with video games?

Keep up-to-date with the latest news on our website and on Twitter.