

Neuroscape News

May 2020

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Neuroscape is advancing the world of neuroscience and technology every day. Stay current with this bimonthly update, and also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the latest news.



A BRIEF NOTE:

This is a time of both challenge and opportunity here at Neuroscape. But while we, like much of the world's labs globally, have had to shutter many of our research operations, we are also in a unique strategic position. Over the last several years, we have methodically and patiently positioned ourselves to address unmet health needs through digital health technology.

We are grateful to be part of the UCSF community, working to help people navigate through this pandemic and to find solutions. We have never been more grateful for the ongoing support of our volunteers and community members as we continue our adventure to make Experience as Medicine a reality.

-Dr. Adam Gazzaley, Neuroscape Executive Director

NOW PLAYING:

Exploring the Mind with Junior Explorers



The Neuroscape Junior Explorers met up in February to explore real brains and our diverse technology. The Junior Explorers group includes 7-12 year olds who are interested in helping test our video games and learn about Neuroscience.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

A "Rich" of All Trades



“It is rarely so obvious that one is living in historical times as it is now, but I found that keeping this in mind alleviates a lot of the pressure that being cooped up in-doors and away from our friends and hobbies adds. There will be chapters in history books about this to which we are all primary sources. As I see it, we have an obligation to bear witness and to remind our neighbors of a sense of purpose and belonging, while maintaining physical distance.”

These are the words of Rich Campusano, a research associate at Neuroscape. Campusano has been using his shelter-at-home time to lend a hand wherever needed at Neuroscape. That's included everything from getting Slack back up and running for the staff to collaborate, to learning Unity programming, to creating a mobile, web-based version of the Neuroscape outcome measures in collaboration with Roger Anguera.

Campusano has always seen himself as a generalist in his role at Neuroscape, splitting his time between data processing, data collection, management of experimental systems and rooms, and project development on teams such as Engage, ACE, and the Leadership and Enrichment Committee. He also runs the Toyota Project and helps collect MRIs for nearly every other study.

At Neuroscape, Campusano has found his calling through the research and development of cognitive training protocols and tools. Five years into his work,

it's stayed enjoyable and challenging.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Now in her fourth year volunteering at Neuroscape, TJ Ford has myriad experiences that have furthered the translational goals of the Center.

Her work at Neuroscape began with the Fung Fellowship through UC Berkeley's College of Engineering and School of Public Health. The fellowship centers around leveraging current arts and technology to solve larger problems in health and wellness, which aligns well with Neuroscape's mission and methodologies.

The work she did at Neuroscape in helping with data collection, participant recruitment, and study compliance for Rhythmicity formed the basis for her Honors Thesis as an undergraduate cognitive science student at UC Berkeley, where she graduated last year. "Thanks to the incredible support and mentorship I received," she says, "my thesis was awarded Highest Honors."

After graduating, Ford's role transitioned to working mainly with the Digital

Health Core where she is a producer for the new mental health technology podcast “Thinking Ahead” and content and design director for the Core’s website. Production for the podcast has paused because of COVID-19 but she and the team are still working to provide resources to support the mental health of those being impacted by the pandemic.

When she is not volunteering at Neuroscape, Ford works as the Data and Healthline Services Manager for a tele-health organization, where she researches, supports, and advocates for reproductive justice and wellness in vulnerable and under-resourced communities.

BRAIN NEWS ROUNDUP:

This Insider's news picks include articles with a focus on mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- [How will humans, by nature social animals, fare in isolation?](#)
- [We need a national mental health response to coronavirus](#)
- [Mental illness will be 'next wave' of COVID-19 pandemic, epidemiologist says](#)
- [COVID-19 is likely to lead to an increase in suicides](#)

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