



Full-time Research Study Coordinator Position for summer 2026, VA Boston Healthcare System - Jamaica Plain

Characterizing the contributions of hot and cool inhibitory control to post-traumatic stress disorder in post-9/11 Veterans

Project Overview

This VA-funded study aims to:

1. Comprehensively characterize deficits in *hot* (emotional) and *cool* (non-emotional) inhibitory control in PTSD.
2. Examine the neural mechanisms underlying inhibitory control dysfunction in PTSD using task-based fMRI.
3. Link inhibitory control to real-world functioning and symptoms using ecological momentary assessment (EMA).

Description: The Research Study Coordinator will be involved in all aspects of study implementation, including targeted recruitment of post-9/11 Veterans who meet inclusion and exclusion criteria; participant screening and informed consent; administration of cognitive and clinical assessments (e.g., PTSD and depression); coordination and execution of task-based fMRI sessions; and management of participant compliance with ecological momentary assessment (EMA) protocols. The coordinator will also contribute to data organization and analysis, manuscript preparation, and the presentation of research findings. This role requires strong organizational skills, excellent interpersonal communication, and comfort working with clinical populations, as well as the ability to manage multiple study components simultaneously.

Training Environment: This position offers exceptional hands-on training in cognitive neuroscience, clinical psychology, neuropsychology, neuroimaging (fMRI), and real-world symptom assessment using EMA. The Research Study Coordinator will be embedded within both the National Center for PTSD and the Boston Attention and Learning Laboratory (BAL LAB), working closely with investigators, clinicians, and research staff. The role is designed to provide rigorous research training and mentorship and is ideal preparation for individuals planning to pursue PhD, PsyD, MD, or other graduate training in clinical, cognitive, or neuroscience-related fields.

Background and skills required: College degree in psychology, neuroscience or related field and interest in making a career in such a field. Previous research experience. The candidate must be highly organized and have excellent people skills. Technical skills such as knowledge of statistical methods and programming are also a plus.

Citizenship: Must be a United States citizen.

Start date: We are looking for someone who can start in the summer of 2026 and commit to two years.

Salary: \$46,137 plus full benefits / Deadline for Applications: March 1, 2026

If interested, please send cover letter, CV, and reference list to Dr. Joe DeGutis (degutis@wjh.harvard.edu) and Dr. Michael Esterman (esterman@bu.edu).