

FELLOWSHIP IN NEUROIMAGING AND DECISION SCIENCES

GOAL

- A Fellows Program within the fMRI Research Center has been established for affiliated scholars, physicians, and business professionals to focus on the Medical and Financial Applications of Neuroimaging to Decision Sciences. The goal is to develop thought leaders in this emerging interdisciplinary field who also contribute new knowledge and theoretical advances to the understanding of the neural basis for the interactions between emotional, rational, and individual-based decisions.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this fellowship program is to provide an educational and research-based opportunity for professionals in non-imaging disciplines who wish to explore applications of neural models in decision making. Affiliated fellows come from Columbia University professional schools, faculty, and student bodies as well as financial-based organizations including the Business School, the Medical School, the School of Arts and Sciences, Departments of Psychology, Economics, and Psychiatry, and Wall Street trading firms.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Goals of this fellowship will be accomplished through 1) an active affiliation with the fMRI Research Center including attendance at regular journal club meetings, presentations, and discussions, and 2) a supervised program of study consisting of regular seminars that will focus on the recent imaging literature covering topics representative of this new area of investigation including decision making, neuroeconomics, neurofinance and neuromanagement. Further, it will include fellow-initiated neuroimaging investigations of applied topics of interest. Additional members of the seminar group will include doctoral and other graduate students currently studying related topics in the fMRI Research Center under the direction of Joy Hirsch, Ph. D., Professor and Center Director, and other interested faculty and students from departments such as Economics, Psychology, and the Business School. This cross-fertilization of disciplines and educational levels is expected to enrich the academic and applied efforts of all participants.

Fellows will be expected to achieve a high level of competence in neuroimaging and decision sciences, and to translate the benefits of this new area of neuroscience to their professional disciplines in the form of publications, programs, and improved practices. All fellows will be expected to contribute the funds for their imaging studies. This will be

accomplished through applications for training awards, corporate partnerships, and institutional sponsorships.

The title granted to each new affiliate is “Neuroimaging and Decision Sciences Fellow.” This title acknowledges the affiliation with the fMRI Imaging Center for the purposes described above. The program is limited to educational opportunities and does not include salary or benefits to the fellows. The term limit for each fellow is three years, with the option to renew in the case of emergent and extended programs and goals. The starting date for the program is July 1, 2007, and will be administered within the fMRI Research Center as a division of the Departments of Radiology, Neuroscience, and Psychology.

Enthusiasm for this effort and the talents of the participants assure that this fellows program will become a significant force in the new frontier of medical and financial applications for neuroimaging and decision sciences. Meeting schedules, topics, and agendas will be posted by mid-July, 2007.

SPONSORING FACULTY

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