Postdoctoral Scholar in Communication Sciences and Disorders

College of Health and Human Services
Department: Communication Sciences and Disorders

Description: The Postdoctoral Scholar will conduct their own research and work closely with a senior faculty mentor to develop an independent research program consistent with the NIH path to independence. The primary area of research will be in CSD aligning with faculty expertise which includes system level neuroscience using noninvasive brain imaging to study the neurobiology of communication sciences and disorders, aphasia, motor speech disorders, autism spectrum disorders, language acquisition, and assistive/alternative communication devices. Additional professional development support will be provided in the form of participation in faculty development academies with early career tenure track faculty, coaching by a senior faculty colleague including those that participate in the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience and Behavior Program and/or other campus units including the Institute on Disability, workshops on teaching and learning, involvement in academic department life, and support funds. The Scholar will also attend workshops on grant writing and the development of a long-range research trajectory to include funding from the NIH or other organizations. Responsibilities include teaching one course annually. We encourage a breadth of applications across the spectrum of relevance to communication sciences and disorders, broadly defined. The specific disciplinary area of research may include:

1. Brain Imaging: This area focuses on using MRI and fMRI to understand the mechanism of action of specific disorders of communication (e.g., autism, stroke, Parkinson’s disease, specific language impairment) in children and/or adults. Specific areas will include using brain imaging to understand neural plasticity associated with experience-based learning as a foundation for specific interventions. This area is consistent with current NIH priorities.

2. Aphasia, Motor Speech, Language Acquisition, Social Communication, Assistive Technology: These areas match faculty expertise and are broadly represented in CSD. Work in this area focuses on both basic and applied science, including clinical trials.

3. Genetics: A program focused on the genetics of communication sciences and disorders may include the area of stuttering, specific language impairment and other communication disorders.