



POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS IN NEUROSCIENCE

Do you want to illuminate the “dark matter of the brain” by watching neuromodulators and their intracellular effectors in action? Do you wonder why we spend a third of our life sleeping? Do you seek to become a bridge builder between cellular and systems neuroscience? Two postdoctoral positions are available to investigate the role of neuromodulator actions and sleep functions in Dr. Yao Chen’s laboratory in the Department of Neuroscience at Washington University in St. Louis.

The first project will investigate how neuromodulators are interpreted via the spatial and temporal features of intracellular signals to play critical roles in cellular physiology and behavior. The second project investigates the mechanisms by which sleep supports cellular and organismal functions.

We accomplish both goals by measuring and perturbing the dynamics of biological signals inside and outside the cell. We develop and employ a variety of techniques *ex vivo* and *in vivo*, including two-photon fluorescence lifetime imaging microscopy, electrophysiology, biosensor design, opto/chemogenetics, molecular biology, pharmacology, and behavior analyses. For additional information see: <https://sites.wustl.edu/yaochenlab/>.

The PI is committed to mentoring and to nurturing a creative, thoughtful, and collaborative lab culture. Washington University neuroscience community is scientifically excellent and exceptionally collegial. The School of Medicine is consistently ranked among the top 5 medical schools in the United States, with extensive infrastructural and core facility support, and a dynamic research environment in many areas of basic and clinical science. Postdocs are also supported through a dedicated [Office of Postdoctoral Affairs](#) and an active [Postdoc Society](#) with many professional development opportunities. The St. Louis area combines the attractions of a major city with affordable lifestyle opportunities. The position comes with a competitive salary and a generous [benefit package](#).

We are looking for highly motivated individuals who are independent and committed to scientific discovery. The candidates should have expertise in optical imaging and are skilled in quantitative data analyses. Experience in neuromodulator signaling, circadian rhythm or sleep biology, and expertise in electrophysiology, animal behavior, or systems neuroscience are valued. Our work is interdisciplinary and will benefit from diverse perspectives, including molecular and cell biology, systems biology, biophysics, pharmacology, and engineering – even if your past work is not directly related to neuromodulators or sleep, you might be a great fit for the position.

Interested candidates should send the following to yaochen@wustl.edu. 1) a cover letter explaining motivation, research experience, and interests; 2) CV; 3) the names of three references.

