

Postdoctoral Opportunities

Department of Neuroscience





Global Leaders in Neuroscience

As we expand into a new, purpose-built neuroscience research building, the Department of Neuroscience at Washington University School of Medicine offers exciting opportunities for postdoctoral training. Our faculty are dedicated to supporting postdocs' career growth and the institutional resources and collaborative spirit of the broader WashU neuroscience community ensure that **our trainees go on to build**

successful careers in science.

Understanding the brain is one of the greatest scientific challenges of our time—and we are ready to meet it. Basic research provides the essential pipeline of discoveries that go into translation, and we have a clinical enterprise at WashU deeply embedded in basic science. We invite you to join us as partners in working toward understanding the brain.

1. Richards.

Linda J. Richards, PhD Edison Professor and Chair Department of Neuroscience Washington University School of Medicine

Washington University School of Medicine

by the numbers

#3 *in annual NIH funding*

600,000 square feet in new Neuroscience Research Building

88 Core facilities

5 Reasons to do a postdoc in the Department of Neuroscience

#1. Outstanding Science

The Department of Neuroscience is regarded as one of the premier institutions for basic neuroscience research. The expertise of our 30+ labs spans from the molecular, such as ion channel physiology, to the organismal, such as primate cognition. Our scholars are leaders in technology development, including cutting-edge optical imaging tools, and deploy computational and experimental methods to drive discovery on the fundamentals of brain function and dysfunction.

Taking advantage of the world-class resources at Washington University, our labs lead global collaborative efforts. We have been the home of the Human Connectome Project, one of the most ambitious efforts to map the brain, and we continue to push the boundaries of neuroimaging methodology. Among our many achievements, our faculty discovered GABA in the brain, identified potassium channels and nuclear metabotropic glutamate receptors, developed Objective Coupled Planar Illumination microscopy, and identified confidence neurons in orbitofrontal cortex and where in the brain the drive for novelty resides. Members of our Department are committed to rigorous scientific and ethical standards and take a creative and holistic approach to answering



some of the most pressing questions facing the field of neuroscience. As we expand into a new, dedicated Neuroscience Research Building, we are firmly positioned at the vanguard of discovery science.

"I chose WashU because it has a vibrant community of scientists studying neural circuits and behavior at the boundary between basic neuroscience and psychiatry. I was also excited to be a part of the growing computational and theoretical neuroscience community." —Daniel Zavitz, PhD Postdoc in Geoffrey Goodhill's lab

#2. WashU Neuroscience Community

The Department of Neuroscience is part of a broader ecosystem of neuroscience research at the School of Medicine, where we thrive on cross-departmental collaboration. There are **more than 200 neuroscience labs** from three schools—Arts & Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine—and across two beautiful campuses. Postdocs are highly valued members of this community and are given opportunities to lead, to pursue independent opportunities, and to form a supportive network of colleagues. Scholars develop tight networks with peers through 10+ specialized journal clubs and groups such as

- BIG (Brain Immunology & Glia) Center
- Center for Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience
- Hope Center for Neurological Disorders
- Center for the Investigation of Membrane Excitability Diseases
- Center of Regenerative Medicine
- Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences

- Center on Biological Rhythms and Sleep (COBRAS)
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center

Social events such as our Neuroscience TGIF and annual Neuroscience Retreat provide opportunities for networking. We value inclusion, strive for equity, and are a diverse and international community.

#3. Cutting-edge Facilities & Resources

In an ever-more technologically advanced research landscape, we consider it critical that scientists have professional support, and these include **80+ comprehensive core facilities** such as cellular imaging, genome services, protein and mass spectroscopy, stem cell biology, high performance computing, and animal husbandry. The 600,000 sq ft Neuroscience Research Building—**among the largest dedicated to neuroscience in the US**, designed to enhance collaboration—is a state-



of-the-art facility featuring a vertical vivarium with specialized animal behavior suites, a neurotechnology hub, and a microscopy center. The Washington University Center for Cellular Imaging is a full-service provider for cryo-EM, microscopy, data analysis and more.

#4. Professional Development

Postdoctoral alumni from the Department of Neuroscience go on to have successful careers in academia, medicine, industry, and beyond. Our faculty mentors are dedicated to their trainees' career development and each postdoc is encouraged to organize a **mentoring committee**. Our Department also provides support with reviewing job applications and chalk talks and hosts **works-in-progress seminars** in which postdocs present annually and receive one-on-one feedback from two faculty members.

The **Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and WashU Postdoc Society** are strong advocates for postdocs, who receive generous benefits. These include:

- health and dental insurance
- paid parental and caregiver leave
- free public transportation
- tuition assistance
- resources for child care, including WashU-affiliated daycare



"I was drawn to WashU for its excellent research facilities and to the Department of Neuroscience specifically for the opportunity to engage with a faculty committed to trainee development and because I saw many international trainees already in the department (representation matters!)."

> —Aditi Maduskar, PhD Postdoc in Yao Chen's lab



Career outcomes of postdocs 2013-2022



#5. Vibrant & Affordable City

The St. Louis Metro area is home to nearly 3 million residents. The Gateway City boasts a thriving music and arts scene, abundant restaurants, and Major League soccer and baseball teams. WashU's campuses border Forest Park, one of the largest urban parks in the US, which was Best City Park in USA Today's Readers' Choice in 2022 and 2023. St. Louis has ample green spaces, dog parks, biking paths, and paddling, and it's just a short drive to experience the gorgeous Ozark Mountains with spring-fed rivers and incredible hiking.



Notable honors

- #1 Best City for new grads to start a career in 2022
- In 2021, Time Magazine ranked St. Louis among the world's greatest places.
- Forbes listed St. Louis among the 25 Best Places to Visit in 2020.
- Washington University is ranked the top employer in Missouri according to the 2021 list of America's Best Employers By State, compiled by Forbes. And is among Forbes' top 100 Best Large Employers in 2023.

Cost of living



- 52% lower than San Francisco
- 49% lower than Brooklyn, New York
- 42% lower than Boston
- 40% lower than San Diego
- 28% lower than Chicago





Neuroscience Fellowships

CTCN Fellowship

The Center for Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience offers a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship to work at interface between theoretical and experimental labs.

Fellows receive:

- Salary \$7,000 above NIH levels
- \$3,000 per year conference travel

Learn more: ctcn.wustl.edu

McDonnell Fellowship

The McDonnell Center for Systems Neuroscience and the McDonnell Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology support postdoctoral fellowships. These provide:

- \$6,000 salary supplement
- \$10,000 relocation and professional development fund

McDonnell Travel Awards

The McDonnell Centers also offer travel scholarships of up to \$5,000 for postdocs going to conferences or courses.

Learn more: sites.wustl.edu/cellularmolecularneurobiology



As far as American cities go, it's as vibrant, diverse and hip as it gets.

-Forbes, 25 Best Places to Visit





For more information, please reach out to faculty members to inquire about postdoctoral positions.



https://neuroscience.wustl.edu/people-page/faculty/

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