Meet Hrishika Muthukrishnan, a Senior Neuroscience Major who works in Dr. Jessica Cassidy’s laboratory. She performs EEG scans on subjects and conducts data analysis, and is researching the effectiveness of various brain imaging techniques within the pediatrics population. As part of her NSCI 395 Independent Study, she is processing MRI scans taken of stroke individuals and is examining the relationship between cortical thickness and EEG power.

What is the most valuable lesson you’ve learned? Branching out is rewarding! I used to work in molecular biology and now I work in neuroscience. You’d be incredibly surprised by the diversity and versatility of the labs Carolina has to offer.

What is something you’ve learned working in your lab? To be processing and examining brain structure is something I never would have imagined as an undergraduate. I always thought you needed a medical degree or be highly qualified to even look at these types of scans. I also know how to work an EEG cap now and perform an EEG scan on an individual, another thing I didn’t think you could learn as an undergraduate.

Do you think people have misconceptions about research? I think people have the misconception that you just have to get into any lab that offers you the opportunity. I think it’s important to realize that you have to fall in love with the lab and its mission as much as the PI has to like you to be in his/her lab. It’s a lot more beneficial to all respective parties when you’re volunteering in a lab whose mission you care about.
Meet Sarah Ashworth, one of our Fall 2020 interns with the Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience.

Sarah is a senior majoring in Psychology with a minors in Cognitive Science and Spanish Translation and Interpretation. This past Fall, Sarah interned with the Freedom House Recovery Center, a non-profit behavioral health care provider that supports children and adults affected by substance use disorder and other mental health concerns in NC. She worked primarily in the Maggie Alvis Women’s House in Chapel Hill, which serves up to twelve women at a time who are recovering from addiction, including those who have been dually diagnosed with a mental illness. The program provides up to 6 months of residential treatment to prepare clients for successful independent living.

As part of her internship, Sarah verifies the safety of residential living, organizes confidential records, assists with intake tasks, and interviews potential clients. “One of the most rewarding parts of my internship has been the opportunity to observe a weekly women’s trauma therapy group,” Sarah shares. “I noticed that beyond this group, Freedom House is unable to offer extensive resources for clients who are survivors of gender-based violence. I compiled a resource binder detailing local organizations that provide care specifically for survivors, including other programs the survivors may need, such as free or low-cost housing, meals, and gynecological care, and made this information accessible. I am extremely grateful to the internship program for allowing me the opportunity to strengthen my clinical skills and knowledge base.”

Want to be a Gil Intern? The Gil Internship gives you the opportunity to earn course credit and receive a monthly stipend—plus, you’ll gain valuable experience in the field of psychology and neuroscience! Learn more about the application process online. Questions can be directed to Chelsea Ewing.

Meet a Gil Intern

Get ahead on your major requirements by taking courses during the summer! Check out the Summer School website to see current offerings.

Maymester
May 19—June 4, 2021
PSYC 245 Psychopathology
PSYC 490 Gender & Pronouns
PSYC 501 Theoretical, Empirical Perspectives on Personality

Summer Session I
May 19—June 21, 2021
PSYC 101 General Psychology
PSYC 210 Statistical Principles of Psychological Research
PSYC 225 Sensation & Perception
PSYC 230 Cognitive Psychology
PSYC 245 Psychopathology
PSYC 250 Developmental Psychology
PSYC 260 Social Psychology
PSYC 270 Research Methods in Psychology
PSYC 500 Developmental Psychology

Summer Session II
June 28—August 3, 2021
PSYC 101 General Psychology
NSCI 175 Introduction to Neuroscience
PSYC 210 Statistical Principles of Psychological Research
PSYC 220 Biopsychology
PSYC 222 Learning
PSYC 230 Cognitive Psychology
PSYC 242 Introduction to Clinical Psychology
PSYC 245 Psychopathology
PSYC 250 Developmental Psychology
PSYC 270 Research Methods in Psychology
PSYC 502 Psychology of Adulthood and Aging
PSYC 504 Health Psychology
Latinx Mental Health Survey

Are you a Latinx student? Do you have 1-2 parents or grandparents who are immigrants from Latin America? If you meet any of the above qualifications and are 18 years or older, you are eligible to complete a brief 15 minute survey about your thoughts and feelings about mental health. This survey will assist an Honors student in completing her research work. To participate, complete this Qualtrics survey online.

Flu Shot Survey

The Social Neuroscience & Health Lab is conducting a study examining biological changes related to immune system activations. Participants will first complete an online consent session via Zoom, complete several tasks and questionnaires, two blood draws, and receive an FDA-approved influenza vaccine.

Participants who complete all study components will receive a total of $80.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the following online questionnaire.

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Jobs & Other Opportunities

Looking for a post-baccalaureate position in psychology? Check out an online database of active positions! You can also subscribe by email to be notified of new postings. This is a great resource for new graduates!

Carolina for the Kids serves patients and families of UNC Children’s Hospital and hosts the annual UNC Dance Marathon. This year, the marathon will take place March 19th and 20th (with virtual and in-person components). Register by January 29th.

GlobeMed at UNC is a non-profit organization that partners with grassroots organizations, discusses public health issues, and fundraises and advocates to educate the community. They support three local organizations in the community to support healthcare and health education. Apply by January 29th to become a member.

The UNC Carolina Health Samaritan Society is looking for new members to participate in research and service volunteer opportunities. The club is designed to immerse students in scientific and medical-related research at UNC Hospitals, learn more about research and career opportunities, and to volunteer in the community. If interested, complete this online form to learn more about upcoming meetings and events.

Interested in learning more about scholarship opportunities? Join us for a General Information Session on Wednesday, February 3 at 4 pm to ask questions directly of Scholarship Committees and past recipients. Information about this event and all upcoming Spring events through the Office of Distinguished Scholarships are online.

The UNC Wellness Network is a peer-based mental health-oriented support system that holds weekly Zoom meetings. The mission is to organize a peer-based support network for students pursuing additional mental health resources and to promote students’ emotional and mental wellness in an accessible, private, and inclusive environment. To participate, register online.

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