

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Emotion, Social Stress, and Heart Disease 2014 Spring

The research in our laboratory is focused on using animal models to understand the interactions of stress, social experiences, and cardiovascular health. This position will enrich the student's undergraduate experience by allowing him/her to be actively engaged in scientific inquiry about important mental and physical health problems that affect millions of individuals worldwide, including depression, loneliness, and heart disease. The Undergraduate Research Assistant will work with a team of goal-focused undergraduate and graduate students to learn multiple concepts and skills, including: (1) the value of animal research; (2) the study of behavior and emotion; (3) an understanding of the cardiovascular system; and (4) a systematic approach to studying psychologically-relevant problems. In addition, the student will be encouraged to participate in public outreach efforts with our laboratory (such as initiatives associated with the NIU STEM Outreach office), and help to provide information on our website (www.grippto.weebly.com) and Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Grippto-Laboratory-Northern-Illinois-University/198934549464>). These activities will equip the student with essential skills to critically evaluate the scientific knowledge he/she is learning in the laboratory and discuss the results in a meaningful manner. Students who are majoring in psychology, sociology, or biology will gain valuable technical skills, critical thinking skills, and the ability to systematically address important scientific questions to prepare him/her for jobs or graduate programs related to mental health, social issues, medicine, biology, and neuroscience.