

**Carolina Population Center
Summer 2022 Undergraduate Research Program**

Project Name

Social Neuroscience and Health: Brain and Immune Mechanisms Underlying Health Inequities

Faculty Mentor

Dr. Keely Muscatell, Psychology & Neuroscience

Project Description

The [Social Neuroscience and Health Laboratory](#) in the Department of Psychology & Neuroscience is collecting data for several studies that examine the role of the brain and the immune system in linking social experiences to health outcomes, with a focus on health inequities. We currently have projects exploring: 1) the effects of a racism-related stressor on immune system activation among Black young adults; 2) how the brain responds to social rejection and links with changes in inflammation in the body; 3) the effectiveness of healthy behavior messaging campaigns across the socioeconomic spectrum; 4) the effects of a racism-related stressor on cognitive function among Black Americans with schizophrenia, and; 5) how a pharmacological intervention to reduce neuroinflammation affects motivation among individuals experiencing chronic unemployment.

Scope of Work for Internship

Across any of these projects, interns would be primarily involved in helping with data collection. This would include: recruitment efforts to attract interested participants; screening potential participants via phone and email to determine eligibility; running study sessions, including helping with MRI scans and taking biological samples from participants; and post-session checks for data quality.

Expected Deliverables

Given that each of these projects is in the early phases of data collection, we anticipate that we will not be running analyses this summer. Data collection will be the primary deliverable!

Preferred Skills

None listed.

Time Commitment & Mode

Full time or part-time; in-person only