Ph.D. position in the field of Population Neurosciences at the Institute of Public Health, Faculty of Biomedical Sciences

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and lively university, a hub of opportunity open to the world where students are offered a quality interdisciplinary education in which they can be fully engaged and take center stage, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiative. Established in 1996, USI is in constant evolution, always taking on new challenges while remaining true to its three guiding principles: quality, openness and responsibility.

The newly established Institute of Public Health at the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) in Lugano, Switzerland, is looking for a highly motivated Ph.D. candidate to work at the intersection of epidemiology, neuroscience, and aging. The position is fully funded for up to four years, starting in January 2020. We offer a competitive salary in line with Swiss universities.

Position
The main objective is to contribute to the implementation of an ambitious research program on a public health approach to dementia and ageing, in line with the World Health Organization dementia action plan, and strategy on ageing, and within the boundaries of the emerging field of population neuroscience (reference paper).

Tasks include shared responsibilities in the design and conduction of research projects in the field of population neuroscience, from conceiving and designing, to conducting studies. The successful candidate will be deeply involved in the development, piloting, testing, validation and use of measures at the population level, as well as in the coordination and management of participants’ recruitment, and of data collection, and is expected to contribute to data management and analysis, manuscripts crafting, and dissemination of results. This PhD position is linked to an SNF-funded research project, "SwissDEM", an epidemiological study on dementia prevalence and impact in three Swiss regions (Geneva, Zurich, and Ticino).

The successful candidate will be based in the Institute of Public Health at USI, which is part of the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+), and will be enrolled in our PhD program in Human Neurosciences at the USI Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, in collaboration with the Neurocentro della Svizzera Italian (webpage). Our PhD program includes an innovative, tailored training program in population neuroscience in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh. Beyond local and national training modules in neuroscience, the PhD programs gives access to outstanding training opportunities in population research and epidemiology across Switzerland.

The position will be directly supervised by Prof. Dr. Emiliano Albanese, PI of the SwissDEM study. Prof. Albanese is a physician, an epidemiologist, and an FMH public health specialist.
He is full professor of public health in the Faculty of Biomedical sciences at USI, and the director of the WHO collaborating center in mental health at the University of Geneva [webpage], where he is associate professor of public mental health. In Prof. Albanese’s lab, you will find a very dynamic, and rapidly evolving academic environment, which offers unique possibilities to learn how to design and conduct epidemiological studies closely linked to WHO policies and strategies, applying a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods. The PhD provides also rich opportunities to acquire pedagogical skills, and be involved in teaching at both the pre- and post-graduate level, including within the highly interactive, and clinic-based curriculum of the new-born Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, which is taught entirely in English.

**Candidate’s Profile**
The ideal candidate should satisfy the following requirements:

- A degree in Medicine AND/OR a Master degree in public health, epidemiology or a closely related field, or a Master degree in neuroscience
- Previous experience in the design and conduction of population-based studies is an asset
- Demonstrated experience in statistical analysis of large, epidemiological datasets, and skills in quantitative research, in general
- An excellent command of English, both written and spoken
- A strong desire for research and publishing at top venues
- Previous experience in preparation, writing, and submission of scientific manuscripts, and in the peer-reviewed publication process is an asset
- Strong motivation to engage in the elaboration of a PhD dissertation
- Ability to work in team and autonomy in scheduling research steps.
- Interest for teaching and tutoring students and availability to collaborate with colleagues (engage in scientific dialogue, listen and think critically) are required.

**Contract Terms**
Admission to the Ph.D. program is highly competitive. Admission decisions are based on the candidate’s background, interests, attitude and potential for academic achievement. Successful enrolment in the Ph.D. program and the position as doctoral researcher are not compatible with a further professional activity.

**Application**
Applications should contain: (1) a letter in which the applicants describe their research interests and the motivation to apply, (2) a complete CV, (3) transcripts of records, (4) a complete list of publications, if any (5) contacts of 2-3 persons who agreed to write recommendation letters.

Please send your application in electronic form to Ms. Claudia Wyss (claudia.wyss@usi.ch). Applications received by December 31st, 2019, will be given priority. However, applications will be received until the position is filled.

More information about the position and the group:

- Contact claudia.wyss@usi.ch
- Contact emiliano.albanese@usi.ch

USI strives to be an equal opportunity and family friendly employer and is further responsive to the needs of dual career couples. We guarantee that the selection process will give equal opportunities to female and male researchers.

Lugano, December 5th, 2019