Postdoc position in Population Neuroscience at the Institute of Public Health (50%), 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, which is part of the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+), is looking for a highly motivated Postdoctoral Researcher to work at the intersection of epidemiology, neuroscience, and aging. The position is funded for up to four years and we offer a competitive salary in line with Swiss universities.

Position
The main objective of this position is to develop an innovative academic program in population neuroscience (reference paper), that integrates and contributes to the implementation of our 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. Our group is extremely dynamic and it is very rapidly expanding thanks to the consolidation of the Faculty of Biomedical sciences at USI (webpage), and to our recent successes in securing funding and support across a range of research projects. We expect that the successful candidate will bring to our group a perfect mix of enthusiasm, dedication, commitment to group work, innovative ideas, and a solid expertise on methods and techniques to complement those that already exist in our group.

Tasks encompass both research and teaching responsibilities. The successful candidate will have shared responsibilities in the design and conduction of research projects in the emerging field of population neuroscience. This position is linked to an ongoing SNSF-funded research project, "SwissDEM", which is an epidemiological study on dementia prevalence and impact in three Swiss regions (Geneva, Zurich, and Ticino). Thus, an operational and factual support in the conduction of this study is expected, along with a commitment to fostering the collaborations between the SwissDEM study sites in Ticino, Geneva, and Zurich. However, we do expect that the successful candidate will progressively develop an independent stream of research, and secure funds through competitive grants to support new projects, and assemble a research team nested in Prof. Albanese's lab (webpage) accordingly. Funds may be sought both through career funding (including the SNSF Ambizione, and the EU ERC and Marie-Curie schemes) and/or research teams mechanisms (the SNSF-Projects, and EU schemes, amongst others).
We coordinate and teach several modules and courses at both the pre- and post-graduate level. We are part of the new-born Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, which is taught entirely in English. The pedagogical model is highly interactive, and the curriculum poses strong emphasis on clinic-based critical thinking, and problem-solving sessions. Beyond public health classes (which include biostatistics, epidemiology, to name but a few disciplines), we are responsible of the integration of evidence-based medicine, from both a theoretical and a practical perspective, across the entire biomedical curriculum. Teaching responsibilities are shared amongst the members of the group, which includes other post-docs, and a few PhD students too.

Candidate’s Profile
For both the research and teaching endeavors, expertise and experience in evidence-based medicine, critical appraisal, psychometrics and measurement theory, primary and secondary analyses of large datasets, inference, and in their applications in both clinical- and population-level research are all highly valued assets, along with demonstrated ability in the design and conduction of advanced statistical analyses, and mastering of statistical modelling techniques.

The ideal candidate should satisfy the following requirements:
- A PhD in public health, epidemiology, bio-statistics or a closely related field OR in psychology or clinical/human neuroscience
- Experience in the design and conduction of population-based studies
- Solid statistical, and quantitative research skills
- Demonstrated experience in statistical analysis of epidemiological data and large datasets
- Excellent command of English, both written and spoken
- A strong desire for research and publishing at top venues
- 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

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 with details on the candidate’s contributions, (5) minimum 2 and up to 4 reference 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.

We will review all received applications until the position is filled, and we anticipate that we will be able to notify directly only those who meet the eligibility criteria listed above. Qualified applicants will be contacted from the second week of January 2020 onwards, and those short listed will be summoned for an in-person interview in the following weeks.

Enquires and information about the position and the group should be sent via email only, to: claudia.wyss@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