

Fifth Week Bulletin

College notices

1. Applications open for JCR renovation group!

Careers and Opportunities

1. Allen and Overy – legal careers for STEM students

Research Studies

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1. Applications open for JCR renovation group!

As discussed in the JCR meeting this week, we are looking to create a group of volunteers who will oversee the designing and implementation of possible JCR renovation. We will be taking at least one student from first year and second year. If you are interested in participating then please email alice.rubbra@ccc.ox.ac.uk with a short paragraph about why you would like to volunteer.

Careers and Opportunities

1. Allen and Overy – legal careers for STEM students
Keble College, Monday 6th November, 6.30-8.30pm
Food, drinks and a panel discussion
Register interest by emailing jennifer.silva@allenovery.com

Research Studies

1. Researchers at the Department of Experimental Psychology University of Oxford are seeking men who stutter for a trial investigating whether Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) can improve speech fluency in people who stutter. tDCS is a non-invasive and painless way of stimulating the brain by passing a very weak electrical current across the head between two large sponge electrodes placed on the scalp. Volunteers should be male, aged 18-45 years and native English speakers. You will be asked questions about your medical history to check your suitability for an MRI scan and brain stimulation.

The study involves five visits to receive tDCS and fluency training. These can take place either in Oxford or at another mutually convenient location. The study also involves MRI scanning of the brain and vocal tract, and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), which will take place during one or two visits to the

OHBA Centre at the Warneford Hospital in Oxford. MRI gives very detailed pictures of structure and function. TMS is used here to measure the excitability of the brain areas involved in speech production. These methods are non-invasive and do not involve ionising radiation. We will reimburse volunteers for their time and cover reasonable travel expenses.

If you are interested in participating in this study and/or would like further information, please contact the Speech and Brain Research Group on speechbrainlab@gmail.com

2. We are looking for healthy male volunteers to for a study that uses magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans to look at how potential painkiller works. The study involves 5 visits. You would be asked to lie still in a scanner, and would also be asked to rate some physical stimuli to determine whether they are painful. You would be reimbursed for your time and expenses. On one of the visits you would be asked to take an investigational drug, and on another visit you would take a placebo pill. The study would also involve some blood tests.

MRI is a type of brain scan that is very safe, and that allows us to see how the brain is organised, processes information and performs skills. It is very useful in understanding how painkillers work.

Who are we looking for? Healthy fluent English-speaking men aged 18-55 who do not have any contraindications to having an MRI scan (if in doubt we will confirm this), do not take any regular medications, and have no history of neurological or psychiatric illness. If you are interested and would like more information please contact Sarah Waldman at the FMRIB Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford on 01865 610485 or sarah.waldman@pmb.ox.ac.uk.

3. Healthy male volunteers aged 18-40 years are needed for a study investigating the relationship between abilities on computerized problem solving tasks and measures of heart rate, skin sweating, and hormonal function.

If you are healthy, have no history of a psychological disorder, and are interested in taking part please contact us for more information (Email: lucy.wright@psych.ox.ac.uk or phone 01865 618319).

The study is run at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford. Central University Research Ethics Committee number: R53870/RE001