



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

2 year post-doctoral position in the Galea laboratory (University of Birmingham, UK).

This is an initial call for a two-year (in the 1st instance) post-doctoral position with Dr. Joe Galea (<http://josephgalea.weebly.com>) at University of Birmingham, UK (www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/psychology/index.aspx) which is funded through a newly awarded ERC starting grant (MotMotLearn).

This 5-year grant will build upon recent work from the lab that has shown reward and punishment-based feedback to have dissociable effects on motor learning (www.nature.com/neuro/journal/v18/n4/abs/nn.3956.html). Using a combination of behavioural analysis, genetics, pharmacology and modelling techniques this project will provide the first in-depth behavioural and neural account of the role of motivation (reward/punishment) in motor learning. Based on this work, novel motor learning-based interventions will be developed for stroke patients suffering long-term motor impairments. This project will involve a team of 3 post-doctoral fellows and 2 PhD students.

For October 2015, I am looking to appoint a highly motivated candidate for the 1st of these post-doctoral positions. This role is aimed at developing a set of motor learning based tasks (model-based/ reinforcement/ use-dependent) that will be used to examine motivation in a range of motor learning settings. The postholder will be responsible for the programming of these tasks, testing them in healthy volunteers and for the analysis of the behavioural data (kinematic/computational models).

The ideal candidate should have extensive experience with programming motor tasks, ideally using the KINARM end-point robot (B.KIN technologies) and so be an expert with Simulink/Matlab (graphical-based programming). Experience in motor control/learning is important but other appropriate backgrounds may include engineering or applied mathematics.

The successful candidate would join a large motor control/learning group at the University of Birmingham (Galea/Miall/Wing/Jenkinson) which is part of the computational neuroscience and cognitive robotics group. The newly acquired KINARM robot will be part of a new open-plan lab with shared resources and equipment from Prof. Chris Miall (Psychology), Prof Jeremy Wyatt (Computer Science) and Dr. Michael Mistry (Computer Science). My lab has access to 6 robotic/motion capturing systems, genetic testing, TMS, tDCS, 3-T MRI scanner, EEG, a large database of healthy young/older adults and stroke patients and will soon be able to use pharmacology (Levodopa/Haloperidol) in healthy volunteers. The department was recently ranked 5th in the UK for research in psychology and neuroscience (REF 2014) with over half of its research activity judged as world-leading.

An official advertisement of this position will be circulated in May/June however I am keen to have informal discussions with any interested candidate. Salary is set by the University of Birmingham and will depend on level of training.

Please email your CV to:
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