UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences | Memory and Aging Center

Research opportunities in digital neuropsychological assessments, early detection and monitoring of neurodegenerative diseases, and clinical trial design.

The UCSF Memory and Aging Center (MAC) is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care for individuals with cognitive problems, conducting research on causes and cures for degenerative brain diseases, and educating health professionals, patients and their families. We conduct large-scale longitudinal, observational studies deeply phenotyping the clinical and biological correlates of brain aging and neurodegeneration, including Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal lobar syndromes (bvFTD, primary progressive aphasias, PSP, CBS), cerebrovascular disease, and prion disease. Measures include traditional and experimental indicators of cognitive, behavioral, social-emotional functioning, neuroimaging (structural, functional, and molecular), genetics, biofluid markers (plasma, cerebrospinal fluid), and lifestyle, environmental and other social determinants of health. You can find more information at the UCSF MAC website.

Dr. Adam Staffaroni's lab focuses on early detection and monitoring of neurodegenerative diseases, particularly frontotemporal dementia, using neuropsychological tests, neuroimaging, and fluid biomarkers. Our lab is also interested in digital biomarkers, and we have developed a smartphone application that enables the remote assessment of cognition, language, and motor functioning. We are also investigating a comprehensive platform of in-home sensor technologies that allow us to passively monitor the daily activities (e.g., sleep, movement, computer use) of patients with neurodegenerative disease. Finally, Dr. Staffaroni is an investigator on global studies of frontotemporal dementia, and interested students will have opportunities to learn about multicenter data harmonization/analysis and clinical trial design.

Applicants with interest and/or experience working with technological assessments, neurodegenerative disease, longitudinal data analysis, and applying big data analytic approaches are encouraged.

Application Materials: Please submit a CV with 3 references, a cover letter explaining your interest in the lab, and a writing sample to Adam.Staffaroni@ucsf.edu and Sreya.Dhanam@ucsf.edu.