



Job offer

Coordinator of autism research laboratories

SHARED DIRECTION: CIUSSS-NIM - Laurent Mottron, Laurent Mottron Laboratory
CIUSSS-NIM - Valérie Courchesne, member of Laurent Mottron's Laboratory
UQAM - Isabelle Soulières, Director, Laboratoire IDEA
UQO - Claudine Jacques, Director, Laboratoire LUDICA
McGill - Armando Bertone, Director, PNLab Laboratory
UdeM - Anne-Marie Nader

JOB TITLE: Coordinator

POSITION : Contractual (position for 2 years, renewable)

1. MISSION AND FUNCTIONS

We're looking for a passionate laboratory coordinator with experience in research, large-scale project management or laboratory coordination.

The successful candidate will be responsible for two specific areas:

1.1 Q1K Project Manager

His task is to set up and manage the "Recruitment and phenotyping" component of the [Quebec 1000 Families \(Q1K\)](#) project. Laurent Mottron's laboratory at Hôpital Rivière-des-Prairies is responsible for setting up the Q1K project, which will involve 1,000 participants recruited through collaborating sites: CIUSSS-NIM Hôpital Rivière-des-Prairies, the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Sainte-Justine and Douglas Mental Health University Institute.

1.2 Laboratory coordinator for the Center for Research, Evaluation and Intervention in Autism (CREIA)

In collaboration with the researchers and coordinators of their respective laboratories (Laboratoires Laurent Mottron, IDEA, LUDICA, PNLab), the successful candidate will be responsible for the overall coordination of CREIA, developing effective clinical-research collaboration, taking an active part in student training, funding applications, monitoring joint research projects, employee recruitment, and so on.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LABORATORIES OF THE Centre de Recherche, d'Évaluation et d'Intervention en Autisme (CREIA)

2.1 Laurent Motttron laboratory (CIUSSS-NIM), Dr Laurent Motttron

Our research group explores how people with autism process information. We are therefore interested in describing the perceptual, memory and reasoning mechanisms by which autistic people perceive the world, construct representations and manipulate them. Our ultimate goal is to enable people with autism to integrate into society, at any age, in a spirit of respect for differences. Our findings over the last twenty years on medium-sized populations lead us to hypothesize that autism is far less common than is currently diagnosed as such, and is associated with a constellation of specific clinical, cerebral and genetic features.

2.2 Laboratoire sur l'intelligence et le développement en autisme (UQAM), Dr Isabelle Soulières

The aim of the *IDEA Laboratory* **is to** develop and improve assessment, teaching and work methods for children and adults with autism, in order to more adequately reflect their abilities. The IDEA laboratory aims to better understand the cognitive functioning of individuals with autism, in order to better respond to their needs in terms of interventions, while building on their strengths and cognitive specificities. Our research focuses on the cognition of people with autism, with four main strands:

1. *Development trajectories*
2. *Learning and reasoning processes*
3. *Assessing intelligence and cognitive functions*
4. *Perception*

2.3 Laboratoire sur l'unicité et la diversité des intérêts et des comportements en autisme (UQO), Dr Claudine Jacques

The *LUDICA Laboratory* aims for a better understanding of the broad spectrum of autistic peculiarities, based on a positive vision of autism. Repetitive behaviors and preferred interests are at the heart of its work. Various stimulating methodologies adapted to the different profiles of autistic children are favored in the laboratory's studies. This provides a more representative portrait of autistic traits across the developmental trajectory. Ultimately, the fruit of these studies is intended to contribute to the development of knowledge and, above all, educational and evaluative practices in autism.

2.4 Neuroscience Perception Laboratory (McGill), Dr Armando Bertone

The *PNLab* uses different experimental approaches to characterize the perceptual processing that explains cognition and sensory-related behaviors in autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions at different periods of development. Based on these findings, we are developing vision-based cognitive assessment and intervention protocols that are accessible, adaptable and specific to the perceptual strengths of young people with autism. As founding director, Dr. Bertone also works closely with the Centre d'Études de Recherche, d'Éducation et Formation (SCERT), a research center located at Le Sommet school, a state-of-the-art special education environment for over 600 students (ages 4 to 21). Our work aims to increase the effectiveness of

existing interventions by addressing perceptual strengths in autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD) across the developmental spectrum.

2.5 Dr. Valérie Courchesne, member of Laurent Mottron's laboratories, LUDICA and IDEA

Dr. Courchesne is interested in mental health in autism. In particular, she is interested in the factors that can promote well-being in this population, and the role that interests and strengths can play in promoting mental health. As a clinical psychologist, Dr. Courchesne is also interested in the practice of psychotherapy with autistic people.

2.6 Dr. Anne-Marie Nader

Dr. Nader is an occupational therapist and neuropsychologist by training. She has been working with autistic children, adolescents and adults for nearly 20 years. She is interested in the conditions conducive to the well-being of people with autism, and particularly in the design of environments (e.g. school, employment) that are conducive to the development of people with autism. She seeks to develop learning, support and accompaniment methods that take into account the specific cognitive profile of autistic people and capitalize on their strengths to express their full potential. Her work is carried out in close collaboration with various players in the community (schools, living environments, etc.) to better understand the opportunities and challenges faced by people with autism.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Recruiting and phenotyping manager for Q1K projects

- Plan, coordinate and supervise all recruitment and phenotyping activities for the Québec 1000 familles (Q1K) research project, ensuring that deadlines and objectives are met.
- Working closely with the teams at the 4 Q1K sites (Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, Le Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Sainte Justine, CIUSSS-NIM Hôpital en santé mentale Rivière-des-Prairies, CIUSSS-OIM Institut Universitaire en santé mentale Douglas), the person will be responsible for implementing recruitment strategies, their homogeneity, their acceptance by clinicians, as well as collaborating with ethics committees across the institutions of the partner sites to promote the broadest possible recruitment while safeguarding anonymization constraints with a view to achieving the objective of 1000 participating families.
- Once familiar with the project and the organizations and institutions involved, recruit, train and supervise the members of the research team responsible for recruitment who will work under her direction, ensuring that all tasks are carried out efficiently and professionally, and participating herself when necessary.
- Formulate the Group's research protocols in line with ethical standards and current regulations.
- Manage and maintain the database containing participants' phenotypic information.

- Collaborate with external partners, such as research centers, specialized clinics and family associations, to help recruit and engage participants.
- Ensure clear and regular communication with all project stakeholders, providing updates and resolving any issues that may arise.
- Compile and analyze the phenotypic data collected, preparing detailed reports for researchers and partner organizations.
- Carry out ethical, budgetary and financial monitoring of the project and submit reports and follow-ups semi-annually and annually.
- Ensure the confidentiality and security of data collected in accordance with current regulations.
- Participate in the preparation and presentation of scientific publications.

3.2 Coordination of laboratories at the Centre de Recherche, d'Évaluation et d'Intervention en Autisme (CREIA)

- Plan, coordinate and supervise projects shared by the Group's various laboratories
 - Develop and implement outreach strategies, in conjunction with the assessment clinics and with the approval of the Research Ethics Committee (REC), to obtain the maximum number of families wishing to be included in the "Autism Data Bank and Participants - HRDP" in order to eventually participate in CREIA research projects.
 - Maintain the "Autism database and participants - HRDP", ensuring data quality and updating.
 - Ensure annual ethical monitoring of the BDD by producing the annual reports required by the REC and its renewal.
 - Ensure the smooth running of the BDD stewardship committee.
 - Ensure close collaboration with the coordinators of the group's various laboratories.
- Maintenance and follow-up of the research group's website.
- Support researchers and students in the ethics committee application process (project submission, revisions, annual renewal, etc.).
 - Organize or support the delegate at laboratory events (Group Meeting, Journal Club, Post-Insar Meeting, Research Week, etc.).
 - Any other tasks to be defined in collaboration with the group's researchers and coordinators.

4. PROFILE, TRAINING, SKILLS REQUIRED

- Minimum 2nd cycle university degree in project management/coordination and/or health and related fields.
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to manage multiple tasks and multi-lab projects simultaneously.
- Strong problem-solving skills and ability to take initiative and make informed decisions.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, demonstrating positive and motivating leadership.

- A willingness and ability to explain research projects in layman's terms, to ensure maximum buy-in from the families involved.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in French and English.
- Flexibility and willingness to learn new research techniques and methods.
- Ability to comply with partners' requirements, rigor and attention to detail.

5. CONDITIONS

We offer an attractive remuneration package, to attract the best candidates ready to learn and take up this exciting challenge with us. On top of that, we offer a stimulating work environment, a collaborative team and opportunities for professional development.

- **Salary of \$80,000 per year including 20 vacation days and 13 statutory holidays;**
- **Position for 2 years, possibility of renewal, probation, 90 days;**
- **Full time, 35 h / week ;**
- **Hybrid workplace, telecommuting and at Hôpital Rivière-des-Prairies, 7070, boul. Perras, Montreal.**

6. RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES

An application including a cover letter, two letters of recommendation and a detailed curriculum vitae must be sent by September 30, 2023, by e-mail to jade.desrosiers.cnmtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca.

Candidates shortlisted on the basis of their applications will be invited to an interview with a nominating committee.