

Postdoctoral position in cochlear implant neuroscience

A position is available for a post-doctoral fellow to work in the laboratory of Dr. John Middlebrooks at the University of California at Irvine. The project is supported by a Collaborative Award in Science from the Wellcome Trust. The other collaborators are Robert Carlyon in Cambridge, UK, and Jan Wouters in Leuven, Belgium. The overall objective of the project is to improve hearing with cochlear implants. We will focus on transmission of spectral information using tripolar stimulation and on transmission of temporal fine structure with focused stimulation of the cochlear apex. The collaborative approach will involve human psychophysics (Carlyon), human electrophysiology (Wouters), and cat psychophysics and neurophysiology (Middlebrooks). Neurotologist Harrison Lin, M.D., is an active participant in the UC Irvine group.

In the Middlebrooks lab, a post-doc would learn animal psychophysics, would track effects of long-term deafness and electrical cochlear stimulation using EEG measures, and would participate in acute single-unit recording from the inferior colliculus. Training for the post-doc would include visits to the Cambridge and/or Leuven lab(s). UC Irvine offers a course on Responsible Conduct of Research and several professional development workshops. The salary and benefits will follow the NIH post-doc scale.

UC Irvine has a very active auditory research community, organized as the Center for Hearing Research (chr.ss.uci.edu). The CHR sponsors a monthly journal club, an annual seminar with invited national speakers, and a regional conference ("SoCal Hearing"). Post-docs audit a team-taught course on Auditory Neuroscience.

The Middlebrooks lab is in the Department of Otolaryngology and is on the main Irvine campus. The lab has affiliations with the Departments of Neurobiology & Behavior, Cognitive Sciences, and Biomedical Engineering.

This position would be a rich opportunity for a person with experience in animal auditory neuroscience to learn about auditory prosthesis or for a person with cochlear-implant experience to gain animal experience. Applicants should have a Ph.D. with experience in hearing research and should have MATLAB programming experience. Please submit a current CV, a 1-2-page description of research interests and career goals, and contact information for three references to John Middlebrooks, Ph.D., at j.midd@uci.edu.

UC Irvine is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.