

Postdoc Opportunity: Plasticity of Well-Being Network Research

Center for Healthy Minds | University of Wisconsin Madison

Key Words: Postdoc; Well-Being Research; Well-being Measurement; Well-being Interventions, Biopsychosocial; Population Health; Data Analysis

The Center for Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher to join the [Plasticity of Well-Being Network](#). The Plasticity of Well-being (PWB) Network is one of six research networks that NIH is supporting to advance understanding of emotional well-being. In this capacity, the PWB network aims to refine and test key concepts that advance the study of emotional well-being, as well as develop innovative measures of key pillars of well-being. The PWB network is a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research network of scientists and scholars from a broad range of fields including psychology, neuroscience, computer science, population health and biology, and the humanities.

Position Responsibilities and Contributions

In this position, you will join the PWB Network's collaborative activities and be formally co-mentored by 2-3 of the Plasticity of Well-being Faculty members listed [here](#). As part of the multidisciplinary PWB network, you will play an integral role in research designed to advance understanding of emotional well-being, including secondary data analysis of existing projects. One such research project is the Behavior, Biology and Well-being Study (BeWell) study. The BeWell study is a randomized controlled trial (RCT) designed to understand the impact of the meditation-based Healthy Minds Program app on health and well-being in a nationally representative sample of participants with elevated depression symptoms ([clinical trials registration](#)). Established self-reported measures of well-being, novel app-based measures, and field-friendly biological measures were collected in this large remote RCT.

The PWB network also recently developed an emotional well-being index in the [Add Health](#) dataset that can now be used to address research questions in that dataset (e.g., relationships between emotional well-being and physical health). You will have the opportunity to leverage these and other datasets to conduct analyses and publish research that advances the field of emotional well-being. You will also have the opportunity to engage in team science to develop new collaborative grant applications and be supported in submitting individual fellowship applications. This position is ideal for someone hoping to increase their publication record during their postdoc and launch an independent research career.

Minimum Required Qualifications

- Ph.D. (by the time of appointment) in Neuroscience, Social Psychology, Affective Science, Clinical or Counseling Psychology, Sociology, or a related field
- Experience or interest in biological mechanisms underlying emotional well-being
- Proficiency with quantitative statistical analysis techniques
- Strong communication and organizational skills
- Excel at working in a collaborative, multidisciplinary environment while also demonstrating independence and motivation to advance research projects
- Emerging track record of publishing in academic journals

Desired (but not required) Qualifications

- Experience with intervention research, especially mHealth interventions
- Experience with population health research
- Experience working with large datasets, especially intensive longitudinal data
- Experience with R and/or other computer programming (MATLAB, Python, C++)

This position will be based at the Center for Healthy Minds, University of Wisconsin-Madison with the possibility of collaborative work at other labs of Plasticity of Well-being Network faculty (for example, Northwestern University, MIT Media Lab).

Equity and inclusion are integral to achieving the vision of the Center for Healthy Minds. The University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for Healthy Minds (CHM) is a leader in conducting science - in and out of the lab - on how to nurture emotional well-being in daily life, considering the complexity of our human experience. Because of societal inequities in science and academia, as well as the disproportionate harm that marginalized members of our society experience - such as Black, Indigenous, People of color (BIPOC), people from poor and working-class backgrounds, persons with disabilities, women, and LGBTQ+ and non-binary identities, etc.- we believe these identities must be centered in our work in order to fulfill a vision of a kinder, wiser, more compassionate world.

We encourage applications from those who are completing their doctoral training or have recently done so. We also encourage applications from those who have earned their doctorates and are currently working in the field but are interested in additional training to pursue this research area.

- Salary: Minimum of \$61,008
- Percent Time: 100%
- Start Date: As early as November 1, 2024
- One year renewable position based on performance and funding availability

Application Instructions

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning immediately. The research team is enthusiastic to have someone onboard as soon as possible, but start date is negotiable.

Please submit a single combined PDF with the following:

1. A Cover letter that (1) summarizes how your skills and experiences align with this position, including the qualifications specified above, and (2) briefly sketches your research vision and identifies three faculty members from the Plasticity of Well-being Network that could facilitate this vision. The cover letter should not exceed 2 pages.
2. Please include A 1-2 page Research Statement describing your research to date and your career plans (and how you see this position fitting into these plans)
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Name and contact information for 3 references

TO APPLY: Please send all requested documentation to **Pablo Aquiles-Sanchez at pwb@chm.wisc.edu**, and note in the email subject line as '**PWB Postdoc application**'.