



David Geffen School of Medicine

Assistant Project Scientist in Psychiatric Disease Stem Cell Modeling and Genomics de la Torre-Ubieta and Gandal Labs @ UCLA

An NIH-funded full-time position for an Assistant Project Scientist is immediately available, jointly supervised by Dr. Luis de la Torre-Ubieta and Dr. Michael Gandal in the David Geffen School of Medicine and the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA. We are looking for a motivated individual interested in working at the interface of experimental stem cell biology and psychiatric genomics, to investigate the mechanisms of disease genetics through neural stem cell modeling of human brain development.

The de la Torre-Ubieta (LTU) and Gandal labs are located within the interdisciplinary Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC) at UCLA. The LTU lab focuses on experimental and developmental neurobiology, modeling of human cortical development using stem cells, and gene regulation. The Gandal lab employs systems-level, computational, multi-omic approaches using human brain samples to investigate the biological mechanisms underlying genetic risk for neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders, including autism, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder. Our long-term goals are to translate genetic findings into practical therapeutics for neuropsychiatric disease.

A successful candidate will have the following qualifications:

- PhD in biological sciences
- Ability to work independently within a collaborative multi-disciplinary team-based environment
- Motivation to learn and develop expertise in cutting-edge genome engineering and stem cell-based methodologies
- Strong oral and written communication skills to present and publish research findings
- Track record training and mentoring junior scientists

Experience with cell culture and neural stem cell models, functional genomics assays (e.g., scRNA-seq, ATAC-seq), and/or CRISPR/Cas9 genome engineering are preferred but not required. All backgrounds will be considered. The appointed researcher will be embedded within a highly interdisciplinary team of neural stem cell and developmental biologists, computational biologists, bioinformaticians, statistical geneticists, and clinicians. The successful candidate will help develop and implement high-throughput genome engineering and genomic assays in human neural progenitor cell lines. Training opportunities and mentorship in wet-lab stem cell modeling and dry-lab genomics techniques will be uniquely provided by the joint PIs.

Please email a cover letter, CV, and three references to Luis de la Torre Ubieta (LDeLaTorreUbieta@mednet.ucla.edu) and Michael Gandal (mgandal@mednet.ucla.edu) and also upload to the application portal at: <https://recruit.apo.ucla.edu/apply/JPF07415>.



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This General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Statement for Persons in the European Economic Area is designed to provide information regarding the types of Personal Information that the University of California's Human Resources departments and offices collect.

Please be advised that the final candidate recommended for hire into a critical (or otherwise designated) position will be required to successfully complete a background investigation. Any convictions will be evaluated to determine if they directly relate to the responsibilities and requirements of the position. Having a conviction history will not automatically disqualify an applicant from being considered for employment.

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