

PhD position

at the Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research

The Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research (HIH), together with the University of Tübingen's Neurology Hospital, forms the Center of Neurology. It is dedicated to research, treatment, and teaching focused on the diseases of the human brain.

The Helfrich lab (Human Intracranial Cognitive Neurophysiology) at the HIH is inviting applications for a fully funded position for a

PhD student

with an interest in the neuronal network dynamics underlying cognitive processing. The lab is conducting cognitive neuroscience studies in a clinical environment. Our key goal is to understand the network neuroscience underlying higher cognitive functions in the human brain.

We offer one PhD position to investigate the mechanisms that enable attentional control and context-guided behavior in human prefrontal cortex.

Over the last few decades, several lines of research indicated that the prefrontal cortex (PFC) provides the structural basis for attention-guided behavior, but its functional architecture is not well understood. Our goal is to investigate how attention is implemented in the human brain to optimize sensory processing and goal-directed behavior. For background information see Helfrich and Knight (2016) Trends in Cognitive Science; Helfrich et al. (2017) PNAS; Helfrich et al. (2018) Neuron; Helfrich et al. (2019) Current Opinion in Psychology; Raposo et al. (2022) bioRxiv; Weber et al. (2023) PNAS

Key Methodology: We are combining behavioral testing with intracranial EEG recordings in humans (ECoG, sEEG, Single Unit Activity) as well as non-invasive neurophysiology (EEG, MEG) and electrical brain stimulation. In this project, multiple patient populations will be tested. We offer hands-on training on all aspects of study design and data collection as well as state-of-the-art analysis methods of electrophysiological data.

Skills and qualifications: The positions are well suited for candidates from a wide-range of backgrounds, including biology, computer science, psychology, medicine, cognitive science and neuroscience. We particularly encourage applications from researchers with previous experience in human imaging or primate neurophysiology who are seeking to apply their skills to basic science questions in a clinical context. We welcome researchers with an international background. German language skills are helpful to coordinate patient-related studies. PhD students will be enrolled in Neuroscience Graduate Center Training School in Tübingen (<https://www.neuroschool-tuebingen.de/>).

If we have sparked your interest, please send your application, including a CV, relevant certificates or diplomas and a cover letter outlining your research interest in English or German to randolph.helfrich@med.uni-tuebingen.de

For additional information see: www.helfrich-lab.com and www.hih-tuebingen.de/helfrichlab