

Postdoctoral Position, Silver Lab Duke University Medical Center

The Silver lab at Duke University School of Medicine seeks a highly motivated postdoctoral research fellow to join our lab. Our lab investigates mechanisms by which the brain is assembled during embryonic development, how this is disrupted in neurodevelopmental disease and co-opted during brain evolution. We employ a multifaceted strategy to bridge developmental neurobiology, RNA biology, and evolution. To learn more about our interests, motivations and discoveries please see: <https://sites.duke.edu/silverlab/>.

We are focused on 3 questions:

- 1) How does post-transcriptional control influence neural cell fate in the cerebral cortex? We have discovered canonical and non-canonical mechanisms by which RNA regulation controls development and disease.
- 2) How does sub-cellular gene expression compartmentalize functions of cortical progenitors? We have discovered that mRNA is transported and locally translated in distal compartments of neural progenitors to control their morphology.
- 3) How is human-specific brain development achieved? We have discovered new human-specific enhancers that control neural progenitor potency and brain size.

Why our lab and Duke? The successful postdoctoral fellow will have the exciting opportunity to implement and integrate cutting edge approaches including: mouse genetics, pluripotent stem cells, organoids, fixed and live imaging, and functional genomics. They will gain conceptual training in cortical development and RNA biology and in professional skills such as grant writing and presentations. Our lab offers a vibrant, rigorous, and supportive training environment, with a team of researchers passionate about brain development. We collaborate extensively with labs internationally and at Duke and our lab is a member of the Duke Center for RNA Biology, Regeneration Next Initiative, and Institute for Brain Sciences. Postdocs can take advantage of professional development opportunities at the Office of Postdoctoral Services as well as outstanding benefits. Duke University is in Durham within the Research Triangle, an affordable, vibrant and growing community.

Learn more here: <https://research.duke.edu/prospective-postdocs/>.

The successful applicant must be highly motivated, hard-working, collaborative, and passionate about brain development. Successful applicants must have a strong scientific record of productivity and creativity. Previous experience in cortical development is a plus but not a prerequisite. However, experience in relevant fields of developmental neurobiology, RNA biology, or mouse genetics is strongly encouraged.

Interested applicants can contact debra.silver@duke.edu for information and should apply directly to: <https://careers.duke.edu/job-invite/252259/>.

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