Post-doctoral researcher (or Ph.D or MSc student) with interests in some combination of aging biology, evolution, complexity, statistics, and clinical algorithms

Supervisor:
Alan A. Cohen

I have funding for a post-doctoral researcher (or, potentially, MSc or Ph.D student – convince me!). The funding is only loosely tied to a specific project, and I can thus accept any candidate whose interests overlap sufficiently with mine, who is motivated, and who has demonstrated an exceptional capacity for research. In particular, I will give you free reign to pursue almost any project you want, within my basic spheres of interest (aging, evolution, physiological complexity, biomarkers, clinical algorithms, physiological ecology, demography, etc.). I will expect you to complete a small amount of work on the core project related to the grant (sex differences in the aging process), but that in itself is a broad subject, and beyond that your project is your choice. The sole clear requirement is that you need to have demonstrated substantial applied quantitative skills (statistics, mathematical modeling, simulations, etc.).

Examples of current projects in the lab: 1) Multivariate statistical approaches to integrate biomarker data and detect underlying (latent) processes in the complex systems dynamics affecting aging; 2) Simulations of multiple physiological mechanisms underlying evolutionary trade-offs change our understanding of the role of trade-offs in evolutionary biology; 3) Development of clinical algorithms based on our multivariate biomarker measures, with the possibility for direct integration into Learning Health Systems; 4) Linking physiological mechanisms of aging to patterns of aging demography within and across species; 5) Understanding links between socio-economic status and aging rate.

You will have access to the excellent data sets available in this lab, including (1) some of the world’s foremost data on aging human cohorts (Women’s Health and Aging Study, InCHIANTI, Baltimore Longitudinal Study on Aging, NuAge) and some associated –omics data and (2) excellent clinical data on large populations, including clinical biomarker data. (Some restrictions on data use apply via agreements with our collaborators.)

Quebec and Canada offer a number of excellent opportunities for prestigious fellowships. A competitive salary and working conditions will be offered even in the absence of a fellowship. Sherbrooke is a university town nestled in the beautiful Eastern Townships of the Province of Quebec, close to the US border and just a short drive away from Montreal and Quebec City. The University of Sherbrooke provides an exceptional quality of work and life environment: cost of living is low, with excellent access to outdoor activities. The institution is French-speaking, and while knowledge of French is not a prerequisite, a good-faith effort to learn the language would be expected.

If you are interested, I strongly encourage you to look carefully at our website to make sure your research interests are a fit for the lab, and that the lab policies and philosophy are attractive to you:
Applicants should forward their complete curriculum vitae, a brief (1 page) description of their research interests and academic goals, as well as contact information for 3 references. All applications received before April 1, 2017 will be given full consideration, and later applications will be considered until a suitable candidate has been chosen. Start date is flexible but sooner is preferable.

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