The Role of Stress Physiology in Supporting Self-Regulated Learning
The Stanford Project on Adaptation and Resilience in Kids

Lab Website: https://web.stanford.edu/group/sparklab/

Faculty Mentor: Jelena Obradović

Time Commitment: Up to 40 hours/week for 10 weeks. May include some weekend days.

Compensation: Up to $7000

Project Description: We are investigating how the peripheral nervous system supports the cognitive, emotional, and motivational aspects involved in elementary school students’ learning and school success. We are seeking a research assistant interested in the interplay of biology, behavior, and environment to assist with basic research that will lay the groundwork for experimental intervention studies that will improve children's emotional and physiological self-regulation skills. The research assistant will have the opportunity to work on multiple studies focused on the biological bases of self-regulated learning.

1. As part of a large school-based study involving over 800 students, Dr. Obradović has measured skin conductance (a measure of sympathetic nervous system function) during group assessments of children's cognitive self-regulation skills. The research assistant will learn about the significance of autonomic nervous system functioning and about how skin conductance data are collected, and will assist with processing and cleaning skin conductance data. This position will also include data management and analyses.

2. The research assistant will help with literature reviews for publications and grant applications and will gain experience using scientific databases such as PsycINFO and Medline.

3. The research assistant will field test an innovative wearable device for assessing multiple aspects of peripheral nervous system function in naturalistic settings. The research assistant will also help out with the field test of tablet-based tasks of executive functions, motivation, and emotion regulation.

Qualifications and Skills: The ideal candidate is highly motivated, detail-orientated, and has great organization skills. Experience working with children is preferred. Having a valid driver’s license and access to a car is desirable, but not required.

To Apply: Visit http://cepa.stanford.edu/training/vpue/apply. Applications must be submitted by April 2.