

The section Health, Medical and Neuropsychology of the institute Psychology of the Faculty Social and Behavioural Sciences is looking for a

### **PhD candidate Health, Medical and Neuropsychology (0.8 fte)**

**Vacancy number 2363**

#### **Project description**

“Training immune function in juvenile arthritis: A novel pharmacotherapeutic conditioning approach”. Our research focuses on elucidating the mechanisms of placebo effects. The aim of the current project is to enhance the pharmacotherapeutic effects of a commonly used treatment in pediatric rheumatology. Principles of pharmacotherapeutic conditioning, as known from research on placebo effects, will be used to enhance clinical responses and reduce side effects. This project will importantly contribute to the development of innovative therapeutic interventions. This project asks for an enthusiastic candidate with proven excellent research and communication skills.

#### **Key responsibilities**

- You will be responsible for conducting a multicenter randomized controlled trial (RCT) in which several Dutch pediatric rheumatology clinics participate;
- You will establish and maintain contacts with participating hospitals and health care professionals, screen participants, and collect, manage, and analyze the data from clinical sources, questionnaire data and laboratory assessments;
- You will write scientific, peer-reviewed publications, resulting in a PhD thesis.

#### **Selection criteria**

- A Master or equivalent degree in a relevant health-related field (completion of the MA thesis before the PhD project starts), including (health, medical or biological) psychology or health sciences (medicine, pharmacy, or biomedical sciences);
- High affinity with patient-oriented experimental research;
- Substantial knowledge of statistical methods, precise work skills and high analytical skills;
- Ability to work independently in a multidisciplinary setting;
- Excellent social and organizational competencies;
- Proficient in both Dutch and English.

#### **Our Faculty**

The Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences comprises four institutes: Education and Child Studies, Political Science, Psychology and Cultural Anthropology & Development Sociology. The Faculty also includes the Centre for Science and Technology Studies. The Faculty is home to 5,000 students and 600 members of staff. Our teaching and research programmes cover diverse topics varying from adoption to political behaviour. For more information, see <http://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/social-behavioural-sciences>

#### **Terms and Conditions**

We offer a one year term position, with the possibility of an extension of 3 years after positive evaluation. Salary range from € 2,191.- to € 2,801.- gross per month (pay scale P), in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities).

Leiden University offers an attractive benefits package with additional holiday (8%) and end-of-year bonuses(8.3 %), training and career development and sabbatical leave. Our individual choices model gives you some freedom to assemble your own set of terms and conditions. Candidates from outside the Netherlands may be eligible for a substantial tax break.

#### **Diversity**

Leiden University is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from members of underrepresented groups.

### **Information**

For further information about our unit and its teaching and research activities, please visit our website (<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/social-behavioural-sciences/psychology/health-medical-and-neuropsychology>).

Inquiries may be addressed to prof. dr. Andrea Evers, Ph.D., professor of Health Psychology and chair of the Health, Medical and Neuropsychology unit, or dr. Judy Veldhuijzen, associate professor Health Psychology. Telephone +31 71 527 6891, email [abreugem@fsw.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:abreugem@fsw.leidenuniv.nl).

### **Applications**

Candidates should submit online a letter of application stating the motivation for the position, accompanied by: a cv, the names and contact information for two references (no letters) as well as copies of your academic transcripts (in Dutch: cijferlijst).

Applications can be submitted **no later than the 26th of March 2017**. Interviews are scheduled to take place as soon as possible at Leiden University.