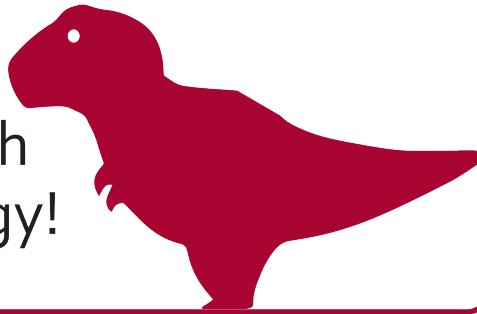


HB-REX

Explore Research
in Human Biology!



Examples of Past Projects

Children's pragmatic language understanding

How do babies and young children learn language from social interaction? In the Language and Cognition Lab, we are interested in understanding the interaction between children's developing social cognition and how language is used in context. In this project, interns will work with a mentor to develop a project on some aspect of pragmatic language understanding. We will be working with kids at Bing Nursery school and at the San Jose Children's Discovery Museum. This project is a great chance to get more experience doing research in order to decide whether you would like to do an honors thesis.

Role of Glial Activation in Stroke

Microglia, the resident macrophages in the brain have important supportive functions, as well as potentially dangerous functions. Similarly, astrocytes can support neuronal function but also respond to stress by activation. We are characterizing the changes in activation of astrocytes and microglia with stroke, defining which actions of the activated cells are helpful or deleterious, and trying to enhance the protective functions and reduce the deleterious functions. We are using transgenic mice that allow different kinds of activation to test the effects in stroke.

Explorations of social cognition, humor and creativity

Social cognition is critical for adaptive behavior in a challenging environment. As well, humor and creativity are essential higher-order human cognitive functions that allow for more effective personal, educational and vocational behaviors. The student will be working on one or more ongoing projects related to typical and atypical social cognition, humor and/or creativity utilizing functional imaging with fMRI and/or fNIRS. Opportunities to play a central role in the project are available for the highly motivated student.