**Project title:** Is vascular health related to social cognitive decline in older age?

**Project description:**

Social cognitive function refers to our capacity to detect, decode, and respond to social information in our environment, and prior research has shown that older age is associated with declines in this important capacity. This is concerning because social cognitive function is critical for maintaining strong social networks, which in turn are important for reducing loneliness and increasing longevity. An important next step in this literature is to understand the mechanisms that may explain social cognitive difficulties, so that effective interventions can be developed and applied.Therefore, this project is designed to provide the first empirical assessment of the relationship between vascular health and social cognition in older age. In addition, this project will investigate whether cardiorespiratory fitness– which is a predictor of both vascular function and cognitive health– serves as a mediator in this proposed relationship.

This project is a collaboration with researchers in School of Human Movement and Nutrition Science (HMNS). You will play a key role in the first phase of the study, which will involve recruiting older adults (including scheduling, conducting prescreening, contacting GP’s) and conducting testing sessions (i.e., social cognitive assessments). You will be required to work effectively in a team and communicate clearly with our researchers in the School of Psychology and HMNS.

We are looking for one highly motivated student to assist with this project over the summer. Although this project is open to all students, it would be most suited to a 3rd or 4th year student who has a particular interest in ageing research. All necessary training will be provided.

If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to email Dr. Sarah Grainger or Professor Julie Henry.

**Duration:** 10 weeks

**Expected hours per week:** 25 hours

**How many positions available**: 1

**Supervisor name and title:** Dr. Sarah Grainger & Professor Julie Henry