

Postdoctoral Research Fellows at Harvard/MGH

SUMMARY

MJ LAB (mj-lab.mgh.harvard.edu) is seeking motivated postdoctoral research fellows to join our interdisciplinary team in tackling complex health challenges. The lab's primary focus is to apply systems science methods ranging from simulation models to qualitative approaches and utilize analytical tools, from data science to large language models, to address a variety of health topics. Recent lab publications provide a good example of the type of research projects and outcomes.

This position provides a unique opportunity for postdocs aiming for faculty positions by offering hands-on experience in grant development, project design, team leadership, and independent research.

We welcome researchers with either strong methodological expertise or those with a focus on health or disease areas of interest.

MAIN REQUIREMENTS

- **Research:** Experience in either (a):

- (a) analytical methods such as

- simulation modeling
 - large language models
 - supervised machine learning (classification, clustering)
 - time-series analysis

OR

- (b) population-level outcome research such as

- health equity and social determinants of health
 - substance use
 - mental health
 - obesity

- **Personal capabilities (IMPORTANT):** We are looking for individuals passionate about advancing research that has a real-world impact, who can work independently while leading research teams, and who show creativity in tackling challenges. A proactive approach to learning new skills and a high level of organization is essential. Candidates should demonstrate a publication track record and independence in leading research and teams.

Additionally, candidates must have strong **data intuition**—not just the ability to analyze data but the capability to build a deep understanding of what the data represent. This includes recognizing patterns, inconsistencies, and potential issues, especially when working with unfamiliar datasets or new topics, to ensure that analyses are meaningful and lead to accurate, high-quality outcomes.

- **Doctoral degree:** A doctoral degree in health policy, population and outcome research, epidemiology, economics, biostatistics, statistics, mathematics, operations research, industrial and systems engineering, computer science, or a similar program is required.

OTHER SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- Strong writing skills for scientific publications and grant proposals
- Excellent communication and leadership skills for guiding teams and interacting with collaborators
- Ability to effectively manage stress and maintain a positive, productive work environment
- Programming experience (e.g., R, Python, MATLAB)

WORKING CONDITIONS

Postdocs will work closely with Dr. Jalali, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, and interns in a collaborative and friendly research environment. Each postdoc will lead a team of RAs and students, manage relationships with funding agencies, and collaborate with co-investigators from other institutions. The lab is located at the MGH Institute for Technology Assessment in Boston, MA. Only under exceptional circumstances, remote collaborations may be considered. Postdoctoral fellows will receive dual affiliations with Harvard and MGH.

COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVITY

The lab is committed to fostering an inclusive research environment that values diverse perspectives. We strongly encourage applications from individuals from underrepresented backgrounds, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and those from marginalized communities.

DURATION

One year with the expectation of renewal contingent upon performance and funding. Other durations may be considered based on mutual interest.

HOW TO APPLY

Send your CV and a cover letter to Dr. Mohammad Jalali ('MJ') at msjalali@mgh.harvard.edu (subject line: Postdoctoral Fellow). Include your preferred start date, and feel free to ask any questions.

DEADLINE

Rolling basis

Useful suggestions to consider before applying for 'any' postdoc positions:

- <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6949712216824676352/>
- https://med.emory.edu/education/postdoctoral-training/_documents/How%20do%20I%20apply%20for%20a%20Postdoc%20Position.pdf
- <https://mitcommlab.mit.edu/cee/2022/06/27/on-finding-and-choosing-a-postdoc/>