

Behavioral and neural responses to natural odors in insect model animals

Fall 2016



Dr. Brian Smith's Lab is looking for two or three highly motivated undergraduate students to assist with a project funded recently by the National Science Foundation to explore how the brain has evolved to process natural odors. The aim of this project is to use honey bees and fruit flies as models to begin to decode evolutionary and ecologically relevant olfactory spaces. The first steps of this experiment we first need to understand innate and learned responses to natural odors.

Research will take place in two parts. First we will test innate responses to various natural odors via harnessing and analysis software. Second we will test olfactory processing of individuals who differ in regard to what they have learned about odors.

We are seeking highly motivated students with a strong background in biology who are interested in behavioral, ecological and neurobiological research. If the students contribute significantly to the work there will be an opportunity to become authors of peer reviewed publications that come out of this research. Students are expected to work at least 10 hours per week and subject to regular schedule.

Christopher Jernigan
PhD Student Smith Lab
School of Life Sciences
Arizona State University

Email: chris.jernigan@asu.edu