How do I find a Harvard neurobiology research lab?

Step 1: Search for a lab.

The best method is to start your search on the web. Here are some helpful links:

a. **Neurobiology/MCB/CBS labs on the Harvard Campus**: http://www.mcb.harvard.edu/mcb/faculty/research-area/neurobiology

b. Check out the list of labs associated with the Harvard Brain Science Initiative: http://brain.harvard.edu/research

c. The **Neurobiology website at Harvard Medical School** (HMS) has a general site that lists many faculty who have neurobiology research labs, both in Cambridge and at the various hospitals around Boston. Use their links at left to search by technique or research question: http://www.hms.harvard.edu/dms/neuroscience/fac/ResearchArea.php

d. Harvard's MBB site lists some neuro labs that are looking for students: http://mbb.harvard.edu/pages/research-and-other-opportunities

e. The Harvard psychology department. Make sure the lab is doing 'cognitive science' ie, using an imaging method (fMRI, MRI, DTI, PET, EEG, etc). http://www.isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k3007&pageid=icb.page18831

f. Search the Harvard Hospital research centers (check with us if you are unsure whether the lab is "neuro enough"):

    a. **Brigham and Women's:** http://www.brighamandwomens.org/research/depts/default.aspx

    b. **Beth Israel:** http://www.bidmc.org/Research/Departments.aspx

    c. **Dana Farber Cancer Center**: http://researchers.dana-farber.org/search.asp

    d. MGH:

        i. Neurodegenerative Disease:

http://www.massgeneral.org/mind/faculty/

ii. Martinos Imaging Center:
http://www.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/martinos/research/Labs.php

iii. Neurodevelopmental Disorders:
http://nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/transcend/eeg.html

iv. Language and Reading:
http://www.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/lrrl/index.html

e. **Children's Hospital:**
http://childrenshospital.org/research/Site3038/mainpageS3038P0.html

f. **Harvard Sleep Medicine:** https://sleep.med.harvard.edu/research/labs

g. **School of Public Health:**
http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/neuroepi/research/

h. **Medical School BBS Faculty:**
http://dms.hms.harvard.edu/BBS/fac/Faculty.php

i. **Psychiatry Neuroimaging Lab:** http://pnl.bwh.harvard.edu/research/

g. **Google** or **PubMed** is a great way to find a lab! Enter your topic of interest plus "Harvard", so for example, "autism Harvard". And look at the website or last author on the articles that appear.

h. You might check out **Harvard's Catalyst site**, which helps match researchers with Harvard labs. The site has some quirks, but one great feature is that you can refine your search to a specific location such as "MGH". You can try searching with key words here: http://connects.catalyst.harvard.edu/Profiles/search

i. View **video clips of speakers from our "Neurobiology Research Sampler"** (December 2009) http://tinyurl.com/ow6tda6

This is not a comprehensive list. Students have found labs in the psych, chem, and engineering departments. Feel free to search and let us know when you decide.

In addition to these online resources, Margaret Lynch, our Undergraduate Research Advisor is available to meet with students who are early in their lab search. Check out the resources on the "Research Advising" website.
http://lifesciences.fas.harvard.edu/research-contact-us

Step 2: Generate a list of labs and make contact.

We recommend that you identify anywhere from 3-10 labs that interest you. If you'd like help refining your list or would like input on the labs you have selected, Dr. Draft or Dr. Magnotti will be happy to go over your list in a meeting. You may also wish to talk to students in those labs.

When you are ready to contact a lab, you should send an email to the research director (also called lab head or "PI" – principal investigator). You should first read these very helpful tips provided on the Life Sciences webpage that talk about how to find and approach labs: http://lifesciences.fas.harvard.edu/research

It is typical for students to contact several labs at a time (and you may not hear back from each one). If you don't hear back after your first email, send another email a week later. Often PIs miss the first email. Ideally a lab head will respond by inviting you to come by the lab for a meeting where you can discuss potential projects. If you unsure about which lab is best for you, it is ideal to meet with at least 2 different lab heads before making your decision.

Step 3: Begin your research.

Once you settle on a lab, you can begin your research. Some students choose to volunteer in the lab (anywhere from 5-15 hours per week). Starting in your junior spring you can receive course credit for your lab work by enrolling in Neurobiology 98r. You may instead apply to be paid by the Harvard College Research Program (which funds during term time as well as over the summer: check the funding deadlines).
http://lifesciences.fas.harvard.edu/research-opportunities