

To whom it may concern,

07/16/2024

William has made significant progress towards becoming an independent researcher during this reporting period. He has excelled in his training plan and received consistent positive evaluations from both his sponsorship team and department faculty. His most recent faculty assessment, which we complete at the end of each semester, rated him as "exceeded expectations" in performance, interactions with peers and mentors, and productivity. William had completed all class-based requirements for his degree and was elevated to candidacy in March 2023. His academic work now has primarily consisted of completing his dissertation, which includes the project outlined in the F99/K00 application. Only one component remains to be completed, which is a short behavioral study to supplement annotations for our primary stimulus. This data is on track to be collected by September. Speaking to the quality of his dissertation, he recently won a national competition for innovative decision research organized by the global marketing research organization *Ipsos*. William has not only completed his primary project ahead of schedule but has also developed and is in the process of launching a new iteration of the project which makes several improvements, including the addition of a social control task, as was requested by reviewers of the F99/K00 application.

Regarding publications, William has submitted revisions to a first-author publication (unrelated to this project) under review at the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. He has also written an empirical paper identifying neural differences associated with rating videos while under fMRI after recognizing that our project was well-equipped to fill this gap in the research. This manuscript will soon be submitted to the journal *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience* as William's third first-author publication. He is on track to submit at least two more first-author publications during the F99 phase of this grant and continues to exercise his ability to conduct independent research through additional ongoing collaborations between the co-sponsors' labs and with consultant David Smith. His work was recently disseminated through poster presentations at the 2024 SPSP and SANS conferences, a symposium at the 2024 APS conference, and invited talks by *Ipsos* and to Dr. Ajay Satpute and Dr. Emily Finn's labs at Northeastern University and Dartmouth College, respectively.

As outlined in his development plan, William has continued to lead and mentor other students, which further develops the skills he will use as a future successful independent principal investigator. Via his collaboration with David Smith's lab, he is mentoring a graduate student in using analytic techniques (i.e., Representational Similarity Analysis) that he had used in his first first-author manuscript. He also volunteered to work closely on two projects, one of which used memory data from the proposed F99 study, with an undergraduate honors student who sought naturalistic neuroimaging experience. These projects led to two posters presented at local events and, in the case of the memory data, will likely be incorporated into an upcoming manuscript. William has continued to lead his programming education organization, the *Coding Outreach Group*, by holding weekly office hours, hosting an annual introductory coding bootcamp, and organizing a summer workshop series to develop new programming skills – but is training his and his co-director's replacements as he prepares to transition to the K00 phase.

William has begun the process of identifying postdoctoral positions by identifying labs that fit the criteria that he had outlined in his initial F99/K00 application and has begun interviewing members of each potential lab to assess how well they align with his goals and preferences. We expect that he will begin more formal proceedings with his top choice of labs by the end of this month, July 2024.

We are pleased with William's progress and look forward to continuing to foster his development in the future.

Sincerely,

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