

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



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My name is Richard Ivry and I am a professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience Institute at UC, Berkeley. I am a research scientist interested in understanding how the brain produces coordinated movement and how neurological disorders such as cerebellar ataxia or Parkinson's disease produce specific types of movement problems. We are also interested in the question of whether neurological disorders known to produce movement disorders are associated with changes in other aspects of mental function such as memory and concentration.

We are looking to recruit individuals with cerebellar ataxia for our research projects. The experiments involve relatively simple and non-invasive procedures. Typically, we look at different aspects of coordination, including walking, speech, and voluntary hand movements. For example, in a current study, we are investigating how people with different neurological disorders control finger and arm movements. In another study, we are examining bimanual coordination—how people use their two hands to accomplish everyday tasks such as opening a jar or buttoning a shirt. We also look at various aspects of cognitive function to understand if and how neurological injury to the cerebellum and basal ganglia influence the functions of the cerebral cortex. The experiments are not physically demanding; we design them so that people with moderate to severe ataxia can complete the tests.

We do most of the testing in our laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley. However, for some of the studies, we will travel to conduct the testing since our equipment is portable. We usually schedule people for a 1-2 hour period. If we were to travel to your area, we would likely conduct two testing sessions over consecutive days. We are very flexible in terms of scheduling.

I want to emphasize that this research is not clinically oriented. Rather, it is part of a basic research program. We are not testing new therapies or drugs. Your participation is unrelated to your medical treatment and would not interfere with your medical treatment in any way. We seek to unlock some of the mysteries of brain function. We do hope that this work will, in the long run, prove beneficial to physicians by increasing our knowledge of how movement is produced and how it can be disturbed by different neural disorders. To emphasize that this is part of an experimental research program, we reimburse our participants for their time and travel expenses at \$20/hour plus travel time. We will also provide information regarding the purpose and results of the studies.

Our studies are supported by the National Institute of Health (NIH) and approved by various experimental review boards at UC, Berkeley and the VA Medical Center in Martinez, CA.

If you are interested in participating or wish to obtain more information, please contact me at the address given below. Email or phone are best.

Thank you for your consideration.

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