

**Recruitment for the Poznań Doctoral School of the Institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences
at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, PAS in Poznan
Procedure no. 9/2024/ICHB/PSD**

INSTITUTION: Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, PAS
CITY: Poznan
POSITION: PhD student
POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1
SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE: biological sciences
PUBLICATION DATE: 26.07.2024
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 16.09.2024
IBCH PAS WEBSITE: <https://portal.ichb.pl/homepage/>
PDS IPAS WEBSITE: <https://psd-ipan.ichb.pl/index.php/en/home/>

KEY WORDS: ovarian cancer, methylation, epimutation, methylation quantitative trait loci (meQTL), ovarian cancer high-risk genes, next-generation sequencing (NGS)

Research topic: In search for DNA methylation aberrations associated with susceptibility to ovarian cancer
Principal Investigator: dr Malwina Suszyńska

I. Project description

Abnormal methylation patterns are observed in the DNA of many cancers, consisting of global hypomethylation of the genome and hypermethylation of usually unmethylated CpG islands in the promoter regions of hundreds of genes. Such hypermethylation, leading to silencing of gene expression, may act as an alternative mechanism of their inactivation (along with mutations) and constitute one of the "two-hit" of Knudson's hypothesis of oncogenic transformation. The project plans to assess abnormal DNA methylation as a marker of increased risk of ovarian cancer. For this purpose, we will analyze DNA methylation levels in various areas of the genome, including regions associated with a genetic predisposition to ovarian cancer. Identified abnormal DNA methylation patterns will be characterized, among others: in terms of co-occurrence with genetic variants (meQTL), allelic specificity, methylation density of CpG sites, or homo/heterogeneity of methylation (at the read/cell level). The analyzes will be carried out based on the latest methods for examining the level of DNA methylation on a genome-wide scale, i.e. methylation arrays and next-generation sequencing. The project results will indicate potential epigenetic risk factors for ovarian cancer, which in the future may be used to identify women from the high-risk group in order to include them in appropriate oncological surveillance.

Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IBCH PAS), in which this project will be carried out, is one of the leading research entities specialized in chemistry, molecular biology, and biomedicine in Poland. The job will be performed in a young, dynamic group, providing opportunities for successful publication of research results. The position in the project is a great chance to develop and gain further experience in human genetics and computational biology.

Additional information:

1. Research and doctoral theses shall be carried out within the OPUS 26 project No. 2023/51/B/NZ5/02936, entitled “In search for DNA methylation aberrations associated with susceptibility to ovarian cancer”, funded by National Science Centre, Poland.
2. PhD students shall receive a stipend in the gross amount of ca 4300 PLN (3800 PLN net), for the period of 48 months with the possibility of increasing after a mid-term evaluation.
3. PhD students shall be subject to social insurance, pursuant to article. 6 section 1 passage 7b of the act of October 13th, 1998 on the social insurance system (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 300, 303 and 730).

II. Requirements for the candidates:

1. Master's degree in biology, biotechnology, bioinformatics or related fields.
2. Knowledge in the field of genetics, molecular biology and basic issues related to the research topic of the project.
3. High motivation for further development, independence and good work organization, communicativeness and ability to work in a team.
4. Good command of English, enabling efficient communication, reading and preparation of research papers.
5. Experience in analyzing next-generation sequencing (NGS) and/or microarray data, as well as knowledge of R and R-studio, Linux and/or the UseGalaxy platform, is preferred, but these are not prerequisites/mandatory conditions.

III. Duties in project:

1. Active involvement in the implementation of the project, i.e. planning and conducting experiments as well as developing and interpreting results (including working with DNA/RNA nucleic acids, designing primers, electrophoresis, PCR, preparing libraries for NGS sequencing, analysis of microarray and NGS data).
2. Continuous broadening of knowledge in the field of the project from scientific literature.
3. Involvement in the preparation of scientific publications.
4. Presentation of results at seminars, scientific meetings and conferences.

IV. Required documents:

1. Application for admission to PDS IPAS along with the consent for processing personal data upon the recruitment procedure and a statement on having acknowledged the regulations of recruitment for PDS IPAS, using form downloaded from:
https://psd-ipan.ichb.pl/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ICHBApplication_for_admission_10_05_23.docx
2. Certified copy of the diploma confirming graduation or a certificate confirming graduation (in the case of diplomas issued by foreign higher education schools, diploma stipulated in article 326, section 2, passage 2 or article 327, passage 2 of the act of July 20th, 2018 – Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1668, as amended), entitling to apply for conferment of a doctoral degree in the state in where such a certificate was issued by the relevant higher education school. In the event when the candidate is not in possession of the aforementioned documents, he/she is obliged to submit them prior to admission to PDS IPAS. Additional information on foreign school diplomas are available at:
<https://nawa.gov.pl/en/recognition/recognition-for-academic-purposes/applying-for-admission-to-doctoral-studies>
3. Scientific CV encompassing track record of previous education and employment, information on involvement in scientific activities (participation in student research groups, attendance at scientific conferences, accomplished internships and training, awarded prizes and distinction) and list of publications.
4. Cover letter featuring a short description of research interests, achievements and justification for the intention to commence education at the doctoral school.
5. Certificates or other documents confirming the degree of proficiency in English, if the candidate is in possession of such materials.

- Contact details of at least one, previous scientific supervisor or another researcher who is entitled to issue an opinion on the candidate.

V. Applications should be submitted via the eRecruiter portal at

<https://system.erecruiter.pl/FormTemplates/RecruitmentForm.aspx?WebID=25b3b0ed4cf44c3eaa02f77f3ba604ac>

VI. Submission deadline is **16.09.2024**

VII. Criteria for evaluation of candidates:

- Candidate's research achievements, pursuant to the grades obtained in the course of studies, scientific publications, awarded scholarships and distinctions resulting from conducting scientific research or student activities or other achievements.
- Candidate's scientific and professional experience, pursuant to participation in conferences, workshops, training sessions and internships, implementation of research and commercial projects, involvement in scientific trusts and societies, international and professional mobility, experience in other sectors, including industry.
- Candidate's knowledge on the following discipline: biological sciences.
- Knowledge of the subject matter described in the recruitment advertisement.

VIII. The recruitment procedure shall be concluded no later than **31.10.2024**

IX. The description of the recruitment process is stipulated in the Regulations of Recruitment for PDS IPAS. Following the recruitment procedure, the unadmitted candidates shall be informed on the number of points obtained at both stages.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For additional information please contact the Principal Investigator:

dr Malwina Suszyńska

e-mail: msuszynska@ibch.poznan.pl

Information clause:

Pursuant to the stipulations of the regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), further referred to as GDPR, we hereby inform that:

- The Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, seated in Noskowskiego St. 12/14, 61-704 Poznan; REGON 000849327, NIP 777-00-02-062 is the administrator of the collected personal data (further referred to as the Institute).*
- The Administrator appointed a Data Protection Officer, who can be contacted in writing, via traditional mail, by sending a letter to the following address: Z. Noskowskiego St. 12/14, 61-704 Poznan, or by sending an e-mail to: dpo@ibch.poznan.pl.*
- The personal data of the candidates is processed for the purposes of fulfilling the tasks of the administrator, associated with conducting the recruitment procedure for a vacant position.*
- The legal basis for processing personal data is the Act of 26 June 1974 – The Labor Code, Act of 30 April 2010 on the Polish Academy of Sciences or the consent of the person whose data shall be subjected to processing.*
- Your personal data shall be subjected to processing for period of 3 months upon the date of decision of the recruitment committee. Following this period, the data will be irretrievably and effectively destroyed.*
- The personal data of the candidates shall not be transferred to any third country.*
- The person whose data shall be subjected to processing has the right to:*
 - request access to his/her personal data, and to amend it or delete it, pursuant to articles 15-17 of GDPR;*
 - limit data processing, in the events stipulated in article 18 of GDPR;*
 - data transferring, pursuant to article 20 of GDPR;*

- *withdraw consent at any moment, without influencing compliance with the law of the processing that was executed prior to consent withdrawal;*
- *file a complaint to the Inspector General for Personal Data Protection.*

Providing personal data in the scope stipulated in article 22 (1) of the Act of 26 June 1974 – The Labor Code is mandatory, whereas providing data in a broader scope is voluntary and requires consent for its processing.