

**Recruitment for the Poznań Doctoral School of the Institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences
at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, PAS in Poznań
Procedure no. 3/2026/ICHB/PSD**

INSTITUTION: Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, PAS
CITY: Poznań
POSITION F/M: PhD student
POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1
SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE: Biological sciences
PUBLICATION DATE: 09.03.2026
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 24.04.2026
IBCH PAS WEBSITE: <https://portal.ichb.pl/homepage/>
PDS IPAS WEBSITE: <https://psd-ipan.ichb.pl/index.php/en/home/>

KEY WORDS: Selective neuronal vulnerability, Spinocerebellar ataxia, Neurodegeneration
Purkinje cells, Chromatin organization, Epigenetic regulation, Transcriptional dysregulation, Nuclear architecture

Research topic: Chromatin dynamics of Purkinje cells as a determinant of neuronal vulnerability in ataxias
Principal Investigator: Pawel M. Switonski

I. Project description:

Neurodegenerative diseases often affect only specific populations of neurons, even though disease-causing mutations are present throughout the nervous system. Understanding why certain neurons are particularly vulnerable is a key challenge in modern neuroscience. This PhD project focuses on Purkinje cells, specialized neurons essential for motor coordination whose degeneration leads to spinocerebellar ataxias (SCAs) - a group of rare and currently incurable neurodegenerative disorders.

Recent work from our laboratory has shown that Purkinje cells in SCA models undergo profound changes in gene expression, loss of cellular identity, and alterations in nuclear structure. These findings suggest that disrupted chromatin organization and epigenetic regulation may play an early and central role in disease progression. The main objective of this PhD project is to investigate how changes in chromatin state contribute to transcriptional dysregulation and selective vulnerability of Purkinje cells.

The PhD student will be actively involved in experimental work throughout the project, including sample collection and isolation of Purkinje cell nuclei. The project will provide hands-on training in assessing chromatin state using molecular, cytometric, and imaging-based approaches, as well as in studying disease-associated nuclear and phase condensation phenomena. In parallel, the student will perform cell culture experiments and participate in data analysis and interpretation.

This project offers comprehensive training at the interface of neurobiology and epigenetics, with strong support from experienced researchers and access to advanced core facilities. The PhD student will progressively develop

independence in experimental planning, critical evaluation of scientific literature, and preparation of results for publication, gaining a solid foundation for a future career in biomedical research..

Additional information:

1. Research and doctoral theses shall be carried out within the project UMO-2025/57/B/NZ2/04217 entitled "Identifying changes in Purkinje cell chromatin dynamics as novel drivers of neuronal vulnerability in spinocerebellar ataxias", funded by National Science Center
2. PhD students shall receive a stipend in the gross amount of ca. 4300 PLN (3800 PLN net) for the period of 24 months with the possibility of extending up to 48 months, and with the possibility of increasing the amount of the stipend after the mid-term evaluation (in accordance with the current regulation of the Minister - 5340.90 PLN gross).
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).
4. Possibility of using the Multisport card, group insurance, social benefits (co-financing of holiday leave, refund of tickets for cultural events).

II. Requirements for the candidates:

1. MSc degree in biology or a related field, or fulfilling the conditions stipulated in article 186, section 2 of the act of July 20th, 2018 Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1668, as amended).
2. Experience in laboratory work in the field of cell and molecular biology, with initial familiarity with techniques such as nuclear fractionation, immunostaining, qPCR, and Western blotting.
3. Knowledge of the fundamental principles of chromatin regulation and gene expression.
4. Motivation to work in an interdisciplinary research environment and to develop experimental and analytical skills.
5. Basic background in statistics and data analysis.
6. Ability to analyze scientific literature and willingness to expand knowledge in the field of neurodegeneration.
7. Very good spoken and written English

III. Duties in project:

1. Participating in biological sample collection, processing, and tissue bank maintenance.
2. Assisting with Purkinje cell nuclear isolation and preparation of samples for downstream analyses, including mass spectrometry.
3. Supporting core facility experiments, including fluorescence lifetime imaging microscopy (FLIM) and imaging cytometry.
4. Performing experiments to assess chromatin state, nuclear organization, and phase condensation phenomena in models of spinocerebellar ataxia.
5. Conducting cell culture experiments and contributing to the optimization of experimental protocols.
6. Participating in data analysis, basic statistical evaluation, and interpretation of results.
7. Actively reviewing scientific literature and expanding knowledge in neurodegeneration, chromatin biology, and epigenetics.
8. Contributing to the preparation of figures and manuscripts for scientific publications.

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: [IBCH Application for admission](#)
Applications without the aforementioned constant will not be considered.
2. Certified copy of the diploma confirming graduation or a certificate confirming graduation (in the case of diplomas issued by foreign higher education schools - the diploma entitling to apply for conferment of a doctoral degree in the state of origin). 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>. If a document that raises doubts is submitted, the application will not be considered because the time required for its verification would make it impossible to complete the competition within the set deadline. **We recommend a submission of the Individual Recognition Statement**, obtained from the SYRENA system or another government institution, such as the Regional Authentication Center, **which can significantly speed up the recruitment process.**
3. The candidate will be obliged to present the originals of the aforementioned documents before or on the day of commencement of the education at the doctoral school PDS IPAS.
4. 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.
5. Cover letter featuring a short description of research interests, achievements and justification for the intention to commence education at the doctoral school.
6. Certificates or other documents confirming the degree of proficiency in English, if the candidate is in possession of such materials.
7. 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=ff41ae8c119d4bfeadf32de1c5af84c9>

VI. Submission deadline is **24.04.2026**

VII. Criteria for evaluation of candidates:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Candidate's knowledge on the following discipline: Biological sciences.
4. Knowledge of the subject matter described in the recruitment advertisement.

VIII. The recruitment procedure shall be concluded no later than **08.06.2026**

The results of recruitment will be announced at the PDS IPAS website: <https://psd-ipan.ichb.pl/index.php/en/home/>

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

For additional information please contact the Principal Investigator:

Pawel M. Switonski

e-mail: pswiton@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:

- 1. 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).*
- 2. 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.*
- 3. 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.*
- 4. 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.*
- 5. 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.*
- 6. The personal data of the candidates shall not be transferred to any third country.*
- 7. 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.

Protection for whistleblowers

In the case of reporting violations using a dedicated system for whistleblowers, the reporting person's data will be processed in accordance with applicable provisions on the protection of personal data, including the above-mentioned Regulation (EU 2016/679 of 27 April 2016). We ensure confidentiality and protection of the identity of reporting persons, and that their data will not be disclosed without their consent, unless the law provides otherwise.

Detailed rules regarding the protection of personal data and procedures for reporting violations of the law can be found in our Regulations on internal reporting at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, available at the link:

<https://portal.ichb.pl/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/INTERNALREPORTINGREGULATIONS.pdf>



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