

The Leszek Kaczmarek Laboratory of Neurobiology (the Nencki Institute, Warsaw, Poland) is searching for 2 outstanding postdoctoral candidates to carry out the following research supported by the TEAM project from the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP) co-financed from the European Union, Regional Development Fund in 2012-2015.

MMP-9 driven extrasynaptic proteolysis in physiological and pathological synaptic plasticity

Recent studies, including those from the Kaczmarek laboratory, have shown pivotal role of MMP-9, extrasynaptically released protease acting on local extracellular matrix, in neuronal plasticity underlying physiological and pathological information processing and storage by the brain (see: [Nagy et al., J. Neurosci., 2006](#); [Okulski et al., Biol. Psych., 2007](#); [Wilczynski et al., J. Cell Biol., 2008](#); [Michaluk et al., J. Neurosci., 2009](#); [J. Cell Sci., 2011](#); [Konopka et al., J. Neurosci., 2010](#); [Dziembowska et al., J. Neurosci., 2012](#); for review: [Rivera et al., J. Neurosci., 2010](#)). The present project aims at explanation of the role of MMP-9 in emotional learning, alcohol addiction and schizophrenia. The rodent amygdala is the major brain structure the studies will focus on ([Knapska et al., PNAS, 2006](#); [2012](#); [Physiol. Rev., 2007](#)).

Requirements for postdoctoral candidates are:

- Strong interest in brain research, especially in understanding the brain-mind connection
- PhD degree (or equivalent) in molecular biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, physics/biophysics, chemistry, biology, psychology, medical or veterinary sciences, and no more than four years of post-doctoral training (candidates defending their Ph.D. thesis shortly after the application deadline, and before the start date of the employment contract, are eligible to apply)
- Research experience with either electrophysiology or optogenetics (preferably in vivo) or rodent behavior (preferably oriented toward neuropsychiatric disorders, such as schizophrenia) or neuroanatomy (preferably amygdala)
- Very good publication record
- Exceptional motivation for scientific research
- Proficiency in English

Admission

The application should contain the following documents/information:

- CV
- Short description of the motivation to apply for this position
- Two names of senior researchers that may provide reference letters
- Copy of PhD diploma (or equivalent)
- Contact information, including e-mail address and phone number
- The candidates may include additional information or copies of documents/certificates in support of the

Applications in English (pdf format) may be uploaded on-line:

<http://postdoc.nencki.gov.pl/register.php>

Application deadline: **March 10, 2013**

Short-listed candidates will be selected for personal interviews.

Positions are intended for two years initially, with a start date: June 2013

Stipend amount: 6 000 PLN/month

Further information available at: <http://neurogene.nencki.gov.pl/> and team@nencki.gov.pl