Leszek Kaczmarek Laboratory and Ewelina Knapska Laboratory at the Nencki Institute, Warsaw, Poland

invite applications for four postdoctoral and four PhD student positions to study aberrant synaptic plasticity that underlies diseased mind. The positions are available for up to five years, each, and supported by International Research Agendas Programme funded by Foundation for Polish Science (European Union Smart Development Operational Programme):

**Center of Excellence for Neural Plasticity and Brain Disorders: BRAINCITY; a Nencki-EMBL Partnership**

Kaczmarek lab investigates molecular mechanism underlying synaptic plasticity in healthy and diseased mind and has recently demonstrated that matrix metalloproteinase 9 (MMP-9, an extracellularly operating protease previously shown to control molecular, structural and functional synaptic plasticity) plays a pivotal role in alcohol addiction, supporting motivation towards alcohol seeking (Stefaniuk et al., Biological Psychiatry, 2017), as well as contributes to delusional symptoms in schizophrenia (Lepeta et al., EMBO Molecular Medicine, 2017). Knapska lab research is focused on investigation of neural representations of emotional states in interacting animals and humans. Using behavioral models of socially transferred positive and negative emotions, as well as high-throughput behavioral measures of social interactions of their own design (Eco-HAB system, Puschian et al., eLife, 2016), neuronal tracing and optogenetics, as well as brain imaging, they characterize neuronal circuits and cellular mechanisms underlying social interactions of humans rats and mice and validate tissue-specific therapeutic interventions using mouse models of synaptopathies relevant to autism spectrum disorders (Meyza et al., Neurosci. Biobehav. Rev., 2017).

**Postdoctoral candidates are expected to propose their own research project, complementary to these studies.**

**Requirements:**

- Strong interest in the brain research, especially in understanding the brain-mind connection,
- For postdoc applicants - PhD degree, or equivalent, for PhD student applicants - M.Sc., or equivalent in: neurosciences, molecular biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, physics/biophysics, biology, psychology, medical or veterinary sciences.
- Exceptional motivation for the scientific research (demonstrated via publications, references of the candidate’s thesis tutor),
- Proficiency in English.

**Admission**

The application should contain the following documents/information:

- CV
- Letter-of-intent and in the case of postdoctoral applicants a brief research proposal
- 2 letters of recommendation
- Copy of PhD diploma for postdoc candidates and M.Sc. for PhD student ones (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 application.

Applications in English (pdf format) should be sent to team@nencki.gov.pl

Application deadline: **February 15, 2019**

Short-listed candidates with the highest score will be selected for personal interviews.

**Start date: March 2019 or later**

**Salary/stipend’s amount:** for postdocs: ca. EUR 2000/month, net (an equivalent in PLN), for PhD student: ca. EUR 1000/month, net (an equivalent in PLN)