

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

The Dean of the Faculty of Biology, with the consent of the Rector of the University of Warsaw, announces a competition for the position of Assistant Professor in the project: “CHI3L1 (YKL40) in ischemic stroke: impact on brain microenvironment and motor function recovery”.

About the programme/project/initiative:

Title of the programme/project/initiative	CHI3L1 (YKL40) in ischemic stroke: impact on brain microenvironment and motor function recovery
Type of the programme/project/initiative	SONATA BIS-14
Funding institution	National Science Centre
Duration of the programme/project/initiative	60 months
Leader of the programme/project/initiative	Dr hab. Anna Malik
Description of the programme/project/initiative	Ischemic stroke is a leading cause of death and disability. It results from a blockage in blood flow that leads to neuronal death and activation of glial cells, particularly astrocytes. While current treatments aim to restore circulation, they do not prevent long-term brain damage. In response to ischemia, astrocytes release bioactive factors that influence inflammation and tissue regeneration, including CHI3L1 (YKL40)—a protein increasingly recognized for its role in signaling pathway modulation and extracellular matrix remodeling. Although elevated CHI3L1 levels are associated with worse stroke outcomes, its exact function remains poorly understood. This project seeks to clarify CHI3L1’s role in post-stroke brain repair and assess whether inhibiting its activity can enhance recovery. Using a photothrombotic stroke model, cell cultures, and advanced methods such as single-cell RNA sequencing and mass spectrometry, we aim to uncover the regulatory mechanisms and therapeutic potential of CHI3L1. Read more here .

About the Position:

Position title	Assistant Professor
Organizational unit	Faculty of Biology
Employee group	Research
Position profile ¹	R2

¹ To be completed only in the case of a competition for a position in the group of research or research-and-teaching staff.

Scientific discipline ²	Biological sciences
Number of positions	1
Type of employment & workload	Full-time employment contract
Expected start date & employment duration	February 2026, for 12 months with a possible extension for additional 48 months.
Salary	Base salary of approx 8 000 PLN gross/month plus a 13th salary and seniority allowance.
Other work conditions	• Place of work: Cellular Neurobiology Research Group, Institute of Developmental Biology and Biomedical Sciences. • We offer a dynamic, collaborative, and research-focused work environment (see http://www.maliklab.pl and our Instagram profile) • We offer support of the project leader, dr Anna Malik, in developing an original research profile, applying for funding, and planning further career steps • Career development opportunities: more information is available on the UW Human Resources Office website.
Primary responsibilities	• Conducting scientific research in biological sciences and publishing findings in international scientific journals. • Securing research funding. • Fulfilling other academic teacher responsibilities as required by employment at the University of Warsaw. <i>More details:</i> General scope of duties for academic teachers.
Eligibility criteria ³	Candidates have to: • Present research competencies in the field of: ◦ Work with laboratory animals (mice, rats). ◦ Cell biology and/or neurobiology • Have significant scientific achievements documented by well-cited publications in renowned international journals, invitations to deliver lectures or seminars, etc. • Hold a Ph.D. degree in biological sciences or a related field obtained before the start date of the employment. If the candidate does not hold a Ph.D. degree at the time of application, they have to declare the predicted date of obtaining the degree. • Have international experience, e.g.: participation in international conferences, engagement in international research projects, international collaborations documented by joint publications. • Meet the requirements specified in Article 113 of the Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws 2024, item 1571, consolidated text). • Submit a research plan outlining personal scientific development (please see below: 'required documents'). <i>If hired, the University of Warsaw must be <u>the primary place of employment</u> for the candidate.</i>
Additional expectations ⁴	• Proactive attitude and problem-solving skills

² To be completed only in the case of a competition for a position in the group of research or research-and-teaching staff.

³ Requirements specified by the Law on Higher Education and Science and the Statute of the University of Warsaw, as well as those necessary for the position.

⁴ Additional conditions whose non-fulfillment does not result in a negative formal assessment.

	• Good communication skills and ability to work in a team and to supervise less experienced members of the research group • Experience in planning and conducting complex long-term experiments, preferably in animal models. • Strong motivation for scientific work. • Proficiency in English. • Experience in presenting research projects at scientific meetings, writing scientific publications, and securing research funding. • Valid license for working with laboratory animals (mice) will be an asset • According to the regulations of the National Science Centre, the doctoral degree should be obtained in the year of employment in the project or in the period of 7 years before January 1 of the year of employment in the project
Candidate evaluation criteria	• Quality of the publication record and, if applicable, patent output. • Project-relevant skills documented in track record. • Success in securing research funding.

The position involves work not related⁵ to activities under child protection regulations.

Call guidelines:

Reference number of the announcement	WB-KG2-15/2025
Keywords	Biological sciences
Application deadline ⁶	10/12/2025, 23:59
How to apply	Send applications via email to ar.malik@uw.edu.pl and the Faculty Dean's Office: dziekanat.biol@uw.edu.pl. Please use the reference number of this announcement in the email's title. Emails without this reference number will not be considered. Candidates will receive an email confirmation of document submission. If no confirmation is received, please contact the project leader.
Required documents	• Personal questionnaire – available on the Faculty of Biology UW website. • Motivation letter including description of scientific interests and research activity plan. <i>Ensure the completeness of your application and submit it by the deadline. Failure to meet these requirements will result in rejection on formal grounds.</i>

This competition is the first stage of the recruitment process. Please familiarize yourself with the open, transparent, and merit-based recruitment policy at the University of Warsaw: [link](#)

Expected date and method of announcing the competition results	Interviews with selected candidates will take place on 15-19/12/2025. Candidates will be individually notified about their interview schedule with the selection committee. Candidates will be informed of the results via email by 16/01/2026
Contact for inquiries	Email: ar.malik@uw.edu.pl (please include the announcement reference number). Applicants requiring accessibility accommodations should indicate their needs in the personal questionnaire, under the section: <i>Other important information from the candidate</i>.

⁵ Remove the unnecessary part.

⁶ No earlier than 30 days from the date of the announcement's publication.

About the Faculty / hiring unit:

Research profile of the Faculty	The Faculty conducts research across a broad range of biological sciences disciplines. More details are available on the Faculty website
Teaching profile of the Faculty	The Faculty offers degree programs in <i>Biology</i> and <i>Biotechnology</i> and co-organizes programs in <i>Nature Conservation</i> and <i>Bioinformatics & Systems Biology</i> .
Other information	More details can be found on the Faculty website , on the Cellular Research Group website , and the group's profile on Instagram

The University of Warsaw follows a whistleblower procedure for reporting legal violations and taking follow-up actions. More information, including data protection policies, is available online: [link](#)

The University of Warsaw holds the HR Excellence in Research award from the European Commission, recognizing institutions that comply with the European Charter for Researchers.

