

AcademiaNet – FNP's 2014 NOMINATIONS

Advanced Researchers

Agnieszka Chacińska is a graduate of the Faculty of Biology of the University of Warsaw. In 2000 she was awarded with a PhD degree in biochemistry at the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. In the years 2001-2009 she worked at the University of Freiburg in Germany as a postdoctoral fellow and subsequently as an independent group leader. She was honored with the title of a full professor in 2014. Since 2009 Agnieszka Chacinska is associated with the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw. Her research interests cover the biogenesis, transport and turn-over of proteins within the cell. She is a recipient of prestigious grants: 'WELCOME' awarded by the Foundation for Polish Science and the EMBO Installation Grant.



Ewa Damek has graduated from The University of Wrocław in 1982. Five years later she has received a PhD degree, whereas her habilitation has been completed in 1995. She was honored with the title of a full professor in 2000. Since then, she has successfully supervised 5 PhD students. Between 2002 and 2007 Ewa Damek was a Chairman of the Institute of Mathematics at The University of Wrocław. Her most spectacular scientific success was formulation in 1992 of an answer (together with Fulvio Ricci) to the Lichnerowicz conjecture, which originally has been formulated in 1944. Co-authors defined spaces referred later on by other mathematicians as Damek-Ricci spaces. Currently Ewa Damek is employed by The University of Wrocław, where she pursues research in harmonic analysis and probability, being at the same time the head of the Harmonic Analysis Group. She is a member of the Committee of Mathematics of Polish Academy of Science.

Agnieszka Dobrzyn is a graduate of University of Warsaw (M.Sc. in biology, 1997). In 2001 she was awarded with a PhD degree at the Medical University of Białystok in Poland. In the years 2002-2005 she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, USA and subsequently followed by habilitation in 2006. Currently Agnieszka Dobrzyn is an Associate Professor in Biochemistry at the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, where since 2007 she is a head of the Laboratory of Cell Signaling and Metabolic Disorders. She is an expert in the field of molecular regulation of lipid-mediated intracellular signals with special emphasis on pathogenesis of type 2 diabetes. By using viral gene therapy, functional genomics and biochemical approaches, her team aims to uncover cellular mechanisms of insulin resistance and pancreatic beta-cell dysfunction. Agnieszka Dobrzyn was awarded several prestigious grants and fellowships, including American Heart Association, European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and Foundation for Polish Science (FNP). Since 2009 she is a chairperson of the International PhD Program at the Nencki Institute and a co-chairman of 'Increasing human potential' WorkPackage of BIO-IMAGINE EU FP7 Project. She also serves as an expert and panel member in a number of granting agencies, including Polish National Science Center, Foundation for Polish Science, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, European Research Council.



Iwona J. Fijałkowska in her research is focused on the issue of how cells achieve high accuracy of transmission of genetic information. She graduated from the Department of Biology at Warsaw University. In 1989, she earned a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1989, she earned a PhD at the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences. Then she spent 5 years (1989-1994) as a research scientist and research fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA), studying the fidelity mechanisms of DNA replication. In 1999, she received a Habilitation in the field of molecular biology. In 2006, she was awarded the title of Professor by the President of the Republic of Poland. Her research was funded from Maria Skłodowska-Curie Joint Polish-US Grant, Foundation for Polish Science, Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and Fogarty International Collaboration Award (FIRCA). At present Professor Iwona Fijałkowska works as a research group leader and the head of the Laboratory of Mutagenesis and DNA Repair of the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw, Poland). Her current projects aim to understand the molecular events responsible for the different fidelity of DNA replication on the leading and lagging strands, the involvement of different DNA polymerases in DNA replication process, and the role of non-catalytic proteins of the replisome in shaping the final fidelity of DNA replication.



Ewa Górecka focuses in her research on several topics, i.e. structure of liquid crystals, polar properties of liquid crystals, photovoltaic properties of soft matter polymers, gels and structured polymers. She has been published nearly 200 papers in scientific journals. Recently she has started a pioneering research to produce liquid crystalline structures from nanoparticles. She proved that metal nanoparticles grafted with mesogenic ligands may be organized in lamellar or columnar structures. Currently Ewa Górecka holds the professor position at the Warsaw of University, Department of Chemistry where she continues her research related to liquid crystals and composite materials

Bożena Kamińska graduated from the Faculty of Biology at the Warsaw University in 1985. She received PhD degree in biochemistry in 1991 from the Nencki Institute of Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. Subsequently, she was working as a postdoctoral trainee at the McGill University in Montreal (Canada) and as a visiting researcher at the University of California in Los Angeles (USA) and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories (USA). In 1996 she obtained a DSc. (habilitation), and in 2003 she was honored with a title of the full professor. Since 2003 she is leading a Laboratory of Transcription Regulation and from 2013 Laboratory of Molecular Neurobiology at the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology. Since October 2009 she is appointed as a Director of Postgraduate School of Molecular Medicine (SMM) at the Warsaw Medical University. Bożena Kamińska is an author of more than 100 peer-review publications, two patent applications and an US patent. She supervised 19 PhD students and 14 MSc students. In 2004 she became a laureate of the Master subsidy programme awarded by the Foundation for Polish Science. Her lab is supported via national and international research grants. She was involved in Polish-French and Polish-German research projects. Currently, she is supported by National Science Centre (NCN) and National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR). Currently Bożena Kamińska is affiliated at the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology of Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, where she focuses in her research on regulation of gene expression and epigenetics in brain damage and glioma related inflammation.

Joanna Kufel, since 2003 works at the Institute of Genetics and Biotechnology, University of Warsaw. Received her PhD from Uppsala University in Sweden, followed by two postdoctoral fellowships in the laboratories of David Tollervy and Jean Beggs at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Her research group in Poland was established thanks to the Wellcome Trust Senior Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences for Central Europe. Major activities of her group are focused on different aspects of the synthesis and turnover of various classes of RNAs in two model eukaryotic organisms: yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*. These research interests include RNA-related processes such as transcription termination, RNA processing and decay, RNA quality control mechanisms and finally cellular response to stress mediated by non-coding RNA species.



Aleksandra Łuszczynska received her PhD in psychology in 2000, followed by habilitation (2004), and professorship in psychology in 2009. Her research deals with a range of issues from health psychology, including cognitive and social predictors of health behavior change, effects of health promotion interventions, psychological adaptation to chronic illness, and psychological resources facilitating recovery after traumatic experiences. According to Web of Science, her publications were cited over 1500 times and her h-index is 23. Since 2002 she has worked at Freie Universitaet Berlin (Germany), University of Sussex (United Kingdom), and University of Colorado (USA). She is the editor-in-chief of Anxiety, Stress, & Coping, Past President of the Division of Health Psychology, International Association of Applied Psychology, alumna of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and the awardee of Foundation for Polish Science. Currently she works at University of Social Sciences and Humanities (SWPS) in Wrocław, Poland, where she investigates the determinates of health behavior change in the life span context.



Maria Nowakowska is a full professor, the head of Department of Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry and the leader of Nanotechnology of Polymers and Biomaterials Group at the Faculty of Chemistry, Jagiellonian University (JU) in Kraków. She graduated in 1971, obtained her PhD in 1977 and DSc (habilitation) in 1985, all from the Jagiellonian University. She established a long-term (1987-2004) scientific collaboration with Professor James E. Guillet from the Department of Chemistry, University of Toronto, Canada, where in the period between 1987 and 1990 she was a visiting scientist/visiting professor and then (1990-2004) she was involved in the joint research projects and visited Department each year for several weeks. Her research interest was originally concentrated on photophysics and photochemistry of polymers and then it was broadened to physicochemical aspects of nanotechnology



of polymers and biomaterials. She has published over 200 original papers in the international scientific journals, co-invented 20 patents/patent applications, and supervised 25 completed Ph.D. theses. She has devoted considerable time and effort to organize the functioning of the scientific community holding a number of positions such as, e.g., a dean of the Faculty, a vice-rector for Research and International Relations of the Jagiellonian University, a member of subcommittees of IUPAC Polymer Division, a member of Council of European Commission of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Board of the Polish-American Fulbright Commission, a president of Scientific Council of Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of "Biomacromolecules", an independent expert of European Commission, and an expert and member/head of evaluation panels of various Polish and foreign research founding agencies. For the research achievements she was also awarded the Knight's and Officer's Crosses of the Order of Polonia Restituta, Medal of the Commission of National Education, Österreichisches Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst I. Klasse (The Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art 1st Class). She was also a recipient of several awards of Polish Ministry of Science and Education and of the Rector of the JU.

Magdalena Rakowska-Boguta graduated from the University of Warsaw in 1977, and since 1980 she has been working at the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In 1978 she defended her PhD thesis in yeast genetics. At that time she developed her interest in nuclear-mitochondrial interactions and yeast prions. In the years 1988-1990 she completed her postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Anita Hopper at Pennsylvania State University, where she started working on tRNA biogenesis in yeast. Since 1992 she has been leading her own group at the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, focusing on the regulation of tRNA transcription in yeast. Main discovery of her is Maf1 protein, a general and direct negative regulator of RNA polymerase III transcription. Magdalena Rakowska-Boguta also teaches courses in molecular biology at the Warsaw University of Technology.



Junior Researchers

Joanna Cichy has received her PhD degree from Jagiellonian University in 1995. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Wistar Institute, USA, and a visiting scholar at Stanford University, USA. Her research interest have centered on the role of proteolytic enzymes in regulation of immune responses. She is a recipient of several national and international awards, including Fulbright Award and FIRCA (Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award). Currently she holds an appointment as Professor and Head of Department of Immunology at Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology of Jagiellonian University in Krakow where she studies mechanisms underlying autoimmunity.

Dorota Gryko obtained her M.Sc. in chemistry from Warsaw University, and her Ph.D. with distinction, from the Polish Academy of Science and currently she is working at the Institute of Organic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Science in Warsaw. Prof. Grykos' research group focuses on design and synthesis and new applications of vitamin B12 derivatives. Their work on new tetrapyrrolic compounds has shown that it is possible to selectively modify vitamin B12 and find better activators of soluble guanylyl cyclase, the enzyme responsible for vasodilation. Moreover they explored vitamin B12-PPIX conjugates of different polarity with various linkers and sites of coupling that lead to the discovery of the second binding site in the enzyme. Prof. Gryko also pioneered the field of organocatalysis in Poland. In particular, she spearheaded the use of thioamide-amino acid derivatives as novel organocatalysts for direct asymmetric synthesis and photoinduced synthesis.



Ewelina Knapska (1977) obtained her Ph.D. degree at the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Warsaw, Poland, after developing an experimental model of socially transmitted fear and demonstration of different patterns of amygdalar activity related to the type of emotional stimulation. She continued this line of research at the laboratory of Professor Stephen Maren at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA (2006-2008). She is currently working at the Nencki Institute, where she established a Laboratory of Neurobiology of Emotions, and her research interests now concentrate on the mechanisms by which different populations of neurons affect processing of emotional states in the brain and on novel experimental paradigms suitable for such studies.



Małgorzata Mazurek specializes in modern history of Poland and East Central Europe. Her interests include twentieth-century social sciences, international development, social history of communism and Polish-Jewish relations. After obtaining her PhD from Warsaw University in 2008 she worked as a research scholar in Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam, Germany. Her book, *Society in Waiting Lines: On Experiences of Shortages in Postwar Poland* (Warsaw: Trio 2010) has been shortlisted among the ten best books in contemporary Polish history in a 2011 nationwide contest. She is also the author of several articles on comparative and transnational history of labor and consumption in the twentieth-century Poland. Currently, she holds a position of an Associate Professor of Polish Studies and a Chair of Polish Studies at the Department of History of Columbia University of the city of New York, where she is working on the project dealing with the intellectual history of East Central European involvement in the making of the non-Western world between the late 19th century and 1960s. It investigates the role of Warsaw-based social scientists in shaping Eastern European debates on population, migration and capitalism and further, in transforming this locally produced knowledge into development policies for the so-called "Third World."



Ewa Mijowska graduated in 1999 from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. She then moved to Germany, where she obtained her PhD degree at the Leibniz Institute for Solid State in Dresden (2004). She continued her research career as a postdoc at the Surrey University in UK (2004-2005). She returned to Poland in 2005 and established herself at the West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin. Ewa Mijowska is a specialist in physical chemistry and nanotechnology. She focuses her scientific interests on the synthesis of different molecular nanostructures and their functionalization for biomedical and electronic applications, such as cancer treatment via hyperthermia and photodynamic therapy, supercapacitors and Li-ion batteries. Her studies reveal the interaction of nanomaterials with mammalian cells, and explore the biocompatibility of the most common nanomaterials such as graphene, carbon nanotubes and silica nanospheres. She also aims at the optimization of efficient routes for large scale synthesis of single- and few-layer graphene. At present she is employed at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering, Department of Nanotechnology, West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, where she conducts her research, being a leader and manager of several R&D projects founded, for instance, by Foundation for Polish Science, National Science Centre or National Centre for Research and Development.

Joanna Niedziółka-Jönsson is a research group leader at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IPC PAS). She earned her MSc in chemical engineering from Warsaw University of Technology and her PhD as an electrochemist from IPC PAS. She went as postdoc to the Interdisciplinary Research Institute in Lille, France where she learned optical analysis techniques such as surface plasmon resonance. She is the recipient of several awards such as the START grant from the Foundation for Polish Science and the stipend for Excellent Young Researchers from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Presently she is working at the IPC PAS where her research includes the engineering of surfaces for quick and cheap screening of e.g. pathogens using optical and electrochemical techniques.

Dorota Rosińska (Gondek) leads a research group working in gravitational waves astrophysics which she created at the University of Zielona Gora. She graduated in 1991, in astronomy at the Warsaw University, obtained PhD in 1998 in astrophysics at the Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center of Polish Academy of Science and DSc. (habilitation) in 2009 in astrophysics at the Jagiellonian University. In the years 1991–2004 she worked at the Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center with a break for post-doctoral training at the Paris Observatory in Meudon and at the Universite Paris VII. In the years 2005-2014 she worked as an associate professor at the University of Zielona Gora with breaks for visiting professor positions at the Department of Physics at the University of Alicante and at the Paris Observatory. Her research is/was funded from Mairie de Paris, CNRS, Spanish Ministry of Science, Foundation of Polish Science, Polish Ministry of Science, KBN, National Science Center and several EU programmes. She was awarded the Cross of the Rebirth by the President of the Republic of Poland for scientific accomplishments in 2011. She is a member of VIRGO/LIGO collaboration. Currently, she works as a group leader at the Kepler Institute of Astronomy University of Zielona Gora on astrophysical sources of gravitational waves.

Joanna Trylska leads a group in molecular biophysics. She graduated in 1995, obtained PhD in 2001 and DSc. (habilitation) in 2009, all from the Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw. In the years 2001 – 2011 she worked at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling, University of Warsaw with a break for post-doctoral training at the University of California at San Diego. Her research was funded from the Foundation for Polish Science (Focus and Team projects), National Science Centre (Opus and Symfonia calls), and the National Centre for Research and Development (Polish-Norwegian Research Programme). She was also a recipient of the Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award of the National Institutes of Health. Her lab applies both simulation and experimental techniques to investigate the function, dynamics, and physicochemical properties of non-coding RNAs, mainly bacterial ribosomal RNA. Currently, she works as a group leader at the Centre of New Technologies University of Warsaw on the development of compounds that would inhibit bacterial growth.



Zofia Wodniecka is an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Psychology at Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Her research interests include: bilingualism, bilingual language processing, consequences of bilingualism and cognitive functions underlying a second language use. She was a Junior Fulbright Fellow at Penn State University in USA; she also completed postdoctoral training at York University and the Rotman Research Institute in Toronto, Canada as well as at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia (Group of Eight European Fellowship 2009). Since 2010, thanks to a subsidy from the Foundation for Polish Science (FOCUS program), she has been directing a Psychology of Language and Bilingualism Lab that explores a phenomenon of bilingualism from a cognitive science perspective (languasta.edu.pl/en). She is affiliated with Jagiellonian University in Krakow and Center for Language Science at Penn State University in USA, where she is investigating consequences of second language learning on first language processing and other aspects of cognition.