**Postdoctoral position**

**Organization**: Plant Breeding and Acclimatization institute – National Research Institute, Radzikow, 05-870 Błonie.

**Position**: Postdoc in project OPUS 18 entitled “Chitosan nanoparticles functionalized with double stranded RNA as a novel strategy for plant protection” financed by the National Science Centre (NCN).

**Requirements:**

* PhD in biology or a closely related discipline within the past 7 years (preferably within 3 years)
* **demonstrated – in published articles – experience in plant molecular biology including transcriptomics** and analyzing RNA seq data,
* background in plant-pathogen interaction, plant resistance, pathogen virulence,
* earlier experience with cereal species, pathogenic fungi, *Fusarium* sp as well as the experimental use of the RNAi-based processes will be favorable,
* good writing skills demonstrated by a publication record in peer reviewed journals, including articles published as a corresponding author,
* applicant should meet all formal requirements defined by National Science Centre (NCN) for a post-doc position (<https://www.ncn.gov.pl/aktualnosci/2018-11-09-stanowisko-rada-post-doc>).
* additional assets includeinternships in foreign or domestic research groups and experience as a principal investigator in research projects.

The successful applicant is expected to have enthusiasm and solution-oriented attitude for the project’s goals, to smoothly cooperate with lab members, PhD student affiliated to the project and collaborating teams

**The focus of the project is on** designing and obtaining a novel plant protection system based on the combined biological properties of chitosan and dsRNA-activated RNAi processes in plant and pathogen cells. The work packages of the project include:

* detailed molecular including transcriptomic and phenotypic characterization of chitozan-modified interactions between barley and *Fusarium*,
* adaptation and development of diverse systems of dsRNA synthesis,
* designing and synthesis of dsRNA molecules targeting genes involved in pathogen virulence and plant resistance,
* designing and characterization of dsRNA-chitosan nanoparticle complexes targeting pathogen virulence and/or plant resistance.

Substantial part of the research will be done in cooperation with a collaborating team specialized in chitozan physico-chemistry and nanotechnology.

**Salary planned in the project is 10.000 PLN/month** (it is so called “employer gross”). An initial contract will be signed for one year with the possibility for 3 years extension (up to the 4 years in total).

**Preliminary inquiries**: email to the principal investigator of the project prof. Waclaw Orczyk ([w.orczyk@ihar.edu.pl](mailto:w.orczyk@ihar.edu.pl)).

**Formal application** with the closing date **October, the 31th, 2020** should be sent by e-mail to [w.orczyk@ihar.edu.pl](mailto:w.orczyk@ihar.edu.pl) as a single pdf file including:

1. Application addressed to the Director of the Institute.
2. Professional CV.
3. Cover letter describing scientific experience and research goals (2 pages max).
4. List of the 3 publications with short description of the candidate’s contribution.
5. A copy of the doctoral diploma or a statement that it will be obtained before the date of employment.
6. Names and contact details of 3 references willing to provide their opinion (no letters of recommendation).
7. Statement that the Institute (IHAR-PIB) will be the only work place for the period of the contract.
8. A signed copy of a formal statement concerning the processing of personal data;

The position is available starting immediately. Evaluation of applications will begin as they are received and the position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

The applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee according to the regulations by the IHAR-PIB. During the recruitment process, the selected candidates may be invited for an interview.

If none of the candidates meets the formal and merit requirements, the enrollment will be prolongedand the position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.