We are currently seeking a talented PhD student to join our team at the Department of Biochemistry of the University of Bayreuth. We investigate sensory photoreceptors which enable the control by light of behaviour and physiology in Nature and optogenetics. We use an assortment of biochemical/biophysical techniques spanning molecular biology, protein biochemistry, optical spectroscopy, electrochemistry, protein engineering, high-throughput screening, synthetic biology and X-ray crystallography.

The present project, funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft within the Priority Program SPP 1926, focuses on the newly discovered light-oxygen-voltage (LOV) receptor PAL that binds short RNAs under blue light. We seek a molecular understanding of signal transduction in this and related LOV receptors. Empowered by such knowledge, we engineer photoreceptors and develop novel applications in optoribogenetics, a hitherto inaccessible branch of optogenetics.


The ideal candidate holds an M.Sc. degree in Biochemistry, Biology, Biophysics, Chemistry or a related discipline. Enthusiasm for experimental research, self-reliance, ability to work in a team and good English skills are expected. Pertinent training and experience in one or several of the following subjects are of advantage: molecular biology, protein biochemistry, protein crystallography, biomolecular spectroscopy and cell culture.

The Department of Biochemistry at the University of Bayreuth provides top-notch instrumentation for biochemistry, electrochemistry, protein crystallography, optical spectroscopy, mass spectrometry and flow cytometry. By offering excellent training and research infrastructure, the institute and the university create a highly interdisciplinary and stimulating environment for biochemical projects. The candidate can enrol in a structured PhD program within the University of Bayreuth graduate school BayNAT. The position is available immediately for initially three years, and salary is according to the TV-L scale.

Applications from handicapped persons will be favored when all other qualifications are equal. The University of Bayreuth is an equal opportunity employer and we therefore especially encourage women to apply. Applications should be sent as a single PDF to the below email address and comprise CV and contact information for two referees willing to provide reference letters.

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