



**DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF THE INSTITUTE  
OF IMMUNOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTAL THERAPY  
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

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## Doctoral School Syllabus

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| Course Title         | From PhD to PI: Building a Career and a Team in Science                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Form of classes      | Workshops                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Main lecturer        | Prof. dr hab. Sabina Górská                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Lecturer             | Dr Agnieszka Razim                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Number of hours      | 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Subject status       | Optional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Languages of classes | English                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Entry requirements   | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Course description   | <p>Is a successful scientist defined solely by publications? How can a PhD be turned into a well-planned and fulfilling academic career while maintaining balance and avoiding burnout?</p> <p>This course addresses the broader skill set required in modern academia, including research planning, grant writing, leadership, communication, and career development. It is designed to support PhD students in building both scientific and transferable skills necessary for independent research careers.</p> <p>The course is workshop-based and includes mentoring elements, peer discussion, and practical exercises based on participants' own research projects.</p> <p><u>Course Structure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Module 1: Research and Career Management (1.5h)<br/>Research journey, career stages, defining success, goal setting, career planning tools</li><li>• Module 2: Grant Writing and Project Management (6h)<br/>Funding opportunities, proposal structure, common mistakes, project planning and budgeting<br/><i>Exercise: develop a mini research proposal</i></li><li>• Module 3: Scientific Publishing (3h)<br/>Publication process, strategies, academic writing<br/><i>Exercise: article outline</i></li></ul> |



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|                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 4: Leadership and Team Skills (1.5h)<br/>Leadership styles, team building, communication, conflict resolution, collaboration</li> <li>• Module 5: Communication and Networking (3h)<br/>Presentations, storytelling, research communication, academic networking, visibility<br/><i>Exercise: 2-minute research pitch</i></li> </ul> <p>Teaching Methods: Workshops, mentoring, group discussions, and hands-on exercises.</p>                                                                                    |
| Learning outcomes                           | <p>By the end of the course, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and manage their research and career trajectory</li> <li>• Identify funding opportunities and prepare competitive grant proposals</li> <li>• Understand the scientific publishing process and develop publication strategies</li> <li>• Demonstrate basic leadership and team management skills</li> <li>• Communicate research effectively and build professional networks</li> </ul> <p>P8S_WG, P8S_UW, P8S_UK, P8S_UO, P8S_UU, P8S_KO, P8S_KR</p> |
| Method of verification of learning outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active participation</li> <li>• Completion of practical exercises (mini proposal, article outline, research pitch)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Supplementary literature                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scientists Guide to Writing, 2nd Edition. Stephen B. Heard</li> <li>• The Only Grant-Writing Book You'll Ever Need. Ellen Karsh and Arlen Sue Fox</li> <li>• Marketing for Scientists: How to Shine in Tough Times 1st Edition. Marc J. Kushner</li> <li>• How to Chair a Department. Kevin Dettmar</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |