

# Become a Life Science Starting Principal Investigator

Transform Life Sciences

and improve

health with

cutting edge AI Research

AITHYRA

## The Opportunity

AITHYRA is a new, dynamic institute in Vienna, Austria, dedicated to advancing a biomedical revolution by developing cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence to drive next-generation Life Science research. Supported through generous funding from the not-for-profit Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation and hosted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences, AITHYRA is building a world-class environment where life scientists, AI/ML scientists and engineers collaborate to push the boundaries of biomedical innovation. **We are currently searching for creative, curious, and ambitious life scientists to become an AITHYRA Starting Principal Investigator to join our founding teams.**

## About AITHYRA

Founded in 2024, AITHYRA seeks to build Europe's premier institute for AI-driven biological and medical research, uniting computer scientists, life scientists, and engineers in a collaborative environment that fuses the mindset and agility of start-ups with the freedom of curiosity-driven academic environment. We expect to grow towards 10–14 junior and senior research groups, complemented by a dedicated team of staff scientist and engineers, substantial computational and experimental infrastructure, and a leading-edge AI-driven robotic laboratory. We are looking to recruit top-notch talent whom we will offer among the best conditions available in Europe. AITHYRA is led by two outstanding Scientific Directors with complementary background in AI and life sciences and a track record in entrepreneurship, and **Anita Ender** as Managing Director well-grounded in human resources and business skills. **Michael Bronstein**, Scientific Director AI, is the DeepMind Professor of AI at Oxford and has pioneered geometric ML methods and successfully applied them to molecular modeling and design. **Georg Winter**, Scientific Director for Life Sciences, is a chemical biologist and entrepreneur who has worked at the interface of cancer research, gene control, and proteostasis, aiming to explore how biological circuits can be rewired with small molecules. The initial cohort of AITHYRA Starting PIs was recruited in 2025, focusing on AI-driven enzyme discovery (**Ariane Mora**), generative and geometric ML for programmable biology (**Alex Tong**), ML for cell and tissue biology (**Xinyi Zhang**) and structural systems virology (**Jason Nomburg**), complemented by our platform for AI-driven autonomous discovery (**Wali Malik**).

[aithyra.at](https://aithyra.at)

## Mission and Values

**A Place to Work, Live, and Thrive:** We strive to be an inclusive and diverse employer, offering a healthy work-life balance, dual career, and childcare services in one of the most livable and beautiful cities in Europe.

**A Place for Training Future Leaders:** We invest in career development and training, ensuring our scientists gain cross-disciplinary expertise in biology and AI. Our goal is to shape the next generation of academic and industrial research leaders that will make us proud within our walls or elsewhere.

**A Place with an Entrepreneurial Culture:** We champion a "start-up mindset," taking strategic risks and adapting swiftly. We empower researchers to become founders, ambassadors, and role models in their fields, with strong support for translation and outreach.

**A Place with the Highest Standards of Conduct:** AITHYRA operates with a flat hierarchy, transparent governance, and rigorous integrity. We subject ourselves to regular independent evaluations by top experts in the world to keep us on a path of continuous self-improvement and maximal impact.

## Research Area

AITHYRA's mission is to harness advanced AI-driven methods to open new frontiers in biology and medicine. **We welcome scientists from diverse backgrounds and especially with research questions related to one of our four core disease areas: cancer research, immunological disorders, infectious diseases and neurodevelopment disorders.** Research at AITHYRA covers all biological scales, ranging from questions on the molecular scale, mesoscale, cellular and tissue scales to patient and clinically relevant questions. A central aspect of our research vision is a focus on programmable biology, following a "build to understand" mindset, aiming to find answers to some of the most pressing biomedical challenges. Based on the same thesis, we also want to reimagine therapeutic innovation and design. We are hence particularly excited about candidates with a proven background in highly scalable perturbation-based technologies with data-rich readouts, including approaches that produce "black box" data that might only be actionable in conjunction with AI and machine learning methods. Experimental technologies could cover (but are not limited to) single-cell technologies, massively parallel genetic perturbations (deep mutational scanning), spatial biology, functional genomics, or highly scalable biochemical experimental strategies. In addition to providing access to state-of-the-art research laboratories, we support our Starting Principal Investigators with access to a fully automated, AI-driven robotics lab, which will facilitate and further accelerate experimentation to generate data suitable for deep learning approaches.

## Your Qualification

We are looking for talented early-career scientists who

- have a stellar track record of impactful discoveries and/or technology development, particularly in the fields and technologies mentioned before
- are excited about and have experience in merging cutting-edge AI tools with state-of-the-art biological research
- can design and implement scalable approaches to generate large and robust datasets
- are passionate about collaborative, interdisciplinary work spanning computational and experimental domains
- are eager to mentor and train the next generation of scientists and to contribute to an open, vibrant research culture
- are concluding their doctoral or post-doctoral studies or have started their independent research group in the last three years.

## What We Offer

- a highly-competitive package of 700,000 euro per year, including PI salary among the highest offered in Europe
- an initial five-year contract that can be expanded by additional four years upon a positive midterm review by AITHYRA's Scientific Advisory Board
- for exceptionally successful Principal Investigators, we will offer the opportunity for rolling tenure after completing the initial nine years
- career development support: we are committed to investing in our people, including faculty, staff, and students. This includes training in leadership, conflict resolution, research management, and entrepreneurship
- support in third-party funding acquisition: We will help you to successfully apply for highly competitive grants, particularly focusing on ERC grants
- top-notch benefits package, including health and pension insurance.
- support, training, and incentivization in entrepreneurship, research commercialization and spin-off development
- an international family-friendly environment with a supportive and inclusive culture. We are part of the Vienna BioCenter campus, offering cafeteria and child daycare facilities on site
- access to and opportunity to build state-of-the-art experimental facilities (sequencing, proteomics, metabolomics, chemical screening), computer and AI-driven robotics infrastructure
- dedicated administrative support (HR, travel, tech transfer office, PR, grant services, finance, purchasing, cafeteria, etc.)
- a dedicated PhD program and a network of international collaborations, providing a source of top-notch students

## Our Requirements

Appointments will be made through a competitive and transparent selection process.

## Join Us

If you are an ambitious early-career scientist ready to propel your research to new heights, we invite you to be part of AITHYRA's founding generation of Principal Investigators. Together, we will shape the future of AI-driven biomedical research—and unlock the next breakthroughs in life sciences.

AITHYRA is an inclusive employer. We value diversity and strongly encourage applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of background, race, gender, or personal identity. The working language at AITHYRA is English. We look forward to your application!

Please send your application files to [application@aithyra.at](mailto:application@aithyra.at)

Indicating the Reference Code in the subject line: **AITHYRA LS PI**

**Application Deadline: 30 April 2026**  
Potential Hearing Date: 1-2 June 2026

## Application Details

Applications should be written in English and contain

- Curriculum Vitae with full publication list (and ORCID number)
- list of up to 3 most important papers with a short comment including specification of your contributions (each max. 100 words)
- funding plans (including funding record; max. 1 page in total)
- names and addresses of three references
- summary of research interests and objectives including statements on (i) how your research interfaces with/benefits from AI and (ii) how your research could be scaled/what is achievable through scaling (max. 3 pages)

## QR Code

Scan this QR Code to get directly to the AITHYRA website with its news items.



## Living and Working in Vienna

Vienna is a truly international city that blends a rich cultural heritage with a modern, vibrant atmosphere. Renowned for its world-class music, art, and culinary scenes, it also offers exceptional public infrastructure, top-quality healthcare, and a safe environment. **Vienna is consistently ranked as one of the most livable cities in the world.**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global\\_Liveability\\_Index#2025](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Liveability_Index#2025)

As a global scientific hub, Vienna hosts numerous research institutions and fosters a collaborative, multicultural community that welcomes scientists from around the world.