Global Adjunct Principal Investigator Program

Advancing AI-Driven   Life Science

Through   Global Collaborations

AITHYRA

The Opportunity

The AITHYRA Institute for Biomedical AI is launching its Global Adjunct Principal Investigator (PI) Program, an initiative designed to connect the world's leading minds in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and the life sciences to shape the future of data-driven biology and biomedicine. We are seeking visionary researchers whose work pushes the boundaries of AI-enabled biological discovery, programmable biology, and AI-integrated experimentation. Through this program, AITHYRA aims to build a global faculty network that bridges computational and experimental sciences, fostering transformative collaborations that redefine how we understand and engineer living systems across biological scales. Each Global Adjunct PI will receive a five-year appointment with an annual budget of €150,000, typically supporting two PhD students who will spend a significant portion of their studies at AITHYRA in Vienna. The Global Adjunct PI program is designed to enable deep integration between leading innovators and AITHYRA's core faculty.

About AITHYRA

The mission of Aithyra is to fundamentally transform biomedical science by embedding artificial intelligence as a co-pilot throughout the entire scientific process from hypothesis generation and experimental design to biological interpretation and therapeutic innovation. Through a coherent integration of AI/ML across biological scales, the goal is to improve our understanding of the root cause of diseases, their diagnosis and the conceptualization of novel therapeutic strategies while inspiring new innovations in AI/ML. To create enough data to support AI applications, Aithyra builds experimental automation through a robotics laboratory infrastructure. While this research program is broadly applicable in life sciences, the focus will be on cancer, immunology, infectious diseases and neurodegenerative disorders. Aithyra is co-led by Michael Bronstein (Scientific Director for AI), Georg Winter (Scientific Director for Life Sciences), and Anita Ender (Managing Director) and located at the Marxbox on the Campus of the Vienna Biocenter.

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AITHYRA's international core faculty focuses on AI-guided enzyme engineering, relational deep learning for scientific discovery, geometric and physics-inspired ML for molecular design, ML for cell- and tissue biology, structural systems virology, generative and geometric ML for programmable biology and chemical rewiring of oncogenic cellular circuits. Our internal focus is complemented by Bruno Correia, the founding member of AITHYRA's Global Adjunct PI program, who focuses his collaborative work at AITHYRA on machine-learned representations for protein design and interaction prediction and generative AI for small-molecule design.

Your Profile

We want to continue to connect to emerging or established leaders in AI/ML, life sciences, biomedicine, and engineering with the required qualifications to supervise PhD students. We will recruit broadly but are particularly interested in AI/ML experts with a background in generative models, LLMs, agentic AI, ML-based simulations (e.g. molecular dynamics) with interest or track record of applying these methods within the domains of life sciences. Within the life sciences and biomedicine, we particularly welcome candidates with a strong background in cancer, immunological, neurological, or infectious disease research. We are especially interested in candidates with a medical background that can contribute a clinical perspective in these fields. We also have a strong interest in candidates with a background in the development of application of cutting-edge technologies, including high-throughput perturbation screening, single cell multi-omics, spatial biology, structural biology, imaging or proteomics.

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Role/Responsibilities

Adjunct PIs are expected to supervise PhD students/postdocs funded via their AITHYRA budget. Moreover, we expect candidates to engage in the intellectual life and dialogue at AITHYRA, to be global advocates for AITHYRA and to closely align with our mission and values. We anticipate that this will happen predominantly remotely but expect a regular exchange of students and an annual recess amongst core and adjunct faculty that would benefit from in-person participation.

Appointment Process

Appointments will be made through a competitive and transparent selection process with minimal administrative burden. We only require:

- Your **CV** including publication list and overview of competitive 3rd party funding

- An **informal application letter** (maximum of 3 pages, Figures allowed) that outlines two points. First, your idea of what constitutes a grand scientific challenge in your field that requires a coordinated effort of AI/ML researchers and life scientists to solve. Second, how you would like to contribute to that question in the framework of your Adjunct PI position at AITHYRA.

Our Requirements

Our formal requirements are outlined below ("Key points"). To facilitate the appointment process, we recommend seeking alignment with your main academic host institution early on.

Key points of an AITHYRA Global Collaborator Affiliation that needs to be supported by the Host Institution:

- Cooperation/affiliation agreement for 5 years

- AITHYRA funding commitment of EUR 150,000 per year, request for funds/transfer of money once a year

- Definition of PhD project(s) on a cooperation topic relevant to the Partners

- The PhD student (m/f/d) receives an employment contract and PhD degree by the host institution, and is financed by AITHYRA, project stay(s) of at least 1 year in Vienna to promote the exchange of cooperation

- Any project related costs, such as consumables, travel costs, student fees, and project leader compensation of the Adjunct PI of up to 20% of previous salary costs can be covered by the global collaborator budget.

- Integration of the Global Collaborator in activities of the AITHYRA faculty to promote scientific collaboration, involvement in faculty meetings, retreats, training activities, etc.

- If required, access to administrative support from AITHYRA (travel bookings, PR, finance, grants, etc.) and mutual use of facility services

- Intellectual property: Work results from cooperation projects to which employees of both Partners have made significant contributions belong jointly to these Partners. In this case, an amicable approach to safeguarding and utilizing the Partner contributions is sought.

- Affiliations on publications of the common PhD project:

    - Global Collaborator = (host institution) first, AITHYRA second;

    - PhD Student (funded by AITHYRA) = AITHYRA first, Global Collaborator (host institution) second;

- The Partners are permitted to publish and manage the AITHYRA Global Collaborator Affiliation during the term of the agreement and with reference to the respective contractual partners within the framework of normal practice (websites, annual reports). Press releases and special publications/events must be agreed in advance.

- Mid-term review by the Scientific Advisory Board of AITHYRA

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Next Steps

- Please send your application (CV + application document) to AITHYRA by **30 January 2026** at the latest.
- Please send your two documents to: application@aithyra.at
- In case of any questions, please don't hesitate to contact AITHYRA via: application@aithyra.at

Website

Get more information on AITHYRA by visiting our new website:

aithyra.at

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