

Principal Investigator Tenure-Track Equivalent (f/m/d) – AI/ML for Childhood Cancer Research

Location:
Vienna
Working Hours:
Full-time employee
Area:
Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Salary:
Competitive salary and benefits package
Contact:
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Application Deadline:
04.01.2027

Principal Investigator (Tenure-Track Equivalent) in AI/ML for Childhood Cancer Research. Opportunity to establish an independent research group with a EUR 1.8 million start-up grant from the Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF)

At St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute (St. Anna CCRI) our mission is to translate scientific discoveries into better diagnostics and treatments for children and adolescents with cancer. To strengthen our programs in computational biology - ranging from basic to translational research and precision medicine - we are seeking an outstanding Principal Investigator in Artificial Intelligence (AI) / Machine Learning (ML) for Childhood Cancer Research.

This position is open to postdoctoral researchers with a strong background in quantitative and computational modeling and the ambition to establish an independent research program. The successful candidate will develop and apply innovative AI/ML methods to address fundamental and translational questions in childhood cancer research.

Candidates with expertise in AI/ML methodology, large multimodal datasets, computational biology, translational bioinformatics, computational drug discovery, medical AI, or related disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Following a competitive selection process, St. Anna CCRI will endorse and support the selected candidate's application for the WWTF Vienna Research Groups for Young Investigators program. The program provides funding of up to EUR 1.8 million over a period of six to eight years, offering an exceptional opportunity to establish a long-term research program in Vienna.

For further information about the funding scheme, please visit:
https://www.wwtf.at/funding/programmes/vrg/#VRG27

Key responsibilities

- Establish and lead an independent research program: Develop and apply innovative AI/ML methods to address fundamental and translational questions in childhood cancer biology, including disease mechanisms, diagnostics, treatment response, or disease monitoring.
- Make methodological contributions: Develop novel computational methods, algorithms, and analytical frameworks that expand the application of AI/ML to fundamental, biomedical and translational cancer research.
- Translate discoveries into clinical impact: Collaborate closely with basic scientists, clinicians, translational researchers, and precision oncology initiatives.
- Build and lead a multidisciplinary team: Recruit, train, and mentor PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and technical staff, fostering a collaborative, inclusive, and scientifically rigorous research environment.
- Contribute to teaching and scientific training: Support the education and career development of graduate students and early-career researchers through supervision, mentoring, and participation in institutional training activities.
- Ensure program visibility and sustainability: Develop a competitive research portfolio with high-quality publications, international collaborations, and acquisition of external grant funding.

Required Qualifications

- PhD or equivalent in Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Statistics, Applied Mathematics, Physics, or related quantitative discipline with demonstrated expertise in AI/ML and its application to biomedical research. Applicants must have obtained their PhD within the last eight years, as of 2 March 2027. Career breaks and care duties are taken into account.
- Strong research track record in AI/ML or related quantitative disciplines, demonstrated through high-quality publications and innovative methodological or applied contributions relevant to biomedical research.
- Applicants must meet the WWTF VRG27 mobility requirements, including being employed outside Austria at the time of application and having spent at least two of the previous three years at a research institution outside Austria.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and ability to work effectively across scientific, clinical, and technical teams.
- Leadership and mentoring skills (incl. education and training), with experience working with multidisciplinary scientific teams.

Our offer

- Excellent institutional support and research infrastructure: Dedicated laboratory space, access to cutting-edge technology platforms and core facilities, and a highly collaborative research

environment to support the establishment of an independent research group.

- Embedded collaborative ecosystem: Close collaboration with clinicians at St. Anna Children's Hospital and researchers at CeMM, the Medical University of Vienna's AI and Data Science initiatives, and the Vienna BioCenter, complemented by strong connections to the international pediatric oncology community and major collaborative research networks.
- Attractive employment conditions and location: Flexible working arrangements, support for international researchers, and a workplace embedded in Vienna's strong life science and biomedical research ecosystem. Vienna offers an exceptional quality of life and is consistently ranked among the world's most livable cities.
- Compensation: The minimum annual gross salary for this position is € 78.000 (all-in), with the possibility of higher compensation depending on qualifications and experience.
- Contract terms: We offer the opportunity to obtain a permanent position. A successful candidate is hired as Principal Investigator for a maximum duration of 8 years. If the candidate meets the conditions stipulated in the evaluation criteria, they obtain a permanent position. If the conditions are not met, the employment will end upon expiry of the contract.

Who we are

One of Europe's leading institutions in the field of pediatric oncology, St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute (St. Anna CCRI) investigates the biological foundations of cancer in children and adolescents. For almost 40 years, our multidisciplinary teams have been committed to developing innovative diagnostic approaches and personalized treatments aimed at further improving young patients' chances of cure. In close collaboration with the St. Anna Children's Hospital and both national and international partners, we combine scientific excellence with clinical relevance. We stand for responsible research, transparency, and sustainable knowledge building. As an employer, we offer a state-of-the-art research environment, opportunities for professional development, as well as a workplace culture that embraces diversity and appreciation. Work where it really matters and contribute to science that makes a difference.

St. Anna CCRI is an equal opportunity employer. We value diversity and are committed to providing a work environment of mutual respect to everyone without regard to race, colour, religion, national origin, age, gender identity or expression, disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws, regulations and ordinances.

Find more information here: https://ccri.at/.

Your application

We are looking forward to your application! The application deadline ends on **04.01.2027** or until position is filled.

Please submit the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae (including full publication list)
- List of up to five most important publications with a short comment explaining the relevance of the paper and your contribution
- Funding track record
- Names and contact details of at least three references
- Synopsis of your research interests and planned research program including how you and CCRI could mutually benefit from each other

In case of questions please contact us at faculty-recruiting@ccri.at.

Apply now

Your recruiting process

We look forward to receiving your application. Please submit your application (in English) by 4 January 2027.

Pllease submit the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae, including full publication list
- List of up to five key publications, with a brief statement describing the significance of each publication and your contribution
- Funding track record
- Names and contact details of three references
- A synopsis of your research interests and proposed research program including how your research could complement and strengthen activities at St. Anna CCRI (maximum 3 pages)

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