



SCIENCE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

Principal Investigator (f/m/d) – Cellular & Immuno-Therapies

Location:

Vienna

Working Hours:

Full-time employee

Area:

Cellular & Immuno-Therapies

Salary:

min. € 78.000.-

Contact:

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Application Deadline:

23.08.2026

Harnessing the power of the immune system to transform outcomes for children with cancer!

At St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute (St. Anna CCRI), we pursue our vision: turning scientific innovation into life-changing therapies for pediatric cancer patients. To further strengthen our strategic focus on cellular engineering, immune-based therapies, and translational innovation, we are seeking an outstanding **Principal Investigator in Cellular & Immuno-Therapies for Pediatric Cancer**. This position is open to candidates at different career stages – from emerging group leaders to experienced Principal Investigators.

In this role, you will establish and lead an internationally competitive research program at the forefront of engineered immune cell therapies and cancer vaccines, driving breakthroughs from discovery through preclinical validation to early clinical translation, within a uniquely integrated bench-to-bedside-and-back environment.

Key responsibilities

- **Establish and lead an independent research program in cellular or immuno-therapies:** Develop innovative approaches in one or more core areas of cellular and immuno-therapy (e.g. engineered T/NK cells, CAR-based strategies, next-generation cell-based approaches, or cancer vaccines), with a clear emphasis on scientific depth and differentiation within a defined focus area.
- **Drive translational innovation from discovery to clinic:** Advance immune-engineering concepts through preclinical validation toward early-phase clinical trials in close alignment with precision oncology initiatives.
- **Strengthen clinical and translational interfaces:** Collaborate closely with the St. Anna CCRI Clinical Trials Unit, pediatric oncology teams, and GMP facilities at partnering institutions to align research, manufacturing, and regulatory pathways.

- **Advance next-generation immune engineering technologies:** Lead scientific innovation in immune cell engineering, synthetic biology, or functional immune modulation across the institute.
- **Build and lead a high-performing research team:** Recruit, mentor, and guide a multidisciplinary team while ensuring scientific excellence, quality, and reproducibility.
- **Ensure program visibility and sustainability:** Secure competitive third-party funding, publish high-impact research, and represent St. Anna CCRI within leading national and international research networks.
- **Shape European clinical trial strategies in cellular and immuno-therapies:** Actively contribute to and engage in study committees of European Clinical Trial Groups to advance the development, design, and clinical implementation of innovative cellular and immunotherapeutic approaches.

Required Qualifications

- MD/PhD, MD or PhD in biomedical sciences, with demonstrated deep expertise in at least one area of cellular or immuno-therapy (e.g. cell engineering, immune modulation, or cancer vaccines), with a clear scientific profile and differentiation.
- Postdoctoral research experience, with a proven track record in developing cell-based therapies or leading immuno-oncology research programs.
- Strong understanding of preclinical models, regulatory frameworks, and requirements for early-phase clinical translation of cell therapies.
- Experience collaborating with clinical trial units and contributing to translational planning for first-in-human or Phase I studies.
- Demonstrated ability to secure competitive external funding and lead an independent, internationally visible research program.
- Strong leadership and mentoring skills (incl. education and training), with experience managing multidisciplinary scientific teams.
- Excellent collaboration skills at the interface of research, clinical development, and GMP manufacturing.
- Strong publication record in relevant cellular therapy, immuno-therapy or immune-engineering fields.
- Fluency in English; international research experience is an advantage.

Our offer

- **Internal funding & strong institutional commitment:** Competitive core budget and comprehensive start-up resources including dedicated laboratory space, access to core equipment, and support in building and scaling your independent research team.
- **Access to cutting-edge research infrastructure:** State-of-the-art technology platforms in genomics, imaging, proteomics, high-throughput screening, and advanced in-vivo models.
- **Embedded collaborative ecosystem:** Close interaction with clinicians at the St. Anna Children's Hospital, precision oncology initiatives, and interdisciplinary research groups within a highly

translational environment.

- **Professional grant support:** Institutional assistance with proposal development and grant management.
- **Attractive employment conditions, culture & location:** Flexible working arrangements, tailored onboarding support for international researchers, and a diverse, mission-driven culture committed to scientific excellence and improving outcomes for children with cancer, based in Vienna, offering outstanding quality of life and a strong biomedical ecosystem.
- **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:** The appointment will be made commensurate with seniority and experience. For Starting Principal Investigators, an initial 5-year appointment with the possibility of a further 4-year extension following a positive evaluation is foreseen, supporting the establishment of an independent research program. For Senior Principal Investigators, the position may be offered on a rolling tenure basis, with regular evaluations every 5 years, reflecting the institute's long-term strategic commitment to research leadership.

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 23.08.2026.

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 St. Anna CCRI could mutually benefit from each other

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

Apply now

Your recruiting process

Our recruitment process is designed to ensure a fair, transparent, and rigorous evaluation. It includes the following steps:

1. **Initial screening and pre-selection:** All applications are reviewed and assessed based on predefined core criteria relevant to the position.
2. **Virtual interviews with the Scientific Directors:** Shortlisted candidates are invited to participate in two separate virtual one-on-one interviews – one with each Scientific Director of St. Anna CCRI.
3. **On-site hearing (18 - 20 September 2026):** The highest-ranked candidates are invited to an on-site hearing at St. Anna CCRI.
4. **Offer & final negotiations:** Following the hearing, negotiations are conducted with the top-ranked candidate, and the final appointment decision is made based on the overall evaluation and mutual agreement.

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