

CeMM PRE-ERC POSTDOC PROGRAM

Open Postdoc Positions

We are recruiting a group of **postdocs** who are eager to pursue ground-breaking biomedical research, and we will help them to establish themselves as **future scientific leaders**. This postdoc program is designed to prepare postdoctoral researchers for a successful ERC Starting Grant application or equivalent and for an independent research career in top research organisations in Europe and around the world.

The postdoc program is based at the **CeMM Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna**, one of Europe's leading centres for basic biomedical research – with clinical translation in mind. Our partners are the Medical University of Vienna, the St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute (CCRI) and AITHYRA, the newly founded Research Institute for Biomedical AI of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Selected candidates will join one of CeMM's research groups for 3 to 6 years, addressing ambitious research questions in areas such as cancer, immunology, chemical biology, epigenetics, metabolism, genomic medicine, and ageing research. Research projects will focus on medically relevant problems, including disease mechanisms, modern therapeutics, and diagnostic strategies. On top of this, postdocs will receive extensive career development and leadership training from the entire CeMM Faculty and additional experts in a highly collaborative and supportive environment.

What we offer:

- A unique blend of a frontier research environment at top level with a strong medical and translational focus through the hospital setting and the connections to biotech and pharma.
- An international group of highly collaborative colleagues that will help you achieve your scientific and career goals.
- Top-notch environment with the ideas, projects, resources, infrastructure, collaborations, and mindset for ground-breaking research.
- Excellent track record of past postdocs who have become internationally successful principal investigators, professors, entrepreneurs.
- Strong focus on disease biology and translational research: cancer, metabolic disorders, inflammation/infection, aging, drug discovery.
- Interdisciplinary projects connecting biology with medicine, experiments with computation, and discovery with translation.
- Unique opportunity to engage in close interactions with physicians and clinical researchers at the Medical University of Vienna on one of Europe's largest medical campuses.
- Opportunities to collaborate with industry (biotech/pharma) and to get involved in academic start-up/spin-off companies.
- Training program in project management, scientific writing, visual communication, entrepreneurship, leadership, and data science.

- Special training for writing successful ERC Starting Grants as a ‘ticket’ to an outstanding academic career.
- Being part of a thriving academic and social community in Vienna, one of the cities with the best quality of life in the world.
- A competitive postdoc salary of EUR 5,014.30 gross monthly (following the recommendations of FWF), paid 14 times yearly.
- The CeMM employment contract includes full insurance (health, accident, pension) and a one-off payment for moving from abroad.
- CeMM’s HR department and administrative team offer support with relocation, visa applications, onboarding, family support, etc.

Whom we are looking for:

- Candidates who want to pursue innovative biomedical research and substantially advance their scientific career.
- Candidates with international professional experience and enhanced potential to receive an ERC Starting Grant in the future.
- Open to both PhD (natural sciences) and MD (medical sciences) holders.
- From a variety of academic backgrounds: molecular biology, biomedical research, bioinformatics, biochemistry, bioengineering, etc.
- With the motivation, skills, experiences, and initial achievements (subject to academic age) to qualify for a competitive postdoc program.
- Required are scientific quality and originality, as well as a collaborative and interdisciplinary mindset.

Potential projects:

We are open to ideas that fit into the broader scope and mission of the CeMM Research Center for Molecular Medicine and expressions of interest in the research of all groups, but concrete projects and groups offering positions are:

- Computational: AI-powered research agents for bioinformatics and bioengineering ([Bock Lab](#)). *Building on our CellWhisperer method for chat-based exploration of single-cell data (Schaefer 2025 Nature Biotechnology), we develop agentic AI in the context of the Human Cell Atlas and the European Lab for Learning & Intelligent Systems.*
- Wet-lab: Tissue immunology, immunotherapy, cell engineering, and/or synthetic biology ([Bock Lab](#)). *We develop and apply innovative technologies for analyzing immune memory (Krausgruber 2020 Nature), for high-content CRISPR screening (Bock 2022 Nature Reviews), and CAR T cell engineering (Datlinger 2025 Nature).*
- Condensates, Chromatin and Translational Control in Pediatric Cancer ([Grebien Lab](#)). *We develop quantitative and functional approaches to map how leukemia-driving oncproteins act in the context of phase-separated biomolecular condensates and how these structures regulate epigenetic states and cancer-associated gene expression (Terlecki-Zaniewicz et al., Nat Struct Mol Biol 2021, Troester et al., Nat*

Commun 2025, Kirkiz et al, Cell Rep 2025). We also investigate how RNA- and translation-associated processes regulate the development, maintenance and drug response in childhood cancer (Kodali et al, Nat Cell Biol 2024).

- Linking nucleotide metabolism to chromatin biology ([Kubicek Lab](#)). *Based on our recent finding of NUDT5 as a novel regulator of purine de novo synthesis (Nguyen, Lin, Marques et al. Science 2024), we aim at a deeper understanding of the interplay between subcellular localization of metabolic enzymes, chromatin structure, and transcriptional regulation.*
- Microbiota dysbiosis, increased gut permeability and unhealthy aging ([Rescigno Lab](#)). *We have generated preliminary data linking increased intestinal permeability to systemic inflammation during aging. In this project, we aim to investigate the role of the enteric nervous system and the vagus nerve in regulating gut barrier integrity and inflamming. Expertise in peripheral neurobiology would be highly welcome.*

The Institute

CeMM is an international research institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and a founding member of EU-LIFE. The mission of CeMM, the Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, is to achieve maximum scientific innovation in molecular medicine to improve healthcare. At CeMM, an international and creative team of scientists and medical doctors pursues free-minded basic life science research in a large and vibrant hospital environment of outstanding medical tradition and practice. CeMM's research is based on post-genomic technologies and focuses on societally important diseases, such as immune disorders and infections, cancer, and metabolic disorders. An additional focus lies on ageing research. CeMM operates in a unique mode of super-cooperation, connecting biology with medicine, experiments with computation, discovery with translation, and science with society and the arts. CeMM discovers and develops technologies to explore human biology with the purpose of defeating disease at its roots. Because Science is our Medicine! CeMM trains a modern blend of biomedical scientists and is located on the campus of the General Hospital and the Medical University of Vienna. More than 150 people from 49 nationalities are working at CeMM. CeMM promotes equal opportunity and harbours a mix of different talents, backgrounds, competencies, and interests. cemm.at

Eligibility Criteria:

- You must hold a PhD (or will have been awarded your PhD by the time of starting the Pre-ERC Postdoc Program) and your PhD defence date must be no earlier than 2024.
- You must have at least one first-author publication published by the time of starting the Postdoc.

Please apply online at <https://cemm.onlyfy.jobs/job/7k2624z5> with 1) a cover letter including a short summary of research interests and mentioning which research group(s) at CeMM you would be potentially interested in joining, 2) curriculum vitae (CV), 3) academic transcripts, 4) contact details of three referees and 5) candidates will be asked to record a short video answer explaining their motivation to join the CeMM Pre-ERC Postdoc Program. Applications received by 8 March 2026, 11:59 pm CET will be considered.



Selection Process:

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to participate in online panel interviews with CeMM Faculty members, which will take place in early-April 2026. At the end of the selection process, candidates will be asked to submit their preference regarding research groups they would like to work with, which may be identical or different from the original choice indicated in the cover letter.

Information session:

At 10:00 am and 5:00 pm CET on 18 February 2026, CeMM will host an online information event where you will be able to find out more about doing a postdoc at CeMM and applying to the program as well as have the chance to meet and talk directly with current pre-ERC program postdocs. To take part in this event, please sign-up here [Postdoc Open Day - CeMM](#) or visit the postdoc program page of the CeMM website.