FOUNDING PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS Starting PIs and Cori Pairs (m/f/d)

Apply now

The Carl and Gerty Cori Institute for Molecular and Computational Metabolism, Graz, Austria

Help build a new kind of institute—and a new science of metabolism

The Cori is a new research institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences dedicated to making human metabolism **measurable, predictable and engineerable**.

We are now recruiting the first generation of scientists who will shape its intellectual identity, research culture and future direction.

We invite applications from outstanding experimental, biomedical, computational, mathematical, engineering and translational scientists for two distinctive routes to scientific independence:

- **Cori Starting Principal Investigators**
- **Cori Pairs**, an innovative shared-leadership model for scientists who want to build something together

This is not simply an opportunity to join an established institute. It is an invitation to help invent one.

The scientific ambition

Metabolism is the organising logic of life. It governs the transformation, allocation and exchange of matter—from molecules and cells to organs, individuals and ecosystems.

The Cori will establish metabolism as a quantitative and actionable discipline by integrating:

- experimental and clinical biology;
- mathematics, computation and artificial intelligence;
- metabolic engineering and intervention;
- nutrition, environmental exposures and human health.

At the centre of the institute will be a continuous **data–model–intervention cycle**: biological measurements inform predictive models; models generate hypotheses and designs; interventions test and reshape metabolic systems. A major long-term ambition is the **construction of a quantitative model**—a digital metabolic twin—**of human metabolism**.

We are interested in ambitious research across, but not limited to:

- quantitative and genome-scale metabolic modelling;
- dynamic flux, sensing and nonlinear biological systems;

- mitochondrial biology and bioenergetics;
- metabolic control of cell identity and state;
- spatial, single-cell and structural metabolism;
- transporters, membranes and inter-organ communication;
- metabolic drug discovery and chemical biology;
- protein, pathway and cellular engineering;
- immunometabolism, aging and neurodegeneration;
- organoid and human model systems;
- exposome, nutrition, pollutants and environmental metabolism;
- automation, high-throughput experimentation and AI-guided discovery.

We are especially interested in scientists who connect disciplines that are too often separated: experiment and theory, medicine and engineering, molecules and environments, discovery and application.

More details on areas of interest to Cori at www.oeaw.ac.at/cori/home

Several ways to join the founding generation

1. Cori Starting Principal Investigators

Starting PIs will establish independent research programmes and receive the resources, freedom and institutional support required to pursue bold, high-risk and potentially field-defining science.

Applicants may be completing postdoctoral training, preparing to establish their first independent group, or have started an independent laboratory within the past few years.

We are looking for scientists with:

- exceptional originality and scientific ambition;
- evidence of independence and intellectual leadership;
- a compelling research vision aligned with the Cori mission;
- the ability to connect experimental, computational or engineering approaches;
- enthusiasm for collaboration and shared institution-building;
- a commitment to mentoring and developing the next generation;
- the courage to pursue questions whose answers may require new technologies, models or organisational forms.

2. Cori Pairs

Carl and Gerty Cori transformed metabolism through scientific partnership. The institute bearing their names will create new opportunities for scientists to lead together. Cori Pairs will allow two outstanding scientists to apply jointly and share the leadership of a laboratory-equivalent scientific programme. Both partners will be recognised and employed as scientific leaders, while sharing infrastructure, personnel and responsibility for a common research environment. Possible formats include:

- Collaborative Pairs
  Two scientists apply together with complementary expertise jointly leading an integrated research programme—for example, an experimental biologist and a mathematical modeller, or a chemist and an engineer.
- Cross-Disciplinary Pairs
  Two scientists apply together: A life scientist partnering with a researcher from another field relevant to

metabolism, such as environmental science, medicine, computer science, economics, law, philosophy or the social sciences.

- **Dual-Career Scientific Pairs**
  Two partners pursuing distinct scientific programmes applying independently but referring to the partner. Synergies are desirable but to not need to be developed already and will arise within the general institute's focus. Each candidate will be funded and evaluated independently, while the institute will actively seek solutions that allow both careers to flourish.

The Cori Pairs model is intended to distribute responsibility, enable scientists to enter leadership earlier, reduce unnecessary hierarchy and create a research culture based on intellectual partnership rather than individual ownership.

What the Cori offers

Successful candidates will receive:

- a highly competitive, internationally benchmarked start-up package;
- full independence to recruit and lead a research team;
- protected core funding and support in acquiring ERC, FWF and international grants;
- access to state-of-the-art experimental, computational and engineering infrastructure;
- dedicated administrative, HR, financial, legal, communications and technology-transfer support;
- access to metabolomics, screening, imaging, cell biology, organoid, automation and computational capabilities;
- opportunities to shape future infrastructure, potentially including advanced structural biology and cryo-EM;
- support for patents, industrial collaborations, entrepreneurship and spin-off formation;
- participation in an international PhD programme and a structured postdoctoral programme;
- leadership, mentoring, research-management and entrepreneurship training;
- an English-speaking, inclusive and family-supportive environment;
- opportunities for dual affiliation with the University of Graz, the Medical University of Graz or Graz University of Technology

Appointments are planned for an initial period of up to seven years, with the possibility of extension for strategically important and exceptionally successful programmes. Cori's partnership with the three Graz universities is intended to create credible long-term academic perspectives and pathways towards permanent integration.

A new home for a new institute

The Cori is being established in Graz, one of Europe's most attractive university cities and an increasingly important centre for biomedicine, engineering, artificial intelligence, environmental science and biotechnology.

Its permanent campus will comprise two complementary buildings:

- the **Carl Building**, focused on experimental and biomedical research;
- the **Gerty Building**, focused on computation, modelling, engineering and shared institutional functions.

Together, they will embody the two interacting scientific cultures at the heart of the Cori.

Before completion of the permanent campus, founding groups will be accommodated in high-quality temporary facilities within the Graz university environment.

A place to lead—and to rethink leadership

The Cori will combine the ambition of a major international institute with the openness and agility of an organisation still being created.

Founding PIs will not only establish laboratories. They will help determine:

- how scientists collaborate;
- how data and infrastructure are shared;
- how young researchers gain responsibility;
- how experiment and computation become inseparable;
- how discoveries move toward medicine, industry and society;
- and what a research institute designed for the coming decades should look like.

We seek people who want more than a position. We seek scientists who want to create an institution they would themselves have wished to join.

Application

Applications should be submitted in English and include:

1. a curriculum vitae and complete publication record;
2. a description of up to three major scientific contributions, including the applicant's individual role (max 2 pages);
3. a research vision and proposed programme;
4. an explanation of how the programme contributes to the Cori mission and its data–model–intervention paradigm
5. plans for team development, collaboration and external funding;
6. the names and contact details of three referees.

Maximum of 10 pages in total

Applications for **Cori Pairs** should additionally explain:

- why joint leadership is scientifically advantageous;
- how the partners' expertise and responsibilities complement one another;
- how resources, personnel and decision-making would be shared;
- and what the pair could achieve together that neither could achieve alone.

For Cori Pairs applications, please us a maximum of 14 pages in total

Application deadline: October 12, 2026
Hearing dates: November 22-24 in Graz, Austria
Anticipated starting date: Flexible, from Q1 2027
Reference codes: CORI STARTING PI / CORI PAIR
Applications: https://cori-institute.onlyfy.jobs/job/s0xzzv6o

Join the founding generation

The Cori aims to become the European institute where the most ambitious scientists in metabolism come to decode life, build predictive models and design interventions for health, resilience and sustainability.

We invite you to bring your most original ideas, your most difficult questions—and, perhaps, the person with whom you would most like to answer them.

Build the Cori with us.

The Cori and the Austrian Academy of Sciences are committed to scientific excellence, equality, diversity and inclusion. Applications are welcomed from all qualified candidates regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic or social background, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation or personal identity. The working language of the Cori is English.

Come to Graz.

Graz combines the energy of a major university city with the scale, openness and quality of life of a place where people can genuinely connect. With around 60,000 students among approximately 308,000 permanent residents, it has a strikingly young, international and intellectually vibrant population. It brings together strong traditions in biomedicine, engineering, computation, environmental science and industry, creating an unusually fertile setting for interdisciplinary research. The city is compact, culturally rich and known for excellent food, architecture and music, while mountains, lakes, vineyards and outdoor life are close at hand. For scientists and their families, Graz offers the rare possibility of helping shape a major new institute while enjoying a city that is ambitious without being overwhelming, creative without being hectic, and easy to make one's own.

Additional information

City	**Graz**
Position type	**Full-time employee**
Start of work	**01.01.2027**

Responsible

Nina Keusgen

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