

Director & Group Head (AI-Systems & Scale)

Job ID

REQ-10079985

Jun 18, 2026

LOC_CH

About the Role

Step into a leadership role shaping the future of AI at scale, where advanced agentic systems and enterprise AI platforms transform how biomedical research is delivered. As Director & Group Head (AI-Systems & Scale), you will drive the design and deployment of next-Generation AI systems, enabling scientists to seamlessly leverage data, models, and intelligent workflows to accelerate drug discovery. You will lead high-performing engineering teams, define scalable architectures, and ensure AI solutions are robust, governed, and impactful—bringing innovative therapies closer to patients faster.

Key Responsibilities

- Define and lead the multi-year roadmap for scalable AI systems, platforms, and agentic architectures across research.
- Lead and scale multidisciplinary teams delivering production-grade AI systems and intelligent applications.
- Establish reference architectures for agentic systems, including orchestration, retrieval, memory, and human-in-the-loop controls.
- Build and standardize enterprise agentic platforms with reusable components, workflows, and evaluation frameworks.
- Define and enforce machine learning operations and large language model operations standards across AI systems development.
- Own agent quality and safety engineering, including guardrails, policy enforcement, and failure detection mechanisms.
- Drive scalable deployment strategies, ensuring performance, reliability, cost efficiency, and multi-tenant architecture.
- Define performance metrics linking system effectiveness to scientific outcomes, including accuracy, robustness, and efficiency.
- Partner with data, security, and platform teams to ensure governance, compliance, and responsible data usage.
- Drive cross-functional collaboration and portfolio management to prioritize high-impact AI system initiatives and reduce duplication.

Essential Requirements

- Demonstrated experience leading machine learning capability development initiatives across multiple drug discovery domains and teams.
- Strong experience applying machine learning across functional areas such as computational chemistry or protein modeling.
- Proven expertise in large model training, including high-performance computing, cloud environments, and distributed systems.
- Deep curiosity and passion for biomedical sciences and therapeutic discovery.
- Strong ability to explain complex machine learning concepts clearly to both technical and non-technical stakeholders.
- Minimum of 10+ years of experience in innovation, development, deployment, and support of machine learning solutions.
- Strong coding proficiency in Python and deep learning frameworks, with experience using version control systems.
- Proven ability to manage complexity, align stakeholders, and deliver results in matrixed environments.

Desirable Requirements

- Experience building enterprise-scale agentic platforms with orchestration, memory, and retrieval systems.
- Expertise in machine learning operations and large-scale model deployment with monitoring and drift detection.

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Novartis is committed to building an outstanding, inclusive work environment and diverse teams representative of the patients and communities we serve.

Accessibility and Accommodation

Novartis is committed to working with and providing reasonable accommodation to all individuals. If, because of a medical condition or disability, you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the recruitment process, or to receive more detailed information about the essential functions of a position, please email inclusion.switzerland@novartis.com and share the nature of your request along with your contact information. Please include the job requisition number in your message.

Role Requirements

Why Novartis: Helping people with disease and their families takes more than innovative science. It takes a community of smart, passionate people like you. Collaborating, supporting and inspiring each other. Combining to achieve breakthroughs that change patients' lives. Ready to create a brighter future together? <https://www.novartis.com/about/strategy/people-and-culture>

Benefits and Rewards: Learn about all the ways we'll help you thrive personally and professionally. [Read our handbook \(PDF 30 MB\)](#)

Primary location salary range

CHF146,300.00 - CHF271,700.00

Division

DIV_RE

Business Unit

Information Technology

Location

LOC_CH

Site

Basel (City)

Company / Legal Entity

C028 (FCRS = CH028) Novartis Pharma AG

Functional Area

FCT_DD

Job Type

Full time

Employment Type

Regular

Shift Work

No

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