

OLGA LAVINDA, PhD

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS | SCIENTIFIC AI PROGRAMS | INSTITUTIONAL ADOPTION

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PROFILE

Scientist, research-program leader, educator, and AI founder with 10+ years across funded academic research, higher education, translational science, and applied AI. Builds programs that move emerging technologies from individual experimentation to reproducible research practice and institutional adoption. PhD chemist and principal investigator with experience directing NIH-sponsored research training, running AI-enabled research pilots, integrating AI literacy into science curricula, building external partnerships, and translating among researchers, technical teams, institutional leadership, and commercialization stakeholders.

ROLE FIT: Funded labs & hard-science research | Research pilots & programs | Institutional AI adoption | Cross-functional partnerships

SELECTED FIT FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Research programs & communities	Funded labs; PI leadership; NIH-sponsored undergraduate research; graduate/undergraduate mentoring; ACS faculty leadership
AI adoption & enablement	Frontier-model research workflows; Codex research testing; AI literacy; faculty/student training; human-in-the-loop evaluation
Institutional navigation	Faculty leadership; research IT/security discussions; grants; cross-campus programs; translational research; technology-transfer training
Programs, pilots & partnerships	workflow discovery; pilots; external collaborations; workshops; partner materials; commercialization and funding narratives

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Chemistry & Principal Investigator | Yeshiva University | New York, NY | 2025–Present

- Lead an AI-enabled computational chemistry and structural-biology research program spanning undergraduate and graduate teams; translate frontier-model outputs into reproducible validation pipelines, experiments, conference presentations, manuscripts, and grant proposals.
- Built a documented research-training system with skill-gated phases, individual notebooks, mentor sign-off, authorship pathways, and explicit review gates; supervise cross-campus teams using AlphaFold 3, docking, Python/automation, structural controls, and wet-lab validation.
- Early faculty adopter of generative AI for research and teaching; developed AI-assisted research pipelines, tested OpenAI Codex in active scientific workflows, and integrated AI literacy and critical evaluation into coordinated chemistry courses.
- Contribute to institutional AI adoption through conversations and workshops spanning responsible use, research access, security, faculty readiness, and implementation; bring firsthand experience moving from early skepticism toward structured adoption.
- Serve as faculty advisor for the ACS student chapter and coordinate research, student development, presentations, and external scientific engagement across academic units and partner organizations.

Founder & CEO / Scientific AI Product & Programs Lead | Health AI | New York, NY | 2019–Present

- Founded and direct an independent scientific-AI company spanning evidence systems, high-stakes AI evaluation, research/education programs, and agent infrastructure; own problem definition, product strategy, technical delivery, partnership development, and commercialization.
- Directed Clarity from user problem to production across 4M+ scannable products and 29K+ evidence-graded ingredient records; translated complex evidence workflows into requirements, acceptance criteria, controlled release, API/MCP access, and user-facing decisions.
- Develop AI-literacy and workshop programs around role-specific workflows, critical evaluation, evidence, governance, and measurable adoption; translate user and institutional constraints into program design and enablement.
- Won a competitive enterprise AI RFI and translated the customer workflow into a field scanner validated on 203 vehicles; published a dual-model consensus evaluation reaching ~95% accuracy on high-confidence agreed fields.
- Built RIGOR, a lifecycle-validation approach connecting requirements, implementation, governance, operational evidence, human review, and runtime monitoring for high-stakes AI systems.

Operations Manager | Molecular Design Institute, New York University | New York, NY | 2016–2020

- Managed operations and stakeholder coordination across four drug-discovery initiatives, bridging investigators, research design, clinical collaborators, resourcing, project execution, and commercialization planning.
- Worked inside a highly funded interdisciplinary research environment and developed practical fluency in project leadership, institutional processes, research operations, and translation from academic discovery toward IP and commercialization.

NIH NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow | NYU Langone Health | New York, NY | 2016–2019

- Led collaborative computational drug-discovery and cutaneous-biology research spanning chemistry, structural modeling, experimental biology, and clinician collaboration; supported by two NIH Kirschstein NRSA awards.
- Worked across scientists, clinicians, trainees, research operations, and translational stakeholders; completed training in technology transfer, IP, business-plan development, and the institutional barriers between discovery and commercialization.

Director | NIDA-Sponsored Summer Undergraduate Research Program, NYU | New York, NY | 2017–2018

- Directed an NIH/NIDA-sponsored undergraduate research-training program, coordinating research placements, faculty and trainee engagement, program delivery, mentoring, and scientific development.

Life Sciences Consultant / Scientific Communications Liaison | GeneCentrix | New York, NY | 2018–2020

- Translated scientific evidence into validation plans, funding narratives, partner materials, and commercialization strategy for biotechnology leadership; contributed to grant and partnership work associated with \$1.5M in secured funding.

Faculty / Lecturer | CUNY and New York University | New York, NY | 2011–Present / 2016–2020

- Teach chemistry across multiple New York City campuses and learner populations; coordinate courses, build curricula, mentor students, and translate complex scientific and technical concepts into usable learning systems.

SELECTED PROGRAMS, RESEARCH & EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

- Scientific AI research: chemistry-aware validation of AlphaFold 3 predictions using cross-seed reproducibility, interface energetics, metal/glycan plausibility, experimental homologs, physics-based models, and wet-lab measurements.
- AI literacy in science: developed and presented validation-first approaches that train students to evaluate model outputs, assumptions, evidence, and failure modes rather than treating AI answers as authoritative.
- ACS Fall 2026: selected for COMSCI Innovative Program and presented scientific-AI and chemistry-education work spanning deep-learning co-folding, biological chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and AI literacy.
- Build external research and program relationships across academic groups, scientific organizations, museums, biotechnology/healthcare contacts, and institutional technology stakeholders.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PhD, Chemistry — New York University, 2017 | Master's degree, Education & Psychology | Honors BA, Chemistry & Biology with CIS — CUNY, 2011
NYU Grossman School of Medicine — Health Innovations & Therapeutics; Essentials of Project Management; Managing Multiple Projects; Project Leadership: Managing Without Authority; Leading a Project Team

2× NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA Fellow | Eugene M. Farber Award, Society for Investigative Dermatology | Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship

TECHNICAL & DOMAIN FLUENCY

Academic research partnerships; program design and operations; scientific AI; AI literacy and adoption; research workflow discovery; pilot design and enablement; AI evaluation; evidence/provenance; human-in-the-loop review; OpenAI/Codex and frontier-model workflows; AlphaFold 3; Python workflows; SQL/Postgres; REST APIs; MCP; grants and research funding; scientific communication; workshops and stakeholder enablement.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Lavinda O. et al. "Biophysical Compatibility of a Heterotrimeric Tyrosinase-TYRP1-TYRP2 Metalloenzyme Complex." *Frontiers in Pharmacology* 12 (2021). Additional peer-reviewed publications in computational/organic chemistry and structural chemistry; 2026 work includes chemistry-aware AI structure validation, AI literacy in chemistry, and technical publications on scientific/enterprise AI evaluation.