A successful experiment
Five years of world-class research and academic training

Gaia Novarino studies genetic and molecular mechanisms underlying epilepsy and intellectual disabilities
Our mission

The Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria) is a young, international institute located in Klosterneuburg on the outskirts of Vienna. It is dedicated to basic research in the natural and mathematical sciences and the academic training of aspiring researchers.

Following the implementation of the ambitious development plan, about 90 research groups will be working in a highly modern environment by 2026, modeled after international examples such as the Max Planck institutes, ETH Zurich, and the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Our mission:

1. Basic research – “Best in Europe”
   As of July 2015, 16 out of 35 professors have been awarded with research funding from the European Research Council (ERC). This corresponds to 45 percent of all principal investigators—a European record in relation to the size of the Institute.

2. Graduate school – “Best in Europe”
   Our students receive a modern, comprehensive academic training in the natural sciences with a special focus on interdisciplinarity. The PhD program is supported by the EU with EUR 4.4 million—the highest funding for this kind of program achieved in Europe.

Our concept:

1. Career model
   Career development for young scientists (tenure track). This fosters self-reliance and creativity.

2. Rigorous selection process
   The current 35 professors were selected among more than 6'000 applicants. This guarantees excellence.

3. Research management
   Economic operation of central facilities such as the microscopy, machine shop, and 3D printer. This ensures efficiency.

4. International character and diversity
   The staff comes from about 50 different nations. The working language on campus is English.

5. Independence
   Supervision is carried out by a high-class and international board of trustees that acts completely independently.
Our foundation

1 Public core funding
The Federal Government provides up to EUR 1’280 million from 2007–2026, out of which two thirds are guaranteed. The remaining third depends on raising third-party funds. The province of Lower Austria contributes EUR 510 million for construction and maintenance.

2 Competitive funding
Researchers have raised EUR 50 million of competitive funding until mid-2015, out of which 75 percent from EU funding. Thereby, IST Austria contributes significantly to Austria’s status as net beneficiary of European funding.

3 Private support
IST Austria has raised more than EUR 17 million in donations from companies and individuals so far, including EUR 10 million alone from Peter Bertalanffy. The Government recognizes these contributions by doubling the amounts.

4 Economic exploitation
Distinct and consistent IP management, targeted support of an entrepreneurial mindset among students, postdocs, and professors, as well as the foundation of a technology park: IST Austria follows the example of the Weizmann Institute in Israel, which is very successful in commercially exploiting its results from basic research.