

Sponsorship Opportunities

Machine Learning for Simulations in Biology and Chemistry

Core theme. This year, SimBioChem will focus on **agentic models in dynamics and simulation workflows for biology and chemistry**: AI systems that plan simulations, call molecular modelling tools, reason over uncertainty, and help close the loop between prediction, experiment, and deployment.

Why sponsor SimBioChem II? Machine learning for molecular science is moving from one-shot prediction toward scientific workflows: pretrained molecular foundation models, post-training on verifiable physical objectives, learned potentials, differentiable simulators, and agentic systems that can coordinate MD, QM/MM, docking, enhanced sampling, and wet-lab validation. SimBioChem II is designed as a focused forum for this next phase.

Our speaker lineup is already looking excellent, with confirmed participation from **OpenAI, Microsoft AI for Science, Novo Nordisk, NVIDIA**, and others. As in previous years, we are also in talks with major publishers regarding best paper awards and possible fast-track publication opportunities for the strongest accepted work. Any publication pathway would remain at publisher discretion and separate from the workshop review process.

Event Snapshot

Workshop	SimBioChem II: Machine Learning for Simulations in Biology and Chemistry
Venue	NeurIPS 2026 workshop proposal; location subject to NeurIPS allocation
Website	simbiochem.com
Expected attendance	Approximately 100 participants
Primary audience	ML researchers; computational chemists; biophysicists; drug-discovery scientists; scientific-computing teams; investors; AI-for-science builders
Keywords	Agentic AI for Science; molecular dynamics; simulation workflows; learned potentials; post-training; pre-training; differentiable simulation; enhanced sampling; uncertainty; closed-loop discovery

Submission-stage note. We are currently preparing the SimBioChem II workshop submission. Acceptance is not guaranteed, and NeurIPS workshops have become increasingly competitive over the years. At this stage, we are asking sponsors for a **soft, non-binding commitment** that we can cite as evidence of community and industry support. These commitments help strengthen the proposal and show reviewers and workshop chairs that SimBioChem II has the backing needed to deliver a serious, well-supported workshop.

Ways to Support

SimBioChem is designed so different sponsors can support the community in different ways without competing for the same role. A fund may care most about early commercial signals, a pharma team may care most about translational science, and a technology company may care most about developer and infrastructure visibility. The sponsorship structure reflects that: every tier provides visible support, and higher tiers add deeper engagement without limiting the value of lower tiers.

Investment funds and venture builders. SimBioChem offers a concentrated view of early scientific work with plausible translational and company-building potential in molecular simulation, drug discovery, computational chemistry, and AI infrastructure. From the **Silver tier upward**, investment sponsors receive an additional opt-in commercial-impact benefit: the organizers will prepare a **Top 5 Commercial Impact** list from accepted submissions and, only at the authors' discretion, facilitate introductions with the relevant authors.

Pharma, biotech, and life-science companies. Sponsors can support travel awards, best paper prizes, poster sessions, and community programming while engaging with researchers developing simulation-aware models for target discovery, molecule generation, binding affinity, conformational dynamics, peptides, proteins, nucleic acids, and assay-linked validation.

Technology and AI infrastructure companies. Sponsors can engage with researchers building and using the compute, model, data, workflow, and deployment layers behind agentic scientific systems: GPUs, cloud platforms, foundation models, simulation engines, developer tools, scientific agents, and reproducible ML infrastructure.

What Sponsorship Supports

Sponsor support is used for items that improve the workshop's scientific and community value:

- travel and registration support for students, speakers, and underrepresented participants who may otherwise be unable to attend;
- poster sessions, catering, and informal networking;
- best paper, best poster, and reproducibility awards;
- publication-facing award coordination, where available and approved;
- community infrastructure such as the website, proceedings page, and submission support;
- a Sydney post-workshop social or sponsor-supported networking event.

Current funding priorities as of 25 May 2026. We strongly encourage sponsors to support speaker and student participation, especially for contributors who may not otherwise be able to attend in person. At this stage, our largest practical needs are **catering** and a **high-quality Sydney social event** that gives the community time to gather, meet collaborators, and connect across academia, industry, and investment.

Sydney Social Event

The social event is intended to be a high-value networking environment for the whole workshop community: authors, invited speakers, students, organizers, sponsors, and industry guests. It should feel generous and welcoming, not gated. Sponsor recognition will therefore be visible, but the event itself remains a community event.

For an 80–100 person Sydney happy-hour social with open food and open bar, current venue benchmarks

cluster around **USD \$82–\$138 per person**¹ before any extra service, branding, room-hire, security, AV, or contingency costs. Examples include hotel and CBD packages around USD \$99 per person for three-hour canapes plus beverages, waterfront/Darling Harbour packages around USD \$120–\$138 per person, and CBD venue packages around USD \$82–\$111 per person depending on food quantity and beverage tier.

Shared social target	USD \$16,000 total, approximately AUD \$22,000. Multiple sponsors can share recognition as social partners.
Exclusive social host	USD \$18,000 , approximately AUD \$25,000. One lead sponsor underwrites the social event and receives exclusive social-host recognition.
Shared model	Shared sponsorship is first come, first served until the target is met. The first confirmed shared sponsor receives lead social-partner recognition and is consulted on the event concept and category balance. This is a coordination benefit, not a veto over other aligned sponsors.

Budget caveat. These figures are planning estimates based on currently available Sydney venue pricing. Final costs may vary closer to the event date based on venue availability, package changes, service fees, guest count, contract terms, and currency fluctuations. The organizing team will support sponsor coordination and vendor introductions, but we are an academic organizing team led largely by PhD students and researchers rather than professional event organizers.

Fair allocation principle. If one sponsor chooses the exclusive social-host option, other sponsors are not downgraded or penalised. They will be offered similarly visible alternatives such as named catering, poster-session support, travel awards, best paper or reproducibility awards, website recognition, or other tier benefits. If the event is shared, all social partners receive clear recognition, with prominence scaled by contribution and timing of confirmation.

Sponsorship Tiers

All sponsorship tiers below are listed in USD. Approximate AUD equivalents can be estimated using the conversion footnote above.

Bronze: USD \$1,000–\$4,999. Best for community supporters, startups, and first-time partners that want lightweight recognition.

- Logo on workshop website and sponsor slide.
- Acknowledgement during opening or closing remarks.
- Named support for travel awards, prizes, poster materials, or catering when applicable.
- Option to be listed by sponsor category, e.g. community, pharma, investment, or technology partner.
- Lightweight by design: no custom programming obligation for the sponsor or organizers.

Silver: USD \$5,000–\$9,999. Recommended entry point for companies and funds seeking meaningful visibility without operational overhead.

- All Bronze benefits.
- Social media acknowledgement before or during the workshop.
- Optional short sponsor blurb on the workshop website.
- Eligibility to join the shared social sponsorship if slots remain available.
- **Investment sponsors only:** opt-in access to the organizers’ Top 5 Commercial Impact list and author introductions, subject to author consent.

¹Currency conversion checked on 26 May 2026 using an approximate live rate of 1 AUD = 0.717 USD, i.e. 1 USD = 1.395 AUD. AUD equivalents are rounded and indicative only.

Gold: USD \$10,000–\$14,999. Best for sponsors supporting awards, poster sessions, catering, speaker/student participation, or the social event.

- All Silver benefits.
- Recognition attached to one workshop element, such as best paper award, poster session, coffee break, travel awards, or shared social event.
- Priority for shared social-event sponsorship, subject to availability.
- **Eligibility for one short sponsor message during a break, subject to the global cap below, organizer approval, and venue rules.**
- Priority for opt-in author introductions where relevant.

Diamond: USD \$15,000 and above. Best for strategic partners supporting the broader SimBioChem community.

- All Gold benefits.
- Featured recognition on the website and opening/closing slides.
- Priority choice among major support areas: social event, catering, travel awards, speaker/student participation, poster sessions, or prizes.
- **Opportunity to serve as exclusive social host if contributing the full social-event budget.**
- Coordinated sponsor presence such as a banner, recruiting link, or approved materials.
- Dedicated organizer contact for logistics and sponsor coordination.

Low-overhead recognition policy. To keep the workshop focused and manageable, sponsor speaking opportunities are *not* automatically attached to every sponsorship. We will cap sponsor messages at **three short break-time messages total** across the day, prioritizing sponsors who support named community needs such as the social event, catering, travel awards, or speaker/student participation. If the message cap is full, sponsors receive equivalent visibility through named support, website recognition, slides, and social media acknowledgement.

Commercial-impact benefit for investment sponsors. The Top 5 Commercial Impact list is available only to **Silver, Gold, and Diamond investment sponsors**. It will be prepared by the organizers from accepted submissions using public submission materials, scientific review outcomes, and translational/commercial relevance. Author contact or meeting facilitation will happen only when authors opt in. Sponsors will not receive confidential reviewer discussions, non-public author information, or any influence over paper review, awards, publication pathways, or workshop programming.

Social sponsorship allocation. Social sponsorship is allocated transparently in order of confirmation. The first confirmed shared sponsor receives lead social-partner recognition and early input on the event format, but all shared sponsors will be recognized clearly and constructively. The organizers retain final discretion over partner fit, sponsor balance, and compliance with NeurIPS and venue rules.

Community-driven and independent. SimBioChem is a community-driven academic workshop organized by students and industry researchers who volunteer their time to build a forum for machine learning, biology, chemistry, and simulation. The workshop is not formally operated by, owned by, or affiliated with any sponsor, company, university, or the employers of individual organizers. Sponsorship is a way to support the community effort; it does not create institutional endorsement, control over the program, or a formal affiliation with sponsor organizations.

Principles and Boundaries

- Sponsorship does not influence review decisions, speaker selection, awards, or publication opportunities.

- Publisher discussions are exploratory unless a publisher confirms a specific award or pathway in writing.
- Sponsor-facing introductions are opt-in for authors and are intended to support scientific translation, hiring, investment exploration, or collaboration.
- Sponsor recognition is designed to be visible while preserving the workshop’s academic and community character.
- Any sponsor message must remain short, professional, and aligned with the workshop’s academic values.
- The workshop is independently organized by academic and industry researchers and is not a legal entity.

☰ Sponsorship Logistics

Because SimBioChem is a community-led academic workshop rather than a legal entity, the organizers do not directly collect or process funds unless an approved institutional route is available. Sponsors may be asked to pay vendors, award recipients, or travel-support recipients directly, with guidance from the organizing team. Sponsored items will be acknowledged transparently in workshop materials where allowed by NeurIPS and venue rules.

✉ Next Steps

Sponsors interested in supporting SimBioChem II can contact the organizing team to discuss the best fit: community support, commercial-impact scouting, awards, catering, travel support, poster programming, or the Sydney social event. Early non-binding expressions of interest are useful for planning and demonstrate community support while the workshop proposal is under review.

Contact: workshop@simbiochem.com

Website: <https://simbiochem.com>

SimBioChem II seeks to build the research community around agentic, simulation-aware AI for biology and chemistry.