



# Head of Chemistry

Tübingen, Germany

## Company Overview

AIRNA is pioneering the discovery and development of RNA editing therapeutics to deliver on the promise of genetically defined medicines for patients with rare and common diseases. RNA editing is poised to lead the next generation of RNA therapeutics by targeting diseases not accessible through other approaches with a medicine that can be conveniently re-dosed and manufactured. AIRNA's founders, Thorsten Stafforst (University of Tübingen) and Jin Billy Li (Stanford University), were the first to elucidate a therapeutic approach for precise editing of RNA. AIRNA has advanced this groundbreaking research to establish the RESTORE+ RNA editing platform to restore patients' health.

AIRNA is advancing its first therapeutic program, a best-in-class product candidate to treat the inherited genetic disease alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD), as well as a pipeline of therapeutic candidates to address multiple diseases with high unmet need. Initial financing of the company was led by ARCH Venture Partners, with participation from ND Capital, Fast Track Initiative (FTI), Novalis, and Codon Capital. AIRNA has headquarters in Cambridge, MA, with research operations in Tübingen, Germany.

## Summary

As the Head of Chemistry at AIRNA, you will play a pivotal role in driving the scientific advancement and therapeutic development of a pioneering start-up bringing the next generation of RNA therapeutics. We are seeking a Synthetic Chemist and subject matter expert in oligonucleotides to run and grow the research facility in Tübingen, Germany. Collaborating closely with leadership in Germany and Boston, you will lead a dynamic team through rapid expansion, contributing to the discovery of new targets and advancing the lead program.

## Main Responsibilities

- **Leadership and Strategy:** Provide strategic direction for the Chemistry team, aligning with company objectives and therapeutic goals. Lead by example, fostering a culture of innovation and excellence.
- **Team Management:** Manage and mentor a growing team of chemists, promoting their professional development and ensuring high performance. Foster collaboration and cross-functional integration within the organization.
- **Chemistry Expertise:** Bring extensive experience in oligonucleotide chemistry, with a considerable experience in industry and drug product development. Utilize your expertise to drive the development of novel oligo chemistry and their therapeutic applications.
- **Therapeutic Application:** Translate chemical innovations into therapeutic solutions, understanding the implications of chemistry on drug development processes. Collaborate with cross-functional teams to advance lead candidates from discovery to preclinical development.
- **Scaling Up:** Oversee the scaling up of chemistry processes, both internally and through external partnerships. Establish infrastructure for mid-to-large scale synthesis, ensuring high-quality production for preclinical studies.
- **Collaboration & Partnerships:** Collaborate with external partners and CROs to leverage expertise and resources. Forge strategic partnerships to accelerate development timelines and expand therapeutic opportunities.

### Desired Skills & Experience

- PhD in Synthetic Organic Chemistry
- Extensive experience in oligonucleotide chemistry for drug development in industry
- Expertise in delivery mechanisms, particularly GalNAc delivery, is highly advantageous
- Strong management experience, with a proven track record of leading and developing high-performing teams
- Ability to effectively communicate and collaborate across diverse teams and geographies
- Proficiency in English; knowledge of German is a plus
- Commitment to fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and excellence