

**Gregor Popowicz, PhD**

*Helmholtz Zentrum München, Khundu.AI*

**WERKSTATTGESPRÄCHE**

**des Life Science Clusters Hennigsdorf**

**21.11.2025**

**9:00-11:00h im KreativWerk<sup>R6</sup> und online**



This month on the 21st, we are happy to welcome Dr. Popowicz of the Helmholtz-Center in Munich to our life science format of “Werkstattgespräche”!

He will speak to us and present an opportunity to take a glimpse and deep dive into the potential Artificial Intelligence holds when applied to the discovery of novel medicines!

Dr. Popowicz dedicated his career to exploring the intersection of Physics and Health Sciences. After completing a Master's degree in Medical Physics, he joined the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry to pursue a PhD in Structural Biology under the supervision of Nobel Laureate Professor Robert Huber. His doctoral research rapidly transitioned from fundamental Structural Biology to its applied potential in drug discovery.

Initially, he contributed to several oncology-focused drug discovery pipelines but soon redirected efforts toward rare and neglected diseases. Since 2012, he has been leading a major anti-parasitic drug discovery initiative targeting Chagas disease in collaboration with the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi).

With the rise of modern machine learning methods, the AI revolution, he became increasingly involved in developing AI tools capable of understanding and analyzing Structural Biology data. This work led to formation of a startup company to further advance and translate AI-driven technologies.

Gregor's focus remains on deeply integrative, structure-based drug discovery. He builds the convergence of experimental and computational approaches that hold the key to unlocking long-needed acceleration in the drug discovery process.

In order to make drug development faster and more efficient, an increasing number of researchers turn to artificial intelligence (AI). This is also the case in the SUPREME project, which Gregor is leading and together with his team at Khumbu.AI, aims to accelerate the development of new cancer therapeutics.

We look forward to hearing him present, and warmly invite you to join and ask your most pressing questions in the Q&A afterwards!