

Rico Meinl

Redwood City, CA · dev@rmeinl.com · +1 (650) 785-8165 · ricomnl.com · github.com/ricomnl

Retro Biosciences — Head of AI · Redwood City, CA Mar 2024–present

- Leading an 8-person cross-disciplinary team (2 computational/AI, 5 wet lab) applying AI to cell reprogramming and protein engineering for longevity therapeutics.
- Initiated and co-led collaboration with OpenAI producing GPT-4b micro, a protein language model that achieved a 50x increase in stem cell reprogramming efficiency; co-inventor of the resulting patent on reengineered KLF4 reprogramming factors.
- Built the model's midtraining dataset (protein sequences, structures and interactions, protein-text pairs, evolutionarily-related sequences, genomes) and the evals suite measuring performance across target tasks to guide training and model selection.
- Led the creation of a longevity target identification/validation platform and the development of a novel clinically-relevant delivery modality.

Retro Biosciences — Research Engineer · Redwood City, CA May 2022–Mar 2024

- Built Retro's computational infrastructure, omics data pipelines, and drove development of internal package for single-cell analysis - enabling 6 computational biologists to support clinical programs.
- Developed ML-based biomarkers of cellular state, age, and function from single-cell multiomics across programs.

Talus Bioscience — Data Engineer · Seattle, WA (remote) Apr 2021–May 2022

- Joined as first employee; migrated core proteomics data analysis pipeline to AWS, cutting runtime from days to hours; presented approach to proteomics lab at top pharma company.
- Published nf-encyclopedia (Journal of Proteome Research, 2023); presented at ASMS 2021 & 2022.

Entrepreneur First — LD15 Cohort Member · London, UK Sep–Dec 2020

- Selected to join LD15 cohort (4% acceptance rate). Built domain-specific semantic search for life sciences.

Sainsbury's — ML/Data Engineer · London, UK Feb 2020–Sep 2020

- Rewrote critical text analytics pipeline in C# for 50× speed improvement. Delivered proof of concept for recommender system for Sainsbury's online groceries delivery service.

Dresswell — Co-Founder, CTO · Hamburg, Germany Feb–Aug 2019

- Developed phone body measurement algorithm using iPhone's depth camera, ML-based segmentation and keypoint detection. Built iOS app, interviewed 700+ potential users to improve UX.

Novomind — Software Engineer · Hamburg, Germany Sep 2016–Feb 2019

- Established and led AI team of 3; helped Dev Ops team cut bot-attack detection from 1h to <10 minutes.

University of Applied Sciences Wedel — B.S. Computer Science · Hamburg, Germany 2016–2022

- Teaching Assistant in Applied Data Science & ML

Recognition: EB-1A extraordinary ability · 2026 patent co-inventor, "KLF4 variants and methods of use thereof" · NeurIPS 2023 judge (Open Problems, Single-Cell Perturbations) · ICML Program Committee (ML for Life Sciences workshop) · 2023 Foresight Fellow · Impetus Grant judge (longevity research, up to \$500k)

Publications & open-source: ricomnl.com