The Changjiang Cup 2026

Globol AI Protein Design Challenge

This competition focuses on the de novo design of nanobodies or minibinders against real targets.

All submitted designs will undergo standardized wet-lab validation, and awards will be determined by binding-affinity rankings.

It aims to explore a new AI for Science paradigm, build a real-experiment validation benchmark, gather young talent, and advance AI-life science industry collaboration.

Prize Pool

CNY1,000,000

Highlights

Free testing for 5,000+ proteins

AI-designed candidates will enter unified wet-lab validation, including expression, purification, and binding assay. An estimated 5,000+ sequences will be tested, with final rankings determined by affinity.

CNY 1,000,000 Prize Pool

Total prize pool approx. CNY 1,000,000 (pre-tax). Award details subject to official competition rules.

Multi-Target Expansion

The competition features more than 5 targets, including some or all to be published by Anthropic, plus additional targets set by the competition.

Open to All, Global Stage

Open worldwide. In principle, no limits on team size, age, education, profession, or affiliation. Interdisciplinary teams encouraged.

Any Model, Any Approach

No restrictions on AI models, computing platforms, or methods. All innovative approaches welcome.

Seed Teams + Open Registration

Seed teams are invited by the organizing committee from representative universities, research institutes, companies, and protein design teams worldwide. Open-registration teams are formed through global open registration. No registration fee will be charged for this competition.

Open Data, Shared Results

Wet-lab results for shortlisted sequences will be openly released, creating public datasets and a real-world benchmark for an open, sustainable AI4S ecosystem.

Timeline

Sep 24, 2026	Registration Opens
Oct 31, 2026	Registration Closes
Nov 1, 2026	Challenge Released
Nov 15, 2026	Submission Closed
Late Nov 2026	Shortlist Announced
Dec 2026	Wet-Lab Validation
Jan 2027	Results Announced

Register Now

Contact Email: zbztzhz@sjtu.edu.cn

*Official competition page to be announced in the next phase.

Guided by

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization
Shanghai Municipal Commission of Science and Technology

Hosted & Initiated by

Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Shanghai AI Laboratory
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The Chinese University of Hong Kong
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During the competition, OriBench OriGene AI Workbench, Intern Duanyan Scientific Discovery Platform, MatwingsVenus™ AI Protein R&D Platform, SPONGE Mokdo™ Molecular R&D Workstation, and Asterfire™ Intelligent Computing Platform will offer free access to selected AI tools and computing resources. Participants may choose whether to use them.

*The Organizing Committee reserves the right of final interpretation.