CLAIR

Executive Summary

CLAIR 2026 – Copenhagen, September 16–18 2026

The First International Conference on Leadership & AI in Research

CLAIR is the first international conference dedicated to exploring how artificial intelligence reshapes the leadership, scientific method, and organizational foundations of research-intensive organizations.

Artificial intelligence is advancing at a speed that challenges not only how organizations adopt technology but also how they preserve scientific rigor, leadership responsibility, and decision ownership in research-intensive environments. While most AI conferences focus primarily on technical AI development, models, tools, and applications, a critical question remains largely unexplored: **how AI reshapes the way research is conducted, governed, and led.**

CLAIR 2026 addresses this gap by creating a cross-industry forum where academic researchers, senior industry leaders, policymakers, and AI specialists jointly examine the implications of AI for research, innovation, and organizational leadership.

The conference explores these questions through four interconnected perspectives:

- AI and the Scientific & Engineering Method
- Leadership, Governance, and Accountability
- Critical Thinking in Algorithmic Environments
- Organizational and Cultural Transformation in R&D

CLAIR is intentionally **cross-industry**, recognizing that AI is transforming research practices across sectors from life sciences and healthcare to automotive, technology, energy, and public-sector innovation.

The program is designed to move from insight to direction:

- **Day 1 – Research & Insight Forum**: Researchers and reflective practitioners present peer-reviewed abstracts that map the emerging research landscape across CLAIR's four focus areas.

- **Day 2 – Main Conference Day**: Leadership Dialogue: Keynote speakers and curated dialogues explore how AI influences scientific method, organizational design, governance, critical thinking, and creativity in research-intensive environments.

- **Day 3 – Collaborative Workshop & Research Agenda**: Participants work in facilitated cross-sector groups to develop the CLAIR Research Agenda White Paper, identifying priority research questions, leadership challenges, and opportunities for collaboration across industries.

By intentionally bringing together **academia and industry**, CLAIR creates a forum that rarely exists in traditional conferences—one where scientific insight, practical leadership experience, and policy perspectives intersect.

CLAIR is organized in partnership with IMIT – the Institute for Management of Innovation and Technology, an independent research foundation connecting leading universities, industry, and public organizations. For more than three decades, IMIT has supported interdisciplinary research on innovation, leadership, and technology-driven transformation. Through this partnership, CLAIR benefits from academic rigor, cross-sector collaboration, and a strong research network. It also helps ensure that insights emerging from the conference, particularly the **CLAIR Research Agenda** can evolve into future research initiatives and continued collaboration between academia and industry.