

AI Research Assistant Example for Research Labs and Academic Institutions

Levin Lab made complex scientific research instantly accessible

Levin Lab at Tufts University built LevinBot on CustomGPT.ai, an AI research assistant trained on the lab's papers, slide decks and talks. It answers questions in seconds, 24/7, in more than 90 languages, with source citations on every answer.

Seconds

To a sourced answer

24/7

Availability, worldwide

90+

Languages supported

THE CHALLENGE

Deep science that was hard for most audiences to reach

Levin Lab's research spans developmental biology, artificial life and cognitive science. Its papers, presentations and talks are rich, but dense for students, researchers in other fields and the public.

The lab wanted to replace static FAQs with a conversational interface that could answer nuanced questions in real time, without losing scientific rigor.

WHAT LEVIN LAB NEEDED

Accessibility.

Deep content made approachable without sacrificing rigor.

Interactivity.

Real-time answers to nuanced questions.

Accuracy.

Responses true to the lab's research, with verifiable citations.

HOW LEVIN LAB SOLVED IT

LevinBot, trained on the lab's own research

Built on the lab's corpus.

Peer-reviewed papers, slide decks and long-form talks, plus curated lab principles that guide tone and depth.

Styled to match the lab's site.

Widget styling, colors and typography mirror the Levin Lab website.

Anti-hallucination guardrails.

Citations appear alongside answers so users can trace every claim to the research.

ABOUT LEVIN LAB

Dr. Michael Levin leads Levin Lab at Tufts University, a center at the forefront of developmental biology, artificial life and cognitive science. The lab studies how cognition and decision-making emerge across living systems, with a special emphasis on developmental bioelectricity.

AT A GLANCE

INSTITUTION Levin Lab, Tufts University	KNOWLEDGE BASE Peer-reviewed papers, slide decks and recorded talks	AUDIENCES Students, researchers, journalists and the public
---	---	---

CAN AI ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM RESEARCH PAPERS?

Source citations, hallucination prevention and no-code research assistants

- 1 **Grounded in the lab's papers.**
LevinBot retrieves from the lab's own documents before answering.
- 2 **A citation on every answer.**
Users can open the source to verify each claim.
- 3 **No coding required.**
LevinBot was first built by a high school student.

RESULTS

Research accessibility, before and after

OBJECTIVE	BEFORE	AFTER
Research accessibility	Dense PDFs, keyword search only	Conversational Q&A, instant answers
Response time	Hours or days	Seconds
Language access	English-primary content	90+ languages
Repetitive questions	Manual effort from the lab team	Automated by LevinBot
Availability	Business hours, scheduled sessions	24/7

LevinBot features regularly in live demos and conference talks as an example of how AI can elevate scientific communication.

//

Omg finally, I can retire! A high-school student made this chat-bot trained on our papers and presentations.

Dr. Michael Levin

SCIENTIST, TUFTS UNIVERSITY

WHY IT WORKED

- Strong model.**
Precise, context-aware replies.
- UX control.**
Looks like part of the lab.
- Transparent sources.**
Scholarly integrity preserved.
- Credibility.**
Anti-hallucination safeguards.

ABOUT CUSTOMGPT.AI

CustomGPT.ai is a no-code platform for building AI agents that answer only from an organization's own content: documents, websites and knowledge bases. Every answer is grounded in verified sources with citations, and the platform is SOC 2 Type 2 and GDPR compliant. Organizations use it for customer support, internal knowledge search, website chat and more, across help centers, apps and the API.