## Centre for High Performance Computing 2025 National Conference

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## Agentic Al and the Future of Discovery

Wednesday, 3 December 2025 09:00 (45 minutes)

An AI agent is a computational entity that can interact with the world and adapt its actions based on learnings from these interactions. I discuss the potential for such agents to serve as next-generation scientific assistants, for example by acting as cognitive partners and laboratory assistants. In the former case, agents, with their machine learning and data-processing capabilities, complement the cognitive processes of human scientists by offering real-time data analysis, hypothesis generation, and experimental design suggestions; in the latter, they engage directly with the scientific environment on the scientist's behalf, for example by performing experiments in bio-labs or running simulations on supercomputers. I invite participants to envision a future in which human scientists and agents collaborate seamlessly, fostering an era of accelerated scientific discoveries, new horizons of understanding, and—we may hope—broader access to the benefits of science.

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