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AI **Letting Machines Decide What Matters: AI Systems in Particle Detectors Now Shape What Physicists Study**



"In the time it takes you to read this sentence, the [Large Hadron Collider](#) (LHC) will have smashed billions of particles together. In all likelihood, it will have found exactly what it found yesterday: more evidence to support the [Standard Model](#) of particle physics.

For the engineers who built this 27-kilometer-long ring, this consistency is a triumph. But for theoretical physicists, it has been rather frustrating. As [Matthew Hutson](#) reports in "[AI Hunts for the Next Big Thing in Physics](#)," the field is currently gripped by a quiet crisis. In an email discussing his reporting, Hutson explains that the Standard Model, which describes the known elementary particles and forces, is not a complete picture. "So theorists have proposed new ideas, and experimentalists have built giant facilities to test them, but despite the gobs of data, there have been no big breakthroughs," Hutson says. "There are key components of reality we're completely missing."

That's why researchers are turning [artificial intelligence](#) loose on particle physics. They aren't simply asking AI to comb through accelerator data to confirm existing theories, Hutson explains. They're asking AI to point the way toward theories that they've never imagined. "Instead of looking to support theories that humans have generated," he says, "unsupervised AI can highlight anything out of the ordinary, expanding our reach into unknown unknowns." By asking AI to flag anomalies in the data, researchers hope to find their way to "[new physics](#)" that extends the Standard Model."

Source: [IEEE Spectrum](#) (1 Mar 2026)

AI AGENT **AI Agents Are 'Aeroplanes for the Mind': Five Ways to Ensure That Scientists Are Responsible Pilots**



"In the early 1980s, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs described the computer as "a bicycle for our minds". He was inspired by a *Scientific American* graphic he'd encountered as a boy, showing that a human on a bicycle is more energy-efficient than any animal. The metaphor captured the promise of personal computing: tools that enable people to go further and faster with less effort. But the deeper brilliance of bicycles lies in what they do not do: they do not mimic human biology, nor any form found in nature. The bicycle reimagined motion entirely.

By comparison, I propose that artificial-intelligence agents are aeroplanes for the mind — they can speed things up for humans even more than bicycles do, but they are harder to control and the consequences of mistakes can be huge. And scientists are particularly poised to benefit from these tools. Scientific research is, at its core, a journey into the unknown. Yet working in new terrains brings unexpected challenges and frequent failures.

To push the frontiers of knowledge forwards quickly and responsibly, science and scientists urgently need a playbook for flying these aeroplanes. In my view, effective use of AI in research will probably require the development of AI agents that are grounded in robust, domain-specific scientific information. The real question is not whether machines will replace scientists, but what kind of scientists we will become when we learn to fly them."

Source: [Nature](#) (2 Mar 2026)

ARCHITECTURE **Who Decides What Is Worth Preserving? Power And Heritage in Latin America**



"When we enter a [museum](#), walk through a historic center, or review a country's list of protected heritage sites, we rarely think about the process behind those [choices](#). [Who decided, on behalf of all of us](#), that certain objects, places, and architectures [deserved to be preserved and disseminated](#), while others were discarded?"

In most cases, the [power of decision](#) lies with specialized professionals—historians, museologists, architects, geographers. But on what basis are these decisions made? Can the complexity of history be reduced to a checklist? Or, more fundamentally, which version of history underlies these choices?"

In a global context marked by socioeconomic inequality, structural historical injustices, and the imminent threat of ecological collapse, [a new era of reconstruction is emerging](#)—of cities, architectures, communities, and heritage itself. In this moment, bringing such questions to the forefront becomes essential."

Source: [Archdaily](#) (28 Feb 2026)

ARCHITECTURE **Nine Remarkable US Architecture Projects**



"To inspire your entries to our new [Dezeen Awards](#) Regional Showcases, our editors select their favourite [US](#) architecture projects from previous shortlisted submissions.

This year, every project entered into Dezeen Awards can also be [entered](#) into our [Regional Showcases](#), three Top 50 lists chosen by our editors that will celebrate the best projects in three regions: Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), Asia Pacific (APAC) and the Americas (AMER).

Have you got a project to enter into our Top 50: Americas list? Find out more about our Regional Showcases [here](#) and read on for previous standout examples of US architecture projects that have been shortlisted in past editions of Dezeen Awards."

Source: [Nature](#) (24 Feb 2026)

CLIMATE CHANGE **Safdie Architects Designs Residential Florida Skyscraper to Be "Expressive Without Excess"**



"Boston architecture studio Safdie Architects has released images of the Mandarin Oriental Residences tower in West Palm Beach, with a sculptural shape that expands as it increases in height.

Located at 5400 North Flagler Drive, the skyscraper will contain 87 units spanning 31 storeys and be the first stand-alone residential tower in South Florida by the Mandarin Oriental luxury hotel brand.

Developer Great Gulf, interior design studio Studio Munge and landscape architect ENEA Landscape Architecture are also on the project.

Renders of the Mandarin Oriental Residences tower show "four slender volumes that gently taper outward as they rise", according to the team, as well as a multi-storey base that splays out around the bottom.

This balance – between softness and order, nature and geometry – defines the character of the building," said architect Moshe Safdie. "It is sculptural without being indulgent, expressive without excess."

The building will contain four residential units per floor, and its shape was designed so that every unit would function as a corner residence."

Source: [Dezeen](#) (3 Feb 2026)

HEALTHCARE **China's Humanoids Are Dazzling the World. Who Will Buy Them?**



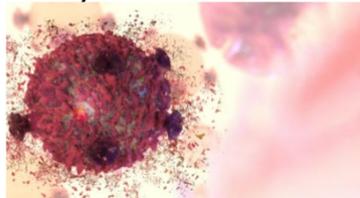
"Listen to this story.

The Spring Festival Gala is a showcase both of China's cultural riches and its technological might. The four-hour state television programme, staged in Beijing on the eve of each Lunar New Year, often features goose-stepping phalanxes of singing soldiers. On February 16th the centrepiece was a troupe of sword-brandishing humanoid robots performing an elaborate martial-arts routine. It was one of four humanoid-embellished acts that wowed viewers around the world.

China's humanoid robotics industry is bustling. More than 14,500 automatons were delivered last year globally, up from around 3,000 in 2024, according to company reports and estimates from Omdia, a research firm. Nearly all came from China (see chart). Agibot and Unitree, the country's two leading humanoid-makers, accounted for around three-quarters of the total; Elon Musk's Tesla shipped just 150 of its Optimus bots. What is more, China is also home to the world's deepest supply chain for humanoids."

Source: [Economist](#) (18 Feb 2026)

HEALTHCARE NANOTHERAPY **New Iron Nanomaterial Wipes Out Cancer Cells Without Harming Healthy Tissue**



"Researchers at Oregon State University have created a new nanomaterial designed to destroy cancer cells from the inside. The material activates two separate chemical reactions once inside a tumor cell, overwhelming it with oxidative stress while leaving surrounding healthy tissue unharmed.

The work, led by Oleh Taratula, Olena Taratula, and Chao Wang from the OSU College of Pharmacy, was published in *Advanced Functional Materials*."

Source: [Oregon State University](#) (1 Mar 2026)

MATERIALS **This Plastic Is Made from Milk and It Vanishes in 13 Weeks**



"As concerns grow about the environmental and health impacts of plastic waste, scientists are accelerating efforts to develop safer, biodegradable alternatives. At Flinders University in South Australia, several research teams are working on new materials designed to reduce pollution from single use plastics.

In a recent study published in *Polymers*, researchers created a thin, flexible film using calcium caseinate, a commercially available form of casein, the primary protein found in milk. They blended it with modified starch and bentonite nanoclay, then added glycerol and polyvinyl alcohol to improve durability and flexibility. The goal was to produce a material that performs like conventional plastic while being far more environmentally friendly..."

Source: [Flinders University](#) (28 Feb 2026)

MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS **AI Accurately Spots Medical Disorder from Privacy-Conscious Hand Images**

QUANTUM COMPUTERS **A Simple Chemical Tweak Could Supercharge Quantum Computers**

QUANTUM TECH **Researchers Unlock Hidden Dimensions Inside a Single Photon**

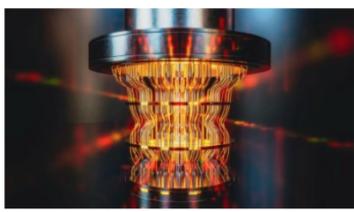
RESEARCH MANAGEMENT **Why Every Scientist Needs a Librarian**



"An AI can accurately diagnose a rare endocrinological condition just by analyzing pictures of the back of the hand and the clenched fist. The privacy-conscious achievement by Kobe University holds promise for establishing more efficient referral systems and reducing healthcare disparities across communities."

Acromegaly is a rare, intractable disease usually setting in in middle age that causes the hands and feet to grow bigger, changes the facial appearance and also has effects on bone and organ growth throughout the body. The condition, which is caused by overproduction of growth hormone, proceeds slowly over decades, but if left untreated may cause life-threatening complications resulting in one's life expectancy reduced by about 10 years. "Because the condition progresses so slowly, and because it is a rare disease, it is not uncommon to take up to a decade for it to be diagnosed," says Kobe University endocrinologist FUKUOKA Hidenori. He further explains, "With the progress of AI tools, there have been attempts to use photographs for early detection, but they have not been adopted in clinical practice."

Source: [EurekAlert!](#) (27 Feb 2026)



"Even the fastest supercomputers struggle with certain complex tasks, such as discovering new medicines or breaking advanced encryption. Quantum computers could one day handle these challenges, but they depend on rare materials known as topological superconductors that are extremely difficult to create and control."

Researchers at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering (UChicago PME) and West Virginia University have now demonstrated a practical way to bring these materials within reach. By slightly adjusting a chemical formula, they were able to alter how large numbers of electrons interact inside the material, guiding it into a topological superconducting state."

Source: [University of Chicago](#) (25 Feb 2026)



"Physicists at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, together with colleagues from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, have shown how light at the quantum level can be deliberately shaped across space and time to produce high-dimensional and multidimensional quantum states. By carefully controlling a photon's spatial pattern, timing, and spectrum, the team can design what are known as structured photons. These custom-built particles of light open new possibilities for high-capacity quantum communication and next-generation quantum technologies."

Their findings appear in a review published in Nature Photonics, which examines the rapid advances in creating, controlling, and measuring structured quantum light. The paper highlights a growing set of powerful tools, including on-chip integrated photonics, nonlinear optics, and multiplane light conversion. Together, these methods are transforming structured quantum states from laboratory concepts into practical systems for imaging, sensing, and quantum networks."

Source: [University of the Witwatersrand](#) (26 Feb 2026)



"Walk into a big academic library, and chances are you'll enter a hushed space with soaring ceilings. "It's like going into a church or a place of worship," says Jane Harvell, director of library culture and heritage at the University of Sussex in Brighton, UK."

But academic scientists don't always take full advantage of these temples of knowledge, which have morphed from places full of quiet, dusty stacks to dynamic research centres with the latest technologies. Researchers who do enter these hallowed spaces seeking help with their toughest research questions might encounter coding classes, maker spaces, platforms for citizen-science projects or students and researchers engaged in a hackathon. Librarians like to say that an hour in the library is worth a month in the laboratory, quips Kristin Briney, biology and biological engineering librarian at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, California. And the Caltech library team points out that a researcher could avoid hours of solo Internet searching by just sending a quick e-mail to a specialist librarian to get the same results."

Source: [Nature](#) (23 Feb 2026)

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