



Shakir Mohammed (Google Deepmind) wins 2026 AAAI Award for Artificial Intelligence for the Benefit of Humanity

December 3, 2025

Since 2021, the AAAI Award for Artificial Intelligence for the Benefit of Humanity has recognized for the positive impacts of artificial intelligence to protect, enhance, and improve human life in meaningful ways with long-lived effects.

This year, the AAAI Awards Committee is pleased to announce that the 2026 recipient of the award and \$25,000 prize is awarded to Shakir Mohammed, for significant contributions to maximizing social benefit by empowering communities worldwide to learn, contribute, debate, and shape how AI is used.

Dr. Shakir Mohamed is a world-leading researcher and innovator in AI whose career exemplifies a profound commitment to AI addressing global challenges and for broad societal benefit. His work bridges disciplinary boundaries, impacting not only the methods and applications of AI but also its societal interactions. His work tackles fundamental research questions, connects them to pressing global challenges, and takes an ecosystem view to steer AI towards benefits and to minimize harm.

Driven by a deep commitment to addressing critical global needs, Shakir's research spans diverse disciplines, and is published in the most critical and competitive venues. His work in healthcare advanced an understanding of deep learning for electronic health records and organ damage prediction; in weather forecasting, established that AI models were competitive with world-leading operational forecasts that improve forecast value; and in education, is advancing AI infused with learning science to support lifelong learning. And his work as co-founder and chair of the Deep Learning Indaba continues to strengthen African AI in support of the vision of Africans as drivers of the way AI will shape Africa's sociotechnical futures.

The award will be presented at the conference for the Annual Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) in February and is accompanied by a prize of \$25,000 plus travel expenses to the conference. Squirrel Ai provides financial support for the award.

For a complete view of the conference program, agenda, and full list of sponsors, please refer to <https://aaai.org/conference/aaai/aaai-26/>.

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About the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

Founded in 1979, the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) is a nonprofit scientific society devoted to advancing the scientific understanding of the mechanisms underlying thought and intelligent behavior and their embodiment in machines. AAAI aims to promote research in and responsible use of artificial intelligence and increase public understanding of the field. For more information, see www.aaai.org.

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