

Letter from the Editor

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Dear Members,

Happy New Year, and welcome to this issue of AI Matters for 2026.

In this edition, we open with the ACM SIGAI Annual Report, which reviews our activities over the past year, celebrates the recipients of our three major awards, and outlines priorities for the next two to three years. We then catch up with the 2019 recipients of the AAI/ACM SIGAI Doctoral Dissertation Award. Jiajun Wu, the award winner, talks us through the world of physical scene understanding, while Aishwarya Agrawal, who received an honourable mention, shares her contributions to evaluating computer vision models and offers thoughtful career advice for students and early-career researchers.

We are also delighted to relaunch AI Ethics & Policy regular feature, authored by Prof. Larry Medsker, Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Springer journal AI and Ethics and editor of the forthcoming AI and Ethics Handbook. In this inaugural column, he reflects on key developments in AI policy over the past year and considers what may lie ahead in 2026.

Finally, this issue includes reports and statistics from SIGAI-sponsored conferences held between February and August 2025. If you have attended any SIGAI-affiliated conferences since then and would like to share reflections or observations, please feel free to contact us at aimatters@sigai.acm. We may feature selected contributions in a future issue.

Warm regards,

Ella Scallan
Editor-in-Chief, AI Matters

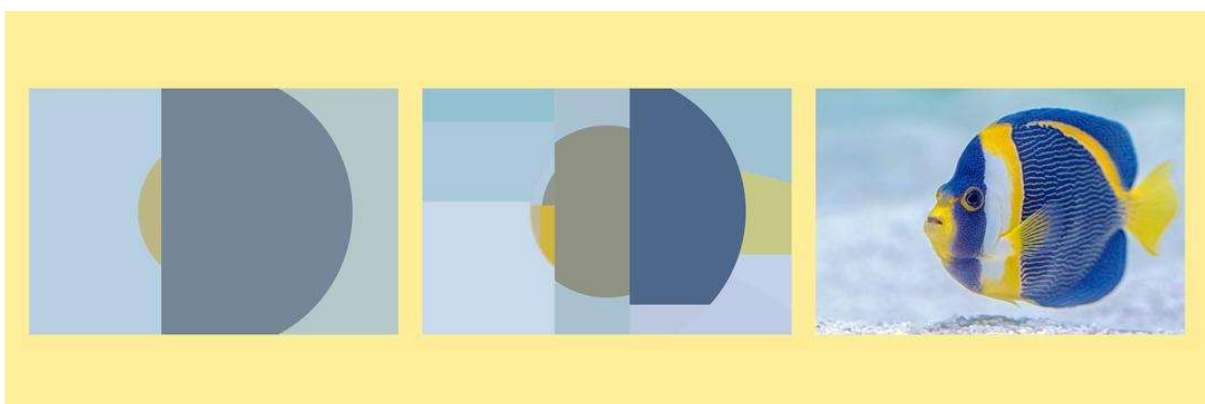


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