

## Letter from the editor

DOI: 10.1145/3811926.3811929

Dear Members,

Welcome to this issue of AI Matters for 2026. This edition begins with an insightful conversation with Jonathan Frankle, Chief AI Scientist at DataBricks and winner of the AAAI/ACM SIGAI 2023 Doctoral Dissertation Award for his work on the lottery hypothesis. In this wide-ranging interview, he discusses the rise of empiricism in computer science, the measurement problem in AI, and the mindset shifts that the field needs to embrace in order to remain at the forefront.

I then join Lucy Smith, Managing Editor of AIhub, in reflecting on her experience at AIES 2025. We outline the conversations and presentations from a discussion session on LLMs in the context of clinical usage and human rights.

This issue's AI Ethics & Policy column is authored by Rohith Nama, Senior Software Development Engineer at Amazon and co-author with Larry Medsker on the upcoming ACM Tech Brief on Agentic AI. Rohith discusses the challenges that agentic AI presents, and how improving agentic AI literacy is essential.

Finally, this issue includes reports and statistics from SIGAI-sponsored conferences held in March 2026. 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](mailto:aimatters@sigai.acm). We may feature selected contributions in a future issue.

Warm regards,

Ella Scallan  
*Editor-in-Chief, AI Matters*