

# Artificial Intelligence in Biopharmaceutical: Revolutionizing Drug Discovery Amidst Industry Challenges

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## ARTICLE INFO

**Received:** 📅 March 21, 2025

**Published:** 📅 April 09, 2025

**Citation:** Amar P Garg, Neha Bisht and Muvin Khan. Artificial Intelligence in Biopharmaceutical: Revolutionizing Drug Discovery Amidst Industry Challenges. Biomed J Sci & Tech Res 61(2)-2025. BJSTR. MS.ID.009580.

## ABSTRACT

The pharmaceutical sector is one of the most important global leaders in determining the economic health of a country. It is significantly contributing to the production of affordable generic drugs, healthcare items and vaccines. However, it faces challenges across various stages, from research and development to marketing. This paper explores the future prospects and challenges of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the pharmaceutical industry. AI technologies, particularly machine learning (ML), present both opportunities and challenges for the life sciences sector including pharmaceutical industry. These technologies enhance decision-making, improve efficiency, optimize quality control and production economics, explore access to the global market, reduce promotion expenses and many more. AI also addresses key issues in personalized medicine and rare disease research. Technological advancements, shifts in healthcare paradigms, and evolving regulations are transforming the industry. The integration of AI, big data analytics, and precision medicine is revolutionizing drug discovery and development, significantly reducing the time and costs involved. Personalized medicine is becoming more effective through genomic insights, while the focus on biologics and gene therapies is expanding treatment possibilities. Stricter regulatory requirements enforce greater transparency and ethical considerations in clinical trials and data management.

Concerns regarding intellectual property have intensified due to reliance on AI-generated drug designs. Additionally, the industry is pursuing sustainability through greener manufacturing practices. In this dynamic landscape, traditional pharmaceutical companies are evolving into comprehensive healthcare solution providers, offering services that span prevention, diagnostics, and treatment. Telemedicine and digital health platforms are essential for enabling remote medical access and real-time health monitoring.

**Keywords:** Pharmaceutical Sector; Generic Drugs; Vaccines; Research and Development (R&D); Artificial Intelligence (AI); Machine Learning (ML); Life Sciences; Decision-Making and Personalized Medicine

**Abbreviations:** AI: Artificial Intelligence; ML: Machine learning; R&D: Research and Development; DL: Deep Learning; NLP: Natural Language Processing; ADME: Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, and Excretion; FDA: Food and Drug Administration; EMA: European Medicines Agency; WHO: World Health Organization; CIMO: Context-Intervention-Mechanism-Outcome; GANs: Generative Adversarial Networks; RFID: Radiofrequency Identification; CRM: Customer Relationship Management; AIMS: Artificial Intelligence Management Systems; HMA: Heads of Medicines Agencies; EMA: European Medicines Agency; CADD: Computer-Aided Drug Discovery; QSAR: Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship; QSAR: Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship; HCC: Hepatocellular Carcinoma; DD: Deep Docking; LoRa: Long-Range; IoT: Internet of Things; IQ: Innovation and Quality; ISO: International Organization for Standardization; FDA: Food and Drug Administration; GMP: Good Manufacturing Practices

## Introduction

Over the past several decades, the utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) within the pharmaceutical industry has undergone a significant transformation. During the 1980s and 1990s, AI applications in drug discovery were predominantly confined to basic computational models primarily employed for molecular modelling and the prediction of chemical structures. The advancements in algorithms and processing power during this time paved the way for developing more sophisticated methodologies. With the emergence of machine learning algorithms in the early 2000s, which can analyse extensive and complex datasets, AI began to gain traction. These technologi-

cal advancements allowed for improved predictions of chemical interactions and the optimization of pharmaceutical formulations [1]. Recent advancements in Big Data, deep learning, and the availability of extensive biological and chemical datasets—particularly from genomics, proteomics, and high-throughput screening—have significantly facilitated the mainstream application of artificial intelligence (AI) within the pharmaceutical sector since the 2010s illustrated in Figure 1. Natural materials have been instrumental in the treatment of various illnesses within traditional communities for many centuries. The identification and application of these remedies were often the result of serendipitous discoveries or systematic trial-and-error approaches [2].

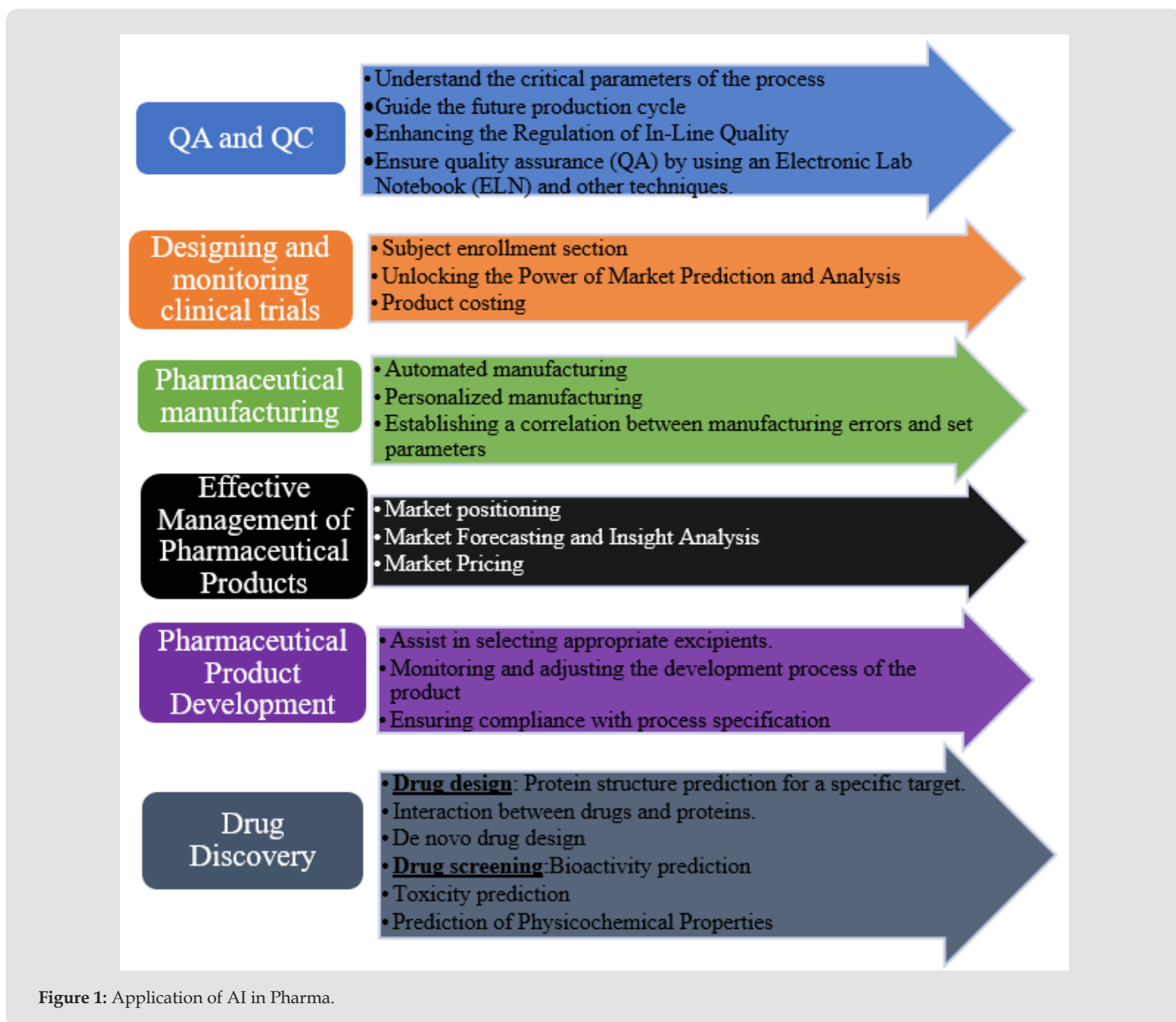


Figure 1: Application of AI in Pharma.

For instance, one of the most well-documented examples is quinine, a potent antimalarial agent derived from the bark of the cinchona tree, which has been utilized for malaria treatment since the 1600s [3]. The knowledge regarding this early form of drug discovery was predominantly passed down through verbal traditions, enabling communities to harness the therapeutic properties of botanical resources over generations. In the modern era, the pharmaceutical industry adopted a similar foundational approach to drug discovery, focusing initially on the extraction and isolation of active compounds from natural sources [4]. Over the past few decades, there has been a marked shift toward high-throughput screening and extensive testing of vast chemical libraries, which allow researchers to evaluate a multitude of compounds for potential therapeutic efficacy. Pharmaceutical organizations are increasingly employing AI across various stages of drug research, including the design of clinical trials and the identification of therapeutic targets [1]. In recent years, AI has emerged as a vital instrument for accelerating drug discovery, optimizing clinical trial processes, and personalizing treatment regimens. This trend signifies a strategic shift towards more effective, data-driven research and development practices within the pharmaceutical industry [5-7].

Artificial intelligence (AI) is on the verge of fundamentally changing the drug discovery process. By leveraging advanced algorithms and machine learning techniques, AI can dramatically shorten the timeline for identifying promising drug candidates. Additionally, AI can facilitate more accurate predictions regarding the efficacy and potential side effects of these compounds, thereby optimizing the development pipeline and ultimately leading to more effective therapeutic solutions [4]. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) with the development of innovative pharmaceutical therapies has ushered in a transformative era in drug discovery and delivery. Over the past several decades, pharmaceutical companies have employed a diverse array of techniques, including machine learning, deep learning, and other advanced computational methodologies. This convergence has provided unprecedented opportunities to streamline the drug discovery and delivery processes, resulting in optimized treatment regimens and enhanced patient outcomes [8-15]. The traditional drug discovery pipeline is often characterized by considerable financial burdens, stemming from both protracted timelines and high rates of failures at various stages of development. In this challenging landscape, the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) methodologies is proving to be a transformative force for pharmaceutical companies.

For instance, advanced machine learning algorithms possess the ability to sift through extensive and complex databases, discerning intricate patterns that would otherwise remain hidden. This analytical power not only facilitates the identification of innovative therapeutic targets but also enhances the precision with which potential drug candidates can be predicted. Furthermore, this approach accelerates the overall drug development process, allowing researchers to move more swiftly than the conventional trial-and-error methods that have

long defined the industry. As a result, the journey from research to market for a wide range of diseases is becoming notably more efficient, holding promise for more rapid advancements in medical treatments [16,17]. Artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms possess the capability to analyze extensive biomedical datasets, thereby revealing previously unrecognized relationships between pharmaceuticals and diseases. This advancement has significantly contributed to the field of drug repurposing, facilitating the identification of new therapeutic applications for existing medications and accelerating their progression from laboratory research to clinical implementation. Such developments are especially crucial for addressing specific challenges posed by parasitic diseases prevalent in developing countries, as well as for rare, orphan diseases [18,19]. In today's age of personalized medicine, sophisticated AI algorithms have the capability to analyze a wide range of patient data, encompassing genomic information, proteomic profiles, and comprehensive clinical records.

By sifting through this diverse array of information, these algorithms can identify unique patterns and insights that inform customized treatment plans [20,21]. Each plan is carefully tailored to reflect an individual patient's genetic makeup, lifestyle choices, and specific characteristics of their disease [22]. This precision in treatment not only helps to minimize potential adverse effects but also aims to significantly enhance the overall effectiveness of patient care, leading to improved health outcomes and quality of life for individuals [20,23]. This review intends to provide a thorough overview of the applications of artificial intelligence within the pharmaceutical industry. The discussion will encompass various aspects, including drug discovery, drug safety, personalized medicine, and the implications of these innovations for healthcare delivery.

## Use of AI in Drug Discovery and Design

Drug discovery represents a systematic process through which new pharmaceutical compounds are identified and developed for commercial release. This complex, multi-phase endeavour typically requires approximately 15 years to complete and approximately costs \$2.6 billion to bring a new drug to market. Many drug candidates fail in the later stages due to safety or efficacy concerns, leading to significant financial losses [1]. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now revolutionizing drug discovery by reducing the time, cost, and risk associated with the process. AI-driven approaches leverage machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), natural language processing (NLP), and big data analytics to enhance various stages of drug discovery, from target identification to clinical trials. The initial stage of drug discovery involves the selection of a disease to target and identifying a biological target that may be modulated to alter the disease progression. Following this, exploratory research commences, during which large-scale screening tests are conducted to identify HIT molecules—chemical entities that exhibit a promising affinity for the specified target. After further evaluation, a specific molecule is selected that binds selectively and specifically to the target, capable of modifying its normal

mechanism of action. This molecule is designated as the LEAD compound [1]. The lead compound undergoes optimization to enhance its biological activity and to improve its pharmacokinetic properties, including absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME).

Should a promising compound emerge during screening, it advances into the preclinical and clinical phases of development. Upon the successful completion of clinical trials, the drug must receive approval from regulatory authorities, such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States or the European Medicines Agency (EMA), before its market release shown in Figure 2. AI algorithms are revolutionizing the design of drug molecules, significantly enhancing their potency and selectivity. By leveraging advanced deep learning models and generative adversarial networks (GANs), AI can

create optimized molecular structures that specifically target desired biological activities while ensuring adherence to essential pharmacological and safety profiles. This capability is particularly transformative in the field of drug discovery. GANs excel at generating innovative compounds that align with specific therapeutic targets, effectively streamlining the entire drug development process [24]. These advanced models consist of two interconnected neural networks: the generator and the discriminator. The generator learns from existing data to produce new samples that closely resemble real-world data. In drug discovery, this means the generator can synthesize novel molecular structures that replicate the beneficial attributes of known compounds, paving the way for groundbreaking advancements in medicine.

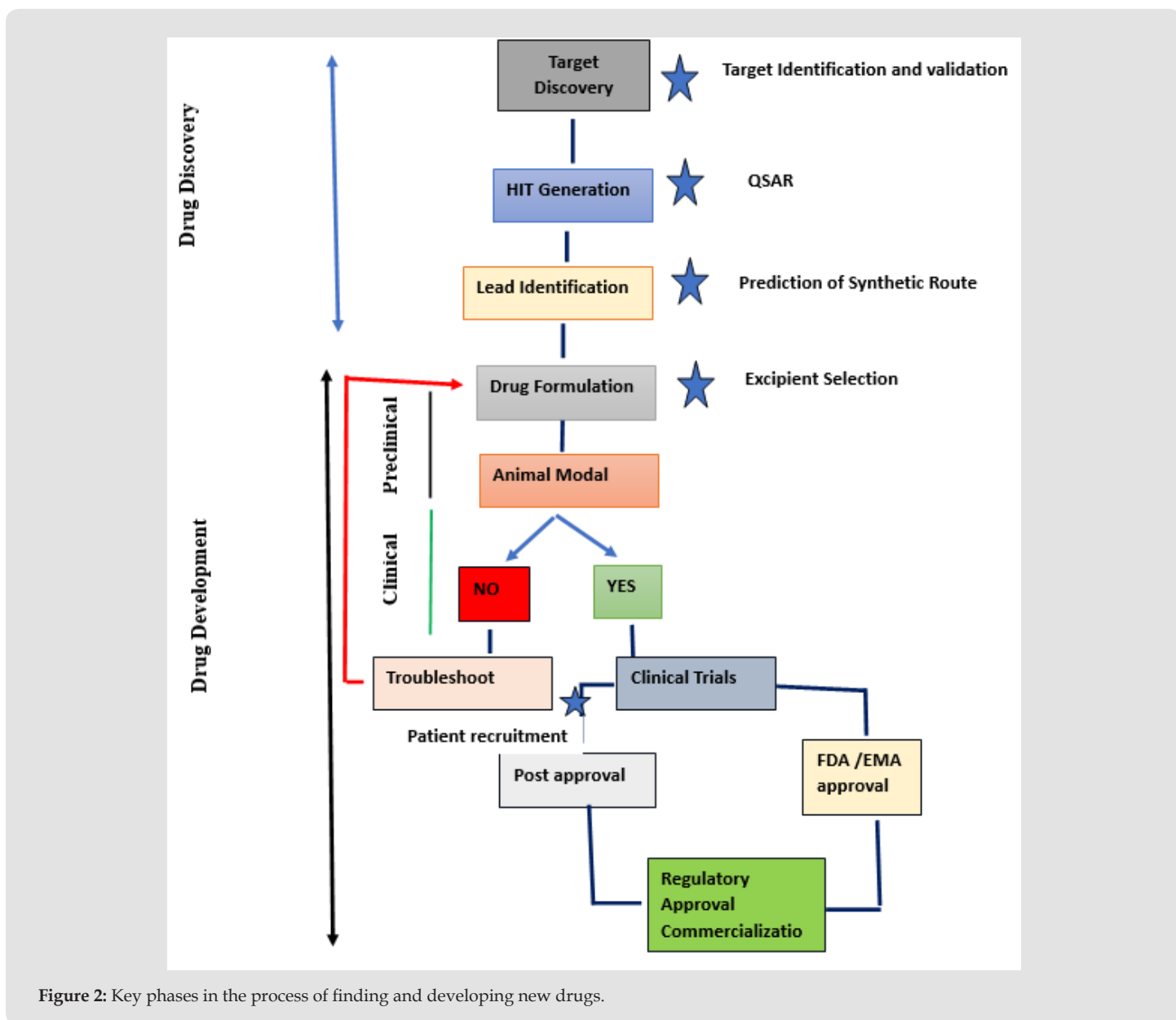


Figure 2: Key phases in the process of finding and developing new drugs.

Structure-based and ligand-based design approaches have been used in the pharmaceutical industry's growing use of computer-aided drug discovery (CADD) in recent decades. Researchers can now more accurately anticipate the biological activity of drugs because of the development of methods like molecular modelling, virtual screening, and quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) analysis [25,26]. However, CADD faces a number of obstacles and restrictions. These include the intrinsic intricacy of biological systems, the challenge of faithfully capturing the adaptability of targets, and the narrow scope of conventional analytical methods, which frequently concentrate on a small number of closely related chemicals [26]. AI-driven predictive techniques, particularly quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) modelling and molecular docking simulations, have made remarkable progress in offering deep insights into the prediction of the biological activity of novel chemical compounds with impressive accuracy [27]. This advancement is primarily attributed to the extensive and well-curated chemical and biological datasets that serve as the foundation for developing sophisticated AI algorithms aimed at uncovering the intricate structure-activity relationships inherent in these compounds [28]. As a result, researchers are able to significantly reduce both the financial investments, and the lengthy timelines traditionally associated with exhaustive experimental validation processes.

QSAR models operate on the fundamental principle that chemicals with similar structures often exhibit comparable biological activities [29]. To identify and quantify these similarities, QSAR models utilize a variety of molecular descriptors, which include metrics such as molecular weight, electronegativity, and hydrophobicity. These descriptors are instrumental in capturing the essential attributes of chemical structures that influence their biological behaviour, such as the propensity to bind to target receptors with specific affinities or their potential toxicological effects on biological systems [30]. Through this detailed approach, QSAR modelling enables more informed and targeted drug design and development efforts [28,30]. Several AI-powered platforms, including Atom wise and Benevolent AI, are significantly transforming the methodologies employed in drug discovery [31,32]. These platforms prioritize specific drug targets that exhibit the highest likelihood of therapeutic success, thereby expediting the drug discovery process and mitigating the risk of failure in clinical trials. By leveraging advanced machine learning algorithms, these platforms analyze a wide array of datasets, encompassing genomic, proteomic, and clinical information, to identify innovative therapeutic targets and assess their drugability [33]. An additional case study is Recursion, which utilizes advanced machine learning algorithms to screen thousands of compounds concurrently for the treatment of rare genetic diseases [34]. The primary objective of this initiative is to accelerate the identification of viable drug candidates and facilitate their clinical advancement [34]. Recursion possesses a proprietary repository of extensive biological, chemical, and patient-centric datasets, exceeding 50 petabytes in volume, which encompass more

than 6 trillion profiled relationships between genes and compounds [1,34]. Recursion is advancing several innovative molecules within its pipeline that hold great potential for treating critical health conditions. One notable candidate is an orally bioavailable small molecule superoxide scavenger, specifically developed for managing central cavernous malformations [1]. Additionally, there is a groundbreaking small molecule aimed at selectively inhibiting the toxin produced by Chloridoids difficile in the gastrointestinal tract, which could significantly prevent recurrent infections—an important step in addressing antibiotic-induced diarrhoea [35]. Furthermore, the company is developing a CNS-penetrant, orally bioavailable small molecule that acts as a pan-histone deacetylase inhibitor, targeting Neurofibromatosis type 2-mutated meningiomas, offering a promising avenue for therapeutic intervention [35].

### Target Identification and Validation

Identifying and validating potential drug targets constitute a fundamental step in the drug discovery process. Artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms are capable of analyzing extensive biological datasets, including data from genomics, proteomics, and transcriptomics, to identify molecular targets that play a role in disease mechanisms [27]. The ability of AI to navigate complex datasets enhances the precision of target identification and minimizes the risk associated with the development of ineffective drugs. By leveraging comprehensive and publicly accessible omics and textual datasets, AI facilitates the establishment of causal relationships between targets and diseases, thereby enabling the prioritization of targets for specific therapeutic indications. Omics data, which encompasses genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, epigenomics, and metabolomics, provides critical insights into altered signalling pathways and molecular interactions, thus contributing to target prioritization [27]. Furthermore, the integration of text-based data from funding reports, patents, academic publications, and clinical trials enriches this process [36]. In light of the availability of numerous drug datasets from platforms such as DrugBank [37] and ChEMBL [38], it is imperative to carefully select relevant datasets. Subsequently, AI-based data mining tools, including artificial neural networks (ANNs), are employed to achieve this objective [39]. For instance, Pun et al. employed various bioinformatics and deep learning models to identify actionable therapeutic targets in the context of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) [36]. Their approach involved training these models using disease-specific multi-omic and text-based data to prioritize genes amenable to drug development. This methodology resulted in the identification of 18 promising targets for the treatment of ALS. Similarly, Ren et al. pinpointed CDK20 as a therapeutic target for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) through the application of deep learning methodologies. Furthermore, a highly effective small-molecule inhibitor, designed using generative artificial intelligence, demonstrated selective antiproliferative activity against HCC cell lines [40]. Other large language models, such as BioGPT developed by Microsoft and ChatPandaGPT created by Insilico Medicine, are pre-trained on extensive text data sourced

from millions of publications. These advanced AI models possess the capability to forge connections among diseases, genes, and biological processes, thereby facilitating the rapid identification of the biological mechanisms involved in disease development and progression, as well as the discovery of potential drug targets and biomarkers. The integration of artificial intelligence in drug discovery has the poten-

tial to reduce costs, expedite development, and enhance success rates [40]. However, it is imperative to address challenges related to data quality, interpretability, and ethical considerations to ensure the responsible and effective utilization of AI in this critical field. Table 1 presents a concise overview of commonly utilized AI models in the realm of drug discovery.

**Table 1:** Example of commonly employed AI model tools in drug discovery.

Tools	Description	Website URL
DeepChem	Unlock the potential of drug discovery and computational chemistry with our cutting-edge deep learning library, specifically designed to accelerate research and innovation in these critical fields.	<a href="https://github.com/deepchem/deepchem">https://github.com/deepchem/deepchem</a>
DeepTox	Revolutionary software designed to accurately predict the toxicity of a total of 12000 drugs.	<a href="http://www.bioinf.jku.at/research/DeepTox">www.bioinf.jku.at/research/DeepTox</a>
ORGANIC	A molecular generation tool designed to create molecules with specific desired properties.	<a href="https://github.com/aspuru-guzik-group/ORGANIC">https://github.com/aspuru-guzik-group/ORGANIC</a>
DeepPurpose	Introducing a cutting-edge deep learning framework designed to accurately predict interactions between drugs and their targets, assess drug-drug interactions, evaluate protein-protein interactions, and unravel protein functions with remarkable precision.	<a href="https://github.com/kexinhuang12345/DeepPurpose">https://github.com/kexinhuang12345/DeepPurpose</a>
AlphaFold2	Deep learning model that precisely predicts the 3D structure of proteins from amino acid sequences, revolutionizing the fields of biotechnology and medicine.	<a href="https://github.com/google-deepmind/alphafold">https://github.com/google-deepmind/alphafold</a>
DeepGraphMol	A computational method using graph neural networks and reinforcement learning to generate molecules with desired properties.	<a href="https://github.com/dbkgroup/prop_gen">https://github.com/dbkgroup/prop_gen</a>
FastMBAR	A fast and accurate method for calculating binding free energy.	<a href="https://fastmbar.readthedocs.io/en/latest/">https://fastmbar.readthedocs.io/en/latest/</a>
PathDSP	A deep learning-based method for predicting drug sensitivity in cancer cell lines.	<a href="https://github.com/TangYiChing/PathDSP">https://github.com/TangYiChing/PathDSP</a>

## AIs for Virtual Screening

Virtual screening constitutes a methodical approach to the rapid analysis of extensive chemical databases with the objective of identifying candidate drugs that interact with specific biological targets. The recent proliferation of make-on-demand libraries, which provide access to billions of synthesizable molecules, has unveiled new opportunities within the chemical landscape, thus garnering substantial interest from researchers [41-43]. Nevertheless, the emergence of such extensive libraries presents notable challenges for conventional docking methodologies, which are typically optimized for millions of molecules. As the chemical libraries expand to encompass up to 100 billion molecules, the necessity for innovative solutions becomes increasingly pressing [44]. The efficacy of virtual screening is significantly augmented when it's integrated with artificial intelligence algorithms. This combination facilitates precise predictions of molecular interactions, empowering researchers to prioritize and investigate the most promising compounds in greater depth. Commonly utilized AI tools in this context include ZairaChem [45-63], Table 2 represent the top AI models used in pharma industry. Machine learning models, particularly those trained on diverse datasets that include biological, chemical, and structural information, have significantly improved the accuracy of predictions regarding drug-target interactions. For example, Gentile et al. recently demonstrated the capabilities of the Deep Docking (DD) platform, achieving an impressive 100-fold acceleration

in structure-based virtual screening. This speed increase was accomplished by docking a selected subset of a chemical library, which was iteratively synchronized with ligand-based predictions of the remaining docking scores [64]. Similarly, Moreira-Filho et al. developed both classification and regression machine learning models to predict the schistosomicidal activity of compounds that had not yet undergone experimental testing. This work led to the identification of four compounds that exhibited significant activity against schistosomula [65]. The primary advantage of machine learning-based virtual screening lies in its ability to learn complex patterns and relationships from large datasets of chemical compounds and biological targets. The success of a machine learning model relies on training with annotated datasets that contain known ligand-target interactions. By focusing a machine learning algorithm on this data, it can identify subtle structural motifs and physicochemical properties associated with binding affinity, leading to accurate predictions of ligand-target interactions for novel compounds [66]. Moreover, machine learning algorithms can integrate various types of information, including protein structure data, gene expression profiles, the physicochemical properties of drugs, and drug-induced phenotypic changes, to enhance the predictive performance of virtual screening models. Among the most commonly used machine learning techniques successfully applied to virtual screening are support vector machines (SVMs), random forests, and deep learning models [67].

**Table 2:** Top AI models commonly used in Pharma Industry.

Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)	Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) are increasingly utilized in drug development to create novel chemical structures and optimize their properties. Comprising a generator network that produces new molecules and a discriminator network that evaluates their quality, GANs facilitate the generation of diverse and functionally optimized drug candidates.
Recurrent neural Networks (RNNs)	Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) are widely utilized for sequence-based tasks within the field of drug development. Their applications include predicting protein structures, analyzing genomic data, and designing peptide sequences. RNNs are proficient in capturing sequential dependencies and are capable of generating novel sequences based on patterns acquired during training.
Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)	Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are effective for image-based tasks, such as analyzing molecular structures and identifying potential drug targets. They can extract relevant features from molecular images and assist in drug design and target identification.
Long Short-Term Memory Networks (LSTMs)	LSTMs are a type of RNN that excel at modeling and predicting temporal dependencies. They have been utilized in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics studies to forecast drug concentration-time profiles and assess drug efficacy.
Transformer Models	Transformer models, like the well-known BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers), are widely used in natural language processing tasks within the pharmaceutical field. These models can extract valuable information from scientific literature, patent databases, and clinical trial data, helping researchers make informed decisions in drug development.
Reinforcement Learning (RL)	Reinforcement learning techniques have been utilized to enhance drug dosing strategies and to create personalized treatment plans. These algorithms acquire knowledge through interactions with their environment, enabling them to make informed sequential decisions. This approach assists in optimizing dosage and ultimately contributes to improved patient outcomes.
Bayesian Models	Bayesian models, including Bayesian networks and Gaussian processes, are used for quantifying uncertainty and making decisions in drug development. They allow researchers to generate probabilistic predictions, evaluate risks, and enhance experimental designs.
Deep Q-Networks (DQNs)	DQNs combine deep learning and reinforcement learning to optimize drug discovery by predicting compound activity and suggesting high-potential candidates for further testing.

## Drug Repurposing

Recent findings from the Innovation and Quality (IQ) Consortium underscore a significant challenge in drug development: the elevated failure rate in the later stages of discovery. This high attrition rate frequently results from complex factors, including interactions with unintended proteins, insufficient physicochemical properties, and weak affinity for target proteins. These challenges may be associated with high molecular weights and undesirable hydrophilicity [68]. In response to the considerable loss of viable compounds during the discovery phase, pharmaceutical companies are increasingly adopting drug repurposing or repositioning strategies [40]. This approach involves identifying new therapeutic targets for drugs that are already approved and available in the market. A noteworthy example is sildenafil, which was originally developed for the treatment of angina and later repurposed for erectile dysfunction [69]. The recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) models for drug repurposing further enhance this process. These models utilize extensive datasets, including scientific literature, clinical trial outcomes, ligand interactions, protein structures, antibody-antigen interactions, and gene expression profiles, to elucidate relationships between existing drugs and potential new therapeutic applications [70-72]. This innovative approach accelerates the identification of possible treatments and offers a more cost-effective and efficient pathway for discovering new applications for established medications [71,72]. Several recent publications, including the study by Rao et al. on AI-driven small molecule repurposing and research by Tanabe et al. regarding in-silico scaffold-hopping methodologies for drug repositioning, highlight promising advancements within this domain [73,74]. Furthermore,

numerous startups are increasingly leveraging AI for drug repurposing, signifying a transformative integration of technology within the pharmaceutical sector.

## Predictive Toxicology

AI is increasingly utilized to predict the toxicity of drug candidates during the drug development process. By analyzing large datasets, researchers can identify potential adverse effects early on. Machine learning models can be trained using historical data from toxicology studies, clinical trials, and chemical databases to recognize patterns and predict the likelihood of a compound causing toxicity. It is estimated that over 30% of drug candidates are discarded due to toxicity issues. The use of AI allows researchers to filter out harmful compounds before they enter the costly and time-consuming clinical trial phase, ultimately saving resources and enhancing safety [75]. High drug toxicity represents a significant factor contributing to drug failures, accounting for approximately one-fifth of failures during clinical trials and two-thirds of post-marketing drug withdrawals [76]. This finding highlights the pressing need for more accurate predictions of drug toxicity prior to the commencement of clinical trials [40]. The conventional methodology, primarily reliant on animal studies, frequently proves inadequate in effectively forecasting human efficacy and safety [77]. Enhancing the accuracy of toxicity predictions is crucial for mitigating failures in clinical trials and for reducing associated costs [78]. Recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) technology have been instrumental in transforming toxicity studies, fundamentally altering how potential adverse effects of chemical compounds on living organisms are assessed [79]. AI algorithms, supported by extensive datasets that encompass historical, chem-

ical, biological, and toxicological information, are adept at identifying complex patterns and correlations to forecast the toxicity of new compounds. This proactive approach facilitates hazard identification [80]. Moreover, AI has significantly contributed to the understanding of structure-activity relationships (SAR), enabling researchers to establish connections between a compound's chemical structure and its toxicological impact [81]. The application of AI in toxicogenomics further enhances comprehension of genetic responses to chemical exposures and their relevance to toxicity [82]. The incorporation of AI in predictive toxicology not only expedites the assessment of compound safety but also enhances decision-making in drug development, ultimately resulting in substantial cost savings.

### Clinical Trials

Clinical trials encounter a multitude of challenges, which encompass complexities in patient recruitment, eligibility assessment, and the forecasting and optimization of patient enrollment rates. These challenges also pertain to the design and enhancement of trial protocols, as well as the management and analysis of extensive datasets. Figure 3 represents several benefits of AI in clinical trials. Acknowledging artificial intelligence (AI) as a transformative solution for sus-

tainable and optimized drug development, various applications in clinical trials are currently being explored and implemented [83,84]. AI algorithms assume a pivotal role in analysing comprehensive datasets, including electronic health records and patient databases, thereby streamlining participant identification and accelerating recruitment processes. Furthermore, AI-driven predictive analytics facilitate the estimation of patient enrollment probabilities, allowing for the optimization of recruitment strategies [85,86]. For instance, companies such as Amgen, Bayer, and Novartis are employing AI to analyze large volumes of public prescription data, health records, and medical insurance claims in order to identify potential patients for clinical trials with enhanced efficiency [85]. Moreover, the capabilities of AI extend to the design of trial protocols, as it utilizes historical data to recommend improvements and mitigate potential risks [85,87]. The capacity of AI to manage and analyze vast datasets supports data-driven decision-making, effectively addressing logistical challenges within the realms of data management and analysis [88]. Recent observations by Chakraborty et al. underscore the potential of AI to expedite clinical trials. As technological advancements continue to unfold, the integration of AI within clinical trials holds the promise of revolutionizing these processes, ultimately contributing to trials that are more efficient, cost-effective, and successful [40,88].

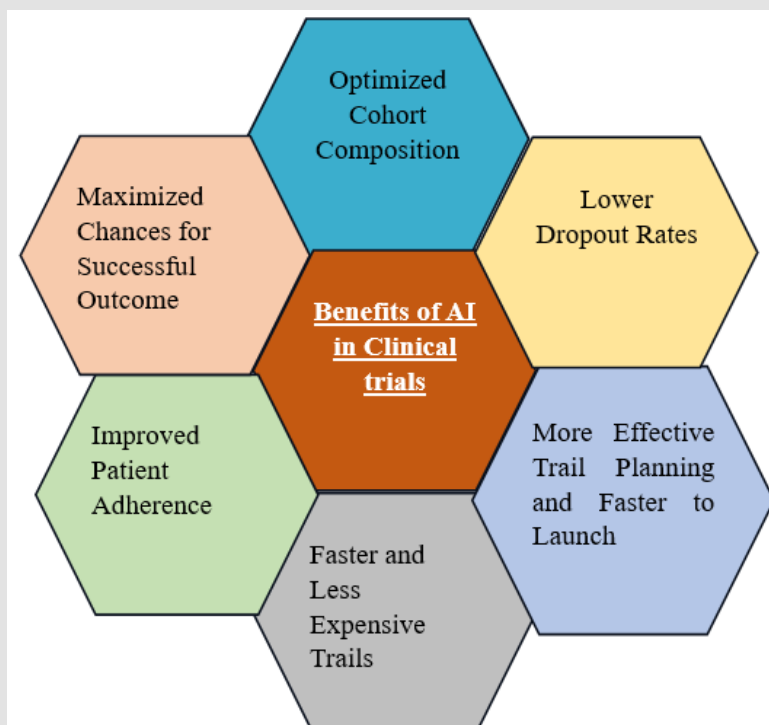


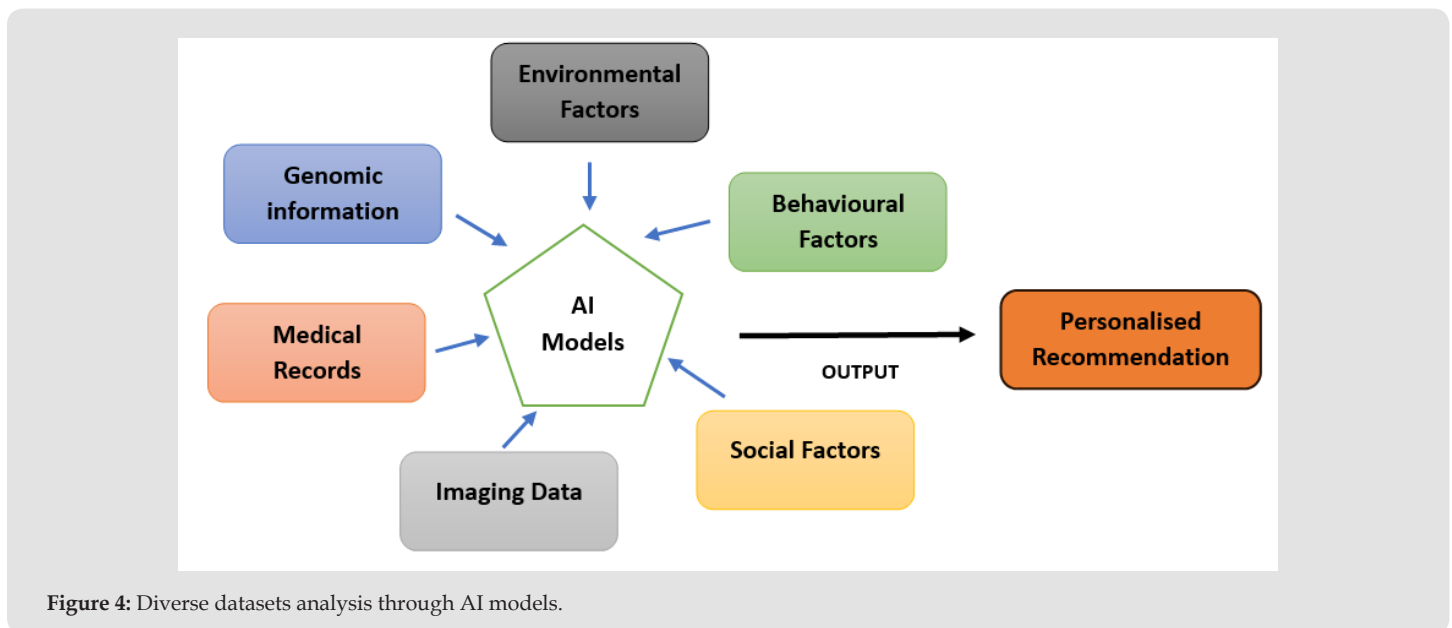
Figure 3: Benefits of AI in Clinical trials.



## Personalized Medicine

Throughout their lifetimes, individuals generate a substantial amount of data that includes personal and health-related information. This extensive repository of data holds the potential to provide invaluable insights that may contribute to the extension of life and enhancement of health outcomes [89,90]. Concurrently, the field of personalized medicine has experienced significant advancement, effectively integrating with the capabilities of artificial intelligence (AI). This integration has ushered in a transformative era in healthcare [89-91]. The evolution of personalized medicine is increasingly evident, as it now employs sophisticated algorithms and machine learning techniques. AI has the capacity to analyze diverse datasets, which encompass genomic information, medical records, imaging data, social and behavioral determinants, as well as environmental factors. Such analyses enable precise characterization of individuals concerning their health or disease states and facilitate the recommendation of optimal therapeutic options [91] Figure 4. For example, in the context of cancer treatment, genomic profiling of tumors can significantly assist in the development of targeted therapy plans, thereby optimizing

treatment strategies [91]. Furthermore, the application of AI in image recognition has given rise to innovative fields such as radiogenomics, which investigates the relationships between cancer imaging features and gene expression [92-94]. This methodology has proven instrumental in predicting a patient's risk of experiencing toxicity following radiotherapy, as observed across various cancer types, including colorectal [94], breast [95], and liver cancers [96]. Promising results have been reported by Huang et al., whose AI model was trained utilizing patients' gene expression data to anticipate their responses to chemotherapy [97]. Additionally, through the continuous monitoring enabled by wearable technology, AI can provide real-time health insights, allowing for timely interventions that can meaningfully impact patient outcomes. Nevertheless, despite these advancements, several challenges remain. These include ethical considerations, concerns regarding data safety and privacy, and the imperative to address algorithmic fairness and bias. Effectively navigating these challenges is essential for the successful integration of AI into personalized medicine, ultimately paving the way for effective, precise, and patient-centered healthcare solutions [40].



## Drug Manufacturing/Quality Control

Notwithstanding notable technical progress, the pharmaceutical production sector is today confronted with several obstacles that negatively impact its primary objective of creating safe, affordable, and superior pharmaceuticals. Unplanned downtime, equipment failures, high energy consumption, increasing expenses, challenges with quality control, raw material shortages, waste processing inefficiencies, and the complexity of complicated formulas are some of the main problems. But the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) offers a

bright future for successfully tackling these issues [98-100]. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a powerful tool in quality control and medicine manufacturing, providing a holistic approach to optimise several production pipeline phases. AI can anticipate unscheduled downtime by using predictive analytics, which allows firms to take preventative action to reduce operational interruptions. For instance, many manufacturers use the Smart automated process control system, which analyses large amounts of data produced during production [40]. Advanced data analytics and machine learning are used to

extract crucial insights that enable manufacturers to locate bottlenecks and remove needless obstacles, leading to more efficient and cost-effective manufacturing processes [101]. InData Labs' predictive maintenance solutions, which use sophisticated algorithms to evaluate historical and real-time data from manufacturing equipment, are another notable example [102]. These models may predict possible problems before they happen by spotting trends and abnormalities, which makes timely maintenance easier and lowers the possibility of unplanned downtimes [103,104]. Furthermore, AI can optimise energy use and related expenses, supporting environmentally friendly and financially feasible production methods. The use of AI can also successfully lessen the difficulties related to quality control, which is a fundamental aspect of pharmaceutical production. Artificial intelligence (AI) systems can perform real-time inspections by utilising computer vision and machine learning algorithms, guaranteeing compliance with strict quality requirements. The EyePASS system, an AI-powered image analysis tool used in tandem with Eyecon2 particle size analysers, is a pertinent example. Particle size distribution may be precisely monitored and controlled throughout production thanks to this technology, which collects real-time data on the dimensions and morphology of powders and bulk solids [104]. Predictive analytics may also help firms anticipate raw material shortages and take proactive steps to ensure a steady and dependable supply chain. AI-driven approaches may also be used to optimise trash processing, which raises serious issues for operational effectiveness and environmental sustainability. By analysing data in a way that reduces waste, AI algorithms can support environmentally friendly and sustainable manufacturing methods [101,102]. By analysing both historical and real-time data, AI's analytical skills allow for maximum resource utilisation and lead time reduction in production planning and scheduling. AI can simplify the intricacies involved in medication formulations, particularly in the field of biopharmaceuticals. Its sophisticated analytical skills make navigating complex formulae easier and guarantee effective production operations [98,103,105]. Pharmaceutical companies may attain previously unheard-of levels of productivity, accuracy, and resilience by incorporating AI into their operations. A new age in manufacturing excellence has begun with this shift [98]. Adoption of AI will not only be a technological improvement as the industry develops, but it will also be a strategic need for resolving the complex issues that have traditionally affected pharmaceutical manufacture [40].

## Pharmacovigilance and Safety of Drug

Drug safety and pharmacovigilance are two essential elements of the pharmaceutical sector. In order to detect and reduce any possible dangers to patients, this profession is devoted to tracking the safety of medications across the course of their lifecycle. In reaction to the thalidomide disaster, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the first pharmacovigilance program in 1961. Although the field of pharmacovigilance has advanced much since then [106,107], a num-

ber of issues still exist that compromise its efficacy and efficiency. The underreporting of adverse events by patients and healthcare providers is a major problem in pharmacovigilance. This issue makes it very difficult to identify possible safety concerns in a timely manner, which leads to serious gaps in surveillance systems. Additionally, problems with data completeness and quality can hinder the identification of safety signals since erroneous or incomplete data can cause safety profiles to be misinterpreted [105]. Because requirements vary by nation and region, the global heterogeneity in reporting standards adds even another level of complication [40]. Although it is still extremely difficult, harmonising these standards is essential to preserving consistency and comparability in safety data. Furthermore, delayed reporting makes it more difficult for regulators to respond quickly, which emphasises the need for a more effective reporting system [105,108]. Pharmacovigilance operations must prioritise patient privacy and informed consent, which calls for strong safeguards to protect sensitive patient data. This problem is made more difficult by the changing regulatory environment, which necessitates constant adjustments to satisfy compliance standards [109]. Furthermore, it is difficult to fully comprehend the safety profiles of contemporary treatments due to their complexity, such as gene and biologic therapy. Post-marketing surveillance, which tracks medications after they are put on the market, has its own special difficulties and calls for a flexible and adaptable strategy. New technologies, especially artificial intelligence (AI), offer creative answers to these problems and improve pharmacovigilance effectiveness [106,110,111]. Through sentiment analysis, interactive chatbots, and social media monitoring, AI can be used to reduce underreporting and improve predictive analytics for the early identification of unfavourable events. Recent research, for example, has shown how to use machine learning models to find specific case safety reports on social media [112]. Furthermore, by expediting validation procedures, automated adverse event identification with AI algorithms can greatly improve data quality, guaranteeing accuracy and dependability. AI tools are being developed by companies like CLOUDBYZ to enhance data accuracy, decision assistance, and adverse event management [113]. Furthermore, in order to overcome the difficulties brought on by worldwide variability, AI systems can help standardise reporting procedures and promote collaboration. Proactive responses are made possible by the training of AI systems to recognise new trends and dangers in pharmacovigilance data [40,113]. Additionally, sophisticated AI algorithms can support security protocols, guaranteeing the privacy of private patient data. Pharmacovigilance operations can be streamlined by automating regulatory compliance inspections, which also helps organisations stay in line with changing regulatory standards [107,114-117]. The IQVIA Vigilance Platform, which attempts to streamline drug safety and pharmacovigilance procedures [118,119], Clindata Insight, which provides data normalisation, cleaning, and analysis, and PVAI from Genpact, an end-to-end solution for adverse event processing [120], are notable examples of AI tools in this context. The application of

AI in pharmacovigilance has the potential to revolutionise drug safety monitoring as the field develops, making procedures more effective, proactive, and patient-focused [40]. Nonetheless, the ethical use of AI technologies must be emphasised. Pharmacovigilance has the potential to make revolutionary strides in the future with thoughtful and ethical application, which will ultimately lead to safer and better healthcare results.

## AI in Management of Supply Chain

Navigating the intricacies of contemporary supply chains successfully requires a thorough strategy. Organisations may improve operational efficiency by quickly identifying and reducing interruptions when they have point-to-point insight across the whole supply chain. Pharmaceutical supply chains can be thoroughly and comparably assessed with the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions. Digital transformation, however, must be developed as the first step towards the adoption of AI solutions because AI depends on data [40,27]. Important criteria include the normalisation and real-time gathering of data along the supply chain. Future AI integration should be carefully coordinated with digitalisation, which is the basis of visibility projects. Complete visibility, when paired with AI capabilities, provides a thorough contextual assessment and identifies supply chain performance gaps, including those caused by low inventory levels brought on by underutilisation and high unit prices [40]. Once put into practice, AI-enhanced pharmaceutical supply chain solutions will enable decision-makers to efficiently handle real-time data and produce insights that can be put to use. Additionally, AI can see trends that even the most seasoned experts could miss, filling in knowledge gaps between suppliers, pharmaceutical companies, and shipping companies instantly [121]. A recent study addressed major visibility issues in incoming logistics that were made worse by COVID-19 pandemic interruptions by using a Context-Intervention-Mechanism-Outcome (CIMO) logic framework to rigorously analyse material and information flows [122]. The analysis painstakingly charted the information and material flow, pinpointing crucial issues that impeded predictive capacities and efficient deviation management. The researchers used technology solutions that matched commercial and functional needs to systematically address these troublesome areas. A variety of technological options, including as Bluetooth, long-range (LoRa) technology, radiofrequency identification (RFID), and ultra-narrow-band technology, were assessed and chosen [27,121]. Truck cabs were equipped with gateways, and the company's pallets used for incoming flows had tags attached to them. These tags recorded data in real time, which was then sent to a cloud platform run by an Internet of Things (IoT) provider in charge of organising, gathering data, and providing test results. A thorough assessment of these technological solutions' capacity to improve supply chain visibility was provided by means of controlled simulations of real-world situations [24,122]. The results show that enhanced visibility not only makes it easier to handle deviations more successfully but also creates the foundation for more sophisticated predictive skills, which are necessary as logis-

tics operations move towards more autonomy. By increasing visibility in inbound logistics, this study provides manufacturing companies with useful insights to improve deviation management and predictive capabilities. These insights could be extended to internal and out-bound flows, resulting in a more autonomous, resilient, and efficient supply chain operation [122].

## Revolutionizing Pharma Marketing and Sales

Pharmaceutical companies allocate significant financial resources annually to sales and marketing, with recent analyses indicating that the leading ten pharmaceutical firms collectively expended approximately \$137 billion in these areas [123,124]. However, this substantial investment is accompanied by a myriad of challenges that adversely affect the efficiency and effectiveness of their sales and marketing strategies. Among the primary obstacles faced by the industry are elevated marketing costs, pressures on drug pricing from multiple stakeholders including governments, patients, and insurance companies, as well as customer access issues and the necessity for policy reforms. Furthermore, challenges such as a lack of targeted campaigns, ineffective Customer Relationship Management (CRM), stringent regulatory compliance, complexities in digital and social media marketing, heightened competition, and insufficient data-driven decision-making exacerbate the intricacies of pharmaceutical marketing [125,126]. The introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) presents a formidable solution to these multifaceted challenges. AI algorithms have the potential to revolutionize traditional marketing methodologies [127]. By employing these algorithms to craft personalized and targeted campaigns, pharmaceutical companies can not only reduce sales and marketing expenses but also enhance the effectiveness of their outreach initiatives. AI analytics can refine drug pricing strategies to strike an optimal balance between profitability and accessibility. Additionally, innovative campaigns driven by AI can effectively address customer access challenges and adapt promptly to policy reforms [128]. Moreover, AI-enhanced Customer Relationship Management systems can streamline interactions and engagements, providing a more personalized and efficient experience for both healthcare professionals and consumers [129-131]. The automation of regulatory compliance checks through AI ensures that marketing materials conform to rigorous regulatory standards, thereby mitigating longstanding concerns in pharmaceutical marketing. Furthermore, AI's capacity to analyse patient data facilitates a deeper understanding of patient preferences, enabling the development of more patient-centric marketing strategies. The successful implementation of AI solutions necessitates a collaborative effort between technology specialists and pharmaceutical professionals [129]. It is imperative to ensure the ethical and responsible application of AI, alongside strict adherence to privacy and security standards when managing sensitive healthcare data [132]. As the pharmaceutical industry increasingly integrates AI into its operations, the potential for transforming drug marketing and sales processes becomes evident, resulting in enhancements in efficiency, personalization, and compli-

ance [133]. Ultimately, this evolution may lead to reduced drug costs and improved accessibility, benefitting both pharmaceutical companies and the patient populations they serve. As the industry advances on this transformative path, the fusion of AI with pharmaceuticals is poised to redefine the landscape, heralding a new era of innovation and healthcare accessibility [134].

## Challenges of AI in Pharmaceutical Industry

Integrating AI into the pharmaceutical industry holds significant promise. Yet, like any revolutionary technology, the associated challenges are intricate, particularly within the pharmaceutical sector that requires thorough consideration and solutions. A primary obstacle is establishing accountability when AI systems in pharmaceuticals fail. A notable instance is the 2016 incident involving the Tesla Model S autonomous vehicle, where a deadly crash triggered debates about liability [135]. Similar incidents could arise in the pharmaceutical sector, potentially resulting in severe consequences. Determining who is responsible amidst various managerial, technical, and ethical factors presents a considerable challenge. Another concern is that AI algorithms depend heavily on extensive datasets for efficient training and validation. However, obtaining clean, high-quality, and dependable datasets within the pharmaceutical field is a significant challenge. The industry's stringent regulatory standards further complicate efforts to acquire appropriate datasets for AI use [136]. Additionally, while AI presents vast opportunities in the pharmaceutical realm, its ethical ramifications require careful examination. Issues such as transparency, algorithmic bias, accountability, and effects on patient-doctor dynamics are crucial ethical factors [137]. The pharmaceutical industry, recognized for its rigorous regulatory landscape, necessitates a thoughtful balance to ensure that AI applications meet ethical criteria. Moreover, the early stage of AI implementation in the pharmaceutical sector is marked by a lack of standardized procedures and benchmarks. This deficiency complicates the comparison of various AI models and achieving consistent, reliable outcomes. Establishing standards is essential for the industry to effectively harness the full capabilities of AI [136,138,139]. The pharmaceutical sector manages sensitive data pertaining to clinical trials, patient personal information, proprietary research, and other topics since it is data-driven. It is crucial to protect data security and privacy in compliance with laws and industry standards. These efforts are made more difficult by the incorporation of AI, which calls for strong security measures to protect sensitive data [139-141]. Additionally, large financial investments are necessary to implement AI in the pharmaceutical industry, which makes it especially difficult for small and medium-sized pharmaceutical businesses. For the advantages of AI in drug discovery, development and research, clinical trials, and other pharmaceutical procedures to be widely accessible, this price barrier must be removed [140]. Additionally, it is very difficult to find and keep talent with experience in both AI and the pharmaceutical sector due to their intricacy. For AI applications in pharmaceuticals to be successfully implemented and advanced, this gap must be closed

[141]. Working together is essential to overcoming these obstacles. Guidelines, protocols, and ethical norms for the integration of AI in pharmaceuticals must be established in collaboration with technology developers, pharmaceutical companies, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders [29,139]. The pharmaceutical sector can overcome these obstacles and realise the enormous promise of AI with a coordinated effort from all parties involved and a dedication to moral behaviour, which will eventually enhance drug research, clinical trials, and patient outcomes.

## Regulatory Measures

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the pharmaceutical industry is fundamentally transforming the processes of drug discovery, development, and market introduction. However, this evolution also presents substantial regulatory challenges concerning safety, efficacy, and ethical considerations. In response to these challenges, various stakeholders and regulatory bodies have initiated measures aimed at facilitating the seamless integration of AI while effectively managing associated risks. For example, the European Union's AI Act, proposed in 2021 and set to become effective on August 1, 2024, establishes a global framework by categorizing AI systems into four distinct risk categories: prohibited, high risk, limited risk, and minimal risk [142]. This classification serves as a pivotal foundation for forthcoming AI regulations. Moreover, the European Medicines Agency (EMA), in collaboration with the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA), has launched an AI work plan that will extend through 2028, with the objective of maximizing the benefits of AI while simultaneously addressing potential risks through a coordinated strategy [143]. In December 2023, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) published ISO/IEC 42001:2023, providing comprehensive guidance on the development and maintenance of Artificial Intelligence Management Systems (AIMS) [144]. Similarly, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), through its Office of Combination Products and in cooperation with the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, and the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, released a foundational document this year. This document delineates a risk-based, patient-centered regulatory framework designed to balance ethical AI innovation with assurances of medical product quality, safety, and effectiveness [145]. As the technology underlying AI continues to advance, it is imperative that ongoing dialogue among regulatory bodies, industry stakeholders, and developers is maintained. Such collaboration will be crucial in shaping adaptive and effective regulatory strategies that address the complexities introduced by AI integration.

## Future Aspects

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a powerful and transformative force within the pharmaceutical industry, fundamentally altering the landscape of how healthcare solutions are developed and delivered. A recent report projects that by 2025, a staggering 50% of global healthcare companies will have adopted AI strategies, demon-

strating the industry's strong commitment to harnessing the vast potential of this advanced technology. of the most promising applications of AI lies in the realm of drug discovery and development. Traditionally, bringing new therapies to market has been a time-consuming and resource-intensive endeavor; often spanning years or even decades [146]. However, AI is poised to revolutionize this process by enabling researchers to identify viable drug candidates more rapidly and efficiently. By streamlining workflows and enhancing predictive capabilities, AI significantly reduces the timeline and costs associated with developing new therapeutic options. In addition to improving traditional drug development processes, AI is also a catalyst for the evolution of personalized medicine [1,8]. With its ability to analyse vast datasets, AI facilitates the creation of tailored treatments that cater to the unique genetic profiles of individual patients. This approach not only aims to improve the effectiveness of treatments but also shifts the focus towards a more targeted and precision-based healthcare delivery model, ultimately enhancing patient outcomes. The optimization of clinical trials through AI also represents a noteworthy advancement [2]. By employing sophisticated machine learning algorithms, trial designers can refine study protocols and enhance participant recruitment strategies. This optimization not only helps to streamline trial operations but also shortens the duration of studies, enabling faster access to groundbreaking therapies for patients in need. Additionally, AI plays a crucial role in identifying opportunities for drug repurposing, allowing researchers to uncover new therapeutic applications for existing medications, thereby providing a cost-effective strategy to introduce new treatment options to the marketplace. Moreover, the integration of AI and automation into manufacturing and quality control processes has significant implications for ensuring compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) [17,18]. These technological advancements foster the establishment of resilient and responsive supply chains, guaranteeing that the availability of critical medications remains uninterrupted. The collaboration between AI and emerging technologies such as blockchain and 5G is anticipated to further enhance this implementation, contributing to improved data security, seamless connectivity, and greater operational efficiency across the pharmaceutical sector [24,29,40]. To unlock the full potential of AI in transforming the pharmaceutical landscape, it is crucial for the industry to maintain a sustained emphasis on research, investment, and collaboration [47]. These strategic efforts will undoubtedly pave the way for groundbreaking innovations and establish a more responsive and effective healthcare ecosystem, ultimately driving better health outcomes for individuals and communities worldwide [48].

## Conclusion

AI is transforming the pharmaceutical industry by enhancing drug discovery, clinical trials, and personalized medicine. However, challenges like data quality, transparency, and regulatory compliance need addressing. Collaborative efforts are essential to ensure AI im-

proves patient outcomes and the healthcare ecosystem. AI is likely to become the backbone of human life including the business organizations. AI will reduce the manpower, save time and money and will improve the efficiency and delivery of pharma products. It will also effectively analyse the demand and supply gaps and will facilitate the industry to plan its future strategies in globally competitive market. It will also help the industry in drug design and development.

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ISSN: 2574-1241

DOI: 10.26717/BJSTR.2025.61.009580

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