



# Artificial Intelligence (AI): Drug Design and Formulation

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## Abstract:

The way pharmaceutical companies find, develop, and evaluate new treatments is changing as a result of the combination of AI and machine learning. This method is more accurate and efficient, which not only expedites drug discovery but also raises the likelihood of successful drug approvals. AI-driven formulation design has emerged as a potential technique in recent years to enhance the body's absorption and distribution of medications. AI also has the ability to improve drug distribution, which is essential to guaranteeing that medications go to their targeted locations. One significant benefit of AI-assisted formulation design is the potential to increase drug bioavailability. Many medications have limited distribution choices due to issues like low solubility or stability; however, AI interventions can improve formulations and bring novel delivery techniques like tailored drug administration. By lowering the number of tests required to find the best preparation, collaborating with AI in formulation design speeds up the entire formulation development process and aids in the rapid creation of novel drugs.

**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, Machine learning, Drug Design, Pharmaceutical Industry.

Received: Nov. 10, 2025

Revised: Dec. 19, 2025

Accepted: Jan. 28, 2026

Published: Feb 15, 2026

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.64062/IJPCAT.Vol2.Issue1.1>

<https://ijpcat.com/index.php/1/issue/archive>

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## 1. Introduction

Innovation in the pharmaceutical industry depends on thorough research and development in a number of areas, including manufacturing, packaging, and customer-focused marketing tactics<sup>1</sup>. Artificial intelligence has been more and more prevalent in the pharmaceutical industry over the last five years, radically altering the way that illnesses are treated and new medications are developed<sup>2</sup>. These algorithms, which offer a set of guidelines for computation and problem-solving, are essential for organizing the AI architecture for various businesses. Due to rising demand, decreased efficacy, toxicity issues, and unfavorable side effects, traditional medication

delivery techniques have encountered difficulties<sup>3</sup>. New drug delivery systems are being developed to get around these limitations and suit the demands of the medical business<sup>4</sup>. There is a considerable lag between finding promising therapeutic candidates and putting these treatments into clinical settings with traditional drug development techniques<sup>5</sup>, which are marked by high expenses, labor intensity, and long lead times<sup>6</sup>. AI's accuracy has made it feasible to create more precise and effective medication delivery systems<sup>7</sup>, which could completely transform the medical industry<sup>8</sup>.

AI integration has the potential to drastically alter pharmaceutical supply chain processes<sup>9</sup>. To create actual keys for a variety of source-restraint experiments, it combines many AI research initiatives from recent eras<sup>10</sup>.

One significant benefit of AI-assisted formulation design is the potential to increase drug bioavailability. Pharmacokinetics is the study of how medications flow through the body and includes ideas such as administration, bioavailability, clearance, and distribution, or ABCD in pharmacokinetics. Distribution measures a drug's reach within the body's fluid compartments after absorption; clearance focuses on removing active medications from the bloodstream; and administration concerns dosage and delivery<sup>11</sup>.

### 1.1. Using AI in Drug Discovery

Drug discovery is a challenging endeavour that usually requires billions of dollars of funding. AI technologies, particularly machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL), have become efficient tools for speeding the process. They enable the generation of novel chemical structures, prediction of drug likeness, and evaluation of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties<sup>12</sup>. Furthermore, AI significantly reduces money and time by combing the omics-data such as proteomics, metabolomics, and genomes to identify therapeutic leads with high accuracy.

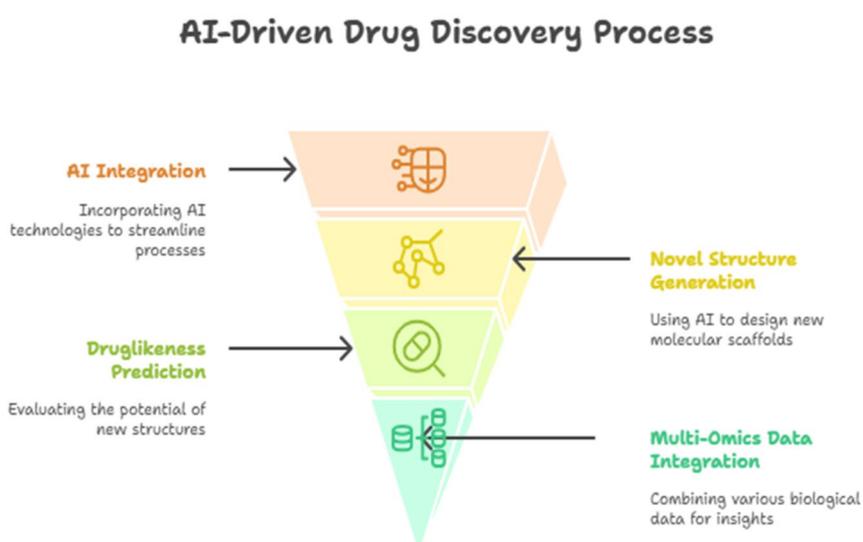
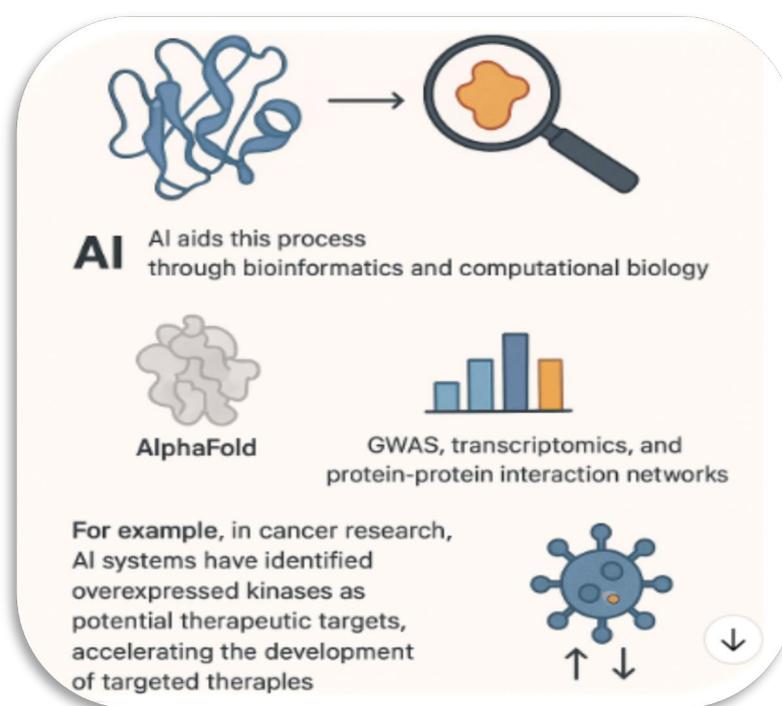


Figure 1: AI/ML in the drug discovery process

Target identification is the foundational step in drug design, as it involves determining the biological molecule (such as a protein, enzyme, receptor, or nucleic acid) responsible for the disease. AI aids this process through bioinformatics and computational biology<sup>13</sup>. Tools like AlphaFold, developed by DeepMind, predict three-dimensional protein structures with remarkable accuracy, facilitating the identification of binding sites. AI also analyzes

### 1.2 Identification of the Target by Using AI in cancer treatment

data from Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS), transcriptomics, and protein-protein interaction networks to establish disease-gene relationships. For example, in cancer research,



**Figure 2: Identification of the Target: Enhancement of Potential Drugs**

AI systems have identified overexpressed kinases as potential therapeutic targets, accelerating the development of targeted therapies<sup>14</sup>.

Once a lead compound is identified, optimization becomes necessary to enhance its therapeutic value. AI-driven QSAR models predict how structural modifications impact biological activity. Moreover, AI platforms forecast important ADME parameters, thereby reducing the likelihood of late-stage failures<sup>15</sup>. Generative AI algorithms further refine molecules by suggesting modifications to improve effectiveness, property, and safety profiles<sup>16</sup>.

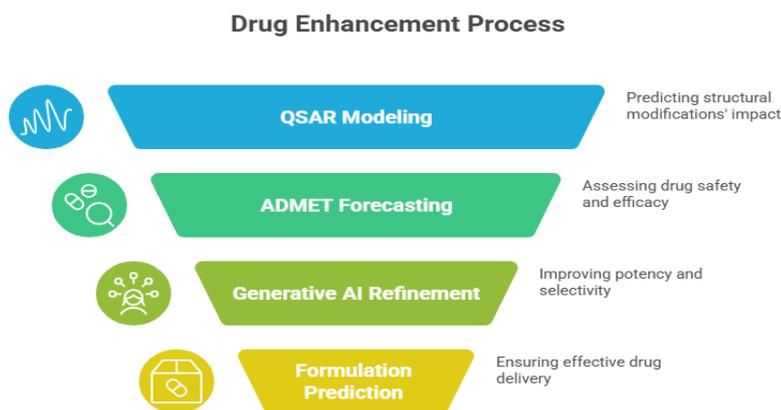


Figure 3: Drug enhancement process

Additionally, in the domain of formulation, AI predicts excipient compatibility, stability, and bioavailability, ensuring the delivery of drugs in an effective and patient-friendly manner.

### 1.3 Repurposing Drugs

Finding new therapeutic applications for already approved medications is known as drug repurposing. This approach is highly valuable as it bypasses early safety testing, thereby saving both time and resources<sup>17</sup>. AI helps by sifting through clinical trial data, electronic health records, biological literature to find previously undiscovered connections between medications and illness. Similarity-based models compare the structural fingerprints of known drugs with novel disease targets, while network-based approaches explore drug–target–disease interactions. A real example discovered was baricitinib, which was first created to treat rheumatoid arthritis and may be used to treat COVID-19. Similarly, thalidomide, once withdrawn due to adverse effects, has been repurposed for multiple myeloma treatment.

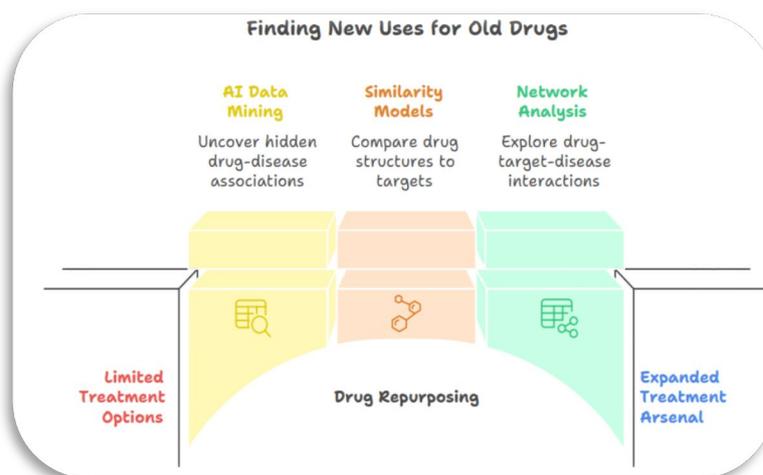


Figure 4: Repurposing of Drugs by using AI/ML

### 1.4 Screening Virtually

A computational technique called virtual screening assesses sizable libraries of chemicals to find possible therapeutic candidates. AI enhances this process by applying predictive models for ligand–target binding affinities. There are two major approaches: ligand-based screening, which compares new molecules with known actives, and structure-based screening, which relies on protein-ligand docking simulations<sup>18</sup>. Deep learning models accelerate docking studies by predicting binding energies with high accuracy, enabling the screening of billions of molecules within a short period. Companies such as Atom wise and Benevolent AI have successfully applied these methods, with Atom wise identifying potential Ebola inhibitors in a fraction of the time required by conventional approaches.

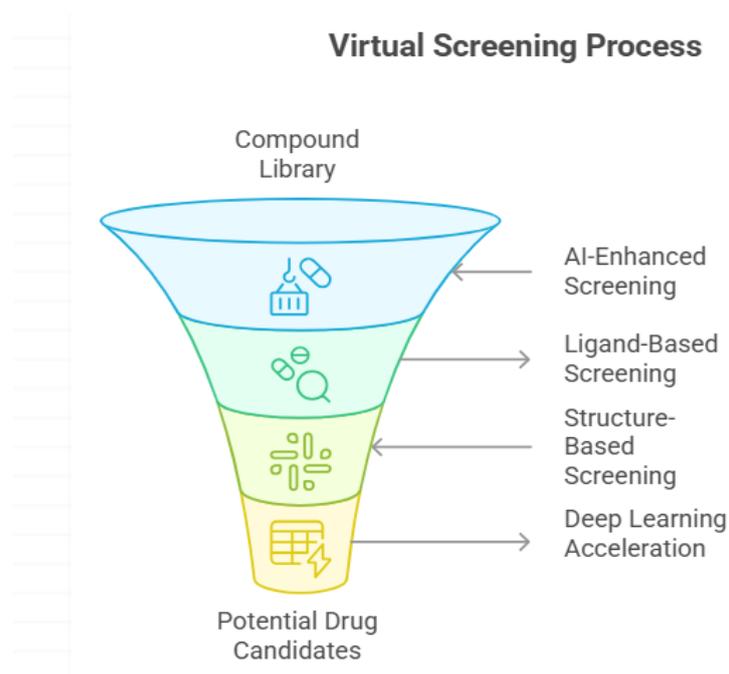


Figure 5: Virtual screening of Drugs by using AI/ML

Table 1. List of commonly used AI models in the Pharmaceutical Industry

S.no	AI/Machine Learning Models	Applications
1	Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)	In order to create new chemical systems and optimise their habitats GANs are widely used in the creation of pharmaceutical products <sup>19</sup> .
2	Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)	CNNs work well for photo based truthful commitments, which incorporates studying molecular systems and figuring out functionality drug dreams <sup>20</sup> .
3	Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)	RNNs are typically employed for collection-based tasks in drug development, such as peptide sequence design, protein structure design and genomic information reading <sup>21</sup> .

4	Deep Q-Networks (DQNs)	By forecasting the hobbies of compounds and recommending candidates with excessive functionally for additional testing DQNs-a combination of deep analysis and reinforcement learning have been utilised to optimise drug development methodologies <sup>22</sup> .
5	Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)	GNNs are made to handle graph-based data, they can be used for drug discovery tasks involving molecular systems. They are capable of anticipating molecular graphs and providing useful resources in de novo drug format and virtual screening <sup>23</sup> .

## 2. Applications of AI/ML

1. Adversarial GANs in order to create new chemical systems and optimize their properties, GANs are heavily used in the creation of pharmaceutical products.

2. CNNs, or convolutional neural networks CNNs are useful for photo-based honesty tasks, like as analyzing molecular systems and determining how well drugs work.

3. In drug development, RNN commonly employed for collection-based tasks like collecting genetic information and identifying protein structures.

4. DQNs have been used to enhance drug discovery techniques by combining deep analysis and learning to predict drug hobbies.

5. GNNs, or graph neural networks Because GNNs are made to handle graph-based data, they can be used for drug discovery tasks involving molecular systems. They are capable of anticipating houses, versioning molecular graphs, and providing useful resources in de novo drug format and virtual screening.

## 3. AI in drug formulation and delivery

One type of AI-assisted drug transport device that is employed to enhance drug compositions is machine learning algorithms. To forecast the right components for a given medication, device analysis algorithms can be trained on extensive data sets of drug behaviour. Convolutional and recurrent neural networks are two deep learning methods that have been effectively used in the pharmaceutical sciences. Researchers can comprehend capacity hazards and demanding conditions associated with medication transport architectures early in the development system by using the appropriate set of AI tools. This makes it possible to make proactive modifications and tweaks to reduce risks and improve drug efficacy on average.

The likelihood of unexpected findings is decreased by using AI and computer modelling instead of costly and time-consuming trial-and-error tests.

**Table 2. List of commonly explored AI models in pharmaceutical product development.**

S.no	AI/Machine Learning Models	Applications
1	Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs)	Drug launch kinetics from unique dosage workplace work have been modelled and optimized using artificial neural networks (ANNs). They can help in identifying pinnacle-excellent formulations and are watching for the release conduct of energetic pharmaceutical factors (APIs) underneath numerous situations <sup>27</sup> .
2	Response Surface Methodology (RSM)	RSM is a statistical technique that enables the optimisation of dosage form formulations by modelling and the interpretation of the relationship between a few variables and how they affect the reactions of additives. It helps with statics and technique parameter optimisation <sup>24</sup> .
3	Support Vector Machines (SVMs)	In order to anticipate and model interaction between additive variables, as well as excipient composition, processing parameters. SVMs were used in dose shape optimisation <sup>25</sup> .
4	Genetic Algorithms	Genetic algorithms optimisation methods that draw inspiration from genetics and herbal preferences. They can be used to improve approach characteristics, medication profiles and procedure formulations in order to support preferred dose, shape advancements <sup>26</sup> .

#### 4. Applications of AI/Machine Learning Models

1. One ANNs, or artificial neural networks Drug launch kinetics from unique dosage workplace work have been modelled and optimized using artificial neural networks (ANNs). They can help choose formulations that are of the greatest calibre by keeping an eye on how APIs release under different circumstances<sup>27</sup>.

2. By simulating and interpreting the relationship between a few factors and how they impact additive reactions, RSM is a statistical technique that makes it possible to optimise dosage form formulations. It aids in the optimisation of procedure parameters and statics.

3. SVMs, or support vector machines in order to anticipate and model interactions between additive variables, as well as excipient composition, processing parameters, and drug launch patterns, SVMs were used in dose shape optimization. They are a useful resource for vicinity component format optimization.

4. Algorithms with Genetics, Genetic algorithms are optimization methods that draw inspiration from genetics and herbal preferences. They can be used to improve approach characteristics, medication launch profiles, and procedure formulations in order to support preferred dose shape advancements.

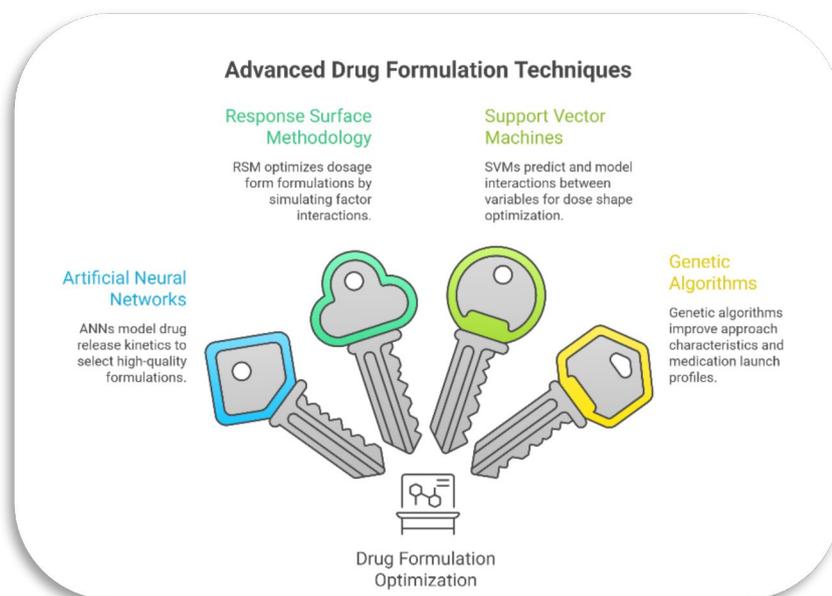


Figure 5: Advanced Drug Formulation Techniques

## 5. Conclusion

The format of AI-assisted components offers a viable method for enhancing medication distribution and absorption. AI can enhance recovery efficacy by allowing existing shipping methods and optimizing formulas. As the era progresses, it is anticipated that AI-assisted tool layout will become a more significant tool for pharmaceutical company agencies. By learning algorithms, researchers can discover amazing formulations with improved drug transport and bioavailability more quickly and effectively than they could by employing traditional trial-and-error methods. Additionally, this may improve the affected character—specifically, inexperienced medicine therapies that ultimately have decorative implications. Additionally, AI-assisted machine layout speeds up the drug development process by identifying new medication candidates, determining efficacy, and expanding formulations.

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