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AI Could Cure Every Disease Within 10 Years, Nobel Prize Winner Predicts

By bestfolkmedicine · 24/10/2026 · 10 min read



From cancer to Alzheimer's disease, Nobel Prize-winning scientist Demis Hassabis believes artificial intelligence could revolutionize medicine within the next decade. And one extraordinary scientific breakthrough suggests this future may be closer than we think.

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What if cancer was no longer a life-threatening diagnosis? What if Alzheimer's disease could be stopped before it steals someone's memories? What if scientists could develop life-saving

medications in weeks instead of spending a decade searching for answers?

It sounds like science fiction. But one of the world's most influential scientists believes artificial intelligence could help turn some of these possibilities into reality.

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Sir Demis Hassabis, CEO and co-founder of Google DeepMind and a recipient of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, has made a remarkable prediction: AI could eventually help humanity cure most, perhaps even all, diseases.

In an interview with CBS's *60 Minutes* in 2025, Hassabis suggested that such a breakthrough might be within reach in approximately the next decade.

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His optimism is not based on imagination alone. His team has already achieved something that scientists spent more than 50 years trying to accomplish.

And the implications for modern medicine could be enormous.

The Scientific Breakthrough That Changed Everything

To understand why Hassabis is so optimistic, we need to look at one of the greatest biological breakthroughs of the modern era: **AlphaFold**.

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For decades, scientists struggled with an extraordinarily complicated problem.

Proteins are essential building blocks of life. They regulate chemical reactions, support our immune system, maintain tissues, and influence almost every biological process in the human body.

But proteins are not simply strings of molecules.

They fold into incredibly complex three-dimensional shapes, and those shapes largely determine how they function.

Understanding these structures is essential for studying diseases and developing medicines.

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Unfortunately, determining the structure of even a single protein could require months or years of painstaking laboratory work.

Then artificial intelligence changed the equation.

Google DeepMind developed AlphaFold, an AI system capable of predicting protein structures with remarkable accuracy.

In 2022, DeepMind and its research partners made predictions for more than **200 million protein structures** available to the scientific community.

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It was an achievement that would have seemed almost impossible just a few years earlier.

Suddenly, researchers worldwide could access an enormous collection of predicted biological structures without having to determine each one experimentally.

The breakthrough earned Hassabis and fellow researcher John Jumper a share of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

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However, AlphaFold does not mean scientists have solved every biological mystery. Protein predictions still require scientific interpretation, and experimental validation remains crucial.

Nevertheless, the achievement demonstrated how dramatically AI could accelerate scientific discovery.

Could AI Really Help Cure Cancer?

Cancer is not one disease.

It is a collection of hundreds of diseases involving abnormal cell growth, genetic mutations, immune system interactions, and complex biological processes.

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That complexity is one reason developing effective treatments can be so difficult.

Artificial intelligence may help researchers attack cancer from several directions.

1. Discovering new drug targets

AI can help scientists identify proteins and molecular pathways involved in cancer growth, potentially revealing vulnerabilities that new medications could target.

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2. Accelerating drug development

Machine-learning systems can analyze enormous numbers of molecular structures and predict which compounds may interact with disease-related proteins.

This could help researchers prioritize promising candidates before expensive laboratory testing begins.

3. Improving personalized treatment

Different patients can respond very differently to the same cancer treatment.

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AI may help analyze genetic information, pathology images, and clinical data to support more individualized treatment decisions.

4. Supporting earlier detection

AI-assisted medical imaging is already being investigated and used in certain clinical settings to help identify suspicious abnormalities.

Earlier detection can improve treatment opportunities for several cancers.

Yet an important distinction remains: **accelerating cancer research is not the same as discovering a universal cancer cure.**

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Cancer's enormous biological diversity means that progress is likely to happen through multiple treatments and advances rather than one miracle drug.

What About Alzheimer's Disease?

Alzheimer's disease is another area where AI could potentially transform medical research.

The condition gradually damages brain cells, affecting memory, reasoning, behavior, and eventually the ability to perform everyday activities.

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Despite decades of research, there is still no cure.

Scientists know that Alzheimer's involves several interacting processes, including abnormal protein accumulation, inflammation, and damage to neurons.

Two proteins are particularly important: amyloid-beta and tau.

AI tools such as AlphaFold can help researchers investigate the structures of proteins and their interactions, potentially improving our understanding of disease mechanisms.

Other AI systems may help identify subtle changes in brain scans, analyze biological markers, or discover molecules worth testing as potential treatments.

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Researchers are also exploring whether AI can improve the identification of people at risk before significant cognitive decline develops.

That could be particularly valuable because interventions may be more effective when introduced early.

However, predicting protein structures alone cannot explain every aspect of Alzheimer's, and a reliable cure has not yet emerged.

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The promise is substantial, but the science remains challenging.

From 10 Years to Weeks: The Drug Discovery Revolution

Perhaps the most exciting part of Hassabis's vision is how AI might change the speed of medical innovation.

Developing a new medication can take approximately 10–15 years, sometimes longer.

The process typically involves identifying a biological target, discovering promising compounds, testing safety, conducting clinical trials, and obtaining regulatory approval.

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Many experimental medicines fail along the way.

Hassabis believes AI could dramatically shorten important stages of this process.

Instead of spending years screening potential drug candidates, researchers may increasingly use computational models to narrow down promising molecules much faster.

In some cases, early drug-design tasks that once required months or years could potentially be completed in weeks.

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That does not mean a completely new medication can automatically be developed, clinically tested, and approved within weeks.

Human clinical trials, long-term safety monitoring, manufacturing, and regulatory review remain essential.

But even reducing the early discovery phase could make an enormous difference.

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Faster research could translate into more treatment candidates, lower development costs in some areas, and better opportunities to investigate diseases that currently receive limited scientific attention.

The Next Frontier: AI-Designed Medicines

Google DeepMind’s influence on medicine extends beyond AlphaFold.

Hassabis also founded Isomorphic Labs, a company focused on applying advanced artificial intelligence to drug discovery.

The underlying idea is ambitious: use AI to understand biological systems and design promising medicines more efficiently.

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Traditional drug development often involves extensive trial and error.

Researchers identify a promising molecule, test it, modify its structure, and repeat the process.

AI could help make this process more informed by predicting how molecules might behave or interact with their biological targets.

Imagine a system that can analyze a disease-related protein, identify potential binding sites, and suggest molecular designs for researchers to test.

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That is the direction AI-assisted drug discovery is moving.

Although these systems are not substitutes for laboratory experiments or clinical evidence, they could become powerful partners for biomedical scientists.

Could AI Help Fight Diseases Beyond Cancer?

The potential applications extend far beyond cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers are investigating AI across numerous areas of medicine.

Antibiotic-resistant infections

Antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most serious public health threats.

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AI can help scientists search chemical databases for compounds with antibacterial properties and investigate potential new mechanisms of action.

This could support the discovery of treatments against infections that no longer respond to common antibiotics.

Rare genetic diseases

Thousands of rare genetic conditions have limited treatment options.

AI may help researchers understand disease-associated mutations, identify abnormal protein behavior, and discover potential therapeutic targets.

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For patients who have spent years searching for answers, faster diagnosis and targeted research could be life-changing.

Autoimmune diseases

Conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and multiple sclerosis involve complex interactions within the immune system.

AI-assisted analysis may help researchers better understand those interactions and identify pathways for more precise treatments.

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Cardiovascular disease

Machine learning can support research into heart disease, including risk prediction, medical-image analysis, and the development of targeted therapies.

These applications demonstrate an important point: AI does not need to cure every disease to create an extraordinary improvement in human health.

Even breakthroughs affecting a fraction of today's major illnesses could save countless lives.

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But Can Every Disease Really Be Cured in 10 Years?

This is where optimism must meet scientific reality.

Hassabis has expressed genuine confidence that AI could eventually help humanity overcome most diseases.

However, his statements are predictions about future possibilities, not guarantees that every disease will be cured by a specific date.

There are several reasons experts remain cautious.

First, diseases are extraordinarily complex. Some involve multiple genetic, environmental, infectious, and lifestyle factors.

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Second, understanding a disease does not automatically produce a cure. Researchers must still establish whether a proposed treatment works safely in humans.

Third, AI models can make mistakes. Predictions can be inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading without experimental verification.

Fourth, healthcare access remains a major challenge. Even when effective treatments exist, affordability, medical infrastructure, and unequal access can prevent patients from receiving them.

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Finally, some conditions involving irreversible tissue damage may remain difficult to cure even if their underlying causes become better understood.

Scientists may make extraordinary progress over the coming decade without eliminating every disease.

The more realistic expectation is that AI will accelerate discoveries, improve diagnosis, and contribute to new treatments across multiple medical specialties.

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Why This Breakthrough Is Bigger Than One Technology

What makes the current AI revolution particularly significant is not simply the speed at which computers process information.

It is their increasing ability to recognize complicated biological patterns that humans struggle to analyze manually.

Modern biomedical research generates enormous quantities of data.

Genetic sequences, protein structures, medical images, electronic health records, and laboratory findings contain information that may reveal important disease mechanisms.

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AI can help scientists investigate relationships within these datasets, generate hypotheses, and identify promising research directions.

But meaningful scientific progress still depends on human expertise.

Doctors, laboratory scientists, clinical researchers, and public health professionals must determine whether AI-generated insights are accurate, useful, and safe.

The most promising future is therefore not one in which machines replace medical professionals.

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It is one in which AI gives researchers and clinicians better tools to solve difficult problems.

A Future Where Diseases Are Treated Before They Become Dangerous

Consider what medicine could look like if these technologies continue to advance.

A routine medical assessment might identify patterns associated with disease long before noticeable symptoms appear.

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Scientists might use AI to develop targeted treatments against previously untreatable genetic disorders.

Cancer therapies could become more precise, reducing unnecessary damage to healthy tissues.

Researchers might identify new ways to slow or prevent neurodegenerative conditions.

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New antibiotics could help address infections that currently threaten modern healthcare.

None of these outcomes is guaranteed, and many depend on research that has not yet been completed.

Still, they illustrate why Hassabis and other scientists are investing so heavily in AI-driven biology.

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The objective is not simply to develop smarter computers.

It is to use computational intelligence to deepen our understanding of life itself.

The Bottom Line: Are We Entering the Greatest Medical Revolution in History?

For centuries, humans have searched for ways to overcome diseases that cause suffering, disability, and premature death.

Vaccines, antibiotics, medical imaging, and modern surgical techniques have already transformed life expectancy and healthcare.

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Artificial intelligence could become another defining chapter in that history.

Demis Hassabis has good reason to believe this technology may dramatically accelerate scientific progress.

AlphaFold has already demonstrated that AI can help solve scientific problems once considered extraordinarily difficult.

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But the claim that every disease will disappear within the next decade remains an ambitious forecast, not an established scientific conclusion.

The greatest achievement of AI may not be finding one universal cure.

It may be helping scientists discover thousands of new solutions to diseases that medicine has struggled to treat for generations.

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And that raises one fascinating question: If AI could help scientists cure just one major disease within the next 10 years, which would you want them to tackle first — cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, or heart disease?

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