# RB Weekly AI Brief - Issue 9 - 03.06.2026

*Covering the week of 03.06.2026 · Issue 9 of the RB Weekly AI Brief*

*Recurring themes: Regulatory & HTA Signals (3 of last 4 issues) · Regulation & Policy (3 of last 4 issues) · Healthcare & Life Sciences (3 of last 4 issues) · Models & Research (3 of last 4 issues)*

## AI News Roundup

### Regulatory & HTA Signals

*No qualifying HTA news items identified this week. This section requires stories from official HTA body sources or specialist health policy outlets — general AI regulation stories are excluded.*

### Regulation & Policy

**RAPS: EU AI Act Adds Second Compliance Layer for AI Medical Devices**

The Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society reported this week that the European Commission's draft high-risk classification guidelines explicitly confirm AI-enabled medical devices and IVDs are automatically high-risk under Annex III where a notified body is required. The guidelines layer AI Act requirements on top of existing MDR and IVDR obligations rather than replacing them. A provisional Digital Omnibus agreement further allows the Commission to pass delegated acts that could eliminate redundant requirements where MDR/IVDR already mandates the same standards. Stakeholder consultation on the classification guidelines remains open until 23 June 2026.

***So what?*** *Regulatory affairs and market access teams in pharma and medtech must now plan for dual compliance tracks — AI Act plus MDR/IVDR — and begin gap analyses of technical documentation, with the window to influence final guidance closing 23 June 2026.*

*RAPS*

### Healthcare & Life Sciences

**Nature Publishes Robin: AI Autonomously Discovers Blindness Drug Candidate**

Published in Nature, May 2026 — featured here as a news story given its landmark significance for AI-autonomous drug discovery and its direct implications for HTA evidence assessment frameworks. A study introduced Robin, a multi-agent AI system developed by FutureHouse described as the first to fully automate hypothesis generation, experimental design, and data analysis in biomedical research end-to-end. Applied to dry age-related macular degeneration, Robin identified ripasudil — a glaucoma drug — as a novel repurposing candidate, analysing 551 scientific papers in approximately 30 minutes versus an estimated 540 hours manually. The entire process from conception to paper submission took 2.5 months, with a 200-fold reduction in scientist time.

***So what?*** *For HEOR and market access professionals, Robin-class systems signal that AI-generated drug candidates will increasingly reach clinical pipelines faster and with novel mechanistic rationales, raising urgent questions about how HTA bodies will assess evidence packages where the discovery pathway was AI-autonomous rather than hypothesis-driven by human scientists.*

*Nature*

### NHS SBS Launches £900m Healthcare AI Solutions Procurement Framework

Published 11 May 2026 — included here given its strategic importance for UK market access. NHS Shared Business Services published a £900 million open framework agreement to serve as the national procurement route for AI across the NHS and wider UK public sector, running from May 2027 to May 2035. The framework covers eight lots including radiology and diagnostic imaging, pathology, predictive analytics, robotics, and operational efficiency, and is explicitly open to SMEs. Supplier submissions are due by 23 June 2026.

***So what?*** *For pharma and healthtech companies with AI-enabled clinical decision support or diagnostic tools, the framework represents the primary route to scaled NHS deployment for the next decade — making framework compliance, including clinical validation, data governance, and interoperability requirements, a prerequisite for serious market access in the UK.*

*Digital Health*

## Models & Research

### Anthropic Releases Claude Opus 4.8 with $65bn Funding Round

Anthropic launched Claude Opus 4.8 on 28 May 2026, its most capable generally available model to date, scoring 74.2% on Terminal-Bench 2.1 and 4.9% higher on SWE-Bench Pro versus its predecessor. The release introduces dynamic workflows in Claude Code — enabling the model to orchestrate hundreds of parallel sub-agents for large-scale tasks — and fast mode running at 2.5x speed at 3x lower cost. Simultaneously, Anthropic announced a $65 billion funding round at a $965 billion valuation, with revenue run rate having more than tripled to $47 billion in the past three months.

***So what?*** *For life sciences organisations building AI pipelines for evidence synthesis, regulatory writing, or HEOR modelling, Opus 4.8's long-horizon agentic capabilities and reduced fast-mode costs lower the barrier to deploying autonomous multi-step workflows that were previously impractical at production scale.*

*Anthropic*

## Academic Paper Summaries

*Selected from PubMed · Published within the last 12 months · New selections each week*

*Domain Paper — HEOR / Health Economics / Market Access*

### Development and performance of female breast cancer incidence risk prediction models: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

*Liu L, Zhou P, Hou L, et al. · Annals of medicine · 2025*

**#ClinicalAI · #Diagnostics · #Genomics**

This large systematic review analysed 144 studies across 27 countries to compare traditional breast cancer risk models against machine learning approaches. Machine learning models outperformed traditional ones, and those combining genetic and imaging data were most accurate, while traditional models performed poorly in non-Western populations. This matters because better risk prediction tools can improve early detection strategies and inform more equitable, personalised screening programmes globally.

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| **PMID:** 40684451 | PubMed → | DOI → |

*AI Research Paper 1*

### Advancements in artificial intelligence for atopic dermatitis: diagnosis, treatment, and patient management.

*Cao F, Yang Y, Guo C, et al. · Annals of medicine · 2025*

**#ClinicalAI · #PatientOutcomes · #DrugDevelopment**

This review examines how artificial intelligence is being applied across the full care pathway for atopic dermatitis, from image-based diagnosis to personalised treatment planning and clinical trial management. AI-powered deep learning tools show strong ability to identify skin lesions and could accelerate drug development for this common, burdensome condition. For healthcare executives, this signals a near-term opportunity to integrate AI tools into dermatology workflows to improve both efficiency and patient outcomes.

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| **PMID:** 40200717 | PubMed → | DOI → |

*AI Research Paper 2*

### A multimodal vision foundation model for clinical dermatology.

*Yan S, Yu Z, Primiero C, et al. · Nature medicine · 2025*

**#ClinicalAI · #Diagnostics · #Oncology**

Researchers developed PanDerm, a large-scale AI foundation model trained on over 2 million real-world skin disease images from 11 institutions, capable of handling multiple imaging types and clinical tasks simultaneously. In rigorous testing across 28 benchmarks, it outperformed specialist clinicians in early melanoma detection and meaningfully improved diagnostic accuracy for both dermatologists and non-specialists. This represents a significant step toward deployable AI that can extend specialist-level dermatology expertise to settings where it is scarce.

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| **PMID:** 40481209 | PubMed → | DOI → |