

# OpenAI Lands Noam Shazeer as Life-Science AI Advances and Frontier Costs Rise

AI High Signal Digest

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*By AI High Signal Digest • June 18, 2026*

OpenAI made the day's biggest talent move by hiring Noam Shazeer while also pushing deeper into life-science AI with a new benchmark and a lab-validated chemistry result. Meanwhile, Claude Fable 5 reset the price curve for frontier models, and G7 policy discussions moved toward tighter control over model access and hardware.

### Top Stories

*Why it matters: leadership changes, scientific validation, and frontier-model economics all shifted in ways that will shape the next phase of AI competition.*

- **OpenAI hired Noam Shazeer from Google DeepMind.** Shazeer is leaving his VP Engineering / Gemini co-lead role at Google DeepMind to join OpenAI, where the company said he will serve as **lead for architecture research** [1, 2]. He said the move was a difficult decision after work he was proud of at Google [3].
- **OpenAI pushed deeper into life-science AI.** It introduced **LifeSciBench**, built with **173 scientists** and **750 expert-authored tasks** across seven biological research workflows [4]. OpenAI said **GPT-Rosalind** scored above GPT-5.5 across all seven workflows [5]. Separately, OpenAI said **GPT-5.4** helped drive a medicinal chemistry project to a validated experimental result, with improved yields for **88%** of boronic acids and **83%** of sulfonamides tested [6, 7].
- **Claude Fable 5 raised the cost of the frontier.** Artificial Analysis reported **Fable 5** at **60** on its Intelligence Index, ahead of Claude Opus 4.8 at 56 and GPT-5.5 at 55 [8]. It also reported list pricing of **\$10/\$50** per 1M input/output tokens and about **\$6.2K** to run the benchmark suite,

its highest recorded benchmark cost [9, 8].

## Research & Innovation

*Why it matters: today's most useful technical work focused on making agents faster, measuring them in more realistic settings, and extending AI into longitudinal healthcare.*

- **PreAct** turns a computer-use agent's first successful run into a replayable state-machine program, then reuses it without per-step model calls for **8.5x to 13x** faster execution; if the screen no longer matches, control returns to the agent [10].
- **iOSWorld** released a benchmark for personally intelligent phone agents across **26 custom iOS apps** and **133 tasks**. Even with privileged vision+XML access, the strongest frontier model reached only **52%** success [11].
- **Google's AMIE** moved from one-off diagnosis toward longitudinal disease management. In a multi-visit study with patient actors, Google said it reached physician-level performance and scored higher on plan preciseness and guideline alignment [12, 13].

## Products & Launches

*Why it matters: the developer stack is getting more agent-native, with tighter orchestration, routing, and design-to-code loops.*

- **GitHub Copilot app** is now generally available as a home base to pick up tasks, direct agents in parallel, and land PRs [14]. GitHub also said Copilot's **Auto mode** now uses a routing model that weighs reasoning depth, code complexity, debugging difficulty, and tool orchestration needs [15].
- **Cursor** added cloud subagents. Users can launch a subagent in its own cloud VM with `/in-cloud`, keep environments as reusable snapshots, and continue prompting from a phone while agents work in parallel [16, 17, 18].
- **Claude Design** now syncs both ways with **Claude Code**. Anthropic said `/design-sync` can pull a design system into a repo or push builds back to the canvas for further editing [19, 20].

## Industry Moves

*Why it matters: companies are moving from pilot demos to capital allocation, internal deployment, and ecosystem bets.*

- **Block** said its internal **Builderbot** now handles **200,000 operations per day**, merges **1,500 pull requests per week**, and is responsible for **15%** of production code changes; it said work that used to take months now takes days [21].

- **XDOF** announced a **\$70M** raise to build infrastructure for robot foundation models and said it is open-sourcing **ABC-130K**, described as the largest open-source teleoperation dataset [22].
- **OpenAI** committed **\$600,000** to the Rust Foundation and said it is continuing to bet on Rust as the future of systems programming [23, 24].

## Policy & Regulation

*Why it matters: AI governance is shifting from abstract debate to concrete controls over access, hardware, and model release conditions.*

- At the **G7**, Dario Amodei and Demis Hassabis called for a **U.S.-led coalition** to set AI standards and rules; reporting said the proposal included structuring access to frontier models and hardware in a way that excludes China [25, 26].
- U.S. officials told **WIRED** that Anthropic would need to ensure **Table 5** guardrails cannot be circumvented before any rerelease; the same report said security experts do not think that can be done [27].

## Quick Takes

*Why it matters: these smaller updates still show where new capability and infrastructure are appearing next.*

- Midjourney announced a new division called **Midjourney Medical** and shared a technical dive into its **Midjourney Scanner** [28, 29].
- **Grok Imagine Video 1.5** launched with sharper realism, better physics, and faster generations [30].
- Google Cloud introduced the **Open Knowledge Format**, a markdown-and-YAML spec for AI context, and said Knowledge Catalog can ingest it natively [31].
- **GLM-5.2** is now available on Together AI for long-context, tool-heavy agent workloads [32, 33].

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## Sources

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