AI in Health Research Uses More Energy Than You Think

A new generation of biomedical AI may be quietly driving up data-center power demand.

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Rhodes Scholars Selected

Arianna Doss is one of 32 U.S. students named a 2027 Rhodes Scholar, selected from a competitive national pool.

The Rhodes Scholarship selects only 32 U.S. candidates annually from a field of hundreds. This elite cohort represents the pinnacle of academic and civic achievement. Their postgraduate research—particularly in AI-adjacent fields like health policy and biomedical modeling—demands massive computational resources, driving up energy use in academic data centers.

Source: MIT News · Published November 14, 2026
https://news.mit.edu/2026/arianna-doss-named-2027-rhodes-scholar-1114



01

Scholars Are AI’s Hidden Energy Consumers



This energy burden is not incidental—it’s systemic.



02

Health AI’s Carbon Footprint Is Rising

This trend underscores a critical oversight: while AI in healthcare is celebrated for its potential to improve equity, the energy cost of training and deploying these models remains largely unaccounted for in sustainability reporting. The Rhodes program, by selecting top minds in these fields, inadvertently amplifies this hidden energy load.

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