In November 2022, OpenAI debuted ChatGPT, an AI chatbot with an extensive knowledge base and deductive abilities capable of producing natural language responses almost indistinguishable from those written by humans. By January 2023, it had more than 100 million users—an explosive arrival that followed years of research and experimentation. Here we look at a few key milestones along the way. For more on the role of generative AI in scientific publishing, see this month’s cover story (p. 26).

References: optica-opn.org/link/1023-road-to-gpt

Since ChatGPT’s remarkable debut, progress on generative AI has continued rapidly. For example, in March of this year, Google released its generative-AI chatbot Bard, and OpenAI unveiled GPT-4, a multimodal version of its LLM that allows image input as well as text.