

# Focusing on the Interface of Mechatronic Devices in Rehabilitation Applications

H.F. Machiel Van der Loos, PhD

Biomedical Engineer  
Rehabilitation R&D Center  
Palo Alto VA Health Care System

Consulting Associate Professor  
Dept. of Mechanical Engineering  
Stanford University

Faculty Affiliate  
Stanford Center on Biomedical Ethics



# Contents

- ◆ Rehabilitation Robotics Research Projects
  - ◆ Assistive robots
  - ◆ Therapy robots
  - ◆ Well-being mechatronics
- ◆ Combining Engineering and Medicine
- ◆ Where are my interests taking my research?
  - ◆ The human element in design education
  - ◆ Science and technology in society
- ◆ Challenges for the future
  - ◆ Ubiquitous, networked mechatronics
  - ◆ Personal robotics
  - ◆ Ethics of NBIC(+R) technologies

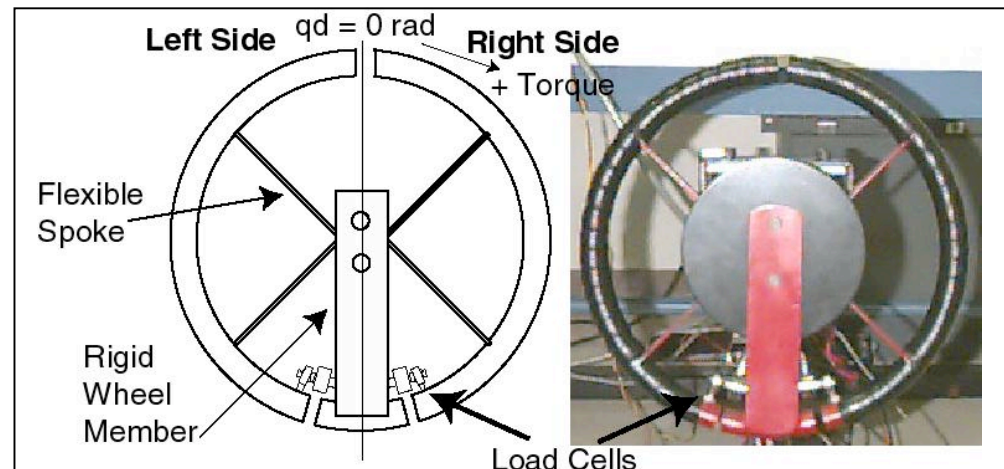


# Recent Research Projects

- **MIME:** therapy robotics: post-stroke, bimanual upper-limb exercise

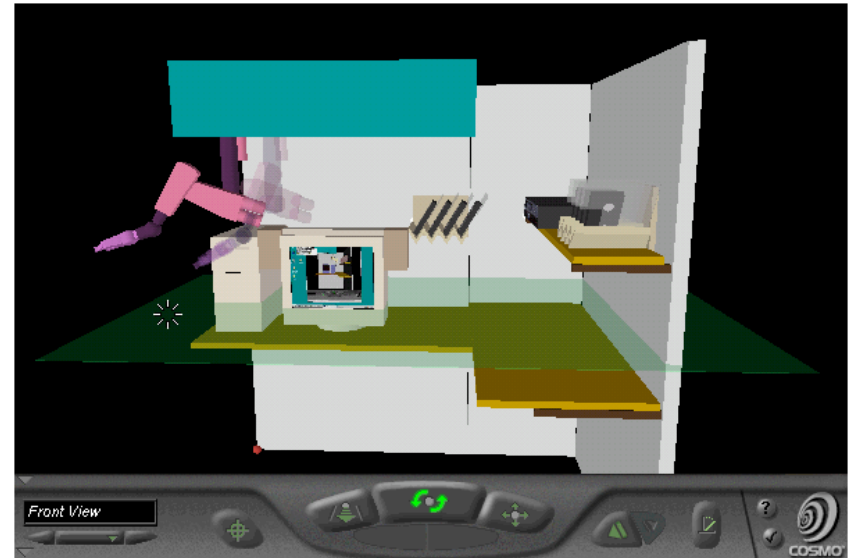


- **Driver's SEAT:** VR-based physical therapy for improved motivation and compliance

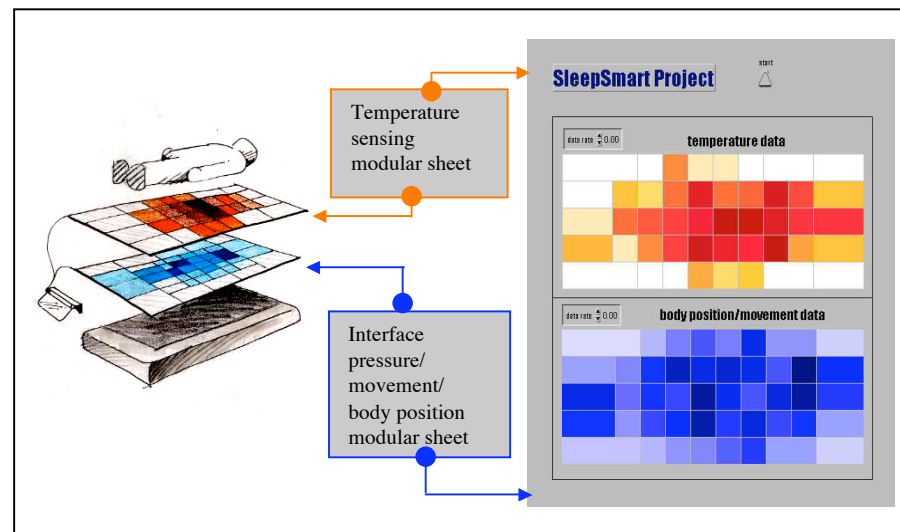


# Recent Research Projects

- **ProVAR:** interface design for an assistive robot to improve the quality of life and independence for people with physical disabilities



- **SleepSmart:** sleep quality improvement through unobtrusive vital signs monitoring and correlation with lifestyle variables



# Ongoing Research Projects

- **Stanford Personal Robotics Program:** create the first integrated hardware and open-source software development platform for Personal Robotics
- **Rehabilitation Haptics:** develop a home-based, bimanual grasp and wrist function device for post-stroke exercise
- **LifeStory:** Developing use scenarios, technologies and applications for ubiquitous personal video



# Challenges for Assistive Technology Development

## University Opportunities for Learning

- Engineering and design methods
- ME Dept. Biomechanics Division
- Bioengineering Department (biodesign, biorobotics)

## Interdisciplinary Research

- physicians
- engineers
- therapists
- human factors experts
- computer scientists
- ...



# Challenges and Outlooks

- Rehabilitation and enhancement technologies of the future
  - direct brain interfaces
  - micro/nano-technologies
  - ubiquitous computing/robotics/networking
- Mainstreaming disability
  - Perspective of well-being in the context of each person's life situation



# Future Avenues

- Bioethics of robotic and NBIC-convergence technologies
- Focus on the education of designers
  - team-based and project-based learning
  - world-aware, distributed design-development teams
  - cross-cultural design of mechatronics devices with user interfaces





# Acknowledgments

VA Palo Alto Health Care System:  
Rehabilitation Research & Development Center  
<http://guide.stanford.edu>

Stanford University:

Center for Design Research: <http://cdr.stanford.edu>  
Design Division and ME310: <http://me310.stanford.edu>  
Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics: <http://scbe.stanford.edu>  
Roboethics: <http://roboethics.stanford.edu>

Email: Mike Van der Loos <vdl at stanford dot edu>

