

Dr. Dennis W. Hong
Virginia Tech, Assistant Professor and Director of Robotics and Mechanisms Laboratory
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"Roll, Crawl, Walk, Climb, and Jump - Robot Locomotion Inspired by Nature and Beyond"

Dennis Hong is an Assistant Professor and the Director of RoMeLa (Robotics & Mechanisms Laboratory) of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Virginia Tech. His research expertise lies in the area of novel robot locomotion mechanisms, design and analysis of mechanical systems, kinematics, and dynamics. He was the inventor of "whole skin locomotion" for mobile robots inspired by amoeboid motility mechanisms, and pioneered in generating and utilizing everting motion for locomotion in soft body robots.

His work on this area was awarded with the prestigious Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2007, the Best Paper Award at the 13th International Conference on Advanced Robotics in 2007, and the Biomimicry Award at the 29th ASME Mechanisms and Robotics Conference in 2005. He also won the Outstanding Assistant Professor award at the College of Engineering in 2007 and the ASPIRES Award in 2004 at Virginia Tech, the ASME Freudenstein/GM Young Investigator Award in 2005, and was selected as a NASA Summer Faculty Fellow at JPL in 2005. Dr. Hong is also the faculty advisor for Virginia Tech's team for RoboCup, and the co-team leader for team VictorTango for the DARPA Urban Challenge where they won third place and the \$500,000 prize. Dr. Hong received his B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1994), his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University (1999, 2002).

Dr. Hong also has a number of patents for novel robot locomotion mechanisms and devices for medical applications.

Please address any questions or cancellations to [Robert Penn](#) [434-832-3358].