INTRODUCTION
168 The social life of robots

NEWS
180 Meet your new co-worker
By J. Bohannon

182 Minds of their own
By R. F. Service

184 Getting a feel for the world
By H. DuRant and J. You

186 Helping robots see the big picture
By J. Bohannon

188 In our own image
By D. Normile

190 Humans need not apply
By H. DuRant and J. You

192 The accidental roboticist
By A. Cho

195 Q&A: Robots and the law
By D. Normile

REVIEW
196 Birobotics: Using robots to emulate and investigate agile locomotion
A. J. Ijspeert

ON THE COVER
Robotics engineer Hiroshi Ishiguro and his mechanical doppelganger “Geminoid.” No matter how uncannily human some of today’s robots may seem, the resemblance is skin deep. An ongoing challenge is endowing robots with the capability to sense their environment and the wits to comprehend it. See page 178. Photo: Osaka University

SEE ALSO
▶ PERSPECTIVE P. 160
▶ REPORT P. 224
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3 RELATED ARTICLES; 8 OCT 2014
▶ SCIENCE CAREERS
▶ WORKING LIFE P. 274
▶ sciencemag.org/special/robotics

NEWS

IN BRIEF
146 Roundup of the week’s news

IN DEPTH
148 STEM CELL RECIPE OFFERS DIABETES HOPE
Researchers coax stem cells into becoming long-sought insulin-producing β cells By G. Vogel

149 THE BRAIN’S GPS FINDS TOP HONOR
Three earn physiology or medicine Nobel for discovering “place” and “grid” cells By E. Underwood

149 PHYSICISTS CHANGE THE LIGHT BULB
Blue LEDs win 2014 physics Nobel By D. Normile

150 A CALL FOR AN NIH YOUTH MOVEMENT
Wariness greets congressman’s proposal to require agency to reduce average age at first grant By J. Kaiser

151 IMAGINING EBOLA’S NEXT MOVE
Scientists look beyond the models to envision how the epidemic might unfold By K. Kupferschmidt

152 CONGRESS, NSF SPAR ON ACCESS TO GRANT FILES
Grantees wonder what science panel will do with private award details By J. Mervis

FEATURES
154 DON’T BLAME THE BEETLES
Beetle-killed trees aren’t necessarily fueling more severe fires in the west By C. Carswell

156 RACING THE THAW
A trove of artifacts is emerging from alpine ice By A. Curry

158 A CALL FOR AN NIH YOUTH MOVEMENT
Wariness greets congressman’s proposal to require agency to reduce average age at first grant By J. Kaiser

159 IMAGINING EBOLA’S NEXT MOVE
Scientists look beyond the models to envision how the epidemic might unfold By K. Kupferschmidt

PERSPECTIVES
160 OF SNAKES AND ROBOTS
How can snakes and robots move up sandy slopes? By J. J. Socha
▶ ROBOTS SECTION P. 178; REPORT P. 224

162 PLANT SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY TAKES ROOT
Applying the basic principles of synthetic biology to plants shows progress By J. I. Medford and A. Prasad

163 ADJUSTING TO THE FERTILITY BUST
What is the best response to declining populations? By T. M. Smeeding
▶ REPORTS PP. 229 & 234

165 CATCHING THE QUANTUM SOUND WAVE
A superconducting qubit built to listen as well as see By R. Ruskov and C. Tahan
▶ RESEARCH ARTICLE P. 207

SPECIAL SECTION
Robots

INSIGHTS

PERSPECTIVES
160 OF SNAKES AND ROBOTS
How can snakes and robots move up sandy slopes? By J. J. Socha
▶ ROBOTS SECTION P. 178; REPORT P. 224

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▶ RESEARCH ARTICLE P. 207