INTRODUCTION
178 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 Biorobotics: Using robots to emulate and investigate agile locomotion
A. J. Ijspeert

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

ON THE COVER
Robotics engineer Hiroshi Ishiguro and his mechanical doppelgänger “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

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

168 Combatting parasitic worms

FEATURES
154 DON’T BLAME THE BEETLES
Beetle-killed trees aren’t necessarily fueling more severe fires in the west
By C. Carswell
157 RACING THE THAW
A trove of artifacts is emerging from alpine ice By A. Curry

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

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
Science 346 (6206), 145-1261739.