

MAJA J. MATARIC', PHD



Dr. Mataric' is a Professor of Computer Science, Neuroscience and Pediatrics at the University of Southern California, founding Director of the USC Center for Robotics and Embedded Systems (cres.usc.edu), Co-Director of the USC Robotics Research Lab (robotics.usc.edu) and Senior Associate Dean for Research in USC's Viterbi School of Engineering. She received her bachelor's in Computer Science from the University of Kansas in 1987, and got a master's degree in Computer Science from MIT, where she later earned her doctorate in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence in 1994. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and recipient of the Okawa Foundation Award, NSF Career Award, the MIT TR100 Innovation Award and the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Early Career Award. She has served as the elected president of the USC faculty and the Academic Senate. At USC, she has been awarded the Viterbi School of Engineering Service Award and Junior Research Award, the Provost's Center for Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship, the Mellon Mentoring Award, the Academic Senate Distinguished Faculty Service Award and a Remarkable Woman Award. She is featured in the science documentary movie "Me & Isaac Newton", in *The New Yorker* ("Robots that Care" by Jerome Groopman, 2009), *Popular Science* ("The New Face of Autism Therapy", 2010), *IEEE Spectrum* ("Caregiver Robots", 2010) and is one of *LA Times Magazine's* 2010 Visionaries. Dr. Mataric' is an associate editor for three major journals and has been published extensively. She serves on a number of advisory boards, including the National Science Foundation/Computing and Information Sciences and Engineering (NSF/CISE) Division Advisory Committee and the Willow Garage and Evolution Robotics scientific advisory boards. She is actively involved in K-12 educational outreach, having obtained federal and corporate grants to develop free, open-source curricular materials for elementary and middle-school robotics courses designed to engage student interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) topics. Her Interaction Lab's research into socially assistive robotics is aimed at endowing robots with the ability to help people through individual non-contact assistance in convalescence, rehabilitation, training and education. Her research is currently developing robot-assisted therapies for children with autism spectrum disorders, stroke and traumatic brain injury survivors, as well as individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Details about her research can be found at <http://robotics.usc.edu/interaction>.