

Dr. Allison Okamura is the Richard W. Weiland Professor of Engineering at Stanford University in the mechanical engineering department and has a courtesy appointment in computer science. She is a founding member of the Stanford Robotics Center, a deputy director of the Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute, and a Science Fellow of the Hoover Institution.

Dr. Okamura has more than thirty years of years of experience in research, teaching, and development of human-centered robotics, including medical robots, soft robots, and wearable robots. She directs the Collaborative Haptics and Robotics in Medicine (CHARM) Laboratory at Stanford, which develops principles and tools needed to realize advanced robotic and human-machine systems capable of haptic (touch) interaction. She has led research projects sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the FBI. Dr. Okamura has also been on the advisory board of companies developing robots for environments ranging from surgical operating rooms to warehouses. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and has been recognized for her leadership through numerous awards, including the 2020 IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society Technical Achievement Award, 2019 IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Distinguished Service Award, and 2016 Duca Family University Fellow in Undergraduate Education.

Dr. Okamura contributed to several iterations of the US Robotics Roadmap, a report that outlines the future of robotics in the United States, including societal drivers, research needs, and challenges. She leads the robotics focus area of the Stanford Emerging Technology Review (SETR), an initiative aiming to elucidate technology breakthroughs and their policy implications. She is also a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Autonomous Systems.