Alqasemi

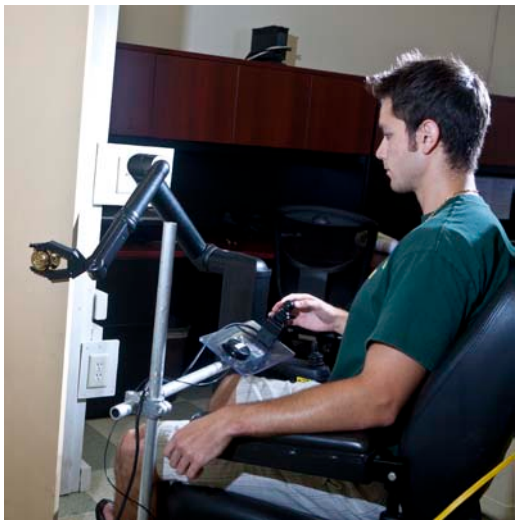
He's the College of Engineering's Robo-Man

Research Professor Redwan Alqasemi is hailed as one of the nation's top mechanical engineers.

Tampa, Fla. (April 20, 2011) – He's been called professor, son, and dad … but Mechanical Engineering Professor Redwan Alqasemi has never been called 'Robo-Man'. Until now.

Alqasemi was recognized by *Inventors Digest* as one of the six most innovative mechanical engineers in the country in the April issue, and they have dubbed him 'Robo-Man'.

Alqasemi, a researcher at the Center for Assistive, Rehabilitation and Robotics Technologies (CARRT) and a research professor, has played an impressive role in some of the more high profile rehabilitation robotics achievements at USF, such as the wheelchair-mounted robotic arm (WMRA).



The WMRA allows people with disabilities to do many activities of daily living that are otherwise difficult or impossible to accomplish. One of his most satisfying projects is the brain-computer interface for the WMRA, which provides persons with severe disabilities (those who need assistance with everyday tasks) a chance for freedom and independent living.

Other projects he is involved with include: using haptics for assisted remote teleoperation of robots; balance prosthesis for fall prevention; wearable sensors to monitor upper extremity motion disorders; robotics-based virtual reality simulation for prescription, training and design of upper extremity prostheses; virtual reality environment for training people with severe disabilities to perform job-related tasks for specific job placement.

In his nomination of Professor Alqasemi, Mechanical Engineering Chair, Rajiv Dubey, said: "*His research and innovation make a big difference in people's lives, especially for those who suffer from physical disabilities and need technology solutions to reduce their suffering.*"

Alqasemi, who received his PhD from USF, has received numerous awards throughout his career, including, Best Showcase Award for FCRAR 2006, Miami, 2006; Center for Rehabilitation Engineering and Technology Award for Promoting Research and Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Tampa, Fla., 2006; Best Application Paper Award, ASME-IMECE, Seattle, 2007.

The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities. It is ranked 44th in total research expenditures and 34th in federal research expenditures for public universities by the National Science Foundation. The USF System has an annual budget of $1.5 billion, an annual economic impact of $3.7 billion, and serves 47,000 students in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland.

– USF –

Janet Gillis
Communications Officer
USF College of Engineering
813-974-3485
janetgillis@usf.edu