MONTHLY FOCUS

Paging Dr Robot

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This month Horizon looks at how robots can help medical professionals. Credit: Shutterstock/ktsdesign

Robots won’t replace doctors any day soon, but they can already help medical professionals do amazing things. This month, Horizon looks at how robots will someday perform remote physical and ultrasound examinations so doctors can make a diagnosis from a distance, and medical avatars for elderly people that help them stay fit and safe. Plus, we see how computer games could make young people lead healthier lifestyles and how to give self-help apps more scientific merit.
Social media peer pressure used to help adolescents live healthier lives

By identifying the most influential kids in small social media circles, researchers can create positive peer pressure that persuades young people to live healthier lives.

A robotic doctor is gearing up for action

A robotic doctor that can be controlled hundreds of kilometres away by a human counterpart is gearing up for action.
Robots offer the elderly a helping hand

Everybody needs a helping hand when they get older – but in years to come that helping hand may be attached to a robotic arm.

Researchers give weight loss apps much needed scientific merit

Half of European adults are either overweight or obese. Many turn to self-help apps as a means to burn excess fat, but despite hundreds of digital tools available very few help maintain a slimmer waistline and few are based on tried and tested science.