

Dialogue 145

**Robots as Caregivers:  
Ethical Challenges for Researchers**

**Jason Borenstein, Ph.D.**  
*Georgia Institute of Technology*

**Noon, Friday, December 7, 2012**  
**RMSB, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium, Medical Campus**

**Robots are commonly used for military purposes, and are becoming increasingly available in the home and in health care settings. The focus of this dialogue is to highlight and discuss some of the ethical issues that researchers might confront while working with children, elders and other populations. One major concern is the appropriateness of using robots to help autistic children build socialization skills. A related ethical issue involves uncertainty surrounding the risk of harm to vulnerable research subjects.**

Dr. Jason Borenstein is the director of Graduate Research Ethics Programs and co-director of the Center for Ethics and Technology at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is editor of the *Journal of Philosophy, Science & Law*, an assistant editor of the journal *Science and Engineering Ethics* and co-editor of the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy's* Ethics and Information Technology section. His research interests include bioethics, engineering ethics, robot ethics and research ethics.

*Dialogues in Research Ethics is a series of monthly conferences. For more information, phone UM Ethics Programs at 305-243-5723 or E-mail [ethics@miami.edu](mailto:ethics@miami.edu).*

**Co-Sponsors:**

- UM Office of Research
- University of Miami Hospital
- Jackson Health System
- UMHC / Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
- UHealth / University of Miami Health System
- VA Healthcare System