

Dr. Tohru Yagi Biosketch



Biomedical engineering and vision is the main focus of Dr. Yagi's research. He has conducted research on [a visual prosthesis](#), which is an artificial organ to restore the sight of blind patients with electrical stimulation to the visual nervous system. A second focus is [human interface](#) using biological signals such as EOG (electrooculogram) or EEG (electroencephalogram) for communicating better between a human and a computer. A third focus is a [bio-mimetic robot vision system](#). A more complete list of publications can be obtained in his [curriculum vitae](#).

Dr. Yagi received a Ph.D. degree in Electro-Mechanical Engineering from Nagoya University, Japan, in 1996 and became a postdoctoral fellow at [the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research \(RIKEN\)](#), Japan. He worked at [Nagoya University](#) from 1998 to 2001 as an assistant professor. During this appointment, he commercialized [eye-gaze interface](#) with [SeaStar Corporation](#), and it appeared on the market in 2002. Just before that time, he was invited by NIDEK Co., Ltd. in 2001 to start directing the national

research project of a visual prosthesis under the support of Japanese governmental agency, NEDO (New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization), and completed [the first prototype of the visual prosthesis](#) in 2004. After this, he moved to [the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research \(RIKEN\)](#) as a research scientist. He also held a research position as visiting research scientist at [the University of Tokyo, Research Center fo Advanced Science and Technology](#), from Apr. 2004 to Mar.2005. Since September 2005, he joined the faculty at [Tokyo Institute of Technology](#), Japan. He also had an appointment as a visiting research scientist at RIKEN till 2014. In 2012 and 2013, he was granted [Fulbright visiting scholarship](#) and held the position of visiting scholar at [the Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\)](#), USA. Currently, he is an associate professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan.