



## Healing with Robot Friends: Dr. Shibata & PARO

Meet the adorable baby seal robot, PARO, and hear his story from the inventor himself, Dr. Takanori Shibata

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**WASHINGTON DC, (June 1, 2018)** – The [Japan Information & Culture Center \(JICC\), Embassy of Japan, DC](#), is proud to welcome [Dr. Takanori Shibata](#), a visionary in the field of **Robot Therapy** – a form of treatment that uses robots to promote physical and emotional health in the patients who interact with them. Dr. Shibata will lecture on his creation, an adorable baby seal called PARO, which also happens to be a neurological therapeutic medical device. PARO is a robot designed to help patients with anxiety, pain, depression, stress, loneliness, sleeplessness, dementia, cancer, and PTSD, among other health issues.

Starting with the early stages of the robot's development in 1993, Dr. Shibata will tell the story of PARO: the inspirations and challenges that led to his development, the introduction of the robot to the Japanese market in 2005, and how over the years, over 5000 of these little robot seals have brought joy and healing to patients in health care facilities, hospitals, schools, and homes in more than 30 countries around the world.

Professor Takanori Shibata received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Electronic and Mechanical Engineering from Nagoya University in '89, '91, and '92 respectively. Since 2013, Dr. Shibata has held his current positions of Chief Senior Research Scientist at the Human Informatics Research Institute, **National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)**; Professor at the School of Computing, **Tokyo Institute of Technology**, and Visiting Fellow at **The AgeLab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**. PARO's intended use in hospitals and nursing homes has earned him and his creator a Guinness Book of World Records listing as the World's Most Therapeutic Robot. More recently, in 2017, PARO was awarded the "Best of the Best" by the Argentum in the U.S. Following his talk, Dr. Shibata will be taking questions from the audience.

To register for this this event, please visit: <https://jicc-takanorishibata-lecture.eventbrite.com/?aff=press>