Hugh Herr

Associate Professor, MIT Media Lab

Hugh Herr, who heads the Biomechatronics research group at the MIT Media Lab, is creating bionic limbs that emulate the function of natural limbs. In 2011, *TIME* magazine described Herr as the “Leader of the Bionic Age” because of his revolu­tionary work in the emerging field of biomechatronics – technology that marries human physiology with electro­mechanics.

A double amputee himself, he is responsible for breakthrough advances in bionic limbs that provide greater mobility and new hope to those with physical disabilities. He has also designed his own bionic legs, and the world’s first bionic foot and calf system called the BiOM.

Herr is the author and co-author of over 80 peer-reviewed manuscripts and patents, chronicling the science and tech­nology behind his many innovations. The computer-controlled knee was named one of *TIME* magazine’s Top Ten Inventions in 2004; the robotic ankle-foot prosthesis was named in the same list in 2007. Also in 2007, Herr was presented with the 13th annual Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy and Employment.