Sam Kriegman Curriculum Vitae Tech A293 Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60208 samkriegman.com www.xenobot.group sam.kriegman@northwestern.edu Google Scholar. 1676 citations. H-index: 17. APPOINTMENTS 2022-**Assistant Professor** Department of Computer Science (50%) Department of Mechanical Engineering (25%) Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering (25%) McCormick School of Engineering, Northwestern University 2024-Consultant, Sanooke Toys (spinoff from lab) 2022-Director, Xenobot Lab 2022-Core Faculty, Center for Robotics and Biosystems, Northwestern University Core Faculty, Center for Synthetic Biology, Northwestern University 2022-2022 -Faculty, Applied Physics Graduate Program, Northwestern University 2021-2022 Postdoctoral Fellow, joint w/ Dept. of Biology, Tufts University; Wyss Institute, Harvard University. Advisor: Michael Levin. 2020-2021 Postdoctoral Associate, Dept. of Computer Science, University of Vermont. Advisor: Josh Bongard. 2011-2014 Actuary, Chubb Insurance **EDUCATION** 2016-2020 Ph.D., Computer Science, University of Vermont, USA Design for an Increasingly Protean Machine. Advisor: Josh Bongard 2014–2016 M.S., Statistics, University of Vermont, USA 2006–2010 **B.S.**, Applied Mathematics, Ohio University, USA FUNDING 2024-**NSF FRR** award, \$814,605. Kriegman portion: \$413,909. D Blackiston and S Kriegman Modular biological robots with variable morphology. Schmidt Sciences AI2050 ECF Collaboration Grant, \$30,000. 2024-S Kriegman and D Hadfield-Menell 2024-Berggruen Institute Fellowship, \$56,000 Schmidt Futures AI2050 Early Career Fellowship, \$300,000 2023-

Templeton World Charity Foundation award, \$1,749,983. Kriegman portion: \$286,600.
 PI: J Foster; co-PIs: C Bergstrom, D Krakauer, S Kriegman, M Mitchell, R Rao.
 Building Diverse Intelligences through Compositionality and Mechanism Design

2023–24 **CESR** Seed Grant, \$120,000. Kriegman portion: \$60,000. S Kriegman and R Truby

Sustainable Design and Fabrication of Intelligent Robots

HONORS AND AWARDS _

- 2024 Kavli Fellow, National Academy of Sciences
- 2023 Distinguished Early-Career Investigator Award, International Society for Artificial Life
- 2022 Outstanding Paper of 2021 Award, International Society for Artificial Life
- 2021 The Cozzarelli Prize, National Academy of Sciences Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award, University of Vermont Outstanding Paper of 2020 Award, International Society for Artificial Life Altmetric Top 100, Altmetric
- 2020 Beazley Designs of the Year, The Design Museum
 Top 10 Most Influential BioTech Projects, Project Management Institute
 Computer Science Graduate Award, University of Vermont

ARTICLES

Kriegman's students' names are **bolded** for reference.

- D Matthews, A Spielberg, D Rus, S Kriegman, J Bongard (2023).
 Efficient automatic design of robots.
 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 120(41): e2305180120.
- 11. S Beaulieu, S Kriegman (2023).
 Glamour muscles: why having a body is not what it means to be embodied. *ArXiv Preprint*, arXiv:2307.08598
- D Blackiston, S Kriegman, J Bongard, M Levin (2023).
 Biological Robots: Perspectives on an Emerging Interdisciplinary Field.
 Soft Robotics, 10.1089/soro.2022.0142.
- 9. D Kudithipudi, M Aguilar-Simon, J Babb, M Bazhenov, D Blackiston, J Bongard, AP Brna, S Chakravarthi Raja, N Cheney, J Clune, A Daram, S Fusi, P Helfer, L Kay, N Ketz, Z Kira, S Kolouri, JL Krichmar, S Kriegman, M Levin, S Madireddy, S Manicka, A Marjaninejad, B McNaughton, R Miikkulainen, Z Navratilova, T Pandit, A Parker, PK Pilly, S Risi, TJ Sejnowski, A Soltoggio, N Soures, AS Tolias, D Urbina-Melendez, FJ Valero-Cueva, GM van de Ven, JT Vogelstein, F Wang, R Weiss, A Yanguas-Gil, X Zou, H Siegelmann (2022). Biological underpinnings of lifelong learning machines. Nature Machine Intelligence, 4(3): 196-210.
- S Kriegman, D Blackiston, M Levin, J Bongard (2021).
 Kinematic self-replication in reconfigurable organisms.
 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 118(49): e2112672118.

7. D Blackiston, E Lederer, S Kriegman, S Garnier, J Bongard, M Levin (2021). A cellular platform for the development of synthetic living machines. *Science Robotics*, 6(52): eabf1571.

D Shah, J Powers, L Tilton, S Kriegman, J Bongard, R Kramer-Bottiglio (2021).
 A soft robot that adapts to environments through shape change.
 Nature Machine Intelligence, 3(10): 51-59.

 D Shah, B Yang, S Kriegman, M Levin, J Bongard, R Kramer-Bottiglio (2020). Shape Changing Robots: Bioinspiration, Simulation, and Physical Realization. Advanced Materials, 33(19): 2002882.

4. S Kriegman, D Blackiston, M Levin, J Bongard (2020).

A scalable pipeline for designing reconfigurable organisms.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 117(4): 1853-1859.

(A perspective article on this work by P. Ball can be found here.)

3. S Kriegman (2019).

Why virtual creatures matter.

Nature Machine Intelligence, 1(10): 492.

2. S Kriegman, N Cheney, J Bongard (2018).

How morphological development can guide evolution.

Scientific Reports, 8(1): 13934.

1. F Corucci, N Cheney, S Kriegman, J Bongard, C Laschi (2017). Evolutionary developmental soft robotics as a framework to study intelligence and adaptive behavior. *Frontiers in Robotics and AI*, 4: 34.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS ____

14. L Strgar, D Matthews, T Hummer, S Kriegman (2024).

Evolution and learning in differentiable robots.

Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)

13. T Hummer, S Kriegman (2024).

A non-cubic space-filling modular robot.

Intl. Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)

12. M Li, D Matthews, S Kriegman (2024).

Reinforcement learning for freeform robot design.

Intl. Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)

11. S Kriegman, A-M Nasab, D Blackiston, H Steele, M Levin, R Kramer-Bottiglio, J Bongard (2021). Scale invariant robot behavior with fractals.

Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 10.15607/RSS.2021.XVII.059

10. J Powers, R Grindle, S Kriegman, L Frati, N Cheney, J Bongard (2020).

Morphology dictates learnability in neural controllers.

Artificial Life Conference (ALife), 52-59.

9. S Kriegman, A-M Nasab, D Shah, H Steele, G Branin, M Levin, J Bongard, R Kramer-Bottiglio (2020). Scalable sim-to-real transfer of soft robot designs.

Intl. Conference on Soft Robotics (RoboSoft), 359-366, 10.1109/RoboSoft48309.2020.9116004.

D Matthews, S Kriegman, C Cappelle, J Bongard (2019). Word2vec to behavior: morphology facilitates the grounding of language in machines. Intl. Conf. on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 4153-4160, 10.1109/IROS40897.2019.8967639.

S Kriegman, S Walker, D Shah, M Levin, R Kramer-Bottiglio, J Bongard (2019). Automated shapeshifting for function recovery in damaged robots. Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 10.15607/RSS.2019.XV.028

(A perspective article on this work by H. Hauser can be found here.)

S Beaulieu, S Kriegman, J Bongard (2018). Combating catastrophic forgetting with developmental compression. Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO), 386-393, 10.1145/3205455.3205615.

S Kriegman, N Cheney, F Corucci, J Bongard (2018). Interoceptive robustness through environment-mediated morphological development. Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO), 109-116, 10.1145/3205455.3205529.

J Powers, S Kriegman, J Bongard (2018). The effects of morphology and fitness on catastrophic interference. Artificial Life Conference (ALife), 606-613.

S Kriegman, C Cappelle, F Corucci, A Bernatskiy, N Cheney, J Bongard (2017). Simulating the evolution of soft and rigid-body robots. Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO), 1117-1120, 10.1145/3067695.3082051.

S Kriegman, N Cheney, F Corucci, J Bongard (2017). A minimal developmental model can increase evolvability in soft robots. Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO), 131-138, 10.1145/3071178.3071296.

S Kriegman, M Szubert, J Bongard, C Skalka (2016). Evolving spatially aggregated features from satellite imagery for regional modeling. Parallel Problem Solving from Nature (PPSN), 707-716.

PATENTS

pending "Three-dimensional construction blocks with configuration-invariant attachment". Prov. Pat. No. 63/618,628 pending "Efficient automatic design of physical machines with moving parts". Provisional Patent No. 63/486,413 2022 "Engineered multicellular ciliated organisms and the kinematic self-replication thereof". US20220220437A1

"Engineered multicellular organisms". US20230235296A1 2021

SERVICE

- 2023-Program committee member, Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO).
- Program committee member, Conference on Artificial Life (ALIFE). 2022 -
- 2022 Co-organizer, CD-SoRo (computational design of soft robots) workshop, IROS conference. Kyoto, Japan.
- 2019–22 Co-developer, Voxcraft: a low-cost, open-source soft robot kit for ages 12+
- 2017-22 Co-organizer, Virtual Creatures Competition and Workshop.

MEMBERSHIP

- 2022-International Society of Artificial Life (ISAL)
- Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) 2022-
- 2022-Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

REVIEWER Nature Machine Intelligence, Artificial Life, Soft Robotics, IEEE Transactions on Robotics, IEEE Robotics and Automation Magazine, The International Journal of Robotics Research, Frontiers in Robotics and AI, and others... Internal 2022 -PhD Admissions Committee, Dept of Computer Science Graduate Studies Committee, Dept of Mechanical Engineering 2022-TEACHING Design Thinking & Communication (Dsgn 106); enrollment: 16. Median CTEC rating: 4/6 Spring 2024 Winter 2024 Artificial Life (Comp Sci 3/496, Chem Eng 395, Mech Eng 495); enrollment: 32. Median CTEC rating: 5/6 Winter 2023 Artificial Life (Comp Sci 396, Chem Eng 395, Mech Eng 495); enrollment: 128. Median CTEC rating: 4/6 ADVISING **STAFF** David Matthews: Differentiable robots. 2022-2024 PHD's 2024-David Matthews: tbd (Comp Sci). 2024-Zihan Guo: tbd (Mech Eng). 2024-Yiqi Lyu: tbd (Mech Eng). 2023- Luke Strgar: Open-endedness (Comp Sci). 2023-Chen Yu: Modularity (Comp Sci). 2023-Muhan Li: Multi-physics simulation (Comp Sci). 2022 -Tyler Hummer: Space-filling polyhedra (Mech Eng). **MASTERS** 2024-Giovanni Michel: Neuromorphic computing (Electr Eng). 2024-Jing Gu: Sim2real transfer (Comp Sci). 2023-Lingji Kong: Generative design (Comp Sci). 2023-24 Isabel Zhong: Sim2real transfer (Biomedical Eng & Comp Sci). UNDERGRADS Emily Chi: tbd 2024-2023-Daniel Shamsoddini: Evolutionary robotics (Comp Sci). INVITED TALKS "From AI to ALife". Schmidt AI in Science Seminar Series, University of Chicago. [Oct 2024] [Sept 2024] "Differentiable evolution and learning". University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. "From Artificial Intelligence to Artificial Life". NAS Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium, Irvine, CA. Mar 2024 Mar 2024 "From Artificial Intelligence to Artificial Life". NASEM Distinctive Voices Lecture, Irvine, CA. "Differentiable robot design". Purdue University. Feb 2024 July, 2023 "From artificial intelligence to artificial life". The American Academy of Arts and Sciences. "AI-generated organisms". Illinois Institute of Technology. Apr, 2023 Mar, 2023 Animal Robot Screening and Discussion. AAAS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. Berggruen Institute x Lucy McRae Salon. Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles. Dec, 2022 Oct, 2022 "Selection, the impersonal engineer". AI-Driven Labs Workshop, Argonne National Laboratory.

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Sept, 2022
                 "AI-generated organisms". New Faculty Invited Lecture, Northwestern ChBE Retreat.
    May, 2022
                 "Everything I wish I'd known about the academic job market.". University of Vermont.
     Apr, 2022
                 "Simulating xenobots and xenohybrid machines.". Workshop on software for soft robotics research.
     Apr, 2022
                 "Sim2real for biological robots". Workshop on soft robot design optimization, IEEE RoboSoft Conf.
     Mar, 2022
                 "From Biology to Bots and Back". Luddy School, Indiana University.
                 "From Biology to Bots and Back". CS Colloquium, Northwestern University.
     Mar, 2022
     Feb, 2022
                 "Computer-designed organisms". Leonardo Art Science Evening Rendezvouz, Stanford University.
     Feb, 2022
                 "From Biology to Bots and Back". MIT.
     Feb, 2022
                 "Fractal robots". Evolutionary and Learning Machines Group, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
     Feb, 2022
                 "From Biology to Bots and Back". New York University.
     Jan, 2022
                 "From Biology to Bots and Back". Vanderbilt University.
    Sept, 2021
                 "AutoCAD for XenoBOT". Autodesk.
     July, 2021
                 "Evolutionary robotics in a nutshell". ISAL Summer School.
     July, 2021
                 "Sim2Life: AI-generated biological constructs". Cross Roads.
    Mar, 2021
                 "Protean machines". The Creative AI Lab, IT University of Copenhagen.
     Mar, 2021
                 "Living robots". The Int'l Workshop on Embodied Intelligence.
     Mar, 2021
                 "How to evolve your robot". Guest lecture, Introduction to Soft Robotics, Yale University.
     Oct, 2020
                 "Living deepfakes". Guest lecture for the MIT Media Lab's Deepfakes course (MAS.S60).
                 "Computer designed organisms". Artificial Life Virtual Seminar Series.
     Apr., 2020
     Feb, 2020
                 "Living robots for biomedicine". Biomedical Engineering Society, University of Vermont.
MISC. LECTURES _
    July, 2021
                 "Fractal robots in 5 minutes". Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS).
                 "Sim2real for soft robot designs". IEEE International Conference on Soft Robotics (RoboSoft).
    May, 2020
    June, 2019
                 "Shapeshifting robots". Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS) in Freiburg, Germany.
SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE _
     Jun, 2024
                 "From Code to Creature". The Scientist
    Nov, 2023
                 "For first time, researchers use artificial intelligence to build a robot". CBS Evening News
     Oct, 2023
                 "AI design for a 'walking' robot is a squishy purple glob". Popular Science
     Oct, 2023
                 "AI Designs Little Robots in 30 Seconds and They Keep Sprouting Legs". Scientific American
     Oct, 2023
                 "AI designs new robot from scratch in seconds". New Scientist
     Oct, 2023
                 "'Instant evolution' in 26 seconds". USTV Taiwan
     Oct, 2023
                 "AI was told to design a robot that could walk...". Business Insider
                 "Generation AI: If you want something done". Reuters
     Oct, 2023
     Oct, 2023
                 "AI designs new robot from scratch in seconds". Reuters
     Oct, 2023
                 "AI creates a robot from scratch in seconds at Northwestern University". CBS Morning News Chicago
     Apr, 2023
                 "Meet xenobots, tiny machines made out of living parts". Popular Science
     Mar, 2023
                 "Animal Robot" documentary. Scientific American and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute
     Feb, 2023
                 "Scientists Are Growing Mini Brains in the Lab. Are They... Conscious?". Popular Mechanics
     Feb, 2023
                 "Here come the xenobots". BBC Science Focus
     Oct. 2022
                 "These Robots Are Self-Replicating. Or Are They?". Pioneer Works magazine
    Sept, 2022
                 "Xenobot". Dictionary.com
    Aug, 2022
                 "What on earth is a xenobot?". Aeon magazine
     July, 2022
                 "Virtual critters evolve bodies that help them learn". Science News for Students
     Feb, 2022
                 "The Uncanny Valley of Xenobots". Nautilus Magazine
     Jan, 2022
                 "Scientists create 'robots' that are capable of reproduction (with Jericka Duncan)". CBS Evening News
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- Dec, 2021 "Here are our favorite cool, funny and bizarre science stories of 2021". Science News
- Dec, 2021 "Living robots that are capable of self-replicating created in US lab". BBC Science Focus
- Dec, 2021 "Scientists Create 'Living Machines' With Algorithms, Frog Cells". Bloomberg Businessweek
- Dec, 2021 "It's not science fiction. Scientists have really made robots that reproduce". NPR Weekend Edition
- Dec, 2021 "Living robots made in a lab have found a new way to self-replicate, researchers say". NPR
- Dec, 2021 "Self replicating xenobots". BBC World Service
- Dec, 2021 "The creation of self-replicating biobots". BBC Science in Action
- Dec, 2021 "Diving Into The Strange World Of Xenobots". Science Friday
- Dec, 2021 "Living robots' made of frog cells found a way to reproduce". CNBC: The News with Shepard Smith
- Dec, 2021 "Scientists unveil 'Pac-Man' living robots". ABC News
- Dec, 2021 "Xenobots US Scientists Create Tiny Living Robots That Can Reproduce". Voice of America
- Dec, 2021 "100 years of robots: How technology and our lives have changed". Chicago Tribune
- Dec, 2021 "UVM researchers make strides in 'living robot' reproduction". WCAX (CBS 3)
- Dec, 2021 "Tiny living machines called xenobots can create copies of themselves". Science News
- Dec, 2021 "Pac-Man-shaped blobs become world's first self-replicating biological robots". Live Science
- Dec, 2021 "Stephen Colbert's Cyborgasm". The Late Show with Steven Colbert
- Dec, 2021 "World's First Living Robots Can Now Reproduce, Say Scientists". The Onion
- Dec, 2021 "'Xenobot' Living Robots Can Reproduce". The Scientist
- Dec, 2021 "Scientists Unveiled the World's First Living Robots... Now, They Can Reproduce". Smithsonian Magazine
- Dec, 2021 "Tiny living Pac-Man robots have learned how to reproduce". CNN
- Nov, 2021 "These living robots made of frog cells can now reproduce, study says". Washington Post
- Nov, 2021 "World's first living robots can now reproduce, scientists say". New York Post
- Nov, 2021 "'Amazing science': researchers find xenobots can give rise to offspring". The Guardian
- Nov, 2021 "World's first living robots can now reproduce, scientists say". CNN
- Nov, 2021 "Daily briefing: Multicellular living robots build their own offspring". Nature
- Nov, 2021 "Scientists made tiny xenobots out of frog cells. Now they say those robots can reproduce." USA Today
- Nov, 2021 "Xenobots that self-replicate created by scientists". The Times
- Nov, 2021 "World's first 'living robots' start to reproduce". The Telegraph
- Nov, 2021 "AI Just Designed The World's First Living Robot That Can Make Babies". Forbes
- Nov, 2021 "Researchers behind the world's first living robot have found a way to make it reproduce". Business Insider
- Nov, 2021 "Xenobots, the World's First Living Robots, Are Now Capable of Reproducing". People Magazine
- Nov, 2021 "Mesmerizing Video Shows How Tiny 'Living Robot' Xenobot Cells Reproduce". Newsweek
- Nov, 2021 "'Living robots' can self-replicate, furthering hope for regenerative medicine". Fast Company
- Nov, 2021 "Living robots made from frog cells can replicate themselves in a dish". New Scientist
- Nov, 2021 "Robots built from frog cells have unlocked the ability to self-replicate". Popular Science

Hundreds of additional articles appeared in the global press following our third xenobots paper.

- Nov, 2021 "The Machine That Feels". CBC TV
- Jun, 2021 "Biological Robots May Soon Build You a Better Heart". Bloomberg Moonshot
- Jun, 2021 "The World's First "Living" Robots Just Got an Upgrade, Meet Xenobot 2.0". Seeker
- Apr, 2021 "Frog stem cell research changes what we know about how organisms are built". Washington Post
- Apr, 2021 "Robots made out of frog cells". Science Friday
- Mar, 2021 "Cells Form Into 'Xenobots' on Their Own". Quanta Magazine
- Mar, 2021 "Living robots made from frog skin cells can sense their environment". New Scientist
- Mar, 2021 "Frog skin cells turned themselves into living machines". Science News
- Dec, 2020 "The big scientific breakthroughs of 2020". The Week
- Dec, 2020 "The 10 Most Spectacular Scientific Advances of 2020". La Razón (Spain)
- Dec, 2020 "Part Robot, Part Frog: Xenobots Are the First Robots Made From Living Cells". Discover Magazine
- Nov, 2020 "The Xenobot Future Is Coming Start Planning Now". Wired
- Apr, 2020 "Meet the Xenobots: Virtual Creatures Brought to Life". New York Times
- Apr, 2020 "What if, Instead of the Internet, We Had Xenobots?". New York Times
- Feb, 2020 "Living Robots". TalkSport Radio

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Feb, 2020
            "Giant Moon rocket, living robots and quantum computer – January's best science images". Nature
Feb. 2020
            "Meet the Xenobot, the World's First-Ever 'Living' Robot". Seeker
            "Living robots built from frog cells". BBC Science Focus
Feb, 2020
Feb, 2020
            "Tiny machines made from the stem cells of frogs". The Intelligence (Economist Radio)
Jan, 2020
            "A research team builds robots from living cells". The Economist
Jan, 2020
            "The religious, moral, and ethical implications of Xenobots". BBC Radio 4 Sunday
Jan, 2020
            "Scientists use stem cells from frogs to build first living robots". The Guardian
Jan, 2020
            "Xenobot: how did earth's newest lifeforms get their name?". The Guardian
Jan, 2020
            "Meet the xenobot: world's first living, self-healing robots created from frog stem cells". CNN
Jan, 2020
            "Scientists create first living, self-healing robots (on-air with Fredricka Whitfield)". CNN
Jan, 2020
            "Meet Xenobot, an Eerie New Kind of Programmable Organism". Wired
Jan, 2020
            "Scientists Assemble Frog Stem Cells Into First 'Living Machines'". Smithsonian Magazine
Jan, 2020
            "World's First 'Living Machine' Created Using Frog Cells and Artificial Intelligence". Scientific American
Jan. 2020
            "These tiny living robots could help science eavesdrop on cellular gossip". Popular Science
Jan, 2020
            "These Are the First Living Robots: Machines Made from Frog Stem Cells". Popular Mechanics
            "Behold the xenobots - part frog, part robot. But are they alive?". Christian Science Monitor
Jan, 2020
            "Scientists at UVM, Tufts create 'living robots'". Boston Globe
Jan, 2020
Jan, 2020
            "How tiny 'biobots' could enter bodies to clean arteries and administer drugs". The Times
Jan. 2020
            "Living robots created as scientists turn frog cells into 'entirely new life-forms". The Telegraph
Jan, 2020
            "Robots vivientes' hechos a partir de tejido de ranas, llamados Xenobots". Noticieros Televisa
            "Living Robots, Designed By Computer". Science Friday
Jan, 2020
Jan, 2020
            "Living robots". BBC World Service
Jan, 2020
            "These 'xenobots' are living machines designed by an evolutionary algorithm". MIT Technology Review
            "The 'xenobot' is the world's newest robot – and it's made from living animal cells". CTV News
Jan, 2020
Jan, 2020
            "World's First 'Living Robot' Invites New Opportunities And Risks". Forbes
Jan, 2020
            "Tiny 'xenobots' made from cells could heal our bodies and clean the environment". Fox News
Jan, 2020
            "World's first 'living robots' are made from the stem cells of frogs". New York Post
Jan, 2020
            "Algorithm Designs Robots Using Frog Cells". The Scientist
Jan, 2020
            "Xenobots: 1st living robots made from stem cells". ESPN
Jan, 2020
            "Xenobot". Wikipedia
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Hundreds of additional articles appeared in the global press following our announcement of Xenobots.