

Rovers Pave the Way for Hospital Robots



Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)

Vecna Technologies Cambridge, MA

NASA Technology

- ◆ Designing various Mars rovers over the years have yielded advances in artificial intelligence.
- ◆ A prototype rover called Rocky 7 was developed in the mid 1990s, with the ability to discern which rocks were interesting enough to pick up and then to follow through with the action.



Technology Transfer

- ◆ During this time, JPL provided the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with funding to advance object acquisition capabilities in robots.
- ◆ An MIT grad student built a mock-up of Rocky 7 and committed research toward autonomous robot behavior, then joined Vecna Technologies to develop robots that could be used on Earth.

Benefits

- ◆ The QC Bot performs a variety of hospital-related duties—from completing bedside registrations to capturing vital signs—all while autonomously navigating itself around a facility.
- ◆ The QC Bot is used in hospitals around the world, helping to improve efficiency and reduce medical errors.