

HEALTH

## Robot helps prevent fall injuries to the elderly

Researchers this week unveiled a new robot that can predict and catch seniors before they fall — a potentially major development in caring for the rapidly aging population.

The new device, which looks like a motorized wheelchair, has guard rails that come up to a person's hip and are outfitted with sensors to judge when a person begins to go off balance. Users strap into a harness, and when they are starting to tip, the robot engages it to keep them from falling.

The machine's inventors, from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore, affectionately call the machine "Mr. Bah," a stand-in for its actual name: the mobile robot balance assistant.