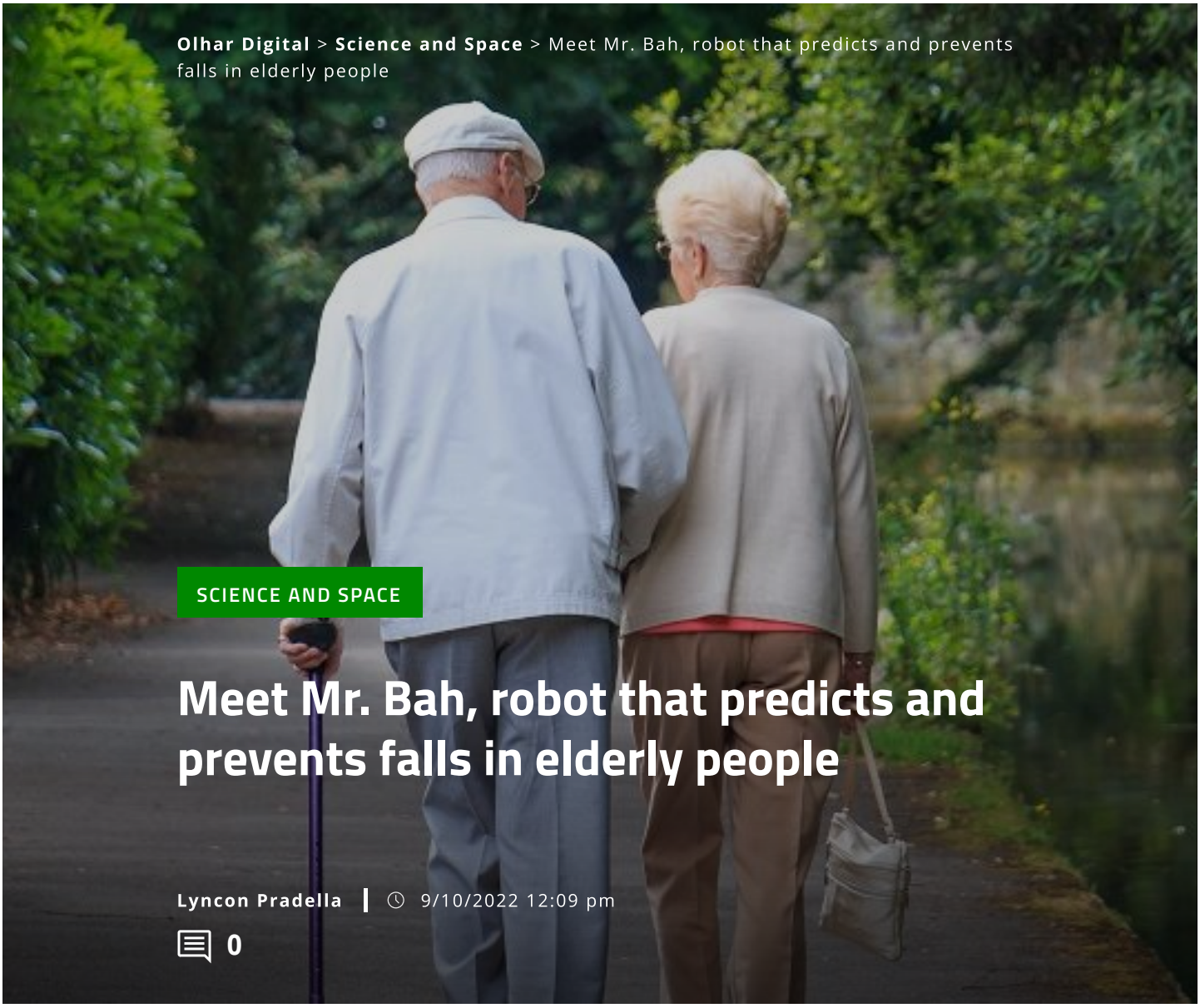

SCIENCE AND SPACE

Meet Mr. Bah, robot that predicts and prevents falls in elderly people

Lyncon Pradella | 9/10/2022 12:09 pm

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Science has the incredible ability to create, if not everything, almost everything. The invention of the time aims to help the treatment and care of older people. In this article, we will introduce you to Mr. Bah, a robot that is able to predict and prevent elderly people from falling .

The robot's structure looks like a powered wheelchair . It is made with protective rails that reach the hip of the elderly and surrounded by sensors that can assess if a person loses balance.

To use Mr. Bah is simple: just put on the belt and that's it. When walking, if the robot notices that the elderly person is unbalanced, the sensors will trigger the protective device that will keep him on his feet.

Mr. Bah, the robot that predicts and prevents elderly people from falling. Image: Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore

Mr. Bah was created by scientists at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore. His name is an affectionate nickname given by its inventors. Previously, it was called Mobile Robot Balance Assistant.

The robot still has a long way to go to market. It needs to be approved by regulatory agencies such as the United States . In addition, there is the challenge of making its assembly more financially viable, in order to have a more affordable cost for the public. The creators of Mr. Bah believe it will be released in two years.

“[Falls] are a big problem around the world,” Wei Tech Ang, principal investigator on the project and executive director of the Rehabilitation Research Institute of Singapore (RRIS), told The Washington Post. “The... intention was to help people walk around the house without fear of falling,” he added.

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Ang and his team plan to release two models of Mr. Bah. The first more hospital, equipped with more sensors and state-of-the-art cameras so that doctors and nurses can track the movements of the elderly. This version would cost something around US$ 20 thousand (about R$ 102 thousand).

The second model would be more homemade, with fewer sensors and cameras with lower qualities than the hospital version. It is estimated that Mr. Bah for home use