



**LECTURE BY DR. TAKANORI SHIBATA, INVENTOR OF THE ROBOT PARO, May 26, 2025**

**Hybrid session (online and in person):** <https://bit.ly/440NxDX>

**Sala de Graus (Campus Catalunya)**

**Universitat Rovira i Virgili**



**Dr. Takanori Shibata** has been Chief Senior Research Scientist at the Japanese National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) since 2013. His research interests include human-robot interaction, robot therapy, mental health for astronauts in long-term mission, and humanitarian de-mining. He is the recipient of many scientific awards. IN 2002, PARO entered the Guinness World Records as the World's Most Therapeutic Robot; in 2015, it was awarded the Patient Trophy for innovation in non-pharmacological therapy for dementia by Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, France, one of the largest medical group in the world; and in 2017, it received the "Best of the Best" award by Argentum, a major US association serving companies that operate professionally managed senior living communities. Dr. Shibata received B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in Electronic and Mechanical Engineering from Nagoya University. He was a visiting research scientist at MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab from 1995 to 98 and at the AI Lab of the University of Zurich in 1996. He was also the Deputy Director for Information and Communication Technology Policy, Japan Bureau of Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy at the Cabinet Office in 2009 and 2010.

Dr. Shibata's lecture takes place in the framework of the research project MyRobot. Funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, MyRobot investigates the use of social robotics with older adults and older adults living with dementia in Spanish nursing homes.

**PROGRAM**

12:00h	<b>Official Welcome</b> Prof. Josep Pallarès. Rector University Rovira i Virgili Dr. Jaume Vallverdú. Head of the Department of Anthropology, Philosophy and Social Work Sra. Rosa Maria Fumàs i Pascual TIC SALUT SOCIAL (Generalitat of Catalonia)
12:10h	<b>The project MyRobot</b> – Dr. Blanca Deusdad Ayala
12:25h	<b>Introduction to Dr. Shibata</b> – Mr. Rafael Martínez Permuy, (AsturHealth, official PARO distributor)
12:30h	<b><i>Baby Seal Robot, PARO, as a Psychophysiological Biofeedback Medical Device</i></b> – Dr. Takanori Shibata
13:20h	<b>Discussion</b> – Dr. Andreu Català (UPC); Dr. Fernando Vidal (ICREA-URV)
13:45h-14:00h	<b>Open discussion</b>