

**Professor Andrea Thomaz Awarded UTAustin Innovation Grant made possible by a donation from [Nokia Bell Labs](#)**

[Andrea Thomaz](#) is Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Cockrell School of Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. For the last 15 years she has been researching artificial intelligence software for robots. She is now developing robots for use in hospital logistics and already has established partnerships with Austin's St. David's and Seton Hospitals, as well as with Atlanta's Piedmont Hospital. The robots will not interact with patients.

Professor Thomaz is now working on a second generation, more robust prototype that will be used for longer term trials at the three hospitals. She will use this award, in the amount of \$12,000, to upgrade the robot and its software based on feedback she has received from the testing performed at the partner hospitals. Her goal is to find and optimize the most compelling applications of robots in hospital logistics.

The Innovation Center's Innovation Grants program bridges the funding gap between research and commercialization. Specifically, it enables UTAustin professors to assess and advance the commercializability of their successful research.

If you are interested in learning more or in making a tax-deductible gift so that what starts here CAN change the world, contact Louise Epstein, Managing Director, Innovation Center at the Cockrell School of Engineering. [Louise.Epstein@utexas.edu](mailto:Louise.Epstein@utexas.edu) or 512-567-1849.  
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