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### Colorado's Voice of the Technology Community

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#### Designing little crawler devices

"The big thing we're really trying to focus on is making really small robots that can move around inside the body." Larry talked with **Mark Rentschler**; New Inventor of the Year, CU-Boulder, who is an assistant professor of mechanical engineering.



Rentschler's work is focused on bio mechanics, medical devices and robotics, particularly actuator and sensor design and development for micro-robotic applications.

Larry wanted to know what lead up to his involvement with the Tech Transfer Office. Mark replied, "We have a few different projects going on with some different surgical camera devices for cardiac applications but also laparoscopic surgery, and so we've filed a number of disclosures around that. But, a big part of what we're doing is designing little crawler devices that can move around inside the body. And so, sort of this whole scope of things that we're working on with this group of surgeons down at Anschutz led up to this collaboration and that lead up to this award. I understood, based on my past experience, how important Tech Transfer was. When I came to the University of Colorado, contacting the Tech Transfer Office was one of the first things I did. I had a lot of ideas and talking with the surgeons, we had a lot of concepts that we wanted to push forward and I understood, based on my past experience, how important Tech Transfer was. So within the first three months of my appointment here, I had started talking with them and trying to lay this groundwork - they're a great organization to work with and they make it very easy."

Mark had some great advice for students." My stance is that I am a mechanical engineer and I'm focused on robotics and control of dynamics of systems and just now I'm applying those to medical devices. So my advice: don't get too focused too quickly; get some depth in certain fundamental areas. Keep yourself broad enough that you're marketable, but make sure you're doing what you love."

<http://w3w3.blogs.com/w3w3com/2010/05/designing-little-crawler-devices-.html>