

## Mel Siegel

Mel Siegel has been a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University, School of Computer Science, The Robotics Institute since shortly after the Institute's founding. He created the department's Master of Science in Robotics Technology program, delivered in collaboration with partner universities in China, India, and the UK. In 2017 he transitioned to Professor Emeritus. All his degrees are in physics: undergraduate from Cornell and PhD under Nobel Laureate John L. Hall at JILA, NIST, and the University of Colorado - Boulder. Between undergraduate and PhD studies he served in the US Peace Corps, teaching physics and math in Ghana, during which period he traveled extensively in West and Central Africa. Between his two academic careers in physics and robotics he was research and development director of a small scientific instruments company. His robotics research and teaching focuses on sensing, perception, and human-machine interfaces. In 2011-2012 he took partial leave-of-absence from CMU to serve as founding chairman of the Physics Department and the Robotics & Mechatronics Department at Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan, a new university whose academic structure and science & technology curriculum he participated in creating during the preceding two years. In 2018 he taught his sensing and sensors course and advised on curriculum and research at Innopolis University, Kazan, RF. In 2022 he developed and taught an intensive short course titled "Sensing and Related Technologies for the Grand Challenges for the 21st Century - Climate, Energy, Water, Food, Health, and Mega-Cities" remotely to young university faculty members in Bengaluru and elsewhere in India, under the auspices of the Indian government's Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN). Classified by CMU as "retired-active", he tries to live up to that description both by continued collaboration on research projects within CMU and by service on the boards of several non-profits involved in environmental, climate, and progressive political issues. He is a Life Fellow of the IEEE, cited for contributions to sensing and sensors for robotics.