



Center researchers (L to R) Jeff Crandall, professor, and Costin Untaroiu and Richard Kent, both assistant professors, from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering are shown with Buster, a biofidelic, side-impact test dummy.

U.Va. Center for Applied Biomechanics Expands

It is now the largest University-based impact biomechanics lab in the world.


Since it was founded 21 years ago, the center has grown dramatically with ongoing support from the U.Va. Engineering School and the School of Medicine.

The center recently moved to the U.Va. Research Park, giving it 28,000 square feet of laboratory and office space. It currently has 30 full-time researchers and 20 graduate students and is poised to expand further.



University of Virginia
Office of the Dean
School of Engineering and Applied Science
P.O. Box 400246
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4246


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Newly Expanded Center for Applied Biomechanics Helps Reduce Highway Fatalities

The U.Va. Center for Applied Biomechanics has two state-of-the-art sled systems capable of reproducing a wide range of impact events. The latest sled configuration is being used to test vehicle rollovers, a type of accident that accounts for one-third of all highway fatalities. The center's sleds are highly instrumented and collect sensor information at 10,000 data points every second from more than 250 to 300 channels of information.

The center has multiple projects under way to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries, and to develop improved guidelines for athletic equipment and protective equipment for military personnel. Projects include helping to develop more accurate criteria for preventing lower-extremity and thoracic injuries, testing advanced vehicle passenger-restraint systems and studying the biomechanics of aging. As a partner in the Global Human Body Modeling Consortium, the center is developing advanced models of the human body for use in crash scenarios. In addition, it is investigating real-world crashes as part of the Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network.

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DEVELOPING LEADERS of INNOVATION