



Yoshiyuki Sankai received a PhD in engineering from University of Tsukuba in Japan in 1987. He was Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor at the Institute of Systems & Engineering at the University of Tsukuba, and a Visiting Professor of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas in the United States.

Currently, he is professor of the Graduate School of Systems & Information Engineering at the University of Tsukuba, and president and CEO of CYBERDYNE Inc. He was/is also president of Japan Society of Embolus Detection & Treatment, chairman of International Journal of the Robotics Society of Japan (RSJ) and executive board member of RSJ.

He is the inventor, creator and driving force behind the advanced Hybrid Assistive Limb (HAL) Robot Suit and various cybernics, medical, care and welfare technologies. In 2006 he was invited to provide direction to Japan's future science & technology policies by the Council for Science and Technology Policy advising the prime minister, other Japanese ministers and senior government officials.

Among the awards he won are: World Technology Award (2005), Good Design Gold Award (2006), Japan Innovator Award (2006), Best Paper Award (International Journal of Advanced Robotics) (2006), Award from American Society for Artificial Organs, Award from International Society for Artificial Organs, Award from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (2007), Award from National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (2007).

Recently, he was appointed as leader of Global COE (Centre of Excellence) program for Cybernics by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan), he obtained the significant grants from NEDO (New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation), and health science grants from the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and a grant-in-aid for scientific research from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology. He continues to promote the application of the HAL technology for the benefit of senior citizens, physically challenged people and patient groups with specific diseases.