

Kristen Mills

Assistant Professor, Mechanical Aerospace and Nuclear Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Troy, NY, US

Biomechanics of tumor growth, tumor cell-matrix interactions

Biography

Kristen Mills, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, studies the mechanics of cancer and tumor cell invasion, migration, and interactions with the extracellular matrix. Her lab develops new models that mimic aspects of the mechanical environment within the body, providing new insight into solid tumor development and metastasis. Mills earned her bachelors of science in mechanical engineering from the University of California, San Diego, in 1999 before receiving her Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan in 2008. She was a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of New Materials and Biosystem at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, and a lecturer in advanced materials at the University of Ulm, before joining the Rensselaer faculty. Mills received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) Award in 2019, as well as a Department of Defense CDMRP Neurofibromatosis Research Program New Investigator Award.

Areas of Expertise

Cell and tissue biomechanics, Experimental mechanics of materials, Development of in vitro models

Education

University of California San Diego
B.S. Mechanical Engineering

University of Michigan
Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering

Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems
Postdoctoral Researcher

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