

Federal University
of Santa Catarina
November 2023
Florianópolis, Santa
Catarina, Brazil

Living in Interactive Future Environments: Supporting Successful Aging through Technology Innovation

Wendy A. Rogers, Ph.D.

Khan Professor of Applied Health Sciences
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Human Factors & Aging

LABORATORY

hfaging.org





ANTONE JOSEPH ROGERS

Born September 4, 1848 in Sao Jorge, Azores; As a boy he shipped on a whaler from his native island and arrived at New Bedford, Massachusetts at age 17. Died October 16, 1913 **at age 65**

MARY FRANCIS DIAS SOARES [ROGERS]

Born August 5, 1861 in Sao Jorge, Azores; In 1882 she arrived in Boston, Massachusetts at age 21. Upon arrival she was employed as an upstairs maid at the home of a whaling vessel owner. Died May 13, 1954 **at age 93**

CHART

Collaborations in Health, Aging,
Research, and Technology

chart.ahs.illinois.edu



I ILLINOIS

McKechnie Family LIFE Home

COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

LIFEhome.ahs.illinois.edu



Khan Annex

Human Factors & Aging
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HEALTH TECH

**HEALTH TECHNOLOGY
EDUCATION PROGRAM**

healthtech.ahs.illinois.edu



Health Technology Education Program

Designing for Health

Health Technology Professional Education Program (HT-PEP)

General Education Course in Health Technology

Undergraduate Certificate in Health Technology (with Engineering)

Health Technology Interdisciplinary Minor (with Engineering)

Master of Science in Health Technology (MS-HT) (with Engineering)

HEALTH TECH

MS in Health Technology

healthtech.ahs.illinois.edu
healthtech@illinois.edu

Designing for Health

Training the next generation of applied health technology professionals to improve the design of technology that supports the health and well-being of individuals.



- ❖ 1-year intensive MS program
- ❖ Capstone project experience
- ❖ STEM-designated program
- ❖ Small cohorts
- ❖ **100%** of students receive scholarships/fellowship

Applications Open October 1–March 1

Early Deadline: December 1



Learn More
Info Sessions
Application Workshops



Health Technology
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

College of Applied Health Sciences + The Grainger College of Engineering

MS-HT Alumni Placements

*The National
Academies of* | SCIENCES
ENGINEERING
MEDICINE

innovation hub
BRIGHAM HEALTH
BRIGHAM AND
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

OSF[®]
HEALTHCARE

DESIGN
SCIENCE
Usability starts here.

MEDLINE

SOMATUS
REVOLUTIONIZING KIDNEY CARE

CURO

EMERGO
by UL

Bold
Insight

VIRTUSENSE[™]

motorola

ILLINOIS

Job Titles

Research Associate

Data Engineer

Innovation and Operations Analyst

Human Factors Associate

Associate Human Factors Engineers

Design Fellow

UX Researcher

Associate Product Manager

Product Coordinator

UI/UX Designer

CHART (Collaborations in Health, Aging, Research, & Technology) is a research theme in the College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (established January 2017)



To **enable successful aging** through:

- Fundamental **research**
- Advanced technology **development**
- **Education** of researchers, developers, healthcare professionals, older adults
- Guidance for **policy** decision-making
- **Translation** of these efforts to positively affect the lives of older adults.

An Aging World

Percentage of the Population Age 65+ in 2015 and 2050

2015



Percent



World percent

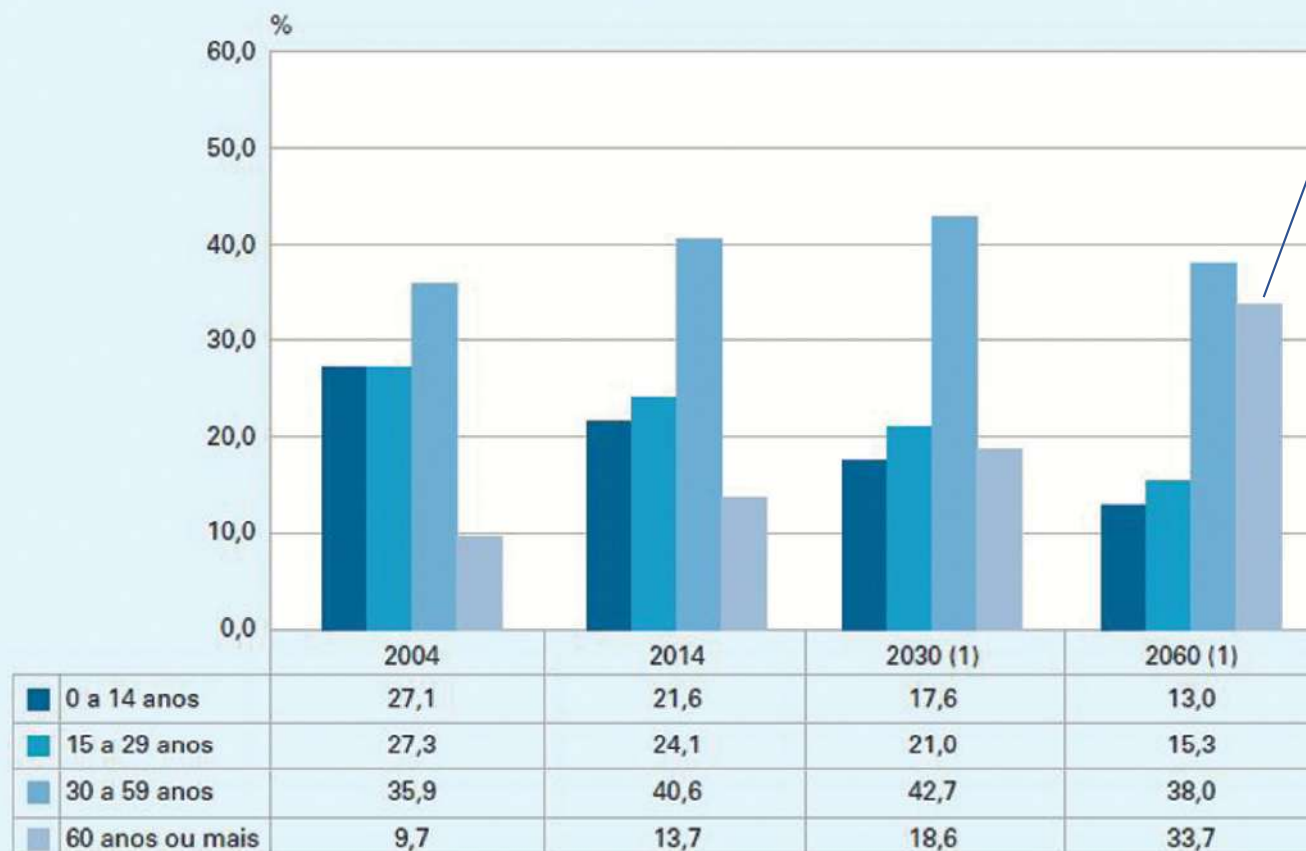
2015: 8.5

2050: 16.7

2050



**Gráfico 1.3 - Distribuição percentual da população residente, por grupos de idade
Brasil - 2004/2060**



Fonte: IBGE, Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios 2004/2014 e Projeção da População do Brasil por Sexo e Idade para o Período 2000-2060 - Revisão 2013.

(1) Dados projetados.

By 2060, ~35% of population of Brazil will be over age 60

CHART Activities Include:

Faculty
affiliates

Event
support

Community
engagement

Age-Friendly
University

Participant
recruitment

Visiting
scholars



CHART Steering Committee



Illinois Department on Aging

CHART faculty part of three federally-funded centers



Center for Research and
Education on Aging and
Technology Enhancement
www.create-center.org

National Institute on Aging
(National Institutes of Health)
PO1 AG017211

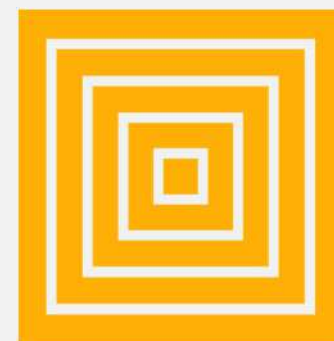
1999



Technologies to Support
Aging Among People
with Long-Term Disabilities
www.techsagererc.org

National Institute on Disability,
Independent Living, and Rehabilitation
Research (Department of Health &
Human Services) Grant 90REGE0006

2013



ENHANCE

Center for Enhancing
Neurocognitive Health,
Abilities, Networks, &
Community Engagement
www.enhance-erc.org

National Institute on Disability, Independent
Living, and Rehabilitation Research
(Department of Health & Human Services)
Grant 90REGE0012

2019

McKechnie Family LIFE Home

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Living in Interactive Future Environments
Simulated home environment





Research Examples: Support for Successful Aging

Human Factors & Aging
LABORATORY

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH APPROACH FOR EVALUATING HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR OLDER ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

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Widya A. Ramadhani (wramadh2@Illinois.edu)
Lizandra G. Vergara
Wendy A. Rogers



Gerontological Society of America 2022

Tissot, J., Ramadhani, W., Vergara, L., & Rogers, W. A. (in press). Design guidelines for a safe environment to improve aging in place. In M. Kolak and I. Mois (Eds.), *Place & the social-spatial determinants of health*. Springer Nature.



How do architecture and human factors contribute to creating a safer environment for aging in place?

Kitchen:

- Appliances at waist level
- Layout in "C" or "U" shape
- Lights under cabinets
- Translucent cabinet doors in the foot space

Personal care:

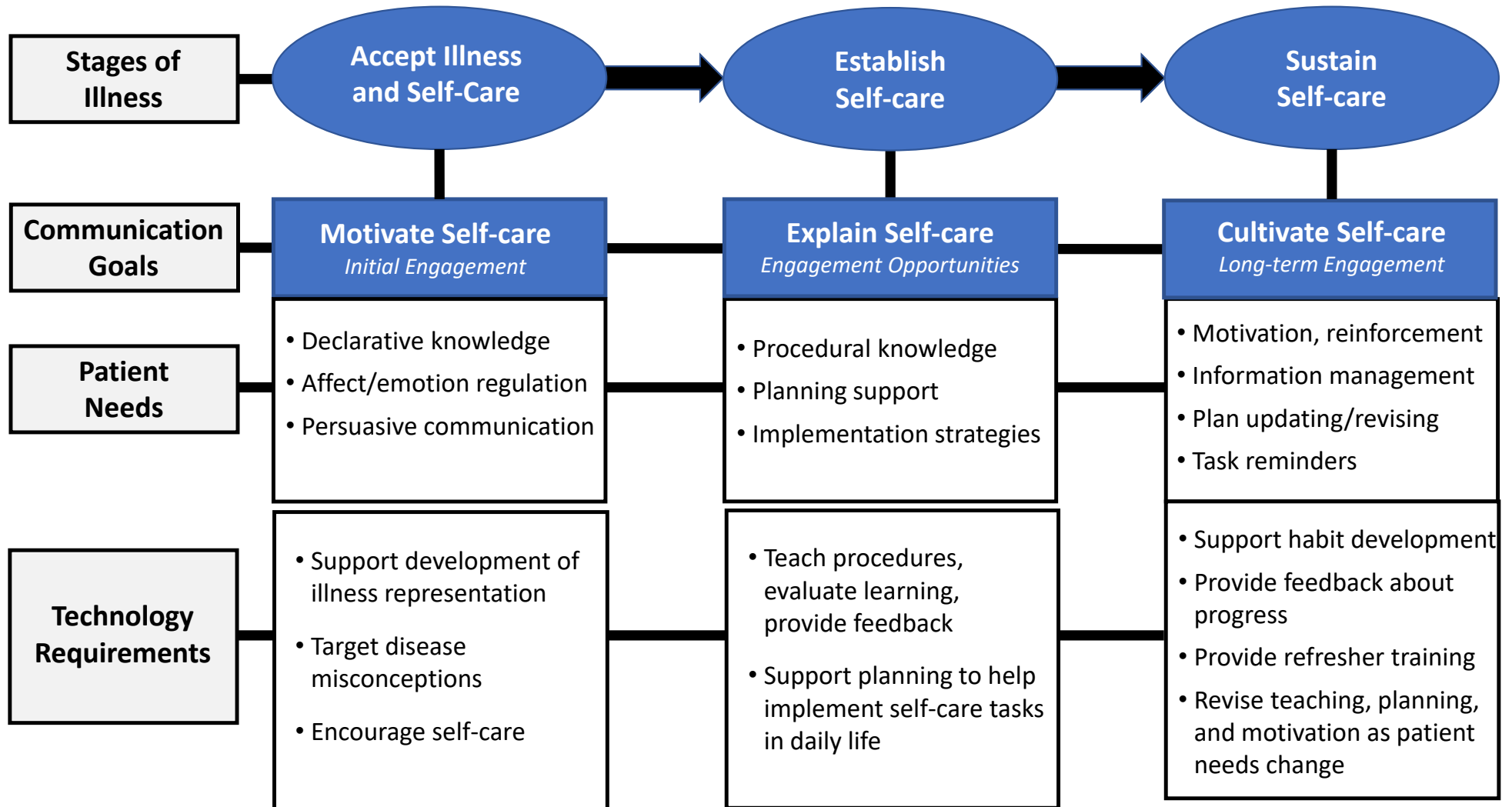
- High friction flooring
- Grab bars on both sides of toilet sides
- Adequate wheelchair maneuvering space
- Color contrast

Overall floor plan should be **designed** with considerations of **users' everyday activities** and the **relationship between these activities**, such as having the personal care nearby bedroom, laundry nearby the kitchen to improve users' mobility.



Health Self-Management

Framework for Designing Technology to Support Health Self-Care (Morrow, Lane, & Rogers, 2021)



Apps for Health Self-management

Mobile Health Apps: Improving Usability for Older Adult Users

By Stephanie A. Morey , Rachel E. Stuck, Amy W. Chong,
Laura H. Barg-Walkow, Tracy L. Mitzner, & Wendy A. Rogers

ergonomics in design | October 2019

With smartphone use among older populations on the rise, older adults have increased access to health-focused mobile apps. Despite their potential benefits for managing health, currently no guidelines exist for designing these apps specifically for older adult users.

Well over 1,000 apps that could be broadly classified as supporting health self-management.

Search Term	App Store Hits (iPhone)
Biking	100+
Blood Pressure Tracking	100+
Diabetes Management	100+
Exercise	100+
Fitness	100+
Mental Health	100+
Nutrition	100+
Running	100+
Sleep Tracking	100+
Hydration Reminder	83
Medication Management	57
Doctor Locator	49
Mental Motivation	29
Health Maintenance	17
Online Therapy	17
Swimming	4

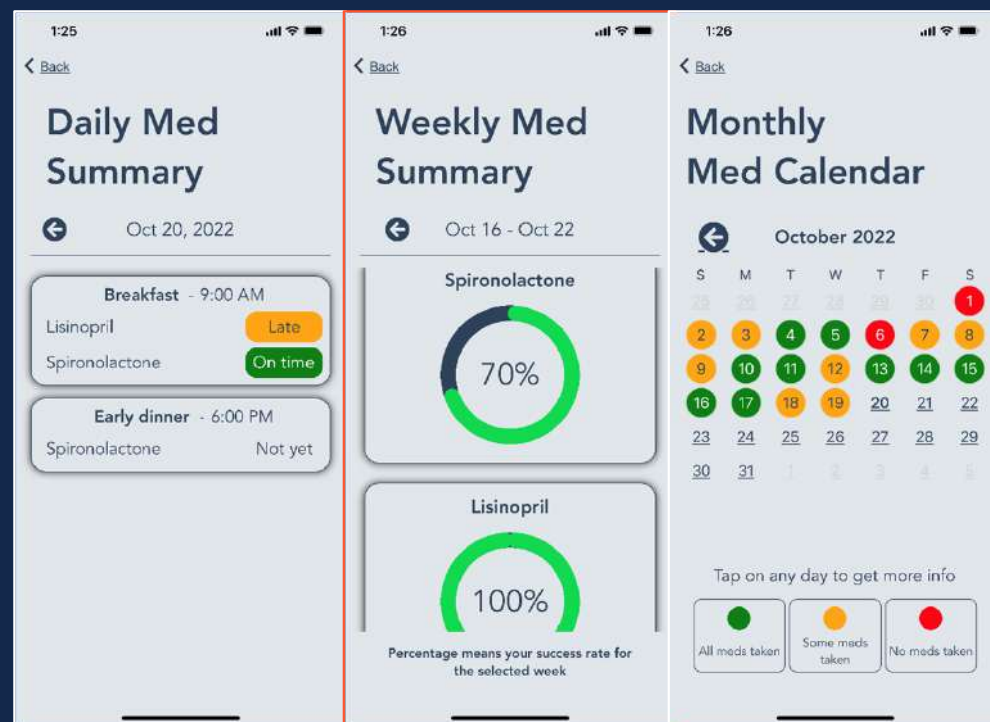
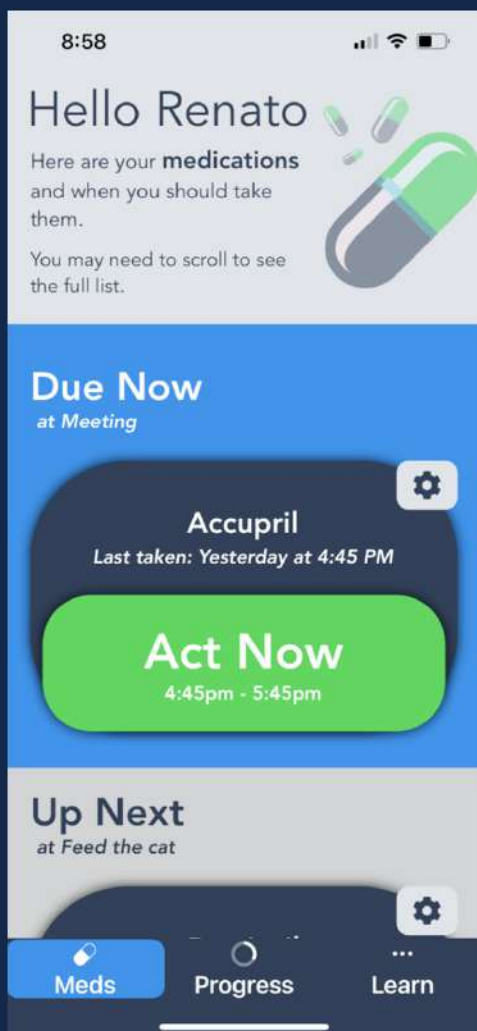
We evaluated commonly downloaded apps: medication reminder and congestive heart failure management:

- heuristic evaluations
- cognitive walkthroughs
- user testing with think-aloud

Outcome:
Guidelines
for designing
healthcare
apps for
older adults

	Heart Partner		Heart Failure Health Storylines	
	Issues	User Comments	Issues	User Comments
Navigation	Difficulty navigating between screens Scrolling issues Confusion over where to go to enter new data	"Are we missing a bar on the right side of the screen to show more information is below? I'm having to guess and guessing is bad."	Difficulty navigating between screens Difficulty understanding actions to perform a task	"[it is] confusing [working out] where to go to add the different things you need to add" "I would need someone to show me" (when asked to navigate about the app)
Data entry	Issues with entering new data Unclear processes for saving data		Issues with entering new data Unclear processes for saving data Entering data requires many steps	"for me to understand it, it would have to be more simpler" "make [the app processes] easier for a senior citizen to understand" "I guess I'm on the right screen, I just don't know what to do" "cumbersome"
Help information and error recovery	Issues with deleting and editing previously entered data	"At this point, I would pick up the tablet and throw it against the wall"	No directions for how to recover from errors	
Data visualizations	Difficulty understanding graphical information	"it is not clear to me" "I wouldn't know how to do that" (when asked to view weight data graphically)	Difficulty understanding graphical information Graphs contain too many elements (e.g., grid lines, multiple data points, different factors).	"I don't understand [the graph]"

MEDSReM: Medication Education, Decision Support, Reminding, and Monitoring



Currently conducting a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to assess effectiveness for older adults

Funded by National Institute of Nursing Research R01NR020261



Social Engagement

Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation

2023

The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community



Baxter, M., Blocker, K.A., & Rogers, W. A. (2018). Enhancing social engagement of older adults through technology. In R. Pak & A. McLaughlin (Eds.), *Aging, Technology, and Health*. Elsevier.

Higher levels of social engagement for older adults:

Reduced hypertension

Yang, Boen, Gerken, Li, Schorpp, & Harris, 2016

Decreased development of dementia

Crooks, Lubben, Petitti, Little, & Chiu, 2008; Fratiglioni, Wang, Ericsson, Maytan, Winblad, 2000; Kotwal, Kim, Waite, & Dale, 2016; Sörman, Sundström, Rönnlund, Adolfsson, & Nilsson, 2014

Increased mental health and psychological well-being

Fiori, Antonucci, & Cortina, 2006; Forsman, Nyqvist, Schierenbeck, Gustafson, & Wahlbeck, 2012; Litwin & Shiovitz-Ezra, 2011

Reduced mortality rates

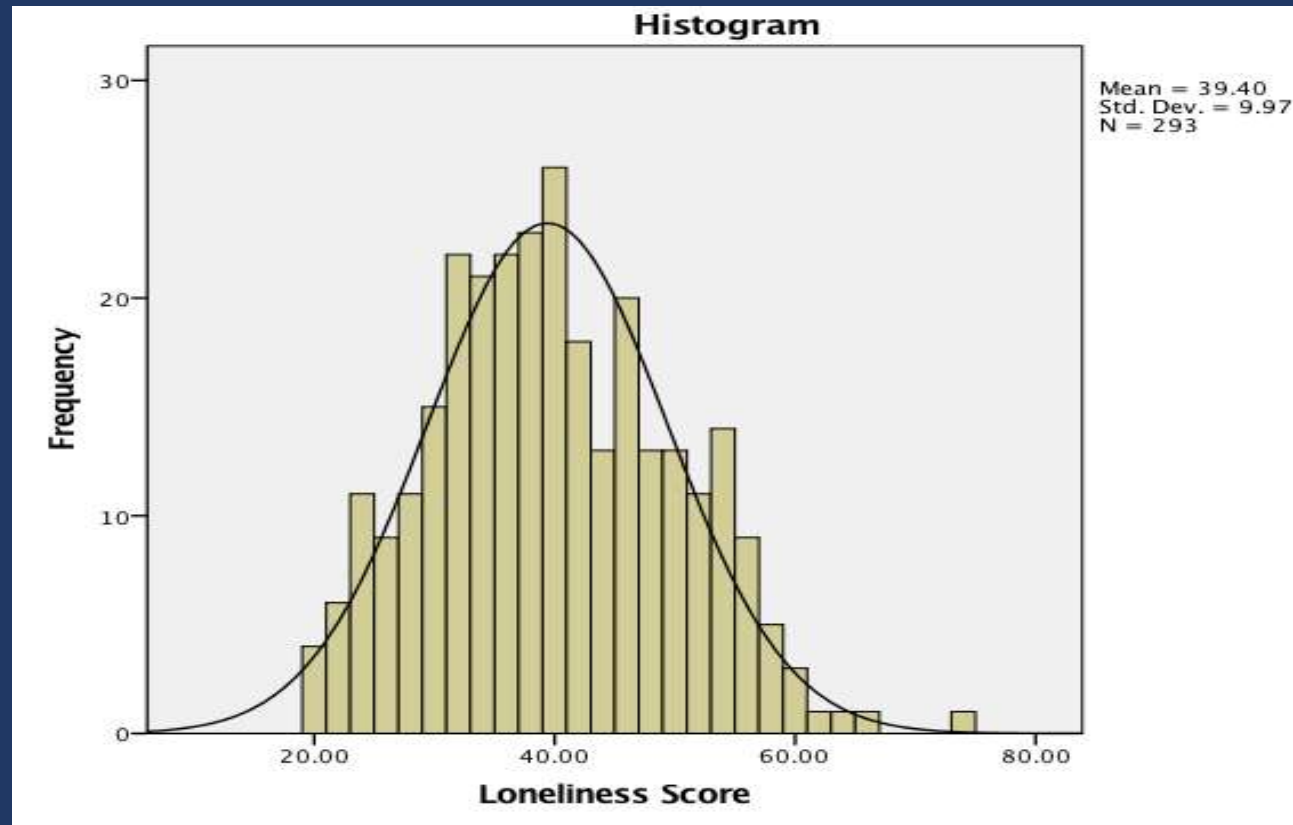
Bennett, 2002; Ceria, Masaki, Rodriguez, Chen, Yano, & Curb, 2001; Dalgard & Håheim, 1998; Eng, Rimm, Fitzmaurice, & Kawachi, 2002; Kiely & Flacker, 2003; Kim, Lee, Kim, Choi, Lee, & Park, 2016; Sampson, Bulpitt, & Fletcher, 2009

Loneliness: PRISM RCT

Czaja, S. J., Boot, W. R., Charness, N., Rogers, W. A., and Sharit, J. (2018). Improving social support for older adults through technology: Findings from the PRISM randomized controlled trial. *The Gerontologist*, 58, 467-477.

At Risk for Social Isolation:

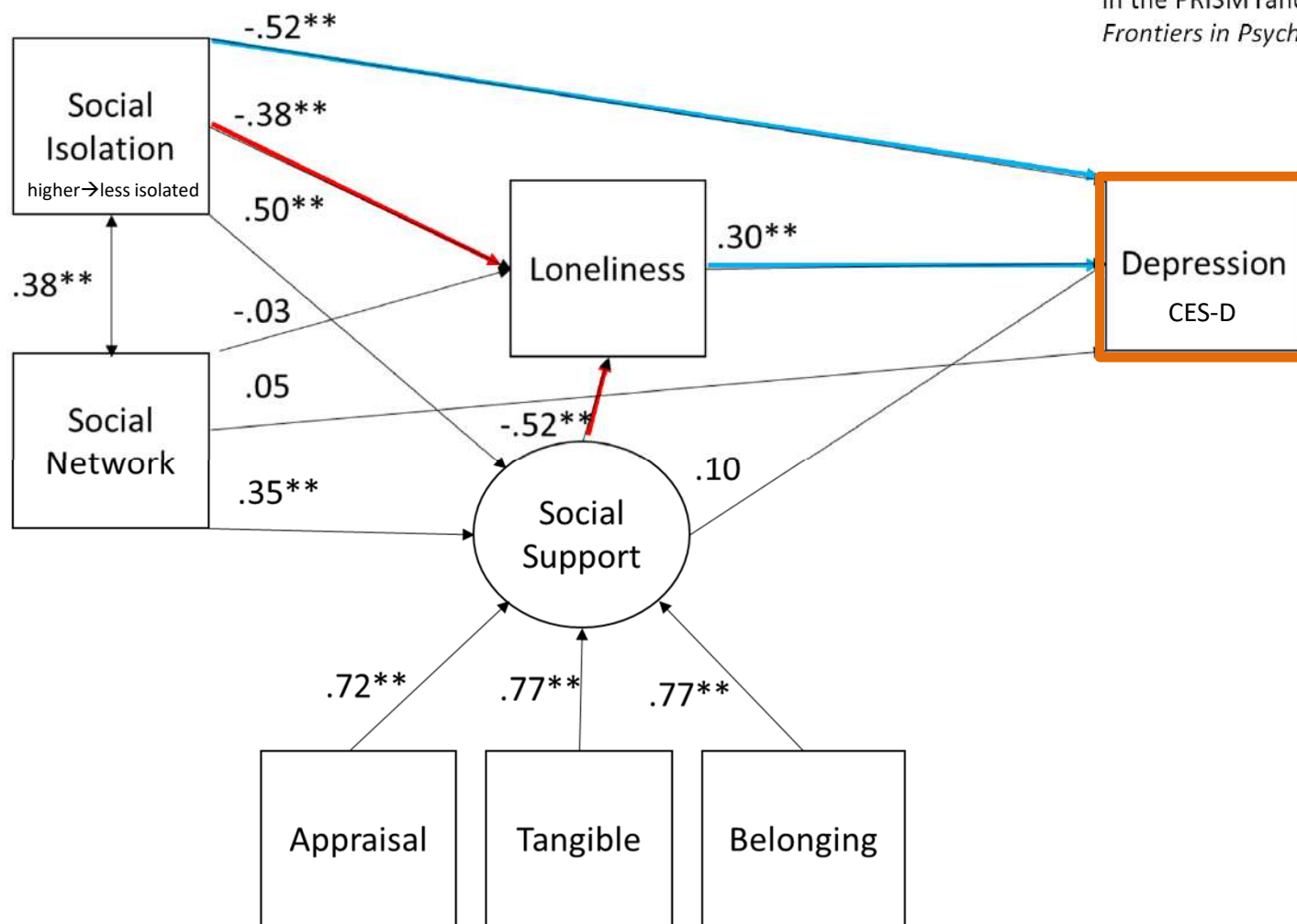
- Recruited 300 people
- 65+ years (64-98 years)
- Live alone in the community
- Minimum computer/Internet use
- Work or volunteer < 5 hrs/wk
- Less than < 10 hrs per/wk Senior Center



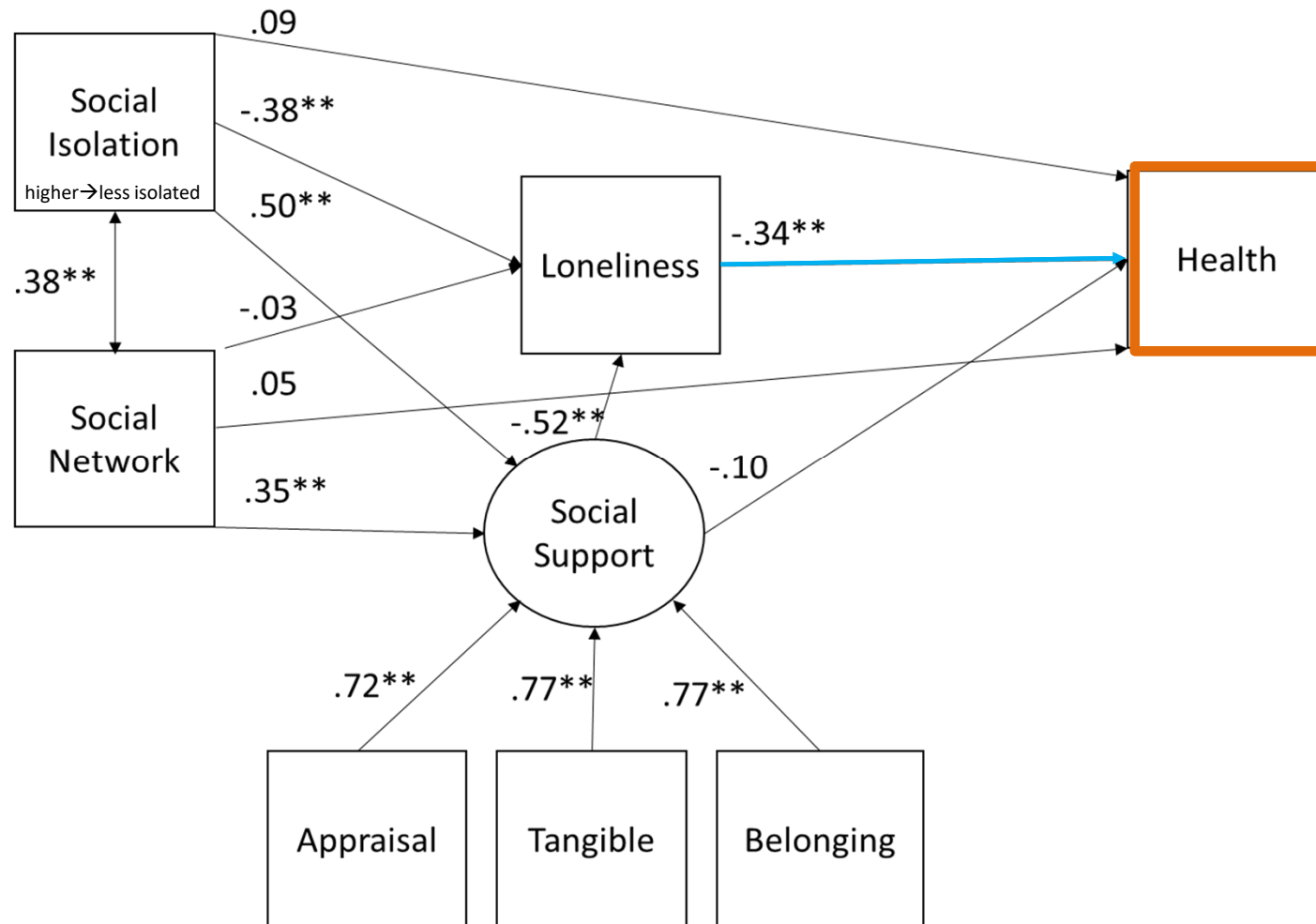
UCLA Loneliness Scale (Version III) – Russell 1996
20-item scale; range = 20 - 80, higher score is greater loneliness

Predicting Depression

Czaja, S. J., Moxley, J. H., & Rogers, W. A. (2021). Social support, isolation, loneliness, and health among older adults in the PRISM randomized controlled trial. *Frontiers in Psychology*.



Predicting Health Self-Rating





Social Engagement Interventions

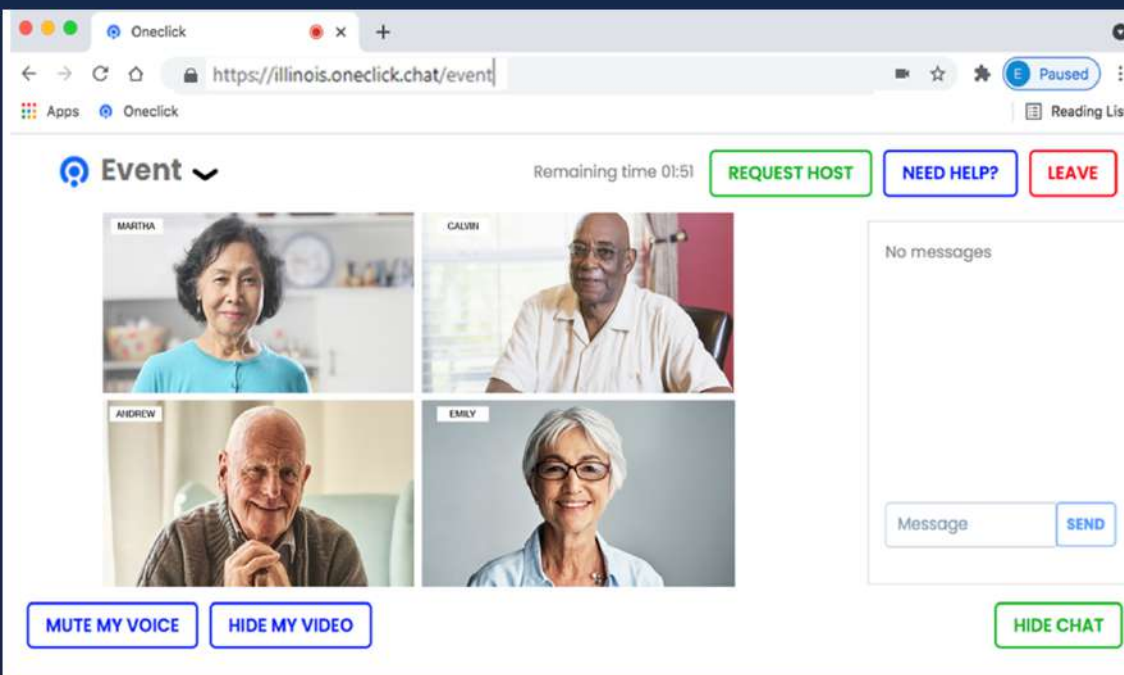
Digital Assistants for Social Engagement and Environmental Control for Older Adults with Mobility Disabilities



All 25 participants successfully learned to use the technology on their own at home [during COVID]...after 5 weeks of use, self-reported loneliness decreased.

Video Chat to Reduce Social Isolation

Connect with others to Engage
on topics of shared interests



5 content areas (60 unique topics)

- Arts and Culture
- Nature, Health, and Wellness
- Life Experiences
- Science and Technology
- Recreation and Sports

Currently conducting randomized controlled trials (RCTs)
to assess effectiveness for older adults with varying
levels of cognitive ability as well as for caregivers

Virtual Reality for Cognitive, Activity, and Social Engagement



Supported by Apps

Cognitive Engagement

Learning
Training
Cultural

Activity Engagement

Physical
Games
Hobbies

Social Engagement

Family & Friends
Meeting New People
Community & Social Groups

Technology Skills

Virtual Reality Systems
Game Controllers
Cyber Security
Etiquette

Supported by the Intervention





Robotics



Understanding the Role of a Socially Assistive Robot to Support Aging in Place

George Mois, Lizandra G. L. Vergara, Afnaan F. Afsar Ali,
Mimi Trinh, & Wendy A. Rogers

Gerontological Society of America 2022

Design Considerations for a Socially Assistive Robot in the Home to Support Older Adults

George Mois, Mimi U. Trinh, Afnaan Afsar Ali,
Lizandra Garcia Lupi Vergara, Wendy A. Rogers

Human Factors & Ergonomics Society 2023

Misty

www.mistyrobotics.com



- ❑ Unique market-ready platform; fully programmable; skills built in
- ❑ Customizable to assist with a wide range of activities.



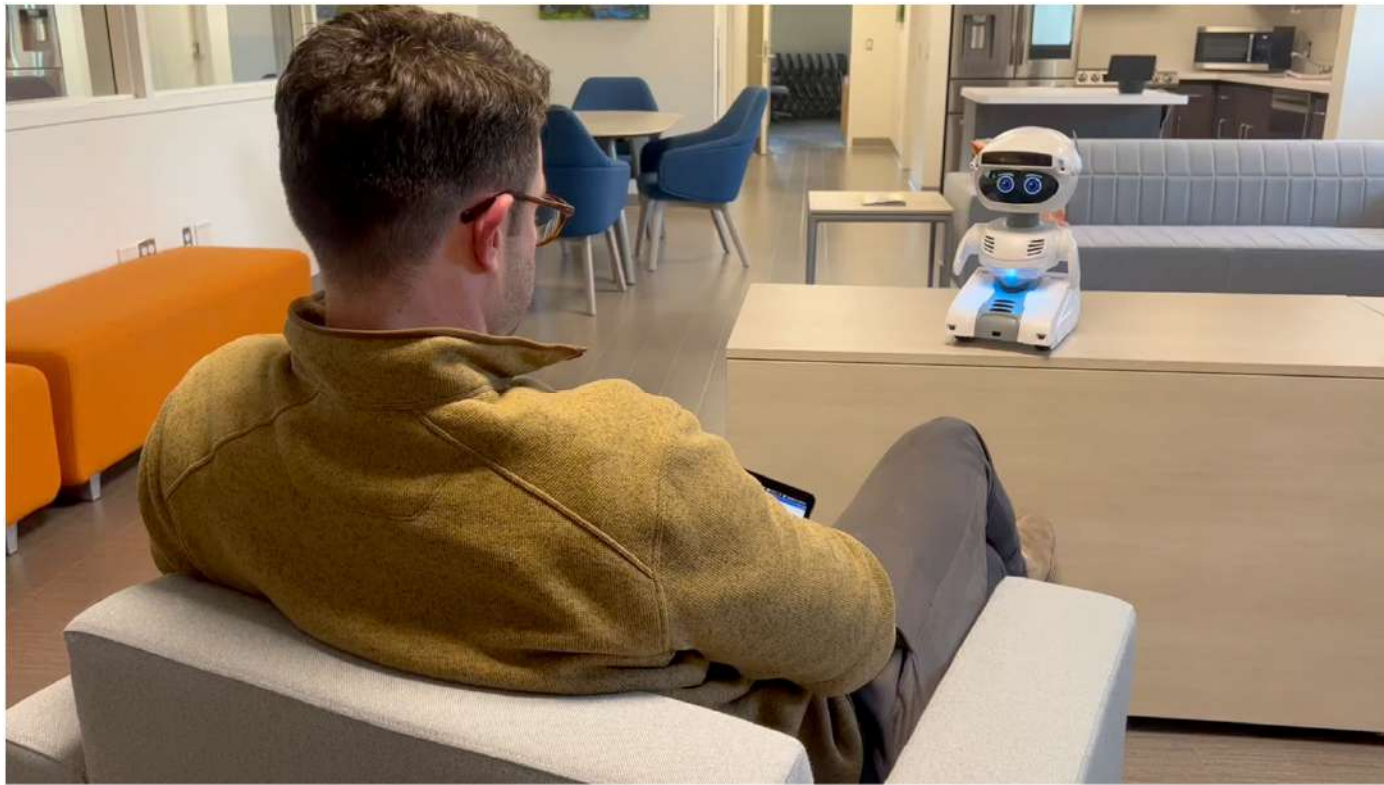
Current Study:
Interviews with
older adults

- ☐ Explore potential for Misty as a socially assistive robot to support older adults
- ☐ Understand facilitators and barriers to adoption.
- ☐ Provide guidance for design and implementation of socially assistive robots in home environments.

Social Companion



Health Reminders



Controlling Environment



Preliminary data from older adults:

- Very positive
- Like appearance
- Socially engaging
- Could imagine using for social, health, control of environment



Assistive Robotics

*Stretching their Reach: Robotic Support for Older Individuals with
Mild Cognitive Impairment, Early Alzheimer's Dementia, and Mobility Impairments*

Funded by National Institute on Aging (National Institutes of Health) Phase II Small Business Innovation Research Grant #2R44AG072982-02

Robot Evolution



PR2: Built in 2010, weighs 500 lbs,
cost \$400,000



Stretch: Built in 2020, weighs 51 lbs,
cost \$20,000



Delivery



Turn on light



Reach to back of sink



Open cabinet

Stretch capabilities to provide support for home tasks







Older Adults with Cognitive Impairments: Support Needs and Ideas for Stretch



Stretch Robot Potential:

- Safety monitoring (e.g., turn off range)
- Medication management (reminders, record keeping)
- Social engagement
- Having family members be able to check in on them
- Watching videos on the tablet
- Playing games

Older Adults with Mobility Impairments: Support Needs and Ideas for Stretch



Stretch Robot Potential:

- Delivery of items such as medication, water bottle, towel
- Reaching for items in the kitchen that are high
- Picking up items from the floor that are low
- Scheduling reminders
- Social engagement
- Having family members be able to check in on them
- Dressing (zippers, jewelry)
- Housecleaning, making bed, sweeping

Clark-Lindsey Village: Personal Apartments



Stretch Robot Potential:

Resident Benefits

- Increase autonomy
- Enhance connection to remote caregiver
- Maintain privacy
- Assist with everyday activities
- Item retrieval
- Safety support (e.g., access walker)

Green House Home (memory care)



Staff Benefits

- Remotely connect with residents
- Perform wellness check
- Support multiple residents
- Freeing time to spend with resident for conversation and relationship building
- Reducing physical burden and need for multi-tasking
- Ability to deliver items

Participatory Design Field Trials with Stretch Embedded in a Home



Henry & Jane Evans

Immersive participatory design approach to improve robot-assisted care.

Identify tasks to support both the care recipient and care partner in their daily living.

Develop tools Stretch can use to perform different tasks.

Improve initial user interface design and assess usability of interface.

hello robot™



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



National Institute
on Aging



UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON



Assistive Robot Support for Older Adults with Mobility Impairments



Scratching Itches



Hair-brush built-up with a pool noodle placed on a ramp for optimal positioning



Henry scratches his head (real-time teleoperation)



Henry relieving an itch

Intergenerational Social Engagement



Jane, Henry, and their granddaughter fishing.

Care Partner Support: Managing Blood Pressure





Wendy Rogers



Raksha Mudar



Harshal Mahajan



Samuel Olatunji



Afnaan Ali



Adam Syed



James Shim



Joanna Huang



Yao-Lin Tsai



Zolzaya Byambasuren

ClarkLindsey



Deb Reardanz



Laura Edwards



Anna Moyer



Kenneth Ivory



Rikki Brady

hello robot



Aaron Edsinger



Charlie Kemp



V Nguyen



Vinitha Ranganeni



Blaine Matulevich



Julian Mehu



Mohamed Fazil



Binit Shah



Visaacan Rathiraj



Jackson Hamilton

Team Science:

Interdisciplinary,
Multisite,
Shared Goals...

...Positive Outcomes

Impact



Henry:

Robotics in general have had a very large impact on my life-and Stretch is an important link in the evolution of those Robotics.

Using Stretch was surprisingly easy, showing how adaptable Stretch is.

Jane:

Robots have influenced Henry's life greatly. They gave him a reason to live...Stretch is the closest to improving Henry's life and therefore mine.

We have to ask ourselves over and over, "Why robots when a caregiver can do it ten times faster"? I see what it does to my husband mentally when he can do things by himself and not depend on anyone.

How do we designing technology to support successful aging?

Advance foundational knowledge

Develop next generation workforce

Apply behavioral science throughout design cycle

Practical applications → Quality of life

Engage users!



Funding Acknowledgments



Obrigada!



**College of Applied
Health Sciences**
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Postdoctoral Research Associate Positions: Human Factors and Aging
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
College of Applied Health Sciences



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