

among 1400 patients in several ambulatory care clinics to explore the impact among older adults, across different clinical populations. Among older adults with HIV (OAH), we found lower rates of food and housing insecurity compared to older adults without HIV. Despite higher levels of COVID knowledge and prevention adherence, we also found significantly higher levels of isolation, loneliness, depressive symptoms, and anxiety among OAHs compared to those without HIV. Access to Ryan White entitlements did buffer some impacts but preexisting high burdens of mental health issues were exacerbated, perhaps due to heightened perceptions of increased vulnerability to COVID-19.

Session 3650 (Symposium)

TECHNOLOGY IS THE NEW NORMAL FOR INDIVIDUALS AGING-IN-PLACE WITH DISABILITIES

Chair: Travis Kadylak

Discussant: Susy Stark

Technology designers often exclude individuals aging with diverse needs, capabilities, and disabilities from engaging in the design process, which can hinder the usability and usefulness of emerging technologies. In this symposium, investigators report on research and development efforts aimed at understanding the needs of, and developing supportive technologies for, people aging with long-term disabilities. This symposium features projects from the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place for People with Long-Term Disabilities (RERC TechSAge), which is an interdisciplinary collaboration between Georgia Tech and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. First, Bayles et al. will discuss findings from the Aging Concerns, Challenges, and Everyday Solution Strategies II study, focused on Deaf older adults' use of technologies as solution strategies for common everyday challenges. Next, Mitzner et al. will highlight the development of an evidence-based group exercise intervention (Telwellness Tai Chi for Arthritis) aimed at promoting both physical exercise and social interaction for older adults with long-term mobility disabilities. Kadylak et al. will describe how voice-activated digital assistants can support older adults aging with mobility disabilities by reporting on findings from a longitudinal demonstration project with older adults in assisted and independent living communities. Exploring the potential for smartbathroom technology to promote aging in place, Sanford et al. will discuss how smartbathroom sensor data can be analyzed and visualized to identify ways to communicate insight from sensor data to improve training of occupational therapy practitioners. Susy Stark from Washington University will serve as the discussant for the symposium.

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYDAY BARRIERS AMONG DEAF OLDER ADULTS

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American Sign Language (ASL) is the primary form of communication for approximately 250,000 people in the U.S. (Mitchell et al., 2006). As these individuals age, they

may experience challenges in their everyday activities. For example, ASL users rely on visual cues, but have age-related change in vision. Moreover, ASL users may need to utilize technology to communicate with non-ASL users, but the technology may not be suitable/usable for older adults. We explored these issues in the Aging Concerns, Challenges, and Everyday Solution Strategies (ACCESS) study, wherein we interviewed Deaf older adults (N=60) in ASL, who provided insights into unique, everyday challenges they encounter. We will focus on the technology solution strategies they incorporate to address and overcome challenges with daily activities. Understanding how participants think about, adapt, and utilize different technologies can inform future technology design to successfully support diverse, aging populations.

DELIVERING A TAI CHI INTERVENTION TO ADULTS AGING WITH MOBILITY DISABILITIES USING ZOOM

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Many individuals aging with mobility disabilities experience barriers to participating in physical activity, including transportation challenges and the need for specialized instruction. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, these participation barriers have been amplified due to lockdowns and restrictions. Tele-technologies, including videoconferencing platforms like Zoom, can facilitate access to exercise classes from one's home. Virtual group exercise classes that incorporate social interaction have particular potential to support the physical and mental health of this population. This session will highlight lessons learned from launching the 'Tele Tai Chi' study, in which we are delivering an evidence-based Tai Chi program (Tai Chi for Arthritis) via Zoom to small group classes of older adults with long-term mobility disabilities. We will describe adaptations made in translating the in-person program to an interactive, online class, and provide an overview of a 'Telewellness' Tool that provides guidelines for using Zoom to deliver exercise classes to older adults.

EXPLORING USE OF DIGITAL HOME ASSISTANTS FOR OLDER ADULTS: A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

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Emerging digital home assistant technology has potential to support older adults in their homes. Voice-activated assistants can be used for entertainment, environmental control, physical activities, health management, and social engagement. However, many older adults have limited experience with these devices, which are not designed with them in mind. We conducted a demonstration project to explore how seven older adult assisted and independent living residents interacted with digital assistants over four months. We conducted

monthly semi-structured telephone interviews and pre/post questionnaires. Participants desired to use their devices to communicate with others, and for a range of health activities, including nutrition tracking, medication management, and health information searching. However, numerous usability barriers emerged. Some participants perceived their device as a social companion. These findings indicate that older adults are willing to use digital assistants for various activities that may enhance independence, although instructional and training materials are needed to support their use.

SMARTBATHROOM DATA VISUALIZATION TOOL TO INFORM OT CLINICAL REASONING

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Traditionally, Occupational Therapy assessment of an older adult's toilet transfer performance has been based on qualitative observation and client self-report. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of supplementing traditional clinical reasoning with quantitative transfer performance data about body and foot position, balance, hand placement and grasping forces on grab bars. Specifically, we conducted an online survey of occupational therapy practitioners and educators to assess the usefulness and usability of 2D and 3D graphic visualizations representing foot and hand position and forces exerted on the floor, toilet seat and grab bars. These data were captured by sensors located throughout GA Tech's SmartBathroom laboratory during a study of transfer performance. Findings are being used to identify the most useful sensor data and the most effective ways to convey that data to improve training of occupational therapy students.

Session 3655 (Symposium)

TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT SOCIAL, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OUTCOMES AMONG OLDER ADULTS

Chair: Walter Boot

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, information and communication technologies (ICTs) are primarily how many people communicate, socialize, and receive healthcare. In a recent Pew report, experts in the role of technology in society believe that post-COVID-19 pandemic, society will continue to be far more technology-driven than pre-pandemic. That is, technology will play an even greater role in our lives in the "new normal." However, compared to younger adults, many older adults are less likely to adopt the technologies needed to perform these everyday tasks. Differences in technology proficiency, acceptance, and adoption between groups is often referred to as the "digital divide," and older adults are more likely to be on the disadvantaged side of this digital divide. This session explores the potential of technology to support social, health, and wellbeing outcomes among older adults, and the challenges involved. This session will start with a talk by A. Lothary on the success and challenges of using a simple video chat platform to address loneliness and social isolation. S. Shende will present a video-technology intervention for older adults with and without cognitive impairment, and how this intervention was designed to facilitate engagement.

This will be followed by a presentation by X. Lin on the relationship between social media usage and well-being across the lifespan, and mediators of this relationship. The session will conclude with a presentation by W. Qin on predictors of older adults' use of telehealth technology to support health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

VIDEO CHAT TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

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Concerns about loneliness and social isolation for older adults were already evident but have been exacerbated during the pandemic. Home and Community Based Organizations (HCBOs) provide support for their older clients in the community and need to support their staff, who may be working remotely. We are exploring the potential of video chat technology to connect older adults with their friends, families, and other support. We review the technologies available to older adults in the community and staff working with older adults to promote social engagement. We are collaborating with OneClick.chat to identify the needs of the HCBOs through a literature review and qualitative interviews of staff members from different senior living environments. Their challenges and successes of engaging older adults through video chat technologies will provide guidance for design of an HCBO dashboard for OneClick.chat that will support diverse needs.

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT FOR A VIRTUAL SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT INTERVENTION

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Video technology has the potential to provide older adults with socially and cognitively engaging activities for in-home participation. We are exploring use of OneClick.chat, a video technology platform, to present older adults with and without mild cognitive impairment opportunities for engagement. In collaboration with iN2L we have developed events that will facilitate conversations that do not rely on episodic memory, cover a range of topics, and represent different cultures and interests. We selected event topics that were positive, socially and cognitively engaging, and included a range of pictures based on our previous research. Events were carefully controlled for length of presentation, picture type, and readability. Discussion questions related to the events were designed to stimulate engaging conversations through