A research framework to guide design of technologies

W.A. ROGERS, T.L. MITZNER, J.A. SANFORD. ***A research framework to guide design of technologies for successful aging with disabilities.*** *Gerontechnology 2014;13(2):272;* doi: 10.4017/gt.2014.13.02.095.00 **Purpose** Adults with disabilities are living longer and thus likely to experience age-related declines that can negatively influence their independence and quality of life. Common abilities that decline with age are sensory (e.g., vision, hearing, tactile), physical (e.g., strength; dexterity), mobility (e.g., balance; coordination), and cognitive[1]. However, we do not have enough information about how normal age-related changes impact individuals who are already dealing with an existing disability (e.g., hearing, vision, or mobility impairment). The overarching goal of this project is to ensure the scientific foundation necessary for effective technology integration into the lives of older adults with disabilities. **Method** We have developed a framework to guide research in this underrepresented area. Based on an assessment of the literature and large-scale questionnaire data (e.g., National Health and Aging Trends Study), we have identified the needs for research that can guide the design of technologies to support individuals aging with disabilities. **Results & Discussion** Our framework is presented in *Figure 1*. Research in these areas will provide the converging evidence necessary to design integrated technology supports for older adults with disabilities.

Reference

1. Birren JE, Schaie KW. Handbook of the psychology of aging. 5th edition. San Diego: Academic Press; 2006

Keywords: housing & daily activities, aging with disabilities

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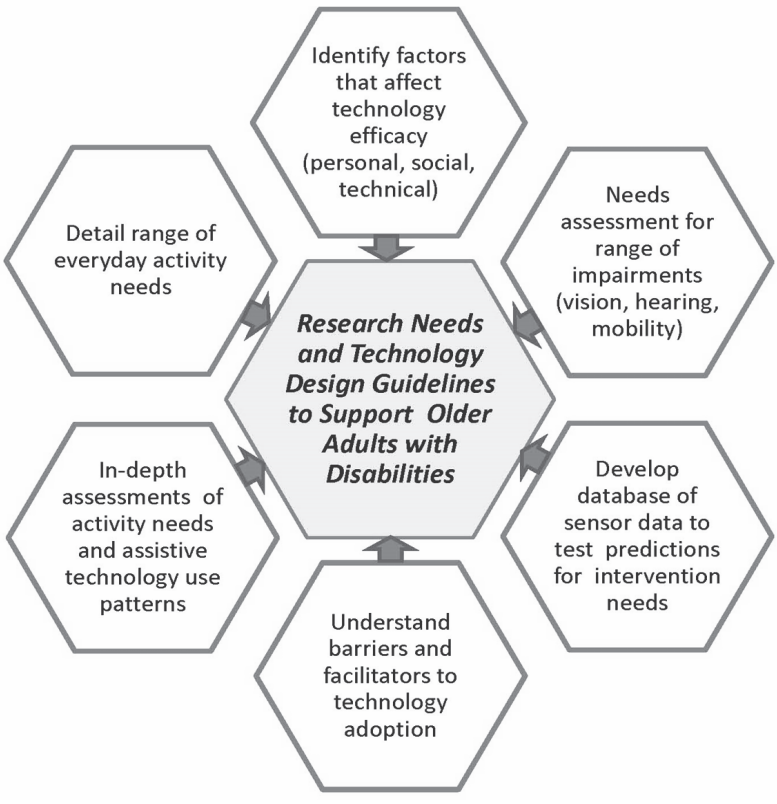

Figure 1. Framework for research needs to guide technology design for older adults with disabilities