

F. ROUTHIER, E. MORALES, M. MOSTAFAVI, L. NOREAU, G. EDWARDS, P. FOUGEYROLLAS, C. VINCENT, N. BOUCHER. **Inclusive cities: Towards mobility and social participation in late life.** *Gerontechnology* 2016;15(suppl):93s; doi:10.4017/gt.2016.15.s.841.00

Purpose The increase in the overall disability rate and the aging of the population are issues of concern when it comes to mobility in the community and social participation. When disabilities appear in their late life, seniors face several obstacles due to the physical environment. Unfortunately, infrastructure design is largely based on autonomous and efficient citizens without disability¹⁻³. Difficulty to get in and out their own house or those of family and friends along with limited access to urban and public spaces are some major aspects that have a direct impact in the social participation of older adults. The goal of this presentation is to describe some technological and design solutions developed by a research team whose main objective is to improve social participation through inclusive solutions in the urban context. **Methods** Our research team adopted several methods from social sciences, design, engineering and health sciences. However, at the core of our activities, a participatory research approach has been consistent. This has been achieved in close collaboration with community partners, Québec City administration, and a rehabilitation center with a common vision of promoting technological and social innovations. **Results and discussion** Due to the broadness and complexity of problem, several on-going projects will be presented: (i) wheelchair training (skills and confidence), (ii) a geographic information system that helps wheelchair users to navigate in the city, (iii) solutions of accessibility and visitability of homes and public buildings, and (iv) a snow removal technology. In addition, the structure of the research team and the functioning strategies with partners will be also described as a fundamental condition of success. The participatory research approach adopted by our team has proved to be an efficient way to address partners concerns with practical solutions. Sharing our experience could help other research teams to favour mobility and social participation of older adults

References

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