

KEYNOTE

G. NEJAT. *Let us help you: The development of intelligent socially assistive robots as the next generation of healthcare helpers*. *Gerontechnology* 2018;17(Suppl):5s; <https://doi.org/10.4017/gt.2018.17.s.005.00> Now more than ever, robots are seen as a unique strategic technology that will become an important part of our society. One main motivation for incorporating intelligent robots into society is our increasing older population. This talk will present some of our recent research efforts in developing intelligent socially assistive robots for older adults including those suffering from cognitive impairments. These robots can provide assistance with activities of daily living, and social and cognitive interventions, and they can aid in preventing depression and improving vital signs via their interaction capabilities. The ability of such robots to autonomously provide cognitive and social stimuli, guidance, and support, and serve as general assistance to individuals as well as groups of users will be discussed. Pilot studies conducted during human-robot interaction scenarios with the autonomous human-like assistive robots Brian, Tangy, Casper and Leia that we have developed in our lab (asblab.mie.utoronto.ca) will also be discussed. These innovative robotic technologies have the potential to improve the quality of life of older adults and their caregivers, while promoting independence and aging-in-place.