

POSTER SESSION 2

Considerations for designing domestic robots for older adults

T. Kadylak, M.A. Bayles, D. Rhee, W.A. Rogers

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Purpose Existing and emerging technologies have potential to promote the health and quality of life of aging populations by enabling aging-in-place with dignity and fostering a resilient sense of well-being (Neves & Vetere, 2019). Specifically, we focus on potential for domestic robots (social and/or assistive) to support the needs of older adults to assist with activities of daily living, health, and well-being. Although robots are inanimate, people of all ages tend to interact with robots as authentic social actors. Robots have the potential to evoke genuine socioemotional responses from their human counterparts (Saunderson & Nejat, 2019). **Method** We reviewed the current literature focused on human-robot interactions among older adults. Our goal was to identify key factors for domestic robot acceptance. **Results & Discussion** We found that important factors for robot acceptance include robot characteristics, individual differences, and environmental factors. Gaps in the literature include questions surrounding older adults' preferences for robot appearance, their perceptions of trust in robots to perform specific tasks, and distinct aspects of interpersonal communication in human-robot interactions. As robots continue to become more pervasive throughout society, it is imperative to consider older adults' unique needs and preferences. We provide a research agenda that can guide efforts to investigate ways to service the needs of aging populations and support health and well-being across the life course. Based on our review, we provide specific design recommendations and encourage participatory design to promote the successful adoption and use of domestic robots among older adults.

References

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Address: College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1206 South 4th St, Champaign, IL 61820, USA