

POSTER SESSION 1

Prioritization of novel technologies by people with disabilities and their caregivers

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Purpose To describe the preferences of caregivers and people with disabilities for the development of novel technological solutions that would make caregiving easier. **Method** As part of a larger two-phase qualitative research project that seeks to develop solutions to address caregivers' needs, we identified 10 potential technological solutions that could reduce caregiver burden. The solutions include 6 potential items that could be used by care recipients, providing relief indirectly to those who care for them, and 4 items that were meant for caregivers specifically. An online survey was developed to enable people living with disabilities and their caregivers to rank their most preferred solutions out of the 10 we identified. The ongoing survey was launched in June 2019 and continues to gather information on the technology preferences of respondents. **Results and Discussion** Sociodemographic data (n=112) is shown in table 1. Almost three-quarter of the participants are caregivers and there are more than twice as many female respondents. About one-third of caregivers lived with the care recipient and almost nine out of ten families receive some type of formal care. Preliminary ranking of the technological solutions using mean preference scores is shown in table 2. The findings highlight how technologies for people with disabilities have the potential to affect their caregivers indirectly. They also emphasize the need for better direct support for caregivers.

Keywords: Assistive technology, caregivers, disability, solutions

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Table 1: Sociodemographic characteristics of participants

Characteristics	Mean ± SD or %
Age	64.77±10.17
Sex	
Male	19.6
Female	47.3
Other	3.6
Participant category	
Caregiver	74.1
Care recipient	25.9
Marital Status	
Married/common law	42.9
Single/divorced	25.9
Unspecified	31.2
Relation receiving care	
Parent	16.1
Spouse	25.9
Living with disability/chronic health condition	41.1
Provide care to more than one person	13.4
Caregiver lives with care recipient	34.8
Receiving some formal care	77.7

Table 2: Ranking of technological solutions

Direct Solutions	Indirect Solutions
Rank 1: A Personalized Cab Service for Transportation	Rank 2: Website for Counselling
Rank 4: Smart Braking System for Walkers/ Walking Aid Devices	Rank 3: Website for recruiting healthcare provider/aid
Rank 5: Smart Cane/Walker with a Wearable Bracelet	Rank 8: Website for Assistive Technology Training for Caregivers and Users
Rank 6: Posture Monitoring Device for Wheelchair Users	Rank 10: Website for Social Activity
Rank 7: Smart Stairway Railing	
Rank 9: Meal container	