

## **Technologies for caregivers of frail elders**

Geoff Fernie PhD, PEng, FCAHS  
Vice-President, Research, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute  
Toronto, Canada  
E: fernie.geoff@torontorehab.on.ca

The most significant challenge to enabling more frail seniors to continue living in their own homes as they age is to invent affordable new products and services to help their informal caregivers. This presentation will be based on examples of products under development by Toronto Rehab researchers. These products address the most demanding tasks for caregivers including assisting with mobility, toileting, bathing and dressing. Each solution will be described in the context of the research and commercialization process that led to its creation.

*Keywords:* caregivers, carers, technology, design, commercialization  
*Gerontechnology 2010;9(2):65* doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.02.004.00

## **What is the contribution of technology to ageing in place?**

Anthea Tinker CBE, PhD, FKC, AcSS, FRSA, CBE  
Professor of Social Gerontology, King's College London  
London, UK  
E: anthea.tinker@kcl.ac.uk

This presentation will cover technology in its widest sense and will include a critique of some of the most exciting developments in telemedicine and telecare as well as the more mundane ones such as computers and telephones. It is suggested that technology has to be considered as part of other services and that there is a danger in too much faith being put in technology to the exclusion of human support. Some current initiatives in the UK will be discussed in the context of the viability of technology being able to support very frail older people, many of whom will have dementia, to age in place.

*Keywords:* ageing in place, technology, frailty, integration of services  
*Gerontechnology 2010;9(2):65* doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.02.005.00