

C. PETERSON, N.R. PRASAD, R. PRASAD. *The future of assistive technologies for dementia*. *Gerontechnology* 2012;11(2):195; doi:10.4017/gt.2012.11.02.427.00 **Purpose** The use of Assistive Technologies (ATs) for residential dementia care is increasing, yet there is a gap between what individuals want, what developers design, and how outcomes are evaluated. Despite widespread acceptance that ATs improve quality of living (QOL), there is relatively little data to support such claims. This article discusses the current state-of-the-art AT-design, its use and assessment in relation to dementia care and projected future trends that can be incorporated into research now. **Method** By reviewing a history of ATs used in residential dementia care, incorporating societal and healthcare trends and applying theories of science, a futuristic view of AT-development and use is presented. The theoretical foundation is rooted in phenomenology¹⁻², universal design³, aging in place⁴⁻⁵ and gerontechnology. This research is supported by results from a European Commission-funded project⁶ where ATs were integrated and tested in real life conditions and evaluated qualitatively and quantitatively by older adults with dementia as well as their formal and informal caregivers⁷. **Results & Discussion** The results (*Table 1*) shows the need for future ATs to be more integrated into the environment, combined with ambient and intelligent technologies, the Internet of Things (IoT), and the potential of cloud computing. They will also become more personalized to individual needs and user requirements.

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Table 1. Overview of results from ISISEMD trials and related research

Project Trials	Supplementary Research	Projected Trends
Issues with AT-outcome assessments	Gap in synergy in implementation and evaluation	Devices will be able to gather information on AT-use themselves
Challenges with measuring QOL in dementia care	Lack of appropriate methodology for assessing QOL outcomes as a result of AT interaction	QOL-tools that will incorporate AT-outcomes; electronic assessments
Successful AT-design must incorporate the user's individual requirements	Phenomenological perspectives in residential AT- incorporation	Phenomenology will be more ubiquitous in environmental design and outcome assessment