

THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING SPEAKER SERIES

PRESENTS

Aging in Place Using Smart and Assistive Technology



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LECTURE ABSTRACT

Both international and the United States demographics clearly project increasing number of older adults (65 years and older), for the foreseeable future. Nursing homes and professional caregivers now and in the future are grossly inadequate to support this population as they age and need assistance. More importantly, most older adults want to age in their own home environment, referred to as “aging in place”, rather than alternative forms of institutional care. According to a 2018 National Academy of Sciences report, aging in place is described as “the goal of many older adults to age within the long-term residence or community where they have spent much of their adult lives.” In order to support safe and independent living for older adults, the use and integration of technology within the living space of older adults is being aggressively investigated as an effective and efficient way to support aging in place. Aging is a multidimensional and complex process that is personal and is closely tied to maintaining independence, self-control, and self-determination. The integration of technology into the human experience of aging is both complex and challenging, but is a hopeful option for keeping people in their preferred home environment for as long as possible.

SPEAKER BIOSKETCH

Dr. Constance Johnson is the Lee and J.D. Jamail Distinguished Professor, Maria C. and Christopher J. Pappas Family Distinguished Chair in Nursing, Associate Dean for Research and Chair of the Department of Research at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Cizik School of Nursing. She has joint appointment at the UTHHealth School of Biomedical Informatics. Dr. Johnson earned her Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing from the University of Connecticut and her Masters and PhD from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Biomedical Informatics. She is a health informaticist with interdisciplinary training in nursing and health informatics and specific training in human-computer interaction. Her research interests include: human-computer interaction and how presentation of information impacts health-related decisions in the area of chronic disease. Her career has been devoted to changing the way information is presented to clinicians and patients to improve the decision-making that impacts health. Her work in human-computer interaction has significantly contributed to a new vision using novel technological tools that assist patients to engage in the self-management of chronic illnesses. Her program of research is a result of years of experience in informatics, disease prevention and health promotion. As a Primary Investigator, she has received funding from the National Library of Medicine, the National Cancer Institute, the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Dr. Johnson has numerous publications and presentations at national and international conferences and has mentored many doctoral students.

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