



Poster # 7

Title of poster: A Focus Group Study on the Design Considerations and Impressions of a Socially Assistive Robot for Long-Term Care

Abstract

Aging adults with health-related physical or cognitive impairments are likely to reside in long term care homes where they are provided with medical services, assistance with activities of daily living, and scheduled leisure activities to improve their health and quality of life. Our research focuses on the design of the socially assistive robot Tangy for long-term care facilities to aid residents with maintaining their cognitive abilities and social connections. Tangy is designed to autonomously schedule, facilitate and promote engagement using the group recreational activity Bingo and telepresence sessions for residents. Focus group sessions were conducted with elderly residents, family members, and healthcare professionals from a long-term care facility to obtain feedback about the design considerations, attitudes, expectations and acceptance of Tangy. Participants were shown demonstrations of Tangy's capabilities and then guided through an open discussion. The focus group sessions were transcribed and organized to identify recurring themes throughout the participants' responses. The results show that the participants indicated that Tangy could be beneficial for long-term care residents and healthcare staff. They believed that Tangy could help alleviate the recreational staff's work load by facilitating Bingo, and they were enthusiastic about the ability of the telepresence activity to help residents connect with their families. Moreover, healthcare staff and family members suggested a wide variety of additional assistive capabilities to promote engagement and acceptance of the robot, such as multiple-language support, reminders and prompts, and modifications to the robot's appearance. Furthermore, they were generally positive about the introduction of socially assistive robots in the residential care homes, although some concerns about various barriers to the adoption of the technology were brought up.

