**Current Projects at WCM**

**A Non-pharmacological Intervention for Patients with Alzheimer’s disease and Family Caregivers (S. Czaja & D. Loewenstein PIs) Care Partners**

This innovative study, funded by NIH, will develop and test the efficacy and feasibility of a dyadic-based intervention (DT) program, delivered through state-of-the-art computer technology (laptop). A novel feature of the investigation is its focus on both the early stage family caregiver and the patient with AD and the integration of an augmented evidenced-based caregiver intervention and evidenced-based cognitive/functional training for the patient. Hispanic, African American and White/Caucasian dyads will be enrolled in the project across the five boroughs.

**Financial Capacity and Financial Exploitation in Diverse Older Adult Populations (S. Czaja, PI) U Pitt**

This study is a longitudinal prospective study of multiple types of FE in a diverse sample of older adults. Examination of pathways to FE among the oldest old and in large ethnically diverse samples in a longitudinal design; inclusion of detailed cognitive function, financial skills/advice and support, and psychosocial factors; use of simulations of “real world” financial tasks and scam scenarios; and use of audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (A-CASI) to enhance privacy/reduce potential barriers to reporting FE are innovative and can inform interventions to help detect, prevent, and reduce FE in older adults.

**A Personalized Health Behavior System to Promote Well-Being in Older Adults (S. Czaja, PI) Fittle Silver**

The objectives of this NIH funded study are to examine the usability and efficacy, for diverse older adults, of a new tablet-based intervention, the Fittle Senior System (FSS), that will provide: personalized behavior-change programs for improved diet and increased physical activity and online social interaction and support. The participants in this study will include a total of 213 older adults aged 65+ years (71 in each of three ethnic groups: White American, Hispanic and Black/African American) who are socially isolated and at risk for cardiovascular disease.

**Center for Research and Education for Aging and Technology Enhancement (CREATE) (S. Czaja, Director - PI)**

CREATE is a multi-site, multidisciplinary Center funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging (NIH/NIA) that involves collaboration with Georgia Institute of Technology and Florida State University. CREATE, originally funded in 1999, is dedicated to studying issues surrounding interactions between older adults and technology. The overarching goal of CREATE is to ensure that current and future generations of older adults are able to successfully use technology and the benefits of technology are realized for older adult populations. The focus of CREATE is on technology systems within the domains of health, work and living environments.

**CREATE Research Project (Study 1) Technology Adoption and Older Adults (S. Czaja, PI)**

The focus of this study is to develop an understanding of the decisions older adults make with respect to their willingness to pursue adoption of technology-based applications that can potentially improve independence, well-being and performance of everyday tasks. Participants will view a presentation on 5 different technologies which you may not have heard of and have no experience with. Participants will be asked to complete questionnaires which ask for your opinions on the technologies. At the end of the session, participants will be asked to complete other questions and tests about their attention and memory.
CREATE Research Project (Study 2) Healthcare Decision Making (S. Czaja, PI)

This project, funded by NIH, will examine the relative roles of six different sources of health information, characterized from most traditional to least traditional (e.g., newspaper, physician advice versus Internet-based guidance, simulated online social network), in influencing the choices that both younger and older people make with regard to both low and high-risk healthcare decisions using four healthcare decision making scenarios. The study will also examine how these choices are impacted by individual characteristics such as age, cognitive abilities, personality, health literacy, numeracy ability, risk attitude, and trust in information source. Study participants will include 50 younger, 50 middle-aged and 50 older (65+) adults. Findings from this study can be used to help develop a framework for understanding healthcare decision making among older adults.

Collaborative Aging (in Place) Research Using Technology (S. Czaja, PI) CART

This program develops and validates an infrastructure for rapid and effective conduct of research utilizing technology to facilitate aging in place. A series of devices/technologies will be installed in participants’ home and monitor their health as well as examine the usability and acceptability of hardware and software technology, communication and feedback interfaces from older adults. The project will also be examining whether these devices/technologies are capable of measuring and predicting loss of independence or establishing the risk profile of older adults.

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