



AgeTech Connect Atlanta Meetup - 2026 Kickoff!

JAN
21

Wednesday, January 21
9:45 AM - 12:00 PM



Biltmore Innovation Center
Atlanta, Georgia

Registration



Event Full
If you'd like, you can join the waitlist.

Please click on the button below to join the waitlist. You will be notified if additional spots become available.

Join Waitlist

About Event

You're invited: Launching 2026 with AgeTech + Robotics in Atlanta!

Join us for the **first AgeTech Connect meetup of 2026**, bringing together leaders at the intersection of aging, robotics, and intelligent care. Hosted at the stunning **Biltmore Innovation Center** and presented in partnership with **RoboGeorgia**, this morning gathering will spotlight the technologies—and collaborations—shaping the future of care.

What's on the program:

- **Welcome to the ecosystem**
 - *Julie Pierre, Innovation Ecosystem Relationship Manager at Collaborative Real Estate and Studio B, will kick off the morning and set the stage for innovation at Biltmore.*
- **The 2026 AgeTech vision**
 - *Jeffrey Gray, Founder & CEO of AgeTech Connect, will share where the AgeTech ecosystem is headed and why Atlanta is uniquely positioned to lead.*
- **Care robots, up close**
 - *Ward Broom, Chairman of RoboGeorgia and Automation & Robotics Catalyst at ATDC, will curate live demos and a dynamic Q&A exploring what's next for robotics in aging and care.*
- **Founder perspective**
 - *Charlie Kemp, Co-Founder & CTO of Hello Robot, on building practical, human-centered robots for everyday life.*
- **Research shaping the future**
 - *Professor Bruce Walker, Georgia Tech School of Interactive Computing, will share groundbreaking work on robotic guide dogs and accessible human-robot interaction.*

Hosted By

Jeffrey Gray

Julie Pierre

Gordon Rogers

Ward Broom

Shawn D. Smith

David Pierce

Bill Brady

200 Going

Tisha Ford, Elizabeth Miller and 198 others

Contact the Host

Report Event

AI

AgeTech Connect Atlanta Meetup - 2026 Kickoff!

<https://luma.com/dbmfbk19>

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With thanks to our partners:

1 True Health · Founder's Legal · Telligent Systems · Atlanta Tech Village · Carabiner Communications

Connect with fellow innovators, see emerging technology in action, and help define how robotics and AgeTech come together in 2026 and beyond.

Location

Biltmore Innovation Center
817 W Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, GA 30308, USA

Home Robots for Aging in Place



Charlie Kemp, PhD
Cofounder & Chief Technology Officer

hello robot[®]



Massachusetts
Institute of Technology

Georgia
Tech

hello robot®

2017

2026

2005

2006

2023



Stretch is an Open, Human-centric Robot



over 100 universities across 25 countries

Home Robots Can Enhance Life in Unexpected Ways



Photo by Peter Adams

Homes are Challenging for Robots

- Family members and guests
of all ages and abilities
- Pets
- Sentimental objects
- The clutter of real life

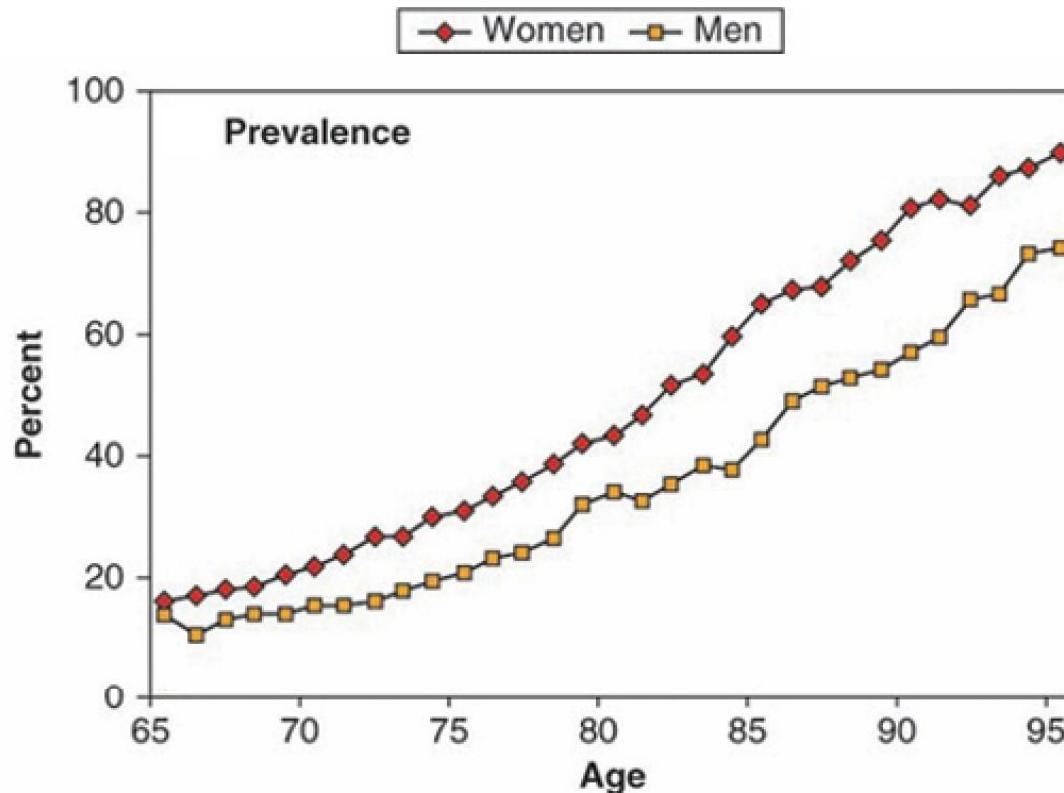


People with Mobility Impairments are Promising Early Adopters

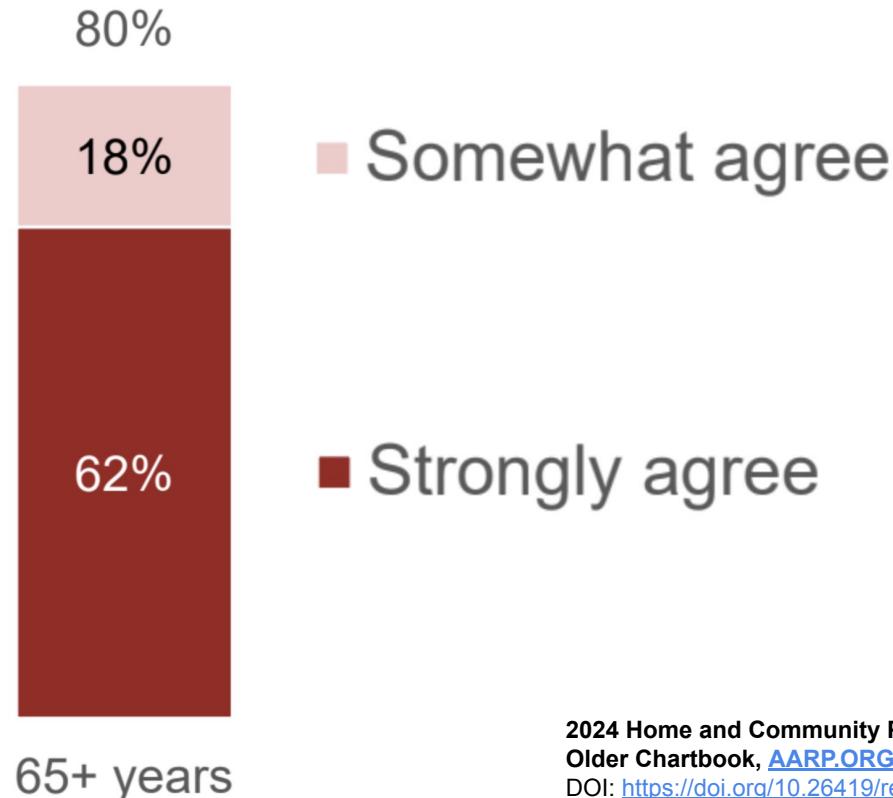
- Chronic conditions provide more time to learn
- High-value tasks are technically achievable
- Supervision and direct control have advantages
- Robots have benefits over human assistance



Mobility Disabilities Increase with Age



“What I’d really like to do is reside in my current **residence** for as long as possible”



Collaborative Research with Henry & Jane Evans



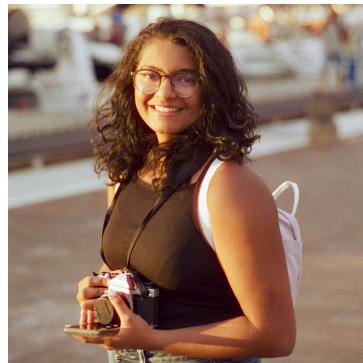
[Dr. Vy Nguyen](#)
Hello Robot lead



[Prof. Wendy Rogers](#)
UIUC lead



[Prof. Maya Cakmak](#)
UW lead



[Dr. Vinitha Ranganeni](#)
Web Teleop lead

[Henry & Jane Evans](#)
Robots for Humanity Leads
(Henry is in his 60s)



When we mounted a tablet
with my image on Stretch

Home Robots Can Enhance Life in Unexpected Ways



Photo by Peter Adams

The Future Might Surprise Us

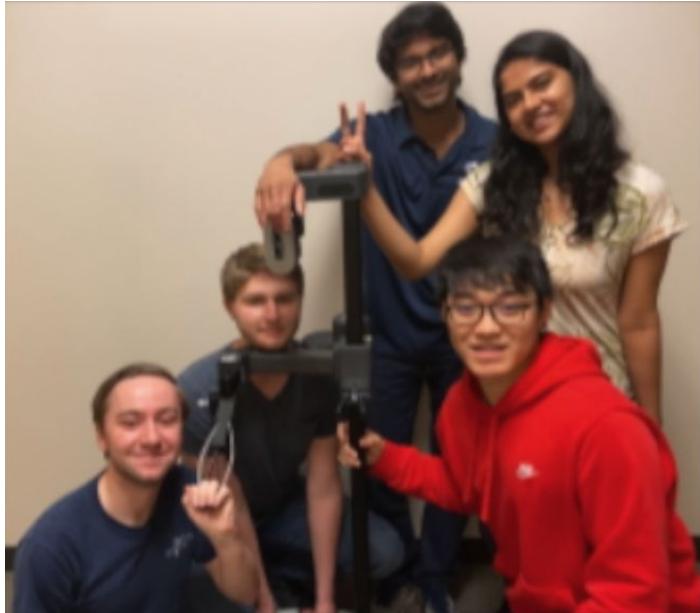
Examples from my Robotic Caregivers Class

<https://sites.gatech.edu/robotic-caregivers/>

Midnight Stretch - Nighttime Fall Assistance

<https://youtu.be/yqKOwHO42N4>

Midnight Stretch



- Jeremy Collins
- Mark Putman
- Stuart Song
- Aparna Subramaniam
- Prathic Sundararajan

<https://www.aarp.org/health/healthy-living/info-2023/how-to-safely-get-up-from-falls.html>

Swancutt DR, Hope SV, Kent BP, Robinson M, Goodwin VA. [Knowledge, skills and attitudes of older people and staff about getting up from the floor following a fall: a qualitative investigation](#). BMC Geriatr. 2020 Oct 6;20(1):385. doi: 10.1186/s12877-020-01790-7. PMID: 33023509; PMCID: PMC7542342.

All persons pictured are able-bodied



<https://youtu.be/yqKOwHO42N4>



<https://youtu.be/yqKOwHO42N4>



<https://youtu.be/yqKOwHO42N4>

10 x Speed



<https://youtu.be/yqKOwHO42N4>



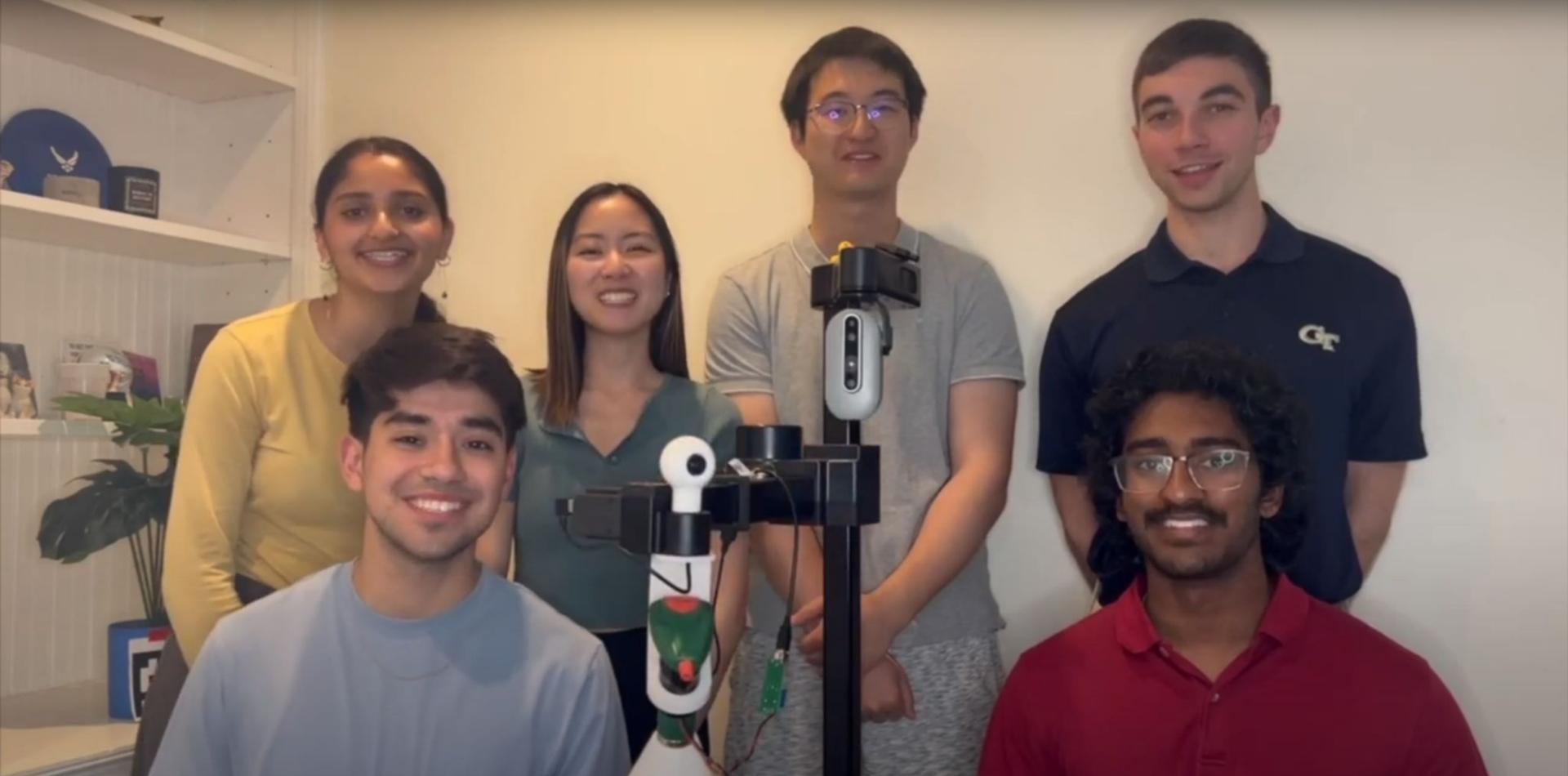
<https://youtu.be/yqKOwHO42N4>



<https://youtu.be/yqKOwHO42N4>

Sprout – Robot-Assisted Horticultural Therapy for People with Mobility Impairments

<https://youtu.be/0LqbrnJNvPA>



Netra Gandhi, Alejandro Vasquez, Fiona Cheung, Kefan Song, Girish Hari, Joshua Shafran
<https://youtu.be/0LqbrnJNvPA>

Students Found Experts

ic Horticultural Therapy - Green Team



Kirk W. Hines, HTR
Director of Horticultural Therapy

Experience



A.G. Rhodes

10 years 5 months

● **Director of Horticultural Therapy**

Nov 2020 - Present · 3 years 5 months
Atlanta Metropolitan Area

● **Horticultural Therapist**

Nov 2013 - Present · 10 years 5 months
Greater Atlanta Area
Program founder/manager for the Horticultural Therapy Program responsible for delivery of service, development of programming and therapeutic gardens at the three A.G. Rhodes Health & Rehab facilities.



Horticultural Therapist

Emory Healthcare

Apr 1993 - Nov 2013 · 20 years 8 months

Registered Horticultural Therapist (HTR). Founded and directed the Horticultural Therapy program at Wesley Woods Hospital of Emory Healthcare. Program closed November 2013.

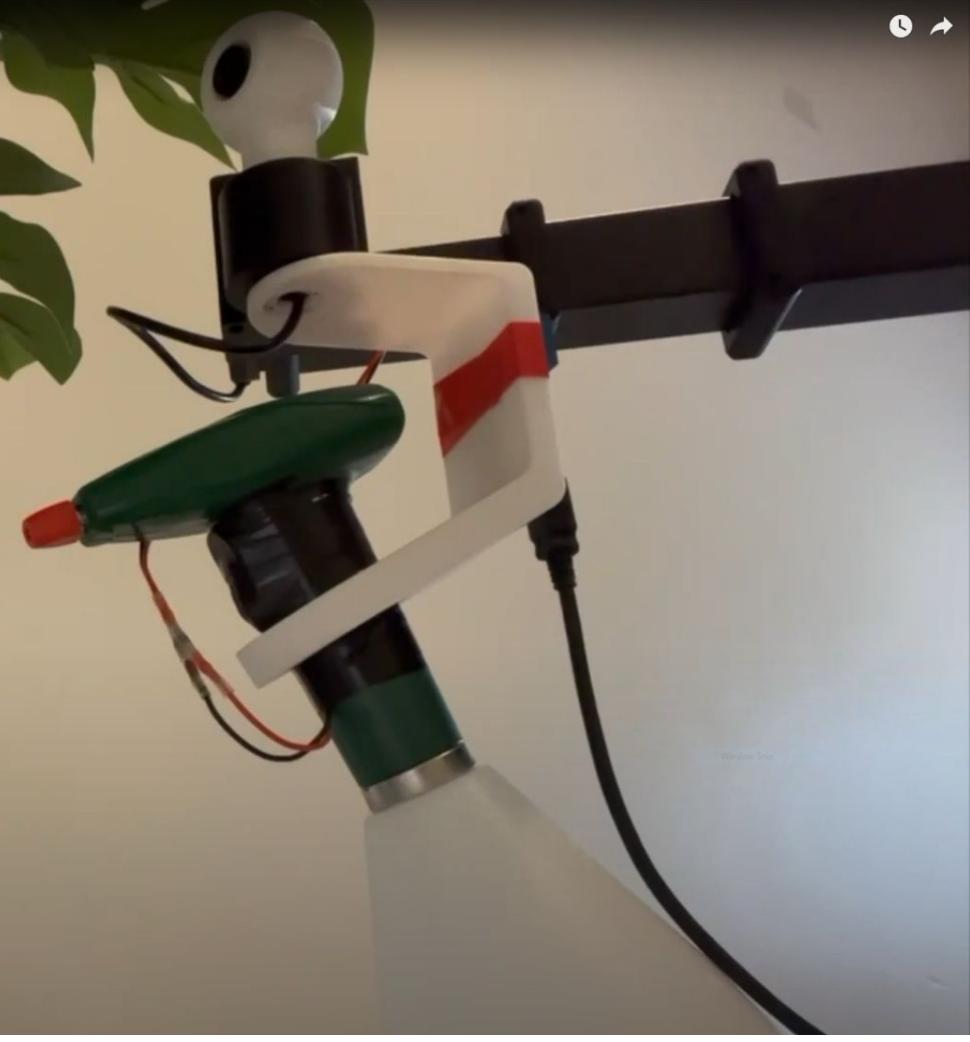
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kirkhines>
<https://youtu.be/0LqbrnJNvPA>

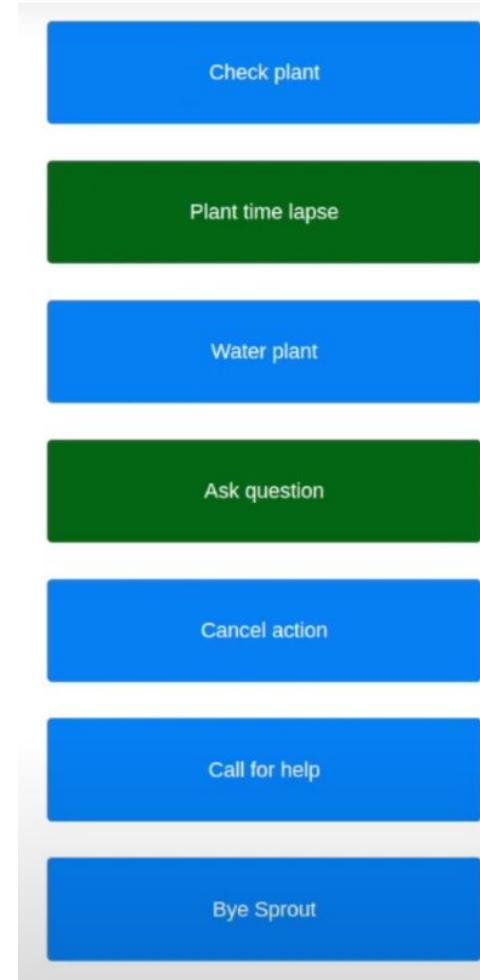
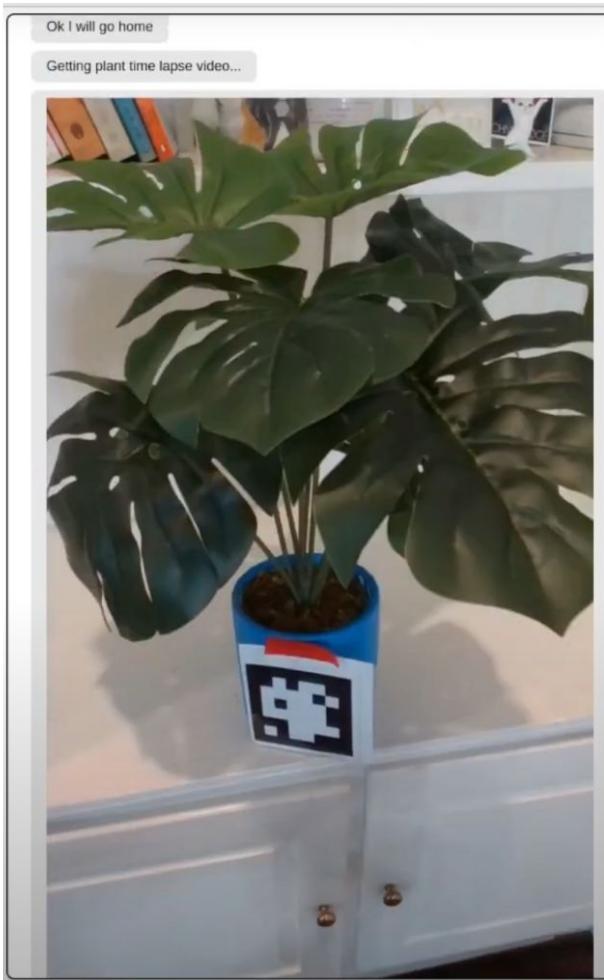
Students Got Feedback from Older Adults



<https://youtu.be/0LqbrnJNvPA>

Time Speed: 1x





Helping People with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) Find Misplaced Objects

<https://youtu.be/QUB79UTbwvE>

Robotic Assistant for Finding Misplaced Objects

Oluwatofunmi
Sodimu



Thanapol
Tantagunninat



Daniel Lewis



Kanishk .



Nikhil
Chittaluru



Erin Kelly

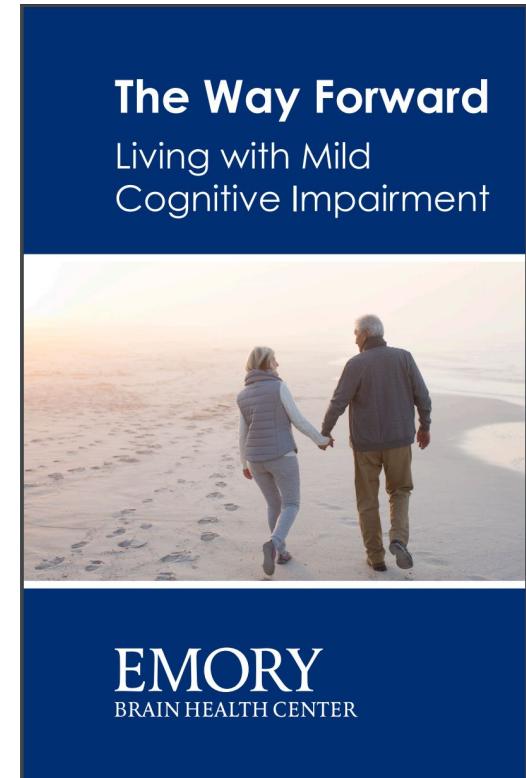


Juan Antonio
Robledo



The Team Worked with the Cognitive Empowerment Program

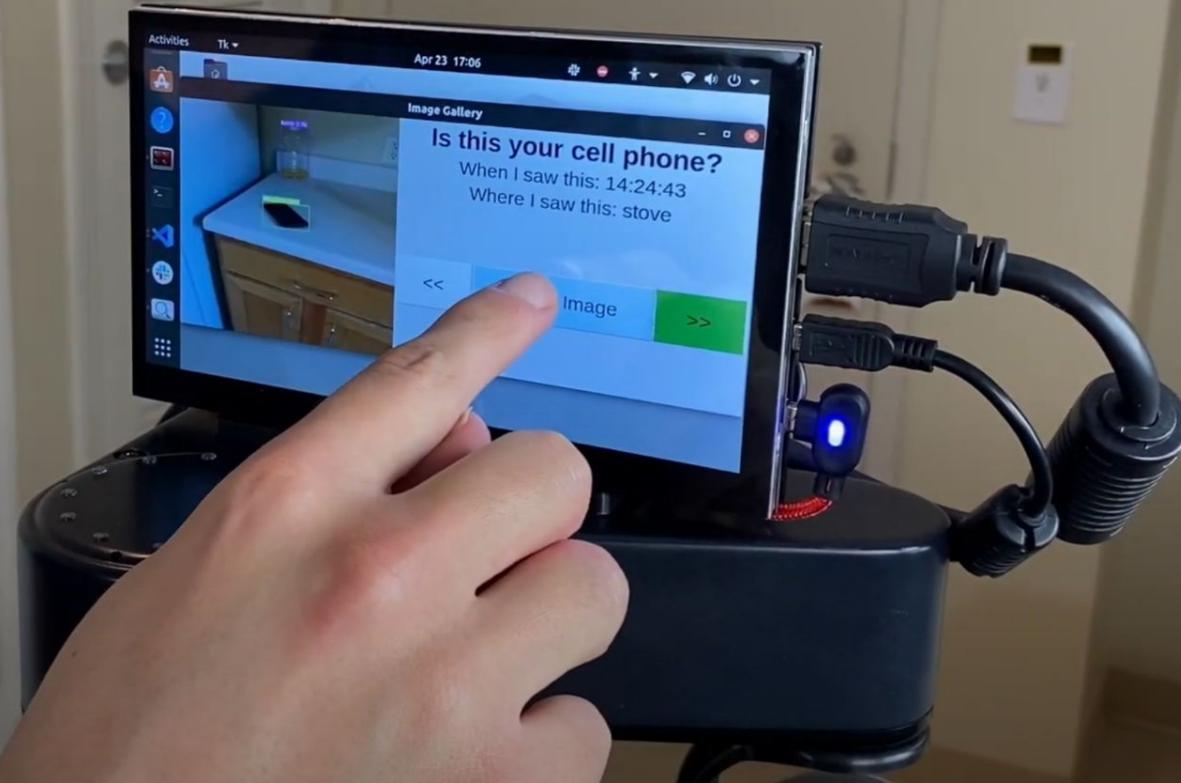
- The team engaged program participants from the beginning
- Stakeholders included
 - People diagnosed with MCI
 - Care partners
 - Clinicians
 - Health professionals



Cover of [the program's resource guide](#) for people diagnosed with MCI and their care partners



4x speed

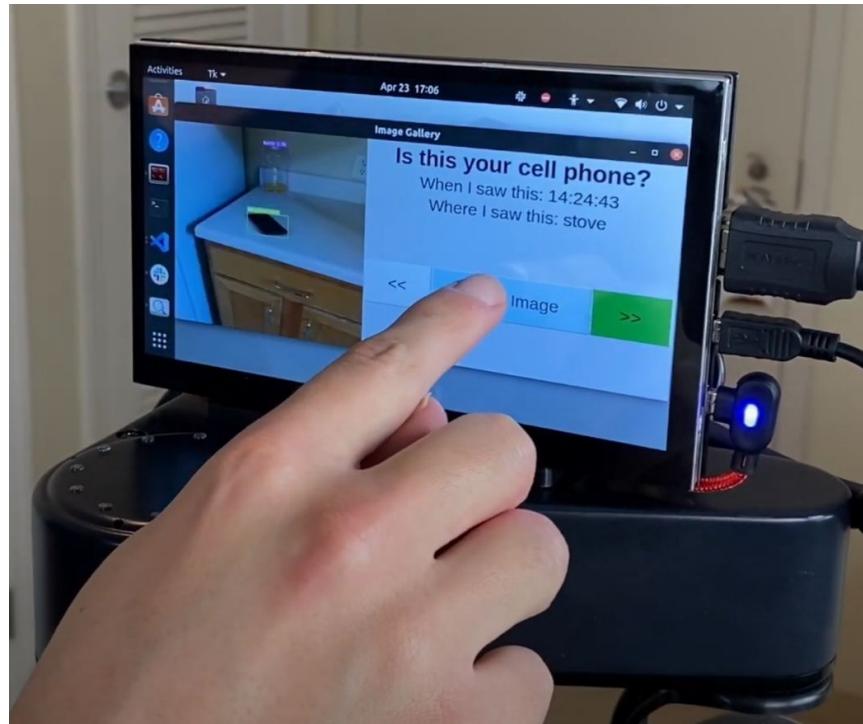




here is where I took the photo

The Robot and the Person with MCI Work Together

- The robot has perfect memory
- The person knows what they're looking for
- They work together to find the object interactively



Stretch AI and DynaMem

May 1, 2025



Stretch 3002 APP 8:11 AM

Hello everyone!



Peiqi 8:12 AM

Where is the tennis ball?



Stretch 3002 APP 8:12 AM

the tennis ball is on top of the white plastic drawer unit shown in image 1.. I believe this answer is correct because the question asks for the location of the tennis ball. image 1 clearly shows a yellow tennis ball sitting on top of the white plastic drawer unit, among other items.

I also provide relevant images here.



- Stretch AI on GitHub: https://github.com/hello-robot/stretch_ai
- DynaMem on GitHub: https://github.com/hello-robot/stretch_ai/blob/main/docs/dynamem.md
- **Peiqi Liu, Zhanqiu Guo, Mohit Warke, Soumith Chintala, Chris Paxton, Nur Muhammad Mahi Shafiullah, and Lerrel Pinto.** "[Dynamem: Online dynamic spatio-semantic memory for open world mobile manipulation](#)." In 2025 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), pp. 13346-13355. IEEE, 2025.



Stretch with Stretch: Robot-led Physical Therapy for Individuals with Parkinson's Disease

<https://youtu.be/33iy9St0hBw>

The Original Project Team from Fall 2021

grad & undergrad students - robotics, CS, and BME



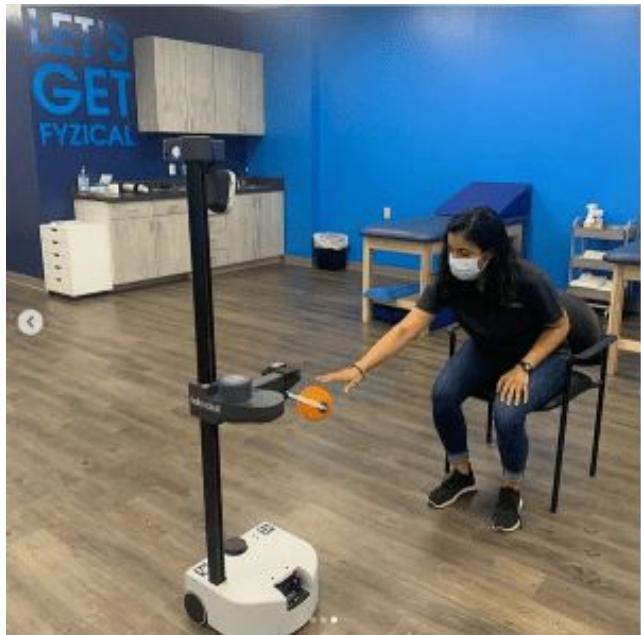
Zexuan Liu, Kendra Washington, Madeline Beatty, Arjun Majumdar, and Matt Lamsey
<https://youtu.be/33iy9St0hBw>

A Novel Exercise Game for People with Parkinson's Disease



<https://sites.gatech.edu/robotic-caregivers/2021-fall/>

They Took Their Robot Into the Real World



fyzical_chastain Last week, we had the awesome opportunity to meet with a research group from @georgiatech and discuss the future of technology in physical therapy - and test out this cute little robot named "Stretch"! For people who have Parkinson's Disease (PD), physical therapy involves retraining the brain to correctly perceive the amplitude of the body's movements. External targets provide feedback - did you reach/lean/ kick far enough or not? This team is working on optimizing a robot to generate an external target, measure outcomes, and provide consistent repetitions. We are looking forward to seeing their progress! Thanks guys!

*

*

*

<https://sites.gatech.edu/robotic-caregivers/2021-fall/>

The Team Grew After the Class



Prof. Madeleine Hackney

Project Lead

Neurokinesiology Lab
Emory School of Medicine
Department of Medicine
Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology
Atlanta VA



Dr. Meredith Wells, PhD

Post-doctoral Research Fellow
Emory School of Medicine
Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology



Elizabeth Nguyen

Biology / Biological Sciences
Undergraduate
Emory



Arielle Wallenstein

Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology
Undergraduate
Emory



Until September 2023

Prof. Charlie Kemp

Georgia Institute of Technology
Department of Biomedical Engineering



Jerry Feldman

Test Pilot & Domain Expert
Ambassador for the
Parkinson's Foundation



Matt Lamsey

Technical Lead
Robotics PhD student
Georgia Tech



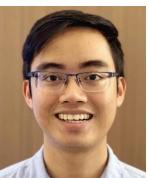
Dr. Naveen Kuppuswamy, PhD

Senior Research Scientist
Toyota Research Institute



You Liang Tan

Computer Science
MS student
Georgia Tech



Louis Nguyen

Computer Science and Engineering
MS student
Georgia Tech



Team that developed the original concept

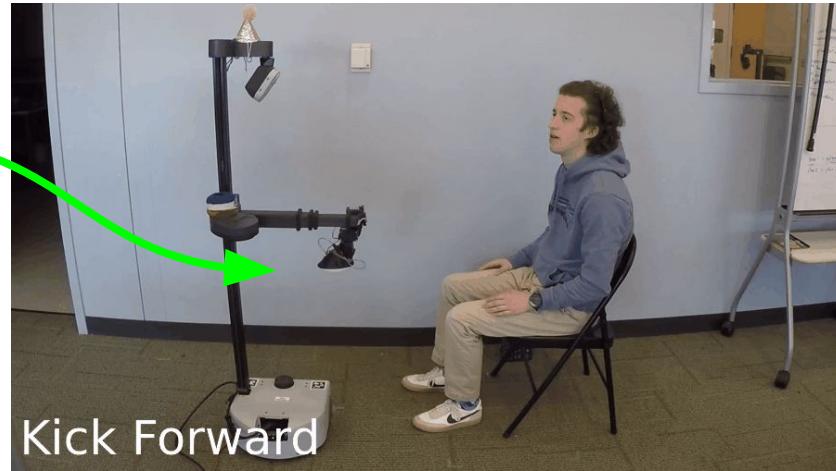
Class: [Robotic Caregivers, Fall 2021](#)

Team Members: Zexuan Liu, Kendra Washington, Madeline Beatty, Arjun Majumdar, and Matt Lamsey

Opportunities for Robot-assisted Physical Therapy

Soft-bubble end effector from the Toyota Research Institute (TRI)

A. Alspach, K. Hashimoto, N. Kuppuswamy and R. Tedrake,
["Soft-bubble: A highly compliant dense geometry tactile sensor for robot manipulation."](#) 2019 2nd IEEE International Conference on Soft Robotics (RoboSoft), Seoul, Korea (South), 2019, pp. 597-604



Kick Forward

- **Increase frequency and quality of exercise [1]**
- Reduce caregiver burden in clinics and homes
- Quantitatively track progress and adherence
- Collect clinically-relevant functional measurements

[1] Mak, M. et. al. "[Long-term effects of exercise and physical therapy in people with Parkinson's Disease.](#)" *Nature Reviews Neurology* 13, 689-703 (2017).

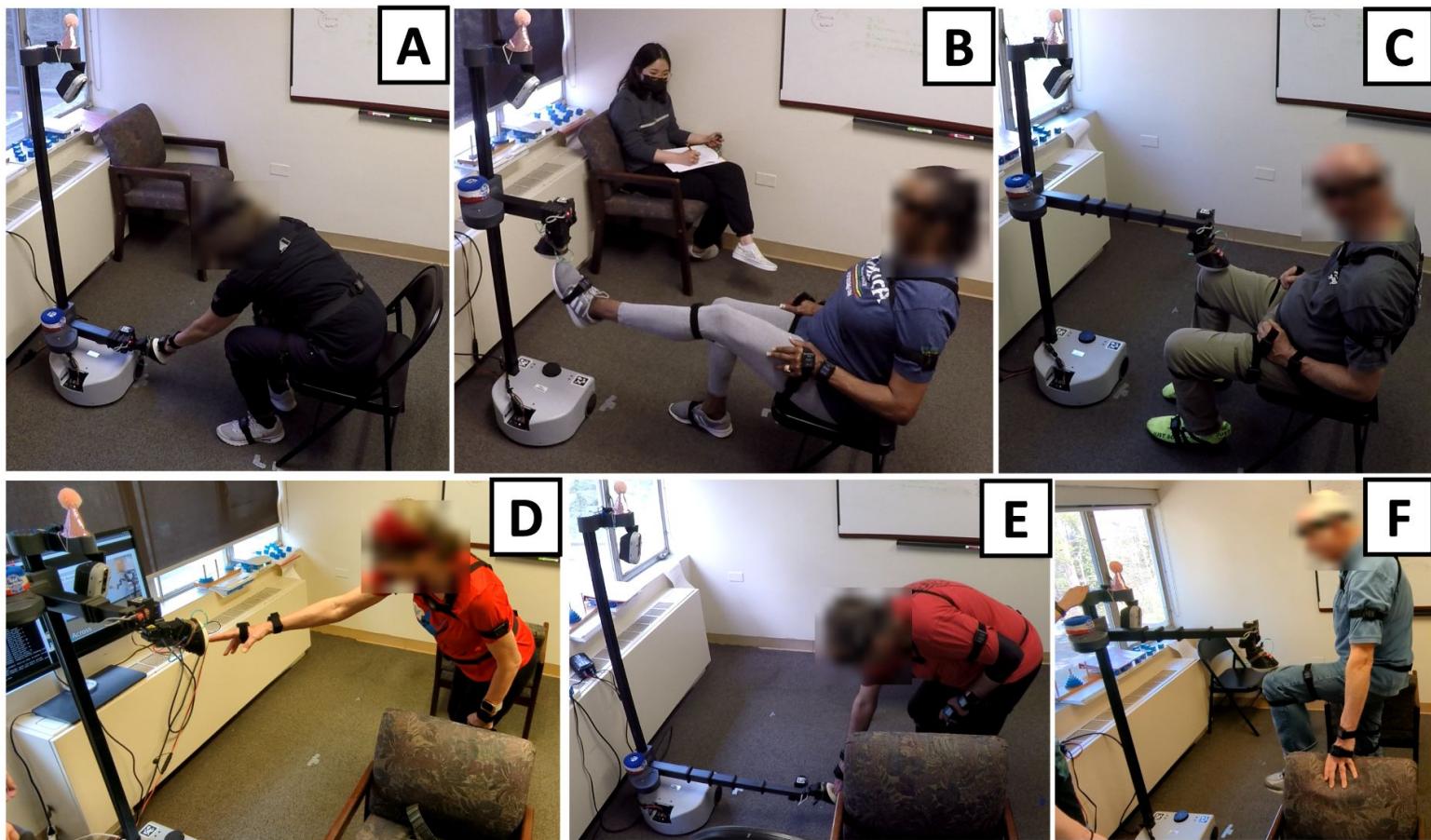
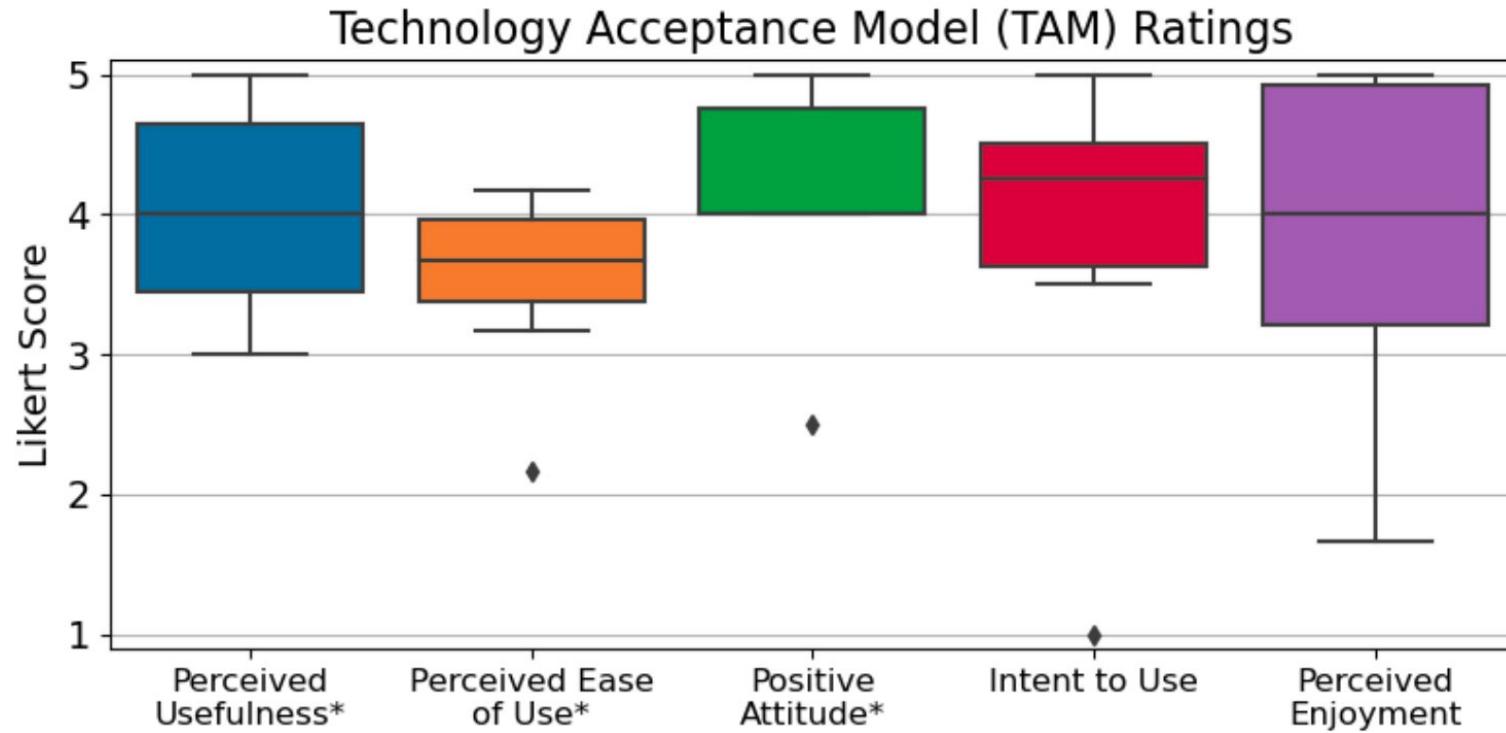


Fig. 4: We performed a user study with 10 people with PD. **(A-C)** Participants performing seated reaching, kicking, and calf raise exercises. **(D-F)** Participants performing standing reach across, reach down, and high knees exercises. Chairs were placed near the participant as safety devices for the standing exercises.

First Published Results

10 people with Parkinson's disease, 1 hour each, 6 exercises

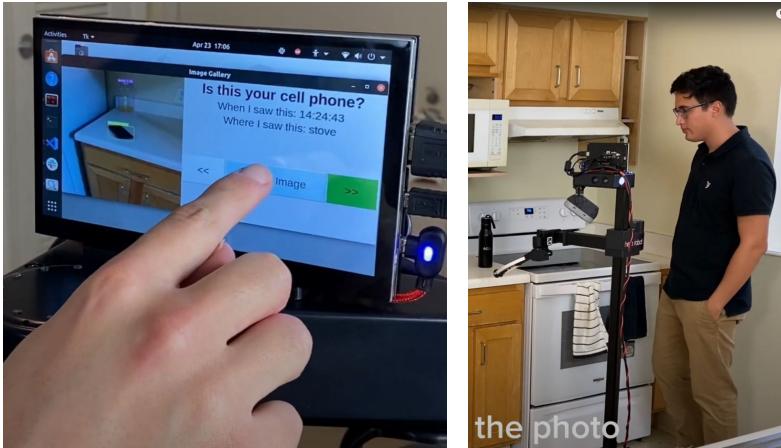


Stretch with Stretch: Physical Therapy Exercise Games Led by a Mobile Manipulator. Matthew Lamsey, You Liang Tan, Meredith D. Wells, Madeline Beatty, Zexuan Liu, Arjun Majumdar, Kendra Washington, Jerry Feldman, Naveen Kuppuswamy, Elizabeth Nguyen, Arielle Wallenstein, Madeleine E. Hackney, Charles C. Kemp, ICRA 2024. ([website with videos](#))

Nighttime Fall Assistance



Assistance Finding Misplaced Objects



Horticultural Therapy Assistance



Personalized Exercise Game



Home Robots for Aging in Place

- A human-scale robot designed for homes
- Assistance for people with mobility impairments
- Glimpses of the future



Stretch 3 from Hello Robot

Home Robots Can Enhance Life in Unexpected Ways



Photo by Peter Adams