

MONTHLY

A look into our current and up-and-coming projects.

Member Spotlight

Cindy & Lester Gierach



Cindy and Lester were introduced to the lab through one of our Friendly Dementia Café initiatives. Although they are new to the IDEA Lab, Cindy and Lester have helped tremendously with the TV Project, including reviewing and providing feedback on our videos.

How does the lab connect to your life?

We have enjoyed making many new friends by becoming involved in dementia support groups and research at UBC after Lester was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2019. We both feel that one of the best things we can do is to be a support and encouragement to others on the same journey. Lester also has his PhD in Educational Administration so he's used to working with professors and researchers.

Share a fond interaction from your time at the lab.

Watching some of the TV Project videos with Lester was enjoyable for both of us. It was especially fun to hear Lester interact with the videos, through naming the animals and making the sound an animal would make. Because Lester's family had some farm animals when he was growing up, it got Lester talking with me about those happy times. It was very nice seeing the videos raise his spirits.

What message do you have for people wanting to volunteer with IDEA Lab?

There are many different projects that the IDEA Lab is working on; find one that you feel passionate about. You can be part of making a real difference in people's lives as they grow older so that they can enjoy life at any age or stage.

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Smart TV

Karen Wong

Staff at both hospital and long-term care sites have been actively using TV videos to improve the quality of life of patients and residents with dementia. We are also collecting feedback from staff, patients, residents, and families regarding the use of these TV videos. There are a lot of amazing stories which we are so impressed with!

Jeff, a rehab assistant at VGH, was interviewed about the use of the TV videos. The video is now on Twitter and it attracts interest across Canada! Check it out!

Mona and Winnie watching a projected VR video!



Virtual Reality

Joey Wong

March has been a fruitful month for our team! After receiving ethics approval for Phase 3, we started collecting data with residents. With the help of our staff champions and volunteers at the sites, we have explored residents' experiences using VR during and after the VR session, and their feedback has been both valuable and insightful. Given that residents who participated in the interviews are from different cultural backgrounds and capacities, they were able to provide rich data for our data analysis phase in the coming months. Our team members learned a lot throughout the process. Excellent teamwork!



Telepresence Robot

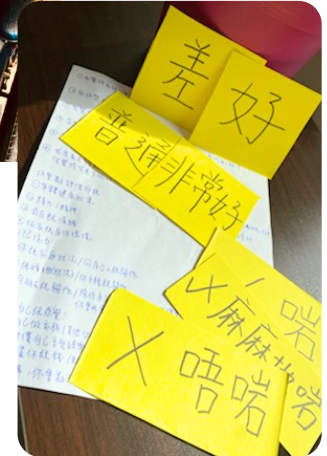
Lily Haopu Ren

We recently interviewed a resident who uses our telerobot to virtually visit his daughter, who lives in Toronto, from time to time. As a token of our appreciation, we gifted a telerobot keychain to the resident, and learned that he loves hanging it on his wheelchair!



Recently, our team members created translated cue cards to help explain our interview questions to our Cantonese-speaking interviewees, with support from our lab member, Lily Wong. These cards helped create a more linguistically and culturally-accessible experience for our participants, thereby allowing them to open up and share valuable insight. Our wonderful

patient-partner, Mario, suggested using a yellow cue-card as this provides stronger visual contrast for our residents, which has been extremely helpful. We love and appreciate co-development!



OUR NEW PUBLICATION!

Hung et al.
Research Involvement and Engagement (2023) 9:12
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40900-023-00421-w>

Research Involvement
and Engagement

RESEARCH

Open Access

Using telepresence robots as a tool to engage patient and family partners in dementia research during COVID-19 pandemic: a qualitative participatory study

Lillian Hung, Charlie Lake*, Ali Hussein, Joey Wong and Jim Mann



Click the screenshot to view the full article!

We have a new paper published! Led by our teammate Charlie Lake and coauthored by Dr. Lillian Hung, Ali Hussein, Joey Wong and Dr. JimMann, the paper showed how we engaged patient and family partners in participatory research in LTC during the pandemic using Telepresence Robots!

DemSCAPE

Joey Wong

In March, the DemSCAPE data analysis team has worked on finalizing the coding framework. For knowledge translation, we have shared our project at the SFU Gerontology careers night by our project manager, Cari and the Journées annuelles de santé publique (JASP) by our visiting researcher, Stéphanie. We have got two pieces of exciting news! Our abstracts have been accepted by the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association (CGNA) conference 2023 and the BC Quality Forum 2023. Joey and Kishore, our two project coordinators, will be representing the team to present at the conferences respectively. We look forward to sharing more with you in the newsletters of the coming months!

Qualitative Study Protocol

Protocol for A Mixed-Methods Study: Dementia-Inclusive Streets and Community Access, Participation, and Engagement (DemSCAPE)

Kishore Seetharaman¹, Habib Chaudhury¹, Lillian Hung², Alison Phinney², Shannon Freeman³, Mark Groulx⁴, Dawn Hemingway⁵, Stéphanie Lanthier-Labonté¹, Cari Randa¹, and Emma Rossnagel³

Abstract

Neighbourhoods are known to help maintain functional abilities and enable out-of-home activities and social participation for people living with dementia. Dementia friendly and inclusive communities (DFC) frameworks recognize the importance of developing supportive and empowering environments for people living with dementia and their families. Beyond the core objective of raising awareness and eliminating stigma associated with dementia, most DFC frameworks also focus on improving

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New Publication

On March 23, 2023 DemSCAPE had its latest paper published! Congratulations to the DemSCAPE Team!

Click the screenshot to view the full article!

Congratulations Team!

March has been an exciting month for many of our lab members with **three papers being accepted for publication**- each led by a different student from our lab! A special shoutout to **Charlie, Mona and Grace** for leading their respective papers!

