

# Advancing Technologies for the Aging Population



**Richard Pak**  
Associate Professor, Psychology Department

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### Technology can help improve quality of life for older adults

As GPS devices have become increasingly popular, accounts of drivers following maps off bridges, into oncoming traffic, and sometimes to their ultimate death has become a new phenomenon. While that is one dramatic example, everyday interactions with technology has the same issue. Especially susceptible to such accidents are older adults that are less familiar with using new technologies and therefore are more likely to trust such devices despite receiving inaccurate information. Dr. Richard Pak, of Clemson University, is interested in understanding the complexities of human behavior and the applications that impact people's relationship with the technologies they use, with an exceptional focus upon older adults. Studying how the mind changes, Dr. Pak and his team hope to find out what makes technology difficult to use and how to fix it. Thus, his research works towards helping some of the most vulnerable members of society!

Dr. Pak is one of very few human factors researchers that studies the interaction between aging and technology. Through understanding how the process of aging affects our minds, how those changes affect our ability to use technology, and furthermore, how to redesign technology so that everyone can use it easily, Dr. Pak and his team are making strides towards making helpful advances in automation, electronics, and robotics more accessible for older adults while improving their health and wellness. By pulling together the growing field of automation and a deep concern for the quality of life of our aging population, Dr. Pak's research uniquely tackles the problems of older adult's everyday lives. In fact, his co-authored book, *Designing Displays for Older Adults*, condensed...

## AFFILIATION



Clemson University

## EDUCATION

- B.S., in Psychology, 1997 , Georgia Institute of Technology
- M.S., in Psychology, 2001 , Georgia Institute of Technology
- Ph.D., in Psychology, 2005 , Georgia Institute of Technology

## RESEARCH AREAS

Health & Wellness, Longevity, Immortality Research

## FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Richard Pak, of Clemson University, as he designs technologies for all ages that truly make an impact. Donations will support the necessary costs for personnel with \$20K per year needed to support each graduate student. In choosing to donate, you will play a role in understanding the complexities of human behavior while helping some of the most vulnerable members of our society to interact more effectively with technology.

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