



Faculty of Health and Social Sciences Distinguished Lecture Series



Speaker:

Prof. Wendy Moyle

Program Director of Healthcare Practice and Survivorship
Menzies Health Institute Queensland
Griffith University
Brisbane, Australia

Biography

Prof. Wendy Moyle is a registered nurse and Program Director of Healthcare Practice and Survivorship, a Research Program in the Menzies Health Institute Queensland at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. Her research expertise is in the areas of ageing and innovative therapies and particularly dementia, depression and delirium, and managing the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD). She has a keen interest in technologies and works with national and international teams to develop and evaluate assistive technologies and social robotics, and to examine their efficacy in reducing BPSD and improving quality of life. She recently led the most extensive and rigorous trial ever undertaken in the field of social robots, and this has received significant media and research interest. She has received several awards including two International Women's Day Awards for her research leadership and robotic research and will be inducted later in 2019 into the Sigma International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame for her lifetime achievements in and contributions to research, as well as her mentorship of future nurse researchers. Her research features widely in the media, and to date, she has given 14 television appearances, 122 media interviews, 120 invited keynote and plenary presentations and published 215 peer-reviewed publications. She has received over AU\$10 million in research funding from grant schemes such as National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council, Dementia Australia, and Dementia Collaborative Research Centre Research Grants.



<https://polyu.hk/kFPcl>



3400-3184



A social robot called Paro and its effect on people living with dementia

Date: 2 April 2019 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:30pm-3:30pm

Venue: AG710, PolyU Campus

Abstract

Apathy, agitation, loneliness and depression are common behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD). These symptoms can make life distressing for the person with dementia and can also make it challenging for care staff to meet the care needs of the person. Psychosocial interventions are known to have more efficacy compared to pharmacological interventions. In recent years, social robots have been used as a means to reduce BPSD. In this lecture, Prof. Moyle will present the findings from a cluster-randomised controlled trial with three groups: a robotic pet-type animal (Paro), a non-robotic pet-type animal (Plush-Toy), and usual care (control). Older people ($n=415$) with a diagnosis of dementia and living in 28 long-term care facilities participated in the trial in South East Queensland, Australia. The intervention consisted of three individual 15-minute non-facilitated sessions with Paro or Plush-Toy per week for ten weeks. This allowed both short-term (5-weeks) and long-term follow-up (10-weeks), and sustainability following the withdrawal of the intervention (15-weeks). The presentation provides an overview of the primary outcomes of engagement, mood, and agitation and secondary outcomes of step count and sleep. Prof. Moyle will also provide some reflections on the trial and recommendations for the use of social robots.



Cultivating an interdisciplinary research community on ageing

Date: 3 April 2019 (Wednesday)

Time: 10:00am-11:00am

Venue: AG710, PolyU Campus

Abstract

An ageing population is one of the world's most significant current and future challenges and this will continue to raise numerous research questions. However, to address the many new and complex questions this phenomenon raises will require new breeds of researchers and in particular well-prepared interdisciplinary research teams. In this lecture, Prof. Moyle will discuss some of the challenges and opportunities of interdisciplinary research on ageing through a demonstration of her own research pathways where she works across science, health and the arts and draws upon researchers' disparate skills to reframe research questions, to build new areas of research, and to extend clinically relevant practice. She will discuss some of the barriers she has helped to knock down and the lessons learned in cultivating an interdisciplinary research community in ageing research.