

(1) Technology for Longevity: Enhancing Independence in Ageing

Assistive technology (AT) is a branch in rehabilitation and can be a form of high or low technology. With recent advances in technology, its scope has become broader, ranging from cutting-edge technologies such as mobile technology and tele-rehabilitation, healthcare and social robots, ambient assistive technology with the use of IoT, to traditional assistive devices and orthotics used to address clients' difficulties in daily functioning, enhance their participation in self-care, work and leisure activities, and to facilitate or enhance individuals' ability to carry out functional activities independently through mastery of the environment. Due to rapid aging in Hong Kong and other regions, the demands for assistive technology will be even greater in the future because of a number of reasons, including the increasing number of older people resulting from longevity, and more people surviving noncommunicable chronic diseases and developmental disorders due to advancements in medical technology and increased survival rates after birth. To meet these needs in the population, we need 'universal design' of environments, products and communication accessible by the widest possible array of users regardless of their abilities in the ageing population, as well as addressing the needs of the frailty or degenerative diseases such as dementia residing at the care-in-place at homes or institutions for their activities of daily living.

(2) Smart Ageing: Harnessing AI and Ethics for a Longer, Independent Life

The development of smart technologies to care for older adults have led to hopes that such technologies will aid towards a longer and a more independent ageing at home together with reduction in caregiving stress. In this presentation, using empirical data gathered from the context of Switzerland, it aims to contribute towards the discussion of incorporating smart technologies in the care process for older adults in an ethically meaningful way. The presentation will therefore discuss many ethical concerns that arise when such technologies are used by presenting how ethical concerns vary by type of technology. In doing so, it will highlight and challenge the participants to ponder on other ethical concerns that may arise with continuously developing smart(er) technologies.