

# Call for Papers: Technology and Aging

## *The Gerontologist*<sup>®</sup>

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The unprecedented growth of the older population, surge in number of older people with disabilities, and unsustainable costs of providing care for these people combined with the rapid pace of technological development and the ubiquitous deployment of technology in healthcare and other domains have increased attention to research at the intersection of technology and aging. Paul Baltes (1997), in his seminal paper, argued for the “fundamental incompleteness of the biological and cultural architecture of the life span” and the need for cultural/technological evolution to support successful aging in the “fourth age” of life. With this Special Issue, *The Gerontologist* seeks to highlight how technology can enhance the quality of life for older people and support aging in place.

The articles we seek will move the field forward conceptually and/or methodologically. Topics of interest include: How can technology support older adults now and in the future? What factors influence technology acceptance and uptake? Is there meaningful access to technology among diverse populations of older people? What privacy issues are raised by technology? What are the potential misuses of technology? How can policies promote the use of technology and expand access to technology, particularly among marginalized older populations? We are especially interested in articles that provide data demonstrating the benefits and value of technologically based interventions for older adults or their families.

Manuscripts will examine diverse domains in which technology can be used, including physical, cognitive and mental health, mobility, social connectedness, safety, daily activities, and leisure (Schulz et al., 2015).

Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches are welcome from disciplines that include anthropology, computer science, economics, engineering, human factors, humanities, law, medicine, psychology, robotics, social work, and sociology. In keeping with the applied research mission of *The Gerontologist*, articles should identify implications for policy or practice.

Topics that will be considered include, but are not limited to, those addressing:

- Technologies that are compensatory or assistive as well as those that are preventive and support creative engagement and daily activities;
- Acceptance and use of computers, smartphones, robots, and sensing and actuating devices among older people and their caregivers;
- How technologies are used to stimulate new activities and interests;
- Technologies that can monitor individuals or environments as well as those used to diagnose and screen;
- Interventions that use technologies in innovative ways;
- Barriers to technology access;
- Usability and design issues; and
- Ethical issues linked to the inappropriate use or misuse of technology.

To avoid duplicative topics and to enable us to develop a comprehensive issue, a 250-word abstract describing the paper’s intent should be submitted electronically at [mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tg](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tg) in response to this special issue call for papers by **August 11, 2017**. Please be sure to include all author names and contact information. Our team of editors will identify abstracts of interest and selected authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts. Full manuscripts will be evaluated using *The Gerontologist’s* usual peer review process.

Before submission authors should carefully read *The Gerontologist’s* Author Guidelines located at [oxford.ly/TG ITAs](http://oxford.ly/TG_ITAs). Manuscript formats include Research Articles, Brief Reports, Forums, Practice Concepts, and Policy Studies. Manuscripts should be submitted electronically at [mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tg](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tg) according to the following timetable:

Abstract submission deadline: **AUGUST 11, 2017**  
Manuscript submission deadline: **JANUARY 12, 2018**  
Print publication date: **FEBRUARY 2019**

#### REFERENCES

Baltes, P. (1997). On the incomplete architecture of human ontogeny: Selection, optimization, and compensation as foundation of developmental theory. *American Psychologist*, 52, 366-380.

Schulz, R., Wahl, H-W, Matthews, J.T., Dabbs, A.D., Beach, S.R. and Czaja, S.J. (2015). Advancing the aging and technology agenda in gerontology. *The Gerontologist*, 55, 724-734. doi:10.1093/geront/gnu071