

## Mainstream Tech News April 2023

Welcome, Wireless RERC team! This edition includes updates on the center, Matter, and other tech news. We hope you enjoy!

### Wireless RERC Updates

#### Wireless RERC Joins the FCC's Disability Advisory Committee to Improve Accessibility

We are thrilled to share that Director, Dan Ding, PhD., and Strategies & Operations Lead, Lindsey Morris, OTD, OTR/L, were selected as members for the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Fifth Term (2023-2024). The DAC helps the FCC ensure that people with disabilities have access to and use of communication services and technologies.

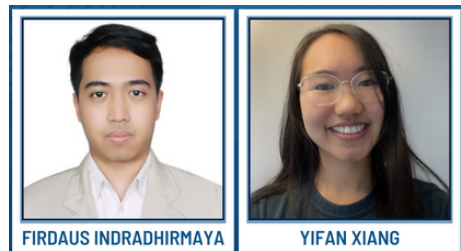
To learn more about the DAC, please visit the [FCC's website](#). The Wireless RERC team looks forward to contributing to the Commission's efforts on disability-related matters!

#### Join Us for the Foundation Fighting Blindness Spring Speaker Series Event

We are eager to share that Lindsey Morris, OTD, OTR/L, and S. Andrea Sundaram, MA, will be presenting the latest in mainstream wireless tech and resources for individuals with low vision and blindness at the upcoming event on Saturday, May 20, from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM EST, at the Monroeville Public Library, 4000 Gateway Campus Blvd, Monroeville, PA. You can RSVP by sending an e-mail to [BBostelman@fightingblindness.org](mailto:BBostelman@fightingblindness.org).

#### RERC Student Researchers Runner-Up Awardees

We would like to congratulate our student researcher, Firdaus Indradhirmaya, BS, on being selected as a runner-up in the 2023 RESNA Student Scientific Paper Competition! He will present his paper "Mobile Device Assessment Tool (MoDAT) to Capture Functional Capacity of Persons with Physical and Cognitive Disabilities" at the 2023 RESNA conference in July.



FIRDAUS INDRADHIRMAYA

YIFAN XIANG

We would also like to congratulate our student researcher, Yifan Xiang, on being selected as a runner-up for the McMurtry Family Undergraduate Research Award. She will be working on the [Voice of Providers](#) project this summer!

## Wireless RERC Updates (continued)

### RERC Research Sheds Light on Smart Home Tech Service Delivery

We are excited to announce the publication of our research. To review it, please visit the [Assistive Technology Industry Association's \(ATIA\) website](#).

Ding, D. and Morris, L. (2023). Provider Perspectives on Providing Mainstream Smart Home Technologies as Assistive Technology, *Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits*, 17, 43-56

## What Do You Know About Matter?

As the new smart home standard Matter gains momentum, we are starting to see more Matter devices on the market over the past two months. Feel free to review our [earlier newsletter issues](#) to learn more about Matter.

**Nanoleaf Matter-Compatible LED Light Bulbs** — Nanoleaf released Matter-enabled smart color changing LED light bulbs and a [smart color changing LED lightstrip](#). These devices are built on Thread protocol and will require a Matter controller that supports Thread.

### **Eve Matter-Compatible Devices Now Available**

Eve released three devices: Eve energy smart plug, Eve door & window contact sensor, and Eve motion sensor that are compatible with Matter. These devices are built on Thread protocol and will require a Matter controller that supports Thread. Eve provides helpful information on [choosing which hub is right for you](#) and your smart home platform(s). You may also want to watch their [short video](#).



### **Google 2020 Nest Thermostat Now Matter Compatible**

— An over-the-air update makes the Nest Thermostat the first smart thermostat compatible with any Matter smart home platform using Matter over Wi-Fi. Only the standard Nest Thermostat released in 2020 is getting the update. Google still says it is exploring bringing Matter support to the Nest Learning Thermostat.

## What Do You Know About Matter? (continued)

**SwitchBot Unveils Smart Home Hub 2 with Matter Support** — The new Hub 2, a Wi-Fi-based Matter hub, can make SwitchBot Bluetooth products compatible with Matter. The Hub 2 supports older infrared appliances and can help make them smarter. It also integrates temperature, humidity, and light sensors. [SwitchBot Curtain](#) and [SwitchBot Blind Tilt](#) are already supported by Hub 2 with Matter. You may check out [their FAQs section](#) for more information.

**Wiz Devices Updated to Support Matter** — With the release of Wiz v2, the company's latest app, users can now migrate any compatible product directly to the new Matter smart home standard. Once added to the app, smart bulbs, lamps, and plugs manufactured in early 2021 or later, can be integrated into any Matter-compatible platform.

## Other Tech News

**CAN Mobility and Best Buy Partnership** — The CAN GO, a smart cane with multiple connectivity features, such as a SIM card for voice calling, a GPS locator, activity tracking, fall risk notifications, and more, is now available at Best Buy for \$399. Data from the CAN GO is easy to share with caregivers, family members, and medical rehabilitation professionals via the CAN GO app.

**Google and ADT Launch New 'DIY' Security System with Nest Integration** "ADT Self Setup" is a security system that customers can install on their own with lesser fees for hardware and monitoring. ADT brings to the table a number of home security sensors and a [central hub](#) that has a built-in keyboard, siren, and battery backup. Google brings to the table its Nest Cameras, Doorbells, and other smart home gear. They have a [Starter package](#) and a [Premium package](#) available for purchase.



## Other Tech News (continued)

**AT&T Launches Medical Radar Device** — AT&T and Cherish Health have partnered to develop a radar-based medical device called Serenity that monitors older adults through walls for falls and sends alerts to caregivers.

**Slick Smart Glasses for Power Wheelchair Control** — Munevo DRIVE is a cutting-edge wearable technology that enables individuals with disabilities to control their power wheelchairs using only their head movements. The device comprises of a pair of smart glasses that are equipped with sensors capable of detecting the user's head movements and translating them into specific actions such as controlling a wheelchair. The company showcased the product in the recent International Seating Symposium in Pittsburgh.

**Zigbee PRO 2023 Released** — The Connectivity Standards Alliance (CSA) recently unveiled Zigbee PRO 2023, an updated version of the Zigbee standard. This new release comes with several improvements including increased range, enhanced security, and the ability to use Bluetooth Low Energy as a proxy to connect Zigbee devices and control them directly from a smartphone.

**Google Home's Update: More Control over Smart Appliances** — The Home app's update allows you to control more connected objects via sliding bars or buttons corresponding to different modes for curtains, window shutters, garage doors, mowers, heaters, diffusers or humidifiers, ovens, and LG refrigerators (air filter and ice maker). Previously, these device types were only visible in the "Devices" tab, with no way to adjust them.



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