

# Wireless Tech RERC

## Mainstream Tech News: Year-End Edition

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As 2023 draws to a close, we are excited to reflect on the key milestones and progress achieved this year. Our dedicated team has relentlessly pursued our mission: to empower individuals with disabilities through accessible wireless technologies, fostering their independence and participation.

Join us in celebrating a year filled with remarkable achievements and looking forward to the opportunities awaiting us in 2024.

## 2023 Unwrapped: Achievements

### New Funding

- We have received a generous research donation from an anonymous benefactor, which will greatly assist in expanding our work and establishing a SmartTech for Paralysis Hub.
- We received a five-year postdoctoral training grant titled *Career Advancement in Assistive Technology Practice, Research & Policy* from the National Institute of Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).



## New Funding Continued

- We received the Provost's Open Online Short Course Development Grant to create a Coursera course titled *Harnessing the Potential of Smart Home Technology for Assistive Technology*.

## New Partners

- We have established a connection with the Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative (GARI) and formulated a collaborative strategy.
- We have formed a partnership with SeniorsPlus, a service agency in Maine, to collaborate on an HCBS Innovation Grant to pilot an enhanced care delivery model for physical disabilities using smart home technology.

## New Members

- We established our Scientific Advisory Board consisting of five esteemed experts.
- We added new members to our team: software engineer Adit Shah and postdoctoral fellow Gina Novario, OTD, OTR/L.

## New Role

- Dan Ding and Lindsey Morris joined the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Disability Advisory Committee (DAC).



We have conducted presentations and workshops at various venues and engaged in a wide array of community outreach activities. Additionally, our faculty and students have received numerous awards. For more achievements, [please visit our website](#).

## 2024 Unveiled: New Horizons

We are starting two pilot programs at our Center for Assistive Technology and SeniorsPlus to explore smart home technology service delivery. Get ready to witness tech-transformed lives!

Our Mobile Device Assessment Tool (MoDAT) is hitting the road for usability and validity testing as well as normative data collection. Join us in driving the future of mobile technology accessibility.

Coming soon: the Voice Assistance Hub! This web portal is your go-to place for voice assistants. Designed for persons with disabilities, it's more than just a platform; it's a community where voice empowers.

We invite you to join our upcoming national survey in January 2024! We're exploring how health and social service providers use mainstream wireless technologies in their services. Your insights can help shape the future of service delivery.

## 2024 Loading...



Stay informed with our forthcoming analysis of Medicaid HCBS policy, focusing on assistive technology (AT) coverage, particularly mainstream wireless tech, under HCBS waivers across various states. Join the discussions shaping the future of AT services for HCBS beneficiaries.

Join our upcoming dynamic smart speaker training intervention tailored for individuals with physical disabilities and those with low vision or blindness. Harness the power of voice technology to improve your daily life.

Mark your calendar for the launch of our Coursera course on smart home tech as AT in May 2024! Crafted to bridge the gap between advanced tech and individual needs, learn to tailor tech solutions.

Exciting collaborations ahead! We're teaming up with the University of Pittsburgh Medical School (UPMC) Rehab Institute to delve into the potential of mainstream wireless tech in both inpatient and outpatient settings. We look forward to the infusion of fresh expertise and diverse perspectives this collaboration will bring.



## Tech for the Holidays



**Brighten the Holidays with Smart Lights** – Whether you're seeking smart string lights with dazzling effects, budget-friendly brilliance, or Matter-compatible magic, there is a spectrum of options to illuminate your festivities.



**Ease Your Holiday Shopping with This Unique Tech Gift Guide** – Tailored for everyone from tech enthusiasts to kids, it features an array of choices across various price ranges, including streaming devices, smart speakers, Lego sets, robot vacuums, and more!



**Jumpstart Your Healthier 2024 with the Best Fitness Trackers** – A new fitness tracker could be your ally for reaching your 2024 health goals, from step and calorie tracking, to heart rate and sleep monitoring, and more. These trackers can make healthy habits enjoyable and attainable!



**Streamline Your Holiday Prep with AI** – Discover how ChatGPT and Google Bard can simplify your holiday planning. These AI tools aid in task organization, gift shopping, menu planning, and travel arrangements. Enjoy a personalized AI-enhanced holiday experience.



## Thank You from Our Team



In this season of reflection, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible team, consumer advisory group, provider advisory group, scientific advisory board, partners, and research participants. Your unwavering support and contributions have been instrumental to our success. Together, we've made significant strides. Looking forward to more shared successes in 2024!



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