Developing new approaches to participatory design for advanced care technologies in later life

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This project sits within the ACRC Academy, a dedicated Centre for Doctoral Training, co-located with the Advanced Care Research Centre (ACRC), a new multi-disciplinary research centre at the University of Edinburgh. The ACRC’s students will deliver key aspects of the ACRC research agenda through a new doctoral-level research and training programme that will also equip them for careers across a wide range of pioneering and influential leadership roles in the public, private and third sectors.

The PhD with Integrated Study in Advanced Care is a novel, structured, thematic, cohort-based, programme of 48 months duration. Each PhD research project within the Academy has been devised by a supervisory team comprising academic staff from at least two of the three colleges within the University of Edinburgh. Each annual cohort of around twelve will include students with disciplinary backgrounds spanning from engineering and data science to humanities, social science, business and commerce, social work, medicine and related health and care professions. This unique level of diversity is a key attribute of our programme.

Project:

Aim

To develop, test and validate new methods for directly involving older adults in the design of new data-driven home care services underpinned by AI.

Objectives

- Conduct systematic analysis and catalogue examples of participatory and co-design methods for data-driven technologies.
- Develop new participatory methods to support older adults in exploring the predictive qualities of data-driven, AI-based, technologies.
- Evaluate these novel methods in a real-world case study as part of the Advanced Care Research Centre.
- Package new methods as a design toolkit for technologists and service providers to use in citizen and patient co-creation activities.

Description

The central tenet of participatory design is to ensure those affected by the introduction of a new technologies have a direct involvement in their design. However, the complexity of data-driven technologies and the assumed “black box” nature of algorithmic systems poses great challenges for meaningful involvement of users in design decisions. As such technologies get integrated into home care, the need for meaningful user involvement is more important than ever to ensure new services are acceptable to those in receipt of care. This project will develop a range of new methods.
to enable older adults to contribute directly to the design of new data-driven, AI-enabled, home care services, to ensure such services are accepted, valued and trusted.

**Eligibility:**

We are specifically looking for applicants who will view their cutting-edge PhD research project in the context of the overall vision of the ACRC, who are keen to contribute to tackling a societal grand challenge and who can add unique value to – and derive great benefit from – training in a cohort comprising colleagues with a very diverse range of disciplines and backgrounds. We advise prospective candidates to engage in dialogue with the named project supervisor and/or the Director of the Academy prior to submitting an application.

**Recruitment:**

The current round of recruitment will end on 26 November. Thereafter, if places remain we will recruit on a rolling basis.

It is essential to read the How to Apply section of our website before you apply:

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Please apply here:

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**Newcastle University**

We encourage students on projects with a Newcastle supervisor to spend time with our academic partners in Newcastle University to access and benefit from their complementary world-leading, innovative and interdisciplinary research in ageing.

Short visits to Newcastle (say a few days to a small number of weeks) will be funded by the ACRC Academy, while for long visits (say over 6 months) the expectation would be for students to make their own arrangements from within their stipend.