

Mitchell Roberts

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy Aging Studies
University of South Florida School of Aging Studies
Admitted into Doctoral Candidacy July 2021
August 2017-Present

Graduate Certificate in Evaluation
University of South Florida College of Education
August 2019-June 2020

Post-Crisis Leadership Certificate
University of South Florida College of Business
Summer 2020

Master of Arts Gerontology Program
University of South Florida School of Aging Studies
August 2015-May 2017

Bachelor of Science Major: Cell and Molecular Biology Minor: Gerontology
University of South Florida Honors College
Honors Thesis title: Characterizing Dendritic Spine Morphology Changes in a New Alzheimer's Disease Rat Model Supervised by: Dr. Mervis
August 2011-May 2015

USF Senior Leaders Academy

A one-day intensive leadership experience for 50 of USF's brightest leaders. Explored higher-level leadership philosophies and gained practical knowledge to be used immediately upon graduation.

March 2015

Professional Experience

University of Florida Health Precision Health Research Center

Senior Research Coordinator

September 2020-Present

- Planning for study trials and supporting the expansion of the center's research portfolio. Perform as a liaison with key faculty, corporate partners, community groups and institutional collaborators
- Translating study planning and design decisions into concrete activities and tasks, assign these tasks and set priorities for their implementation.
- Leading regulatory and program compliance. Collaborating with internal/external IRB staff to ensure all regulatory documents are appropriately submitted.
- Participating in analytics using advanced qualitative and quantitative techniques. Write and submit publications for peer-reviewed journals. Drafting of reports and briefs on research center outputs for both professional and lay audiences.
- Provides administrative and fiscal support to investigators and research staff, establishes budgets and financial reporting procedures, monitors and controls expenditures
- Develop and maintain an effective data management system that includes acquiring, validating, storing, protecting, and processing data to ensure accessibility, reliability, and timelines of data for both internal and external users.

USF Industrial & Management Systems Engineering

Project Coordinator

January 2017- September 2020

- Collaborating with an interdisciplinary team of community and industry partners on program evaluations and research grants to improve the health and wellness of older adults and those living in The Villages community
- Mentoring and training of 22 research assistants with daily supervision of research staff to ensure adherence to study

protocol

- Delegation of project tasks in an organized fashion to ensure reporting, recruitment, and internal auditing is completed accurately and in advance of deadlines
- Developing quality assurance protocols that meet FDA clinical trial guidelines
- Troubleshooting and resolving technical issues related to software and EEG technology
- Preparation of reports to track progress towards study goals using SPSS and Excel
- Community presentations in The Villages to audiences ranging from 5-250 regarding information about participating in research opportunities

The Villages Health and The University of Florida COVID-19 Response Team

Project Leadership

March-April 2020

- Developed and hosted a one-day immersive training experience for over 100 medical, nursing and public health students
- Collaborated with an interdisciplinary team of public health officials, university faculty and health providers to design and implement safe and efficient COVID-19 drive-thru testing at The Villages Polo Fields
- Helped oversee completion of over 3,680 COVID-19 tests for local community members and managed logistics to ensure smooth testing experience for medical volunteers and community test recipients
- Designed and implemented a real-time data capture tool using iPads to collect health records for test recipients
- Analyzed testing results and followed up with local department of health officials to contact trace
- Designed a post-testing survey tool using Qualtrics to collect nearly 2,600 surveys from those who participated in the testing to better understand the spread of and associated risk factors related to COVID-19

USF Industrial & Management Systems Engineering

Graduate Research Assistant

December 2015-December 2016

- Managing database of 1,000+ electronic health care records and assisting in monthly reports
- Self-directed work on multiple projects requiring superior time management
- Working with an interdisciplinary team
- Participant recruitment via phone calls, information booths, and presentations
- Acquiring informed consent and administering research with human subjects
- Creating informative material for research studies such as flyers, posters, and brochures

Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging (FPECA)

Research Assistant

August 2015-Present

- Analyzed trends in quality in Florida assisted living facilities using citation data from state of Florida
- Created a ranking mechanism to assess the accessibility and accuracy of assisted living information for consumers across the United States
- Conducting literature reviews on assisted living quality measurements and policies
- Preparation of policy briefs for national and local audiences on publicly available assisted living information

Mind and Body Initiative for Diverse Communities (MBIDC)

Research Assistant

August 2015-January 2015

- Administered health assessments in participants' homes to determine health, memory, and thinking
- Worked with an ethnic minority population in lower socioeconomic areas of Tampa, Florida
- Completed data entry and analysis using SPSS and Microsoft Excel

NeuroStructural Research Labs

August 2014-April 2015

Research Assistant

- Conducted a research study on an Alzheimer's disease Rat Model being tested at the University of Southern California.
- Met with local corporations, non-profits, and other organizations in the community that were willing to support neuroscience research and raised over \$1,000 towards lab expenses

Research Funding

2021-Present
Role: Senior Research Coordinator
Alzheimer’s Disease Progression Prognosis and Monitoring using EEG and Neurovascular Clinical Data: Phase I and II
Partner: Applied Cognition
Total Funding: \$6,700,000
Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd, J. Lowenkrown, J. Castaldo, M. Jaffee & P. Dagum

2021-Present
Role: Senior Research Coordinator
ACTIV-6 Covid-19 Outpatient Randomized Trial to Evaluate Efficacy of Repurposed Medications
Partner: Duke Clinical Research Institute
Total Project Support: \$150,000
Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd & J. Lowenkron

2021-Present
Role: Senior Research Coordinator
A Community Based Participatory Research Approach to Improving Health and Wellness for Older Adults in The Villages Comparing Remote Monitoring Device Adherence.
Partner: Casana
Total Project Support: \$207,000
Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd & J. Lowenkron

2021-2023
Role: Senior Research Coordinator
Community-based participatory program design in partnership with older adults: gaining insights on the development of an innovative academic-medical center in The Villages, Florida
Total Project Support: \$400,000
Principal Investigator: C. VandeWeerd

2019-2020
Role: Project Coordinator
Florida High Tech Corridor (HTC) Matching Grant Program.
Innovation in Late Life: Understanding older adults’ preferences, decision making and baseline in adopting novel wellness technologies.
Partner: XTend, LLC
Total Project Support: \$470,000
Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd, J. Lowenkron, & A Yalcin

2019-2021
Role: Project Coordinator
USDA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant Program.
Activities of Living, Engagement and Reporting Technology (ALERT)
Partner: CREATEAbility Concepts
Total Project Support: \$100,000
Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd, A Yalcin, S. Sutter, M. Dauito, L. King

2019-2022
Role: Mulberry Site Supervisor/Program Coordinator
Using Sensor Data to Increase Understanding of Aging Brains ~ Reference Database & Longitudinal Registry of the Normal and Pathological Aging Brain: Brain Network Activation Analysis for the Adult and Elderly Population Using Evoked Potentials.
Total Project Support: \$1,039,558
Clinical Trials.gov identifier [NCT02875496](#)
Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd, J. Lowenkron, & A Yalcin

2016-2019
Role: Mulberry Site Supervisor/Program Coordinator

Using Sensor Data to Increase Understanding of Aging Brains ~ Reference Database & Longitudinal Registry of the Normal and Pathological Aging Brain: Brain Network Activation Analysis for the Adult and Elderly Population Using Evoked Potentials.

Total Project Support: \$995,701, Clinical Trials.gov identifier [NCT02875496](#)

Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd, J. Lowenkron, & A Yalcin

2015-2018

Role: Research Assistant and Community Outreach Lead.

Sensor-Based, Response-Oriented Technology for In-Home Monitoring of Senior Health & Well Being.

Total Project Support: \$449,997. Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd & A. Yalcin

2015-2019

Role: Research Assistant.

Using Technology to Improve Service Delivery and Health Outcomes for Older Adults: Assessing a Comprehensive, Integrated Healthcare Delivery Platform.

Total Project Support: \$1,012,807. Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd & A. Yalcin

Additional Skills

- Data analysis using research related software (SPSS, Endnote, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office Suite)
- Dissemination activities (manuscripts, conference abstracts, presentations)
- Design, implementation, analysis, and dissemination of pre/posttest health outcome evaluations
- Consulting and project management
- Program evaluation
- Metaevaluation
- Quality control of data and adherence to clinical trial regulatory protocols

Professional Organizations/Memberships

Gerontological Society of America	2015-Present
Society for Neuroscience	2014-2015
Florida Council on Aging	2015-Present
Reviewer in Training- <i>Journal of Gerontology</i>	2016-Present
American Public Health Association	2018-Present
International Society for Gerontechnology	2018-Present
Reviewer- <i>Nature Digital Medicine</i>	2022-Present

Teaching Experience

Fall Semester 2020

Death and Dying (Online) Undergraduate Level

Publications

Salmons, C., **Roberts, M.**, Sappington, E., Yalcin, A., & VandeWeerd, C. (2021). Innovative behavioral health programs for older adults: Findings from movement therapy in older adults experiencing anxiety and depression. *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, 77, 101873.

Roberts, M., Peterson, L. J., & Hyer, K. (2020). The State of States' Assisted Living Websites: Information Available to Consumers. *The Gerontologist*. doi:10.1093/geront/gnz174

VandeWeerd, C., Yalcin, A., Aden-Buie, G., Wang, Y., **Roberts, M.**, Mahser, N., ... & Fabiano, D. (2020). HomeSense: Design of an ambient home health and wellness monitoring platform for older adults. *Health and Technology*, 1-19

Castaldo, J., Raquet, B., VandeWeerd, C., **Roberts, M.**, Analysis of Death and Disability Due to Golf Cart Accidents in Central Florida, 2011-2019. (2020). *Traffic Injury and Prevention*

C., VandeWeerd, **M. Roberts**, E. Sappington, A. Fiscella, A. Yalcin, J. Lowenkron, J. Castaldo; O. Kehat, G. Issachar, Z. Peremen, & A. Geva. Evaluating Brain Health: Early Findings on the Utility of a Novel Technology to Assess Brain Health in Late Life. In Press. *Winner of the 2018 Erickson Foundation Award for Excellence in Aging Research, American Public Health Association. San Diego, California, September 2018.

Presentations

Longo, C., **Roberts, M.**, Sappington, E., Poon, L., Lowenkron, J., VandeWeerd, C. Examining repeat Covid-19 test takers in an active lifestyle retirement community. Presented at the University of Florida College of Medicine Research Day, April 2022.

VandeWeerd, C., Sappington, E., **Roberts, M.**, Poon, L., Iheanyi-Okeahialam, C. A comparison of traditional remote monitoring (RPM) devices versus a novel, toilet seat-based monitoring device. To be presented at The Gerontological Society of America's Meeting November 2022.

VandeWeerd, C., **Roberts, M.**, Collins, L., Sappington, E., Poon, L., Lowenkron, J. Cardiovascular monitoring systems for aging in place: current perspectives and a novel toilet seat-based system. Presented at The Gerontological Society of America's Meeting November 2021.

Roberts, M., Sappington, E., Guerra, L., Collins, L., Yalcin, A., Lowenkron, J., VandeWeerd, C. Discriminant COVID-19 outcomes based on safety adherence in an active lifestyle retirement community. Presented at The Gerontological Society of America's Meeting November 2021.

VandeWeerd, C., **Roberts, M.**, Sappington, E., Parker, M., Lowenkron, J. Examining the longevity and symptomatology of "LONG COVID-19" in an active lifestyle retirement community. Presented at the American Public Health Conference, November 2021

Sappington, E., **Roberts, M.**, Iheanyi-Okeahialam, C., Collins, L., Lowenkron, J., VandeWeerd, C. Examining repeat COVID-19 test takers in an active lifestyle retirement community. Presented at the American Public Health Conference, November 2021

Roberts, M., Sappington, E. Lowenkron, J., Amzallag, D., VandeWeerd, C. Increasing Adoption and Utility of Smartwatches in Older Adults. Presented at The Gerontological Society of America's Meeting Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 2020.

Salmons, C., Sappington, E., **Roberts, M.**, Gross, M., VandeWeerd, C., Innovative Behavioral Health Programs for Older Women: Findings from Body Movement Therapy in Older Women Experiencing Anxiety and Depression. Presented at the American Public Health Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 2019

Roberts, M., Kehat, O., Gross, M., Lasri, N., Issachar, G., Sappington, E., VandeWeerd, C., Peremen, Z., Geva, A., Translating the Relationship Between Quality of Life and Memory Using a Novel EEG Technology. Presented at The Gerontological Society of America's Meeting Austin, Texas, November 2019.

M. Roberts, E. Sappington, J. Lowenkron, C. VandeWeerd, A. Yalcin, D. L. Roth Understanding Advance Care Planning in an Active Lifestyle Retirement Community. Poster presented at the 71st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of American, Boston, MA, November 2018.

M. Roberts, C. VandeWeerd, D. L. Roth, E. Sappington, S. Alluri, A. Yalcin, J. Lowenkron Insights on Caregiving in The Villages, FL: Findings from Caregivers Participating in a Brain Health Clinical Trial. Presented at the 71st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of American, Boston, MA, November 2018.

C., VandeWeerd, **M. Roberts**, E. Sappington, A. Fiscella, A. Yalcin, J. Lowenkron, J. Castaldo; O. Kehat, G. Issachar, Z. Peremen, & A. Geva. Evaluating Brain Health: Early Findings on the Utility of a Novel Technology to Assess Brain Health in Late Life. Presented at the American Public Health Association conference San Diego, California, September 2018

M. Roberts, C. VandeWeerd, J. Lowenkron, A. Yalcin, E. Sappington. Evaluating Older Adults Brain Health: Preliminary Results from a Clinical Trial Using Novel EEG Gerontechnology. Paper presented at the 11th World Conference of Gerontechnology, St. Petersburg, Florida. May 2018

Peremen, Z., VandeWeerd, C., Lowenkron, J., Sappington, E., **Roberts, M.**, Shani-Hershkovich, R., ... & Issachar, G. (2018, January). Machine Learning Based Electrophysiological Measures (EEG/ERP) for Memory Impairment. In *Neuropsychobiology* (Vol. 77, No. 3, pp. 139-139). Allschwilerstrasse 10, CH-4009 Basel, Switzerland

VandeWeerd, C., Agu, N., Aden-Buie, G., Yetisener, E., Radwan, C., Lent, K., Watkins, C., **Roberts, M.**, Behzadnia, P., & Yalcin, A. Ambient Sensor Monitoring: Detecting Loneliness and Depression in Older Adults via Passive Home Sensing. Poster presented at the 144th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Denver, CO, November 2016.

VandeWeerd, C., Lent, K., Agu, N., Sappington, E., **Roberts, M.**, Behzadnia, P., & Yalcin, A. Assessing Older Adults' Socio Behavioral Health Using Electronic Health Record Data. Poster presented at the 69th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of American, New Orleans, LA, November, 2016.

VandeWeerd, C., Agu, N., Aden-Buie, G., Yetisener, E., Radwan, C., Lent, K., Watkins, C., **Roberts, M.**, Behzadnia, P., & Yalcin, A. Detecting Mental Health Changes in Seniors via Ambient Sensor Monitoring. Poster presented at the 69th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of American, New Orleans, LA, November, 2016.

Dobbs, D., Meng, H., Hyer, K., **Roberts, M.** Consumers Have Spoken: Quality as Measured by Complaint Data in Florida Assisted Living Communities. Poster presented at the 69th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of American, New Orleans, LA, November, 2016.

Awards

University of South Florida Advanced Training Travel Grant August 2018, August, September 2019
Visited with 1 potential research partner (The Sagol Center for Hyperbaric Medicine) and 1 current research partner (ElMinda) to explore avenues for expanding brain health research for older adults. Participated in hands on analytic training, using advanced techniques with clinical and health outcomes data. Developed field appropriate communication skills with leading industry experts.

Erickson Foundation Research Award in Positive Aging November 2018
This American Public Health Association (APHA) award recognizes high-caliber research that significantly advances our understanding of physical, social, psychological, financial, and/or civic dimensions of positive aging on either the individual or community level.

Florida High Tech Corridor Excellence in Graduate Research Award May 2018
Recognized for excellence in a student leadership role within partnership with the USF College of Engineering and The Villages Health. The winning project is titled; "Using Technology to Improve Service Delivery and Health Outcomes for Older Adults" and it includes three sub-projects-a study using the Brain Network Activation program to create a big data brain mapping repository using EEG signals, a project using HomeSense, a wireless sensor system, to collect data on activities of daily living, sleep/wake patterns and lifestyle of The Villages residents, and finally the Hospitalist Evaluation sub-project, where data are collected on discharged patients to track post-discharge health outcomes.

Harold L. Sheppard Endowed Memorial Scholarship April 2016, April 2017
The scholarship is to be presented each year to the student in the M.A. program in Gerontology who has demonstrated the highest level of academic performance and promise as a gerontologist.

Research Interests

- Integrating technology into healthcare delivery for older adults
- Translational research with community and industry partners to promote successful aging
- Active (e.g. smartwatches, wearable) and passive (e.g. smart home) gerontechnologies