

Sergio Romero, PhD
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RESEARCH STATEMENT

My overall research goal is to use a variety of therapeutic approaches and technology to improve function and independence in older adults and individuals with disabilities. From a content perspective, I investigate mobility decline in older adults and consequences of restricted mobility including falls, activity avoidance and reduced participation. I employ a holistic approach that considers personal, social, cultural and environmental factors that impact individuals with restricted mobility. I utilize modern measurement techniques to develop and/or modify outcome measures related to my area of interest. I use advanced technologies to improve access to rehabilitation and provide care in the home environment.

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Rehabilitation Science, Movement Dysfunction Track. University of Florida. Gainesville, Florida. College of Public Health and Health Professions. 2002-2008

M.S. Exercise and Sport Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. College of Health and Human Performance. Exercise Physiology/Therapy. 1996–1998.

B.S. Exercise and Sport Sciences. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida . College of Health and Human Performance. Athletic Training/Sports Medicine. 1995–1996.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Rural Health (ORH). Veterans Rural Health Resource Center- Gainesville (VRHRC-GNV); Acting Co-Director.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Gainesville, FL. October 2019.

Responsibilities: Provide direction and vision for VRHRC-GNV, increase research capacity, maximize resources, build strong mentorship, facilitate collaborations with VA/non-VA partners, and pursuit excellence in research, innovation and dissemination in the areas of independent living and workforce development.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research – (CINDRR) – Assistant Director, Research Health Scientist, and Co-leader Mentoring Core.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Gainesville, FL. August 2008- September 2019.

Responsibilities: Develop a strong research program in the area of rehabilitation and outcomes research relevant to Veterans with disabilities. Duties include leading research studies as Principal Investigator, supervise and manage research team, collaborate with other VA researchers as co-Investigator, publish study results in peer-reviewed journals, and present study findings at local, national, and/or international conferences. Administrative responsibilities include supervising CINDRR administration and operations activities. Mentorship activities include weekly meetings with mentees, recruitment of candidates, development of mentoring plan, evaluation of mentees and reporting center wide mentorship activities and productivity.

University of Florida, Department of Occupational Therapy - Adjunct Research Assistant Professor.

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. February 2010- present time.

Responsibilities: Develop a strong research program in the area of rehabilitation and outcomes research relevant to individuals with disabilities. Duties include leading research studies as Principal Investigator, supervise and manage research team, collaborate with other researchers

as co-Investigator, publish study results in peer-reviewed journals, and present study findings at local, national, and/or international conferences. Teaching responsibilities include Master and Doctoral level courses in research methods, measurement and rehabilitation science. Mentoring includes undergraduate honors, master, doctoral and post-doctoral students.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center – Pre-Doctoral Associated Health Rehabilitation Research Fellowship.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Gainesville, FL. October 2007 – August 2008.

Responsibilities: Complete research project in the areas of veteran-centered outcomes in the rehabilitation of gait disorders and detection of minimally significant changes in the same population.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center - Health Scientist / Education Specialist.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Gainesville, FL. January 2007 – October 2007.

Responsibilities: Develop culturally sensitive educational materials for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Participate in the evaluation of veterans interviews to assess specific needs of this population. Develop a literature/references database for issues related to Veterans' readjustment after deployment. Assist in data collection and development of data extraction procedures to investigate the implementation of a dysphasia screening tool for veterans who have suffered a stroke.

University of Florida, College of Health Professions – Research assistant/Data manager.

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. December 2003 – 2007.

Responsibilities: Multisite Research database development for IMPACT study. Manage data collection and analysis. Participate in evaluation of subjects receiving constraint induced therapy for stroke rehabilitation.

University of Florida, College of Health Professions – Charlotte Liberty Scholar.

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. December 2003 – 2005.

Responsibilities: Assigned to Gait and Balance Clinic at the Gainesville VA/GRECC. Design and development of a clinical database for patients participating in clinic. Data entry, management, and analysis.

HONORS

2001 Charlotte Liberty Doctoral Scholar award (2 years).

2007 VA Pre-Doctoral Associated Health Rehabilitation Research Fellowship Award.

CURRENT EXTERNAL SUPPORT

VA Office of Rural Health

Oct. 2019

Veterans Rural Health Resource Center Gainesville (VRHRC-GNV)

The VRHRC-GNV will serve as a field-based satellite office to research, innovate, and disseminate rural health care.

Role: Acting Co-Director

Annual budget (FY20): \$3,806,269

VA Office of Rural Health

2018-2022

Rural Veterans Tele-Rehabilitation Initiative Program Evaluation (RVTRI)

RVTRI utilizes telehealth technology to deliver physical, occupational, and recreational therapies directly to rural patients in their homes through real-time, two-way video. This

evaluation investigates barriers and facilitators to implementing this VHA system-wide Tele-Rehabilitation program for rural Veterans.

Role: Project lead

Annual Direct Costs: \$100,000

VA HSR&D 1 I50 HX001233-01

2009-2019

Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (CINDRR)

CINDRR is dedicated to conducting research that identifies, develops, and tests strategies for improving Veteran rehabilitation services across the continuum of care and providing long term support for Veterans with disabilities and their families, including issues related to access, utilization, cost, quality, and health outcomes.

Role: Assistant Director, Senior Investigator.

Annual Direct Costs: \$750,000

VA PM&R National Program Office

2017-2022

Tele-Rehabilitation Enterprise Wide Initiative Evaluation

The Office of Rural Health has awarded the Tele-Rehabilitation Enterprise Wide Initiative (TREWI) to the VACO PM&R National Program Office. This evaluation investigates barriers and facilitators to implementing a VHA system-wide Tele-Rehabilitation program for rural Veterans.

Role: Project lead

Annual Direct Costs: \$200,000

National Institute on Disability Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research

2014-2020

Postdoctoral Disability Policy Research Training Program

In partnership with the VA Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, this post-doctoral fellowship program will train six postdoctoral fellows to conduct high-quality multidisciplinary disability policy research in the area of community living and participation for Veterans with disabilities.

Role: Principal Investigator

Annual Direct Costs: \$150,000

VA Office of Rural Health, Enterprise-Wide Initiative

2018-2019

VHA Rural Needs Assessment

This project gathers VISN and VAMC perspectives to better understand rural Veteran health care access needs and help in determining future ORH program offerings.

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Annual Direct Cost: \$112,000

IIR 15-117 Merit (Freytes)

2017-2021

VA HSR&D

Spanish Online & Telephone Intervention for Caregivers of Veterans with Stroke

This project evaluates a telephone and online problem-solving intervention combined with the nationally available Spanish- language, evidence-based RESCUE website to reduce stroke caregiver depression, improve the recovery of Veterans post-stroke, enable Veterans to remain in their homes, and reduce healthcare costs.

Role: Co-Investigator

Annual Direct Cost: \$210,000

PUBLICATIONS IN REFEREED JOURNALS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER).

Lehman LA., Sindhu BS., Shechtman O., **Romero S.** & Velozo CA. (2010)3 A Comparison of the Ability of Two Upper Extremity Assessments to Measure Change in Function. *Journal of Hand Therapy*. 23(1):31-40.

Bishop MD., Patterson TS., **Romero S.** & Light KE. Improved Fall-Related Efficacy in Older Adults Related to Changes in Dynamic Gait Ability. *Phys Ther*. 2010 Nov;90(11):1598-606.

Romero S., Bishop M.D. & Velozo CA., Light, K. Minimum Detectable Change of the Berg Balance Scale and Dynamic Gait Index in Older Persons at Risk for Falling. *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*. 2010.

Del Toro C., Bislick L., **Romero S.**, Velozo, C., Gonzalez Rothi, LF. & Kendall, D. Development of a Short Form of the Boston Naming Test for Individuals with Aphasia. *J Speech Lang Hear Res*. 2010 Dec 20.

Bishop MD., **Romero S.**, Patterson TS., Singletary FF, Light K. Exploration of Patient-Centered Success Criteria and Clinically Measured Improvement During Falls Rehabilitation. *J Geriatr Phys Ther*. 2012.

Velozo CA., Seel RT., Magasi S., Heinemann AW., **Romero S.**, Improving measurement methods in rehabilitation: core concepts and recommendations for scale development. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*.93(8 Suppl):S154-163. 2012.

Shariffar S., Coronado R., **Romero S.**, Azari H., Thigpen M. The Effects of Whole Body Vibration on Mobility and Balance in Parkinson Disease: a Systematic Review. *Iran J Med Sci*. Jul 2014; 39(4): 318–326.

Hubbard Winkler, SL, **Romero, S**, Prather, E, Ramroop, M, Slaibe, E, Christensen, M. Innovative power wheelchair control interface: A proof of concept study. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*. 70:2. March 2016.

Hong, I., Velozo, C. A., Li, C., **Romero, S.**, Gruber-Baldini, A. L., & Shulman, L. M. Assessment of the Psychometrics of a PROMIS Item Bank: Self-Efficacy for Managing Daily Activities. *Qual Life Res* 25, 2221-2232 September 2016.

Sood, P., **Romero, S.**, Velozo, C., Gruber-Baldini, A., Shulman L. (2015). Defining and prioritizing sub-domains of self-efficacy for managing chronic conditions: A web-based delphi technique. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 96, 10, e4.

Li, C. Y., **Romero, R.**, Bonilha, H., Simpson, K., Simpson, A., Hong, I., & Velozo, C. Linking Existing Instruments to Develop an Activity of Daily Living Item Bank. *Journal of Evaluation & Health Professions*. 2016.

Klein, D. M., Pham, K., Samy, L., Bluth, A., Nazi, K. M., Witry, M., Klutts, J. S., Grant, K. M., Gundlapalli, A. V., Kochersberger, G., Pfeiffer, L., **Romero, S.**, Vetter, B. and Turvey, C. L. The Veteran Initiated Electronic Care Coordination Pilot: A multi-site initiative to promote and evaluate consumer-mediated health information exchange. *Telemedicine and e-Health*. October 2016.

Li, C. Y., **Romero, S.**, Bonilha, H., Simpson, K., Simpson, A., Hong, I., & Velozo, C. (November 2016). Linking Existing Instruments to Develop an Activity of Daily Living Item Bank. *Evaluation & the Health Professions*. 1-19. DOI: 10.1177/0163278716676873

Romero, R., Simpson, K., Simpson, A., Bonilha, H., Hong, I., & Velozo, C. (2017). Linking Existing Instruments to Develop A Continuum of Care Measure: Accuracy Comparison using Functional Related Group Classification. *Journal of Quality of Life Research*. DOI: 10.1007/s11136-017-1598-1.

Romero, S., Lee, M. J., Simic, I., Levy, C., & Sanford, J. (2017). Development and validation of a remote home safety protocol. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*, 1-7.

Gruber-Baldini, A. L., Velozo, C., **Romero, S.**, & Shulman, L. M. Validation of the PROMIS® measures of self-efficacy for managing chronic conditions. *Quality of Life Research*, 2017;26(7):1915-1924.

Li, C. Y., **Romero, R.**, Bonilha, H., Simpson, K., Simpson, A., Hong, I., & Velozo, C. FIM–Minimum Data Set Motor Item Bank: Short Forms Development and Precision Comparison in Veterans. *Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation*, 99.3 (2018): 534-541.

Lee, M., **Romero, S.**, Hong, I., & Park, H (2018) Classification Evaluating Korean Personal Assistance Services Classification System. *Ann Rehabil Med*. 2018;42(5):758-766.

Classen S, Medhizadah S, **Romero S** and Lee MJ Construction and Validation of the 21 Item Fitness-to-Drive Screening Measure Short-Form. *Front. Public Health*, 2018 6:339.

Cowper Ripley DC, Jia H, Wang X, Freytes IM, Hale-Gallardo J, Castaneda G, **Romero, S.** Trends in VA Tele-Rehabilitation Patients and Encounters Over Time and by Rurality. *Federal Practitioner*, 2019 March;36(3):122-128.

Lee MJ, **Romero S**, Velozo CA, Gruber-Baldini AL, Shulman LM. Multidimensionality of the PROMIS self-efficacy measure for managing chronic conditions. *Qual Life Res*. 2019.

Shulman LM, Velozo C, **Romero S**, Gruber-Baldini AL. Comparative study of PROMIS® self-efficacy for managing chronic conditions across chronic neurologic disorders. *Quality of Life Research*. 2019:1-9.

Ahonle, Z. J., Barnes, M., **Romero, S.**, Sorrells, A. M., & Brooks, G. I. (2019). State-Federal Vocational Rehabilitation in Traumatic Brain Injury: What Predictors Are Associated with Employment Outcomes? *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0034355219864684>

PRESENTATIONS:

Lee, M., Castañeda, G., & S, Romero. *Comparing Store-and-Forward Videos Versus Telepresence Robots to Conduct Remote Home-Safety Evaluations*. Interactive Poster Presentation, 2019 AOTA Annual Conference & Expo, New Orleans, LA, United States, April 4-7, 2019, Poster Accepted

- Lee, M., Romero, S., Hong, I., & Park, H. *The Disparate Functional Abilities in Activities of Daily Living among Persons with Different Disability Grades and Types*. Interactive Poster Presentation, ACRM 94th Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, United States, October 23-28, 2017.
- Romero, S., & Lee, M. *Using the Rasch Model to Investigate Suggested Cut-off Score of the Berg Balance Scale*. Interactive Poster Presentation, ACRM 94th Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, United States, October 23-28, 2017.
- Balasubramanian, C., Clark, D., Fox, E., Romero, S. *Development of a clinical assessment tool for walking adaptability post-stroke: Preliminary results*. ISPGR World Congress. Fort Lauderdale, FL. June 25-29 2017.
- Veloza, C. A., Romero, S., Li, C., Hong, I., Lehman, L., *Rasch Analysis for Occupational Therapy Measurement*. American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference & Centennial Celebration March 30th – April 2nd 2017.
- Romero, S. Lee, M. Poster presentation. *Feasibility of Using a Tele-presence Robot to Conduct Home Safety Evaluation*. VA State of the Art Conference in Rural Health. Washington, DC. September 12-13 2016.
- Lee M., & Romero, S. *Eyes behind the Camera: Development and Validation of a Protocol to Conduct Home-Safety Assessments*. Interactive Poster Presentation, American Occupational Therapy Association the 96th Conference, Chicago, IL, United States, April 7-10, 2016.
- Lee, M., Romero, S., Veloza, C., Gruber-Baldini, A., & Shulman, L. *Qualitative Validation of Domains of Self-efficacy for Chronic Disease Management*. Interactive Poster Presentation, 28th Annual PHHP Research Day, Gainesville, FL, United States, April 8, 2016.
- Lee, M., Romero, S., & Veloza, C. *Top Tennis Players of the Last Ten Years: Applying Rasch Analysis to Rank Tennis Performance*. Interactive Poster Presentation, Annual Graduate Student Research Day, Gainesville, FL, United States, October 27, 2015.
- Li, C. Y., Romero, R., Bonilha, H., Simpson, K., Simpson, A., Hong, I., & Veloza, C. (2016, April). *Developing continuum of care assessment across post-acute care in Veterans*. Poster session 96th Conference of American Occupational Therapy Association, Chicago, IL, United States.
- Li, C. Y., Romero, S., Simpson, A., Bonilha, H., Simpson, K., Hong, I., & Veloza, C. (2016, April). *Comparing measurement precisions of short forms: Measuring self-care physical function in Veterans*. Oral session 96th Conference of American Occupational Therapy Association, Chicago, IL, United States.
- Li, C. Y., Romero, R., Simpson, K., Simpson, A., Bonilha, H., Hong, I., & Veloza, C. (2016, April). *Comparing measurement accuracy of short forms: Individual point difference and Functional Related Group classification*. Poster session 96th Conference of American Occupational Therapy Association, Chicago, IL, United States.

- Sood, P., Schember, T., Romero, R. (2015, November). *Falls Self-Efficacy as a Predictor of Participation among Older Veterans with Gait and Balance Deficits*. Poster session presented at the 68th Annual Scientific meeting, Gerontology society of America, Orlando, FL, United States.
- Sood, P., Romero, R., Velozo, C., Gruber-Baldini, A., Shulman L. (2015, October). *Defining and Prioritizing Sub-domains of Self-efficacy for Managing Chronic Conditions: A Web-based Delphi Technique*. Poster session presented at the 92nd Conference of Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Dallas, TX, United States.
- Sood, P., Romero, R., Velozo, C., Gruber-Baldini, A., Shulman L. (2015, April). *Defining and Prioritizing Sub-domains of Self-efficacy for Managing Chronic Conditions: A Web-based Delphi Technique*. Poster session presented at Annual PPHP research day, University of Florida, United States.
- Ramroop, M, Romero S, Prather, E, Slaibe, E, Winkler, SL. *User testing of SPOOCI: an innovative power wheelchair control device*. AOTA Annual Conference, April 2015.
- Li, C. Y., Romero, S., Ickpyo, H., Gruber-Baldini, A., Shulman, L. S., & Velozo, C. A. (2014, November). *Development of a Self-Efficacy for Managing Symptoms Short Form*. Oral session presented at the Perry V Halushka Medical University of South Carolina Research Day, Charleston, SC, United States.
- Gruber-Baldini, A.L., Velozo, C., Romero, S., Shulman, L.M. *Development of the PROMIS® Self-Efficacy for Managing Chronic Conditions Item Pool*. Gerontological Society of America annual meeting, Washington, DC, Abstract ID: 1978441, November, 2014. Poster presentation.
- Slaibe, E, Prather, E, Ramroop, M, Romero S, Winkler, SL. *Using a Power Wheelchair with a Worn Controller (SPOOCI)*. Nova Southeastern University Research Day, February, 2014. Poster presentation.
- Velozo, C., Romero, S., Hong, I., Woodbry, M., Wen, P., Wang, Y., *Using Rehabilitation Measures to Generate Medicare G-Codes and Guide Clinical Interventions*. American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida November 16, 2013. Instructional Course.
- Romero, S., Prather E., Ramroop, M., Slaibe, E., Winkler, S., *User and caregiver experiences of driving a power wheelchair with a worn controller (SPOOCI) versus traditional joystick*. Florida Occupational Therapy Association, November 2013. Poster presentation.
- Romero, S., *Establishing the Minimum Detectable Change (MDC) for the Berg Balance Scale and the Dynamic Gait Index*. The Gerontological Society of America. Atlanta, Georgia. November 2010. Oral presentation.
- Romero, S., *Patients Success Criteria and Expectations in Falls Rehabilitation*. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. Orlando, Florida. May 2009. Poster presentation.

Freytes, M., Bober, J., Romero, S., Hannold, E., Barak, S., Wing, K., & Uphold, C. (May, 2008). *A Best Practice Approach to Patient Education for Diverse Populations*. Presentation for VHA, DoD Facility Educators Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

Romero, S., *Participation and Fear of Falling in Patients with Parkinson's Disease*, American Geriatric Society. Washington, DC May 2008. Poster presentation.

Romero, S., *Exercise Intervention for the Rehabilitation of Falls*, American Physical Therapy Association North Florida Chapter. Oral presentation. Gainesville, Florida. March 2007.

Romero, S., *Issues of Participation and Perception of Balance Control in Patients with Parkinson's Disease*, American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting, oral presentation, Boston MA. February 2007.

Romero, S., *Home Exercises are an Effective Intervention for Improving Balance and Mobility Impairment*, Gerontological Society of America national meeting, oral and poster presentation. Orlando, Florida. November 2005.

Romero, S., *Healthy Living Program: Fall Prevention*. Presentation for the State of Florida IFAS Extension Faculty, Gainesville, FL April 2005.

Romero, S., Florida Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Conference in Sarasota, FL. Lecture: *Adapted exercise equipment*. October 1998.

Romero, S., Achieving a Balance National Conference on adapted physical activity. Macomb, IL. Lecture: *Running an effective exercise therapy program with almost no budget*. March 1998.

Romero, S., Florida Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Conference in Orlando, FL. Lecture: *Adapted exercise therapy for children with disabilities*. October 1997.

COMMITTEES

Rehabilitation Science Steering Committee, 2014 – Present time

NIH K-12 Executive Committee, 2014 – Present time

VA Scientific Projects Committee, 2014 – 2017

Public Health and Health Promotions Research Committee, 2014 – 2016

UF IRB-01 Review Board member, 2017- 2019

VA Research and Development board, 2017- Present time

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Florida, department of Occupational Therapy, Rehabilitation Science Doctoral program, Spring 2015-Present time. Class: Fundamentals of Rasch Analysis.

University of Florida, department of Occupational Therapy, Rehabilitation Science Doctoral program, Fall 2012-Present time. Class: Rehabilitation Science Theory and Application.

University of Florida, department of Occupational Therapy, Master in Occupational Therapy, Summer 2008- Present time. Class: Applied Research in OT.

University of Florida, department of Physical Therapy, Spring 2004 and 2005. Graduate assistant. Class: Geriatrics in Physical Therapy.

University of Florida, department of Exercise and Sport Science, Fall 1996 to Spring 1998. Graduate assistant. Classes: Adapted Exercise Therapy and Adapted Aquatics.

MENTORING

Co-leader, Mentorship Core, Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research – (CINDRR). Provide mentoring for Junior Investigators, Post-Doctoral fellows and pre-doctoral students.

Fellows, and Pre-Doctoral students.

Gail Castaneda, PhD, Post-Doctoral Fellow (Program Director)

Luz Mairena Semeah, Ph.D, MPA, Post-Doctoral Fellow (Program Director)

Leslie Santos Roman, Ph.D, Post-Doctoral Fellow (Program Director)

Pallavi Sod, Doctoral graduate student (Doctoral Committee Chair)

Mi Jun Lee, Doctoral graduate student (Doctoral Committee Chair)

Manjeshwar Sahana Kamath, (Doctoral Committee member). Dissertation: Neural and Behavioral Markers of Upper-Extremity Motor Impairment Post-Stroke. Graduated August 2016.

Erica Poulin, Honor Student. Thesis title: Feasibility of Using a Telepresence Robot to Conduct Home Safety Evaluations.

Nikita Bencier, Honor Student. Thesis title: Using Cognitive Interviews to Validate a Remote Home Assessment Protocol.

Stephanie Facompre, Honor Student. Thesis title: Validation of Balance Measures Used to Assess Patients with Parkinson's Disease.

LANGUAGES:

Fluent in Spanish. Experience in translating educational materials in the areas of health, human development, nutrition and exercise.

ACCREDITATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS:

Certified Athletic Trainer.

COMPLETED EXTERNAL SUPPORT

Associated Health Rehabilitation Research award. **Romero (PI)** 2007 –2008

Department of Veterans Affairs, Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center.

Veteran-centered outcomes in the rehabilitation of gait disorders and detection of minimally significant changes in the same population.

Role: Principal Investigator

RORC Pilot Award, **Romero (PI)** 2010-2011

Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center Pilot award program

Development of a Gait and Balance Research Database

The purpose of this grant is to develop a research database that will support a number studies in the areas of falls assessment and rehabilitation, distance physical therapy delivery, clinical and laboratory correlates of mobility impairment, and other research activities related to geriatric gait and balance rehabilitation.

Role: Principal Investigator

NIH/ NIA **Romero (PI Sub-award)**
2R44AG031605-02

2010-2011

Wheelchair with drop down armrest for sliding transfers by user.

This project produces several versions of the "SAFESLIDEBOARD," a wheelchair with an integral transfer board/armrest combination, that are more easily positioned, stronger, more stable during transfers, and commercially viable. Eight hypotheses will be tested and structured interviews conducted to measure the effectiveness of SAFESLIDEBOARD from wheelchair user and caregiver perspectives

Role: Principal Investigator (Sub-award)

ID-122, Shorr (PI)

2010-2011

VHA Information Technology Innovation Program

Gait and Balance Assessment with Live Video from the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) Interface with Vista Imaging

A collaborative endeavor to enhance the gait & balance assessment of frail elderly veterans using a live assessment of a 3-5 minute video feed, downloaded into the VISTA imaging interfaced with the patient's CPRS, reviewed in "real time" by primary health care providers.

Role: Co-Investigator

1R21HD053526-01A2 **Romero PI (Sub-award)**

2010–2013

National Institute of Health

SPOOC: Self-Referenced Personal Omni-Purpose Orthotic Control Interface.

The major goals of this project are to develop and test an innovative power wheelchair controller that removes the controller from the wheelchair so that it can be worn by the user.

Role: Site- PI Annual Direct Costs: \$275,000

Person months per year: 2.4

VA HSR&D Merit **Romero (PI)**

2012-2015

Item Banking Across the Continuum of Care

The broad, long-term objective of this proposed research is to advance Veteran health care delivery by providing the VHA with a state-of-the-art measurement system that builds upon the well-established VHA infrastructure use of the FIM in IRFs and the MDS in CLCs.

Annual Direct Costs: \$107,000

Person months per year: 3

VA Rural Health Information Exchange Pilot Program **Romero (Site PI)** 2013-2015

Veteran Initiated Coordination Trial of Rural Health Information Exchange VICTOR-HIE

The My HealthVet Program Office and the VA Office of Rural Health (ORH) are collaborating in this project to pilot use of My HealthVet to help Veterans communicate with their non-VA providers about their VA care.

Annual Direct Costs: \$104,000

Person months per year: 2.4

Project Number: NA Freytes (PI)

2012 – 2014

Source: VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care

Web Support for Caregivers of Elderly Veterans with Dementia

The goal is to compare and evaluate the effectiveness of two different approaches/ technologies in support of caregivers of Veterans with dementia (telephone support versus internet based support) on caregiver and veteran outcomes.

Role: Co-I,

Total Award Amount: 151,709

Person months per year: 2.4

Project number: G573-4

2012 – 2014

Source: VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care

Online and Telephone Skills-Building Program for Caregivers of Veterans with Stroke

The project evaluates a brief, low-cost, online and telephone skills-building intervention, using the existing and previously tested English- and Spanish-language VA RESCUE stroke caregiver website. The project also involves a feasibility test of the intervention targeting Spanish-speaking caregivers as a novel strategy to reduce cultural disparities.

Role: Co-I, Uphold PI

Total Award Amount: \$199,500

Person months per year: 2.4

1001AR057967-01 Shulman (PI) **Romero (Site PI)**

2009 – 2016

National Institute of Health, NIAMS

(No cost extension)

Development and Validation of a Self-Efficacy Item Bank.

This study will develop and pilot test self-efficacy patient reported outcomes item pools for the Patient Reported Outcomes System. Specific aims are: 1. To develop an item pool for assessing self-efficacy for self-management of chronic conditions, 2. To validate an item bank of self-efficacy in five chronic neurologic disorders, and 3. To investigate the derived measures of self-efficacy in chronic neurologic disorders.

Annual Direct Costs: \$552,638

Person months per year: 2.4

1121RX001431-01 **Romero (PI)**

2013-2016

VA RR&D SPiRE

Eyes Behind the Video Camera: Partnering with Families for Home Safety

The overall goal is to improve Veterans' home safety. For this SPiRE proposal we will test the feasibility of partnering with caregivers to video-record the Veteran's home for subsequent professional home-safety evaluations. In addition, we will investigate compliance barriers and facilitators to professionally prescribed home-safety modifications.

Annual Direct Costs: \$100,000

Person months per year: 3

NIH/NICHD Ottenbacher (PI)

2015-2017

Rehabilitation Research Career Development Program

The overall goal of the RRCD Program is to increase the number of rigorously trained, extramurally competitive, and scientifically competent rehabilitation scientists who will conduct translational investigations, lead clinical research teams, and eventually mentor the next generation of occupational and physical therapy investigators.

Role: Associate Program Director

VA RR&D D1395-P (SPiRE) Uphold (PI)

2014 –2016

Internet and Telephone Support Intervention for Stroke Caregivers

This is a pilot project to test the impact of an online and telephone intervention designed to improve outcomes of stroke caregivers and Veterans.

Annual Direct Costs: \$100,000

Role: Co-I

NF/SGVHS Research Service Pilot Funding Initiative

2017

Development and Preliminary Testing an Annie Protocol to Deliver NIH-PROMIS Measures

The overall purpose of this line of research is to incorporate PROMIS measures into VA clinical practice using text-based technology (Annie). For this pilot we want to test the feasibility of this approach by creating an Annie protocol to deliver a PROMIS measure to Veterans.

Role: Principal Investigator

Annual Direct Cost: \$16,000

US National Endowment for the arts

2017-2018

Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network Telehealth Design, Plan and Service Support

This project aims at implementing and evaluating a telehealth-delivered arts therapy program for Veterans in North Florida/South Georgia.

Role: Co-Investigator

Annual Direct Cost: \$192,000