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I am a psychiatrist trained in geriatrics and my work is divided between clinical research and patient care. These are some of my research interests:

- Experimental therapeutics in non-cognitive manifestations of dementia (agitation, apathy)
- Disorders of motivation in the elderly (apathy)
- Delivery of mental health services in long term care settings
- Ethical aspects of involving elderly patients in treatment and/or research programs
- The interface between technology and traditional clinical evaluation in psychiatry

My research takes place primarily in the clinical settings where I provide care: inpatient and outpatient university-based sites and nursing homes.

Currently we are conducting a pilot trial trying to determine if data collected with an electronic monitoring system deployed in the residences of patients with Alzheimer Disease will correlate significantly and usefully with psycho-behavioral assessments performed with usual clinical/research methods. Our hypothesis is that motion and patterns of motion measured continuously for long periods of time (a week at a time) longitudinally (2- 3 years) will inform about the presence of some elements of psychopathology (depression, agitation, perseveration) and about changes over time in an individual patient's behavioral, cognitive and functional status.

The goal is to develop technology-based instruments able to provide an alternative to our current "gold standard" of behavioral data collection, which is many times inadequate especially in geriatric and psychiatric patients with chronic illness (clinical decisions are made based on assessments relying on data which is subjective, discontinuous and expensive to obtain).

The same reasoning and methodology could be extended to other medical applications like early diagnosis of degenerative neuro-psychiatric conditions like Alzheimer Disease, Huntington chorea, Parkinson's Disease etc.



