Brief Biography:

Dr. Matthews is Research Associate Professor in the Department of Health and Community Systems in the School of Nursing and Associate Director of the Gerontology Program at the University Center for Social and Urban Research. She received her BS in nursing from Pennsylvania State University, her MS in community health nursing, with an emphasis in gerontology, from Boston University, and her MPH in epidemiology and PhD in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Matthews’ career has focused on community health nursing practice, education, and research and reflects a strong commitment to interdisciplinary and interinstitutional collaboration. She works with technologists, social scientists, other health professionals, and community partners to develop and evaluate emerging technologies designed to enhance health, independence, and quality of life. Her program of research includes usability and field testing of prototype robotic devices and other novel systems with community-residing older adults and family caregivers. Current projects include evaluation of a wearable camera system as an aid to assessment and intervention in the context of dementia family caregiving, and a longitudinal study regarding older adults’ motivations, preferences, and patterns of use of multi-user health kiosks in congregate settings.

Title of Presentation: Existing and Emerging Technologies in Support of Family Caregiving

Brief synopsis of presentation: This breakout session will focus on commercially available technologies as well as technologies in development that may be of benefit to family caregivers and the persons in their care. Evidence regarding caregivers’ attitudes and use of technology in general and technology to aid caregiving in particular will be presented. Examples of emerging systems that hold potential as useful tools for caregivers will be discussed.

Objectives to be covered:
1. To describe human factors considerations that inform technology development for caregiving.
2. To increase knowledge regarding existing and emerging technologies that may aid the caregiving enterprise.
3. To disseminate research findings pertaining to caregivers’ attitudes, use, and perceptions of usability of caregiving-related quality of life technologies.