



VITALS

→ GRANT AMOUNT

\$955,218

→ ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$9.9 million in grants and licensing income to WSU

→ HEALTH IMPACT

Over 100 installations of the smart home system to provide seniors the ability to stay at home longer

→ OTHER IMPACT

Product exiting WSU to be sold/ marketed

Helping Seniors Stay at Home Longer

You call your 84-year-old mom at home before dinner to remind her to take a recent prescription. No answer. You call again just before her usual bedtime. She doesn't pick up.

If this scenario sounds both familiar and worrying, a solution is at hand thanks to Life Sciences Discovery Fund grants to Washington State University engineer Diane Cook. She and psychologist Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe have developed a simple, yet sophisticated "Smart Home" computerized system that learns seniors' daily activity patterns and reminds them to perform important tasks such as taking medication and turning off kitchen appliances.

When normal patterns deviate, caregivers are notified, giving them a fuller picture of what's going on in the home. "This is a reliable, inexpensive tool to help aging parents remain safely at home in familiar surroundings while relieving families of the financial burden associated with assisted living," says Dr. Cook. "More importantly, the system provides security and peace of mind to both parents and their often worried kids."

Life Sciences

DISCOVERY FUND

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