

*Physical Disabilities  
Through the Lifespan*



# Technology and Aging

July 22, 2003



## State of the Field: Demand

- Aging population, increased lifespans, increased survival rates following disability
- Increased numbers of individuals with disabilities living at all!
- Therefore, the demand for mobility devices, prosthetics, assistive technology, and nanotechnology is increasing at a dramatic rate.



## Problems/Concerns/Issues

- The numbers of individuals being trained are not matching the need.
- Advanced technologies are not being translated into functional devices.
- The statistics necessary to drive translation from bench to bedside are lacking.



## Research Priorities

- Introduce the development and evaluation of disability technology as a career choice.
- Increase the number and scope of interdisciplinary studies that incorporate cutting-edge technology into cutting-edge solutions.
- Increase the number of outcomes researchers and projects.
  - Create a program for translation