BIOENGINEERING SEMINAR

SPRING 2024

Utilizing Smartphone Apps and Virtual Reality in Health Sciences Research

Chris Rhea, PhD

Associate Dean for Research & Innovation in the College of Health Sciences
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Thursday, February 22
12:00-1:00 pm

Fairfax Campus:
Horizon Hall, Rm 1008

Live streaming to SciTech Campus: KJH 258

Abstract

The accelerated rate of technology development over the past two decades has afforded the opportunity to repurpose off-the-shelf technology for health sciences research. In particular, smartphone apps and virtual reality are well suited to help assess and/or rehabilitate health behaviors. This presentation will explore the use of smartphone apps and virtual reality to address human health challenges, including the work conducted by our research team.

Biography

Dr. Rhea completed his PhD in Kinesiology with a specialization in biomechanics at Purdue University in 2009. He then completed a postdoc at Brown University and the Providence VA Medical Center focusing on the use of virtual reality to enhance rehabilitation. From 2011-2022, Dr. Rhea was a faculty member in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, rising from Assistant Professor to Full Professor before joining ODU in June 2022 as the Associate Dean for Research & Innovation in the College of Health Sciences. Dr. Rhea's research lies at the intersection of neuromotor control and advanced technology to address human health challenges. To this end, Dr. Rhea's team has been funded the NIH, DoD, US Navy, HRSA, NIOSH, Women's Football Foundation, and 4-VA to explore solutions related to falls in older adults, concussions, service member health, occupational health, and child physical activity and nutrition.