<u>NSF Award #2024689</u> "Collaborative Research: NRI: INT: Transparent and Intuitive Teleoperation Interfaces for the Future Nursing Robots and Workers", 2020/09/01-2023/08/31. Funded by NSF NRI and NIOSH. PI: Zhi Jane Li¹ (zli11@wpi.edu), Cagdas Onal¹, Jie Fu¹, Jeanine Skorinko², Yunus Telliel², Paula Bylaska-Davies³.



Objective Develop **transparent** and **intuitive** teleoperation interfaces to control nursing robots to perform nursing assistance tasks involving **dexterous manipulation**, **loco-manipulation** and **human-robot interaction** tasks; Evaluate the technological and social impacts on healthcare workers of diverse age and gender.

Significance Tele-Nursing Robots for **pandemic response** (Ebola, Zika, COVID-19); Benefit 2.9 million US **registered nurses and nursing practitioners**; Support in-home care, clinics, and hospitals given the **shortage of nursing workers**; Prepare healthcare workers for the future of work through **fusion of nursing and engineering education**.

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Evaluation 1) Technological impacts Testing the usability of the soft haptic glove to control general-purpose dexterous manipulation motor skills; Conducting user studies to understand the performance, workload, learning efforts of visuo-haptic sensory feedback, and user preference of sensory integration; 2) Social impacts Pilot interview registered nurses and nursing faculty to understand their perception of tele-nursing robots, experience with tele-nursing interface prototypes; understand their preferred interface design features.

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