



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
**CENTER FOR**  
Behavioral Health +  
Smart Technology

# The HealthTech Weekly

January 19, 2018

## Spotlight on: Armando Rotondi, PhD

Armando Rotondi, PhD is an Associate Professor of Health Systems Engineering and Health Services Research at the University of Pittsburgh, and an investigator in the VISN 4 Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) and Center for Health Equity Research (CHERP) at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS). With a background in Health Systems Engineering, he is investigating the use of eHealth interventions among patients with schizophrenia and their informal



supporters.

---

**Below, read a preview of Center Associate Director Julia Holber's interview with Dr. Rotondi. Visit our website to read the full interview [here!](#)**

**Julia: What projects are you currently working on that you are excited about?**

Armando: I have a project at VA where we're using eHealth-based interventions with veterans with schizophrenia and comparing them to an evidence-based alternative that's in person. We're looking at advantages and disadvantages of people receiving interventions by the phone or by laptops versus coming in for everything and getting it in person. One of the things we're finding that is a little more prominent than I've found in the past with people with schizophrenia, though I don't doubt that this is kind of a general phenomenon, people are becoming more paranoid about going online. Security, loss of privacy, things like that. It turns out not everyone with schizophrenia has a home computer or a smartphone, so for some people we provide the technology and the training. It's a project I'm pretty excited about. Another project I'm trying to get going and I'm hopeful for is a Pittsburgh-area based needs assessment of schizophrenia. We want to get funding to explore the lived experiences of people with schizophrenia in terms of what their priorities are for their lives and treatments, what service barriers they've encountered, how can we better meet their needs and integrate their lives, how can we help them achieve their goals, and how services and treatments can incorporate their preferences. Earlier I mentioned some of the really poor uptake of mental health treatment among people with schizophrenia, and it's a barrier to providing services and to them feeling better. One of the things we want to do with this is get a deeper understanding of how can we provide services to integrate services with people versus people having to conform to the services. That's a project I'm really excited about.



**We hope you are enjoying our Center's Newsletter. Please send us (email [healthtechpitt@upmc.edu](mailto:healthtechpitt@upmc.edu)) relevant articles, events, videos, and projects you are working on for us to include in upcoming issues!**

—Dr. Bruce Rollman & the HealthTechPitt Team

**Follow us on Twitter [@HealthTechPitt](#)**



and check out our website

[www.healthtech.pitt.edu](http://www.healthtech.pitt.edu) !

---

Copyright © 2017 \*Center, Behavioral Health and Smart Technology, All rights reserved.

**Our mailing address is:**  
230 McKee Place, Suite 600  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**Questions? Comments? Suggestions?**

Email us at [healthtechpitt@upmc.edu](mailto:healthtechpitt@upmc.edu) or call us at **412-586-9851**  
Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

University of Pittsburgh Center for Behavioral Health and Smart Technology · 230 McKee Pl Ste 600 · Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3903 · USA

The MailChimp logo, featuring the word "MailChimp" in a white, cursive font, is centered within a grey rounded rectangular box.