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Panel 2.5: Healthy Aging

Aging in a "Safe" Place: Intelligent Designs for Residential Autonomy

There is a growing emphasis on allowing the elderly to "Age in Place"; that is to continue to reside in their homes through design features and accommodations that seek to compensate for frailty or cognitive impairment. While there are benefits in assisting the elderly in maintaining residential autonomy, independent living and remaining in an existing residence is not always the best or the most practical approach to empowering elderly. This paper will discuss the potential disincentives of the fixed residence "Aging in Place" movement and offer alternative approaches that both promote independence and residential autonomy among the elderly, and also ensure the elders to have access to support services they need in the face of the challenges presented by the aging. The paper will discuss outcomes for aging in place projects such as the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities Project and the NORC framework promoted in the US.