Faculty Member: Young Joo Kim, PhD, OTR/L

Background: The number of people with chronic cardiac conditions, such as coronary artery diseases, heart failure, and myocardial infarction, has increased nationally over the years and has been the leading cause of death for the total US population. However, information on functional outcomes at post-acute stage is scarce. In addition, the usages and roles of different therapeutic services for people with chronic cardiac conditions at post-acute stage are not well known. Lastly, non-pharmacological intervention options that initially focus on light intensity physical activities, rather than moderate-to-vigorous physical activities, to improve performance and participation in IADLs, leisure, and social participation for this population at post-acute stage are not available.

My research program considers post-acute rehabilitation for individuals with chronic cardiac conditions and includes three primary research foci: (1) functional outcomes at post-cardiac rehabilitation, (2) the usages and roles of rehabilitation services in relation to functional outcomes at post-acute stage, and (3) a non-pharmacological intervention initially targeting the light intensity physical activities for people with chronic cardiac conditions living in the community.

Research Interests: Clinical intervention and functional outcomes in OT, adults with chronic cardiac conditions, older adults

Research skills: Experimental/quantitative studies; single subject designs; statistics; telerehabilitation.

Research Directions:

- **Functional outcomes of people with chronic cardiac conditions at post-cardiac rehabilitation.** Our research team will investigate the changes in and the relationships among the constructs of body functions, activity, and participation by assessing people with chronic cardiac conditions three times. Graduate project students will participate in participant recruitment, visit participants’ homes to complete a series of assessments, and complete data entry and analyses. A total of 10 hours of graduate assistantship per week will be available for the additional work.

- **Usages and roles of rehabilitation services in relation to functional outcomes for people with chronic cardiac conditions discharged from acute care.** In this study, people with chronic cardiac conditions recently discharged from acute care after their acute cardiac events will be prospectively followed for 3 months to investigate rehabilitation services they receive, roles of those rehabilitation services, and their functional outcomes and daily routines. A graduate project student will participate in participant recruitment, visit participants’ homes to complete a series of assessments, complete follow-up assessments over the phone, and complete data entry and analyses.