

### Piloting Lab Rotation Visits for NRT Trainees

AWARE-AI Trainees are guided by NRT core and affiliated faculty to advance human sensing AI in four research tracks focused on software, hardware, human-computer interaction, and cognitive models. Lab rotations across around ten associated research labs allow Trainees to gain valuable cross-disciplinary insights into the work being conducted in other research tracks and shared experiences for nurturing convergent research.

The goals of the lab rotations include supporting Trainees to:

- Develop cross-disciplinary breadth
- Catalyze new collaborations
- Help formulate new research ideas
- Develop their peer network
- Meet potential PhD committee members
- Learn about research happening in a different track
- Have an opportunity to talk about their work to peers in a different track
- Experience different lab cultures

To coordinate the rotations, Drs. Bailey and Diaz request Trainees indicate their preferences for the other research tracks they wish to explore. Trainees are then matched to labs within those tracks. The rotations occur simultaneously for all Trainees.

Feedback from our pilot cohort suggests that the experience can influence how Trainees approach their own research by exposing them to technical concepts and research methodologies that they may not be familiar with as well as new ways of thinking about AI or related issues.

Benefits highlighted by some Trainees on their experience included:

- hands-on experience with time-series panel data
- learning about hardware/HCI and some practical uses for robotics
- establishing connections between other research and their own work
- connecting with other faculty at RIT which can be helpful for future interests.
- insights into the host's research and exposure to other projects where AI plays a role
- knowledge about haptic sensors and related technologies
- learning more about conferences focused on human interaction