Investigator:	**Patricia Griffiths** Phone: (404) 321-6111 ext. 7138 Email: pcgriff@emory.edu
Primary Research Interest:	Other
Description of Research:	The mission of the CVNR RR&D Veteran Caregiver Support Studies Research Group is to develop, implement and evaluate behavioral and psycho-educational technology based interventions to help older caregiving dyads age safely in place or with choice and with the greatest possible quality of life. We use technology to deliver interventions into the home of the dyad thereby increasing access to quality programming for rural dyads and for those with transportation challenges. We have studies testing innovative ways to improve sleep, caregiving with dementia and performance of activities of daily living.
Relevance to VA:	Supporting caregivers has a direct impact on the Veterans for whom they provide care. Veterans have higher rates of physical and psychiatric disability than those found in the general population and both incidence and prevalence rates for disability increase with age, with one in two WWII veterans reporting a disability (http://www1.va.gov/vetdata).The increased prevalence of chronic, debilitating or disabling conditions in the aging veteran population brings with it a concomitant rise in the number of family caregivers required to provide daily assistance to allow the Veterans to remain in the home. Sustaining caregivers and their ability to provide care at home is crucial to our health and long-term care systems. Failure to support caregivers can negatively affect their ability to provide care and result in exacerbation of stress and strain. This in turn, could impact the quality of care and quality of life for the care-partner including premature institutionalization.