



Georgia Tech

Center for Advanced
Communications Policy

Annual Report 2026

Research Highlights

Created By
Walter Bradley Fain
Executive Director

September 2026

CACP Overview

MISSION & VISION.The Center for Advanced Communications Policy (CACP) is an applied research center that focuses on informing the design, development, and deployment of innovative technologies, and understanding their social impact by the conduct of objective, evidence-based research and policy analysis. CACP has a particular emphasis on policy methods and outputs that meet the needs of both public and private sector stakeholders.

Through its relationship with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School of Public Policy and its position within the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts (IAC), CACP's mission is to provide research and methodologically sound perspectives on technologies at the intersection of society and policy. Further, these analytic approaches are the foundation of the assessment and analysis of issues that inform applied aspects of our work: improving the user experience, commenting on federal rulemaking, and offering input into the policymaking process. An important characteristic of our work is that it is supported through diverse funding from government, industry, and non-profit sources. CACP utilizes a proven human systems engineering approach to problem solving and focuses on integrative processes that “fill gaps” by looking at the space between people and technology with a social sciences and humanities-based lens that others may not be able to offer.

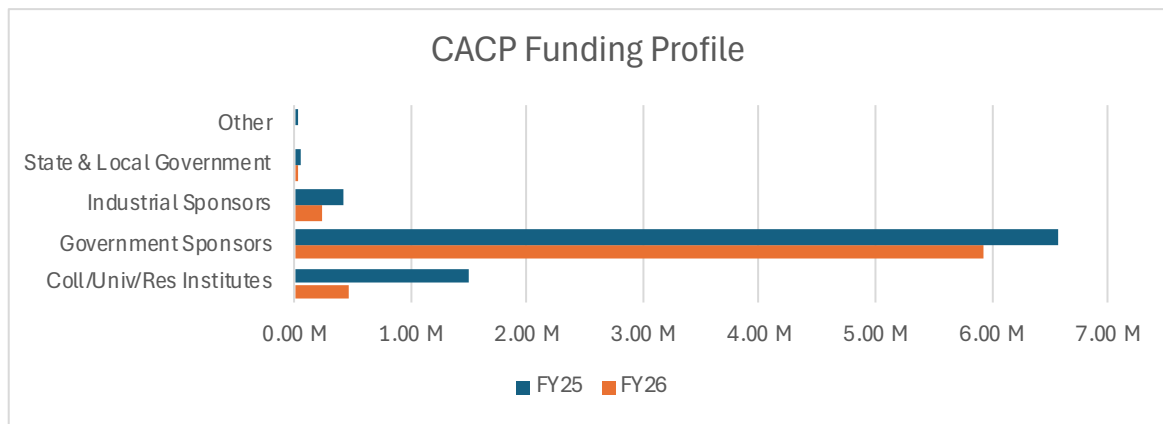
Notable News. Three of our faculty were promoted on July 1st, 2026. Brenna Phelps and Rebecca Sheiner were promoted to Research Scientist II. Sarah Farmer was promoted to Senior Research Scientist. In addition, Sarah Farmer, Associate Director of Development, was named Director of HomeLab in recognition of her tireless efforts to grow and develop HomeLab into a sustainable program of research that has garnered national and international recognition. In FY27, Ms. Farmer plans to extend HomeLab to South Korea in a new collaboration with Dr. Moon Choi at KAIST.

CACP’s current strategic plan was finalized in 2022 and runs through 2027. Dr. Nathan Moon, Associate Director of Operations, will lead CACP on an exercise to refresh our strategic plan this Fall. Our goal is to align our plan with the IAC and Georgia Tech strategic plans while taking into account the changing landscape for Federal research funding.

Faculty & Staff	FY25 & FY26 New Awards	FY25 & FY26 Proposals	FY25 & FY26 Publications
1 Research Admin 1 Admin Professional 1 Regent’s Researcher 1 Regent’s Emeritus 2 Postdoc Fellows 1 PRS, 2 SRS, 1 SRA, 3 RSIs, 1 RTI, 2 RSIs, 4 GRAs	\$0.70M	\$1.63M	15 Journal Publications 6 Invited Presentations 28 Technical Reports 11 Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates

Financial Information

CACP has managed its financial portfolio during fiscal years 2025 and 2026 leveraging the state investment into sponsored programs and faculty / staff growth. The charts below provide a summary of our awards and how our state budget was managed. **During this time period, CACP generated \$1.13M in indirect and returned \$256k to the IAC general budget.** CACP continues to grow despite increased risk in Federal funding sources. A sustained investment in our state budget is required to sustain our growth trajectory. Of particular importance are efforts to maintain industry funding and involvement through ongoing business development and cultivation of new relationships. This will ensure a diversity of funding sources and further insulate the center from ongoing uncertainty.



	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027 (projected)
Original State Budget	\$425,009	\$449,785	\$414,478
Amendments	\$49,662	\$45,582	-\$2,203
Salary	\$360,119	\$425,119	\$374,478
Internal Research and Development	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Supplies and Materials	\$20,000	\$32,750	\$10,000
Professional Development	\$2,938	\$1,749	\$10,000
Business Development	\$8,817	\$20,297	\$20,000

CACP's state budget funds center administration, leadership, and technology management. State funds are also used to fund business development travel, professional development of junior employees, and technology refreshes for specialized equipment located in the Human Factors Lab. Due to funding restrictions, the IRAD program developed in FY26 will be merged with the IAC funded GEARS program in FY27. CACP faculty will apply to the GEARS program for potential seed grant funding to support the development of new lines of research. Due to the changing Federal funding landscape and the sunseting of several long-term projects, CACP will prioritize business development travel in FY27. Significant business development investments will be required to sustain CACP in future years at its current staffing level.



Our Research Capabilities

Research activities range from foundational social science research, providing evidence-based input for policy formation and regulatory filings, to applied policy research analysis and innovation studies to inform the development, implementation and adoption of a wide range of information and communication technologies. Lab-based studies focus on the intersection of technology and the user: accessibility and usability studies, user testing and human factors analysis, all of which help industry better understand the needs of a wide range of users, especially people with disabilities, the aging, and other vulnerable populations. Training and outreach efforts are designed to increase social awareness, disseminate best practices and facilitate collaboration between critical stakeholders.

CACP cultivates social, economic and inclusive -

oriented perspectives on digital technologies at the intersection of society, inclusion and policy to address a range of stakeholder needs, ranging from increasing community participation through connectivity, to technologies for supporting work and employment. Center activities provide the foundation for the assessment and analysis of issues that inform our contribution to federal rulemaking, input into public sector policy-making processes, and generation of technical guidance for business and industry.

Our HomeLab research initiative conducts a wide variety of usability and accessibility research often in the homes of research participants. HomeLab generates actionable outcomes that help drive innovation for companies seeking to design for as many people in as many different situations as possible.

CACP conducts impactful research in areas such as wireless access, workforce development and health / wellness. Our research spans the intersection of technology, people, and policy.



HomeLab

HomeLab provides the capability to conduct in-home research that supports the development of innovative technologies.



CDAIT

The Center for the Development and Application of Internet of Things Technologies fosters the development of Internet of Things (IoT) research and education.



Testing & Evaluation

Human Factors experts design, execute, and interpret research for the purpose of measuring the usability and accessibility of products and services.



Regulatory Filings

CACP researches and produces regulatory briefs on topics ranging from topics impacting wireless access to voting.



Workforce Development

The gig economy has impacted workers with disabilities in unique ways. We research how people with disabilities can contribute.



Design for All

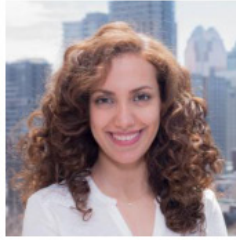
We specialize in developing technologies that are usable by as many people in as many different situations as possible.

Our Team



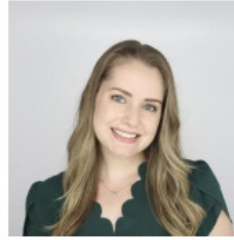
Brad Fain

Executive Director, Center for
Advanced Communications Policy



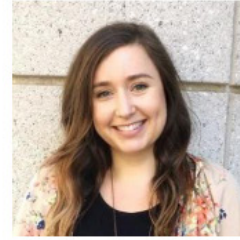
Marjan Baghdadi

Research Scientist II-LT



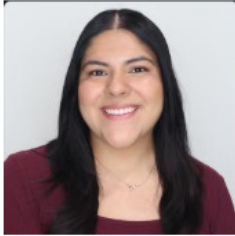
Jennifer Erickson

Graduate Research Assistant



Sarah Farmer

Senior Research Scientist / Associate
Director of Development



**Melissa Garcia-
Rodriguez**

Graduate Research Assistant



Emily Gleaton

Graduate Research Assistant



Jordan Johnson

Research Administrative Manager I



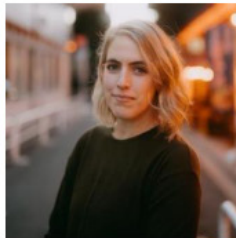
Da Eun Kim

Graduate Research Assistant



Salimah LaForce

Director of Research & Policy
Initiatives



Adina Martinez

Senior Research Associate



Helena Mitchell

Regents Researcher Emeritus, Center
for Advanced Communications Policy



Nathan W. Moon

Principal Research Scientist /
Associate Director of Operations



**Rayele Moreira Dos
Santos**

Postdoctoral Fellow



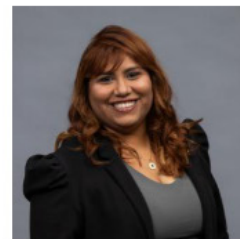
Emily Parcell

Graduate Research Assistant



Amanda Peagler

Senior Research Scientist / Director
of Testing and Evaluation



Itzel Perez Villarreal

Admin Professional Sr



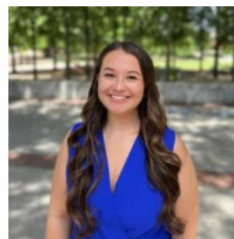
Brenna Phelps

Research Scientist II



Rebecca Sheiner

Research Scientist II



Jaclyn Volney

Research Scientist II

Our Publications

Arthur, K. C., Wilson, K. B., Berry, B., Binion, B., Becker, M., Derus, A., Diop, S. L., Gachuri, M., Green, B. B., Koné, A., Licitra, J., Liou, C., McCracken, C. E., Nisotel, L. E., Owens, S. E., Piccorelli, A. V., Ramsey, S., Schwartz, L. B., Senturia, K., Svoboda, J., Volney, J., Williamson, B. D., & Hsu, C. (2026). Codesigning COVID-19 booster promotion materials in online workshops with long-term care staff: A process evaluation. *Health Education Research*, 41(2), cyag004. <https://doi.org/10.1093/her/cyag004>.

Bennett Gayle, D., Goodarzi, M., Albert, N., Mwavita, M., Yuan, X., LaForce, S. (2026). Acceptance of Emerging Technology for Improving Disaster Preparedness: Comparison between older and younger adults in the US. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* (forthcoming).

Bennett Gayle, D., Yuan X., Goodarzi, M., Sharma, P., LaForce, S., Mwavita, M. (2026). Operationalizing Disaster Preparedness in a Virtual Reality Serious Game. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* (forthcoming).

Goodarzi, M., Gayle, D. B., LaForce, S., Sharma, P., & Mwavita, M. (2026, May). The Perceived Usefulness of Virtual Reality for Disaster Preparedness among Older Adults. In *Proceedings of the International ISCRAM Conference* (Vol. 23).

Moreira, R., LaForce, S., Volney, J., Eshleman, J., & Moon, N. (2026). Familiar but Unimagined? Readiness and Rehabilitation Use Perceptions of Voice-Based Digital Assistants Among Adults with Disabilities. *Universal Access in the Information Society*. Manuscript under review.

Moreira, R., LaForce, S., Teles, A. S., & Moon, N. (2026). Voice-Enabled Digital Assistants Supporting Physical Exercise and Rehabilitation: A Scoping Review. *International Journal of Medical Informatics*. Manuscript under review.

Volney, J., MacEwan, S. R., Hefner, J. L., Teater, J., Kauffman, E., Gaughan, A. A., Olvera, R. G., & McAlearney, A. S. (2026). Evaluation of a medication for opioid use disorder initiation program in the emergency department. *Substance Use & Addiction Journal*, 47(1), 90–99. <https://doi.org/10.1177/29767342251355372>

Bricout, J. C., Moon, N. W., & Oteman, Q. A. (2025). Addressing the policy ecosystem: components for successful disabled entrepreneurship in the USA. In *A seat at the table: A place for disabled entrepreneurs and innovators*. Eds. H.L. Smith, C.L. McNeely, J. Winstanley, & A.S.K. Demirhan. London: Routledge, 63-74.

Choudry, A*, Farmer, S*, Sheiner, R., Peagler, A., Patel, V., Herbertson, L., Guha, S., & Lam, W. (2025). Integrating Human Factors Principles into the Early Microfluidic Device Development Process. Manuscript under review.

Gleaton, E., Farmer, S., & Baker, P. (2025) Improving Emergency Response: A Qualitative Needs Assessment Involving People with Disabilities and First Responders, *Human Factors: The Journal of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society*.

Goodarzi, M., Albert, N., LaForce, S., Mwavita, M., Bennett Gayle, D., & Yuan, X. (2025). Technology Adoption for Disaster Preparedness Among Older Adults and People with Disabilities in HCI International 2025 – Late Breaking Papers, pp. 42-63. HCII.

Kerssens, C., Phelps, B., Jones, B., Hackney, M., Johnson, T., Nocera, J., Carroll-Sauer, C., Gupta, R. (2025). Feasibility of a Conversational Agent to Bring Home the STEADI Fall Prevention Algorithm, *Innovation in Aging*, Volume 9, Issue Supplement_2, December 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igaf122.2632>

Our Recent Publications

Moon, N.W., Harris, F.H., Linden, M.A., LaForce, S., & Griffiths, P. (2025). The Challenge of Contingent Work Practices for People With Disabilities: Findings From Qualitative and Survey Research. In *Disability and the future of work: Research in social science and disability (RSSD)*, vol. 16. Eds. F. Hyseni, L. Schur, D. Kruse, & P. Blanck. Emerald Publishing Limited, 43-64.

Moreira, R., Vasconcelos, S. S., & LaForce, S. (2025). Inclusion and Assistive Technology Policy in Brazil and the United States: A Cross-Country Scoping Review. *Assistive Technology*. Manuscript under review.

Moreira, R., LaForce, S., Teles, A. S., Harris, F., & Moon, N. (2025). Inclusion and Assistive Technologies in Disability Rights Legislation: A Cross-Country NLP-Based Comparative Analysis. *Universal Access in the Information Society*. Manuscript under review.

Selected Invited Conference Presentations:

Razin, V., Farmer, S., Foster Peagler, A., and Fain, W.B. "A Usability Rubric for Selecting Point-of-Care Diagnostic Test Kits for Military Operations" Department of War (DoW) Human Factors Engineering (HFE) Technical Advisory Group (TAG). June 2026.

LaForce, S., Harris, F., Moon, N. (2026) Technologies to Support Employment and Accommodations of People with Physical Disabilities: Findings from Qualitative Research. NARRTC Annual Conference, Alexandria, VA, April 15, 2026.

Sagar VK, D., Rao, A., Moon, NW., Milchus, K., & Reddy Thotti, B.B. (2025). Accommodation Expert Support System for Aging Well (ACCESS for Aging Well). In *Proceedings of the 27th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility*, 1-5, ASSETS '25: The 27th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility, Denver, CO, October 26 - 29, 2025.

Goodarzi, M., Albert, N., LaForce, S., Mwavita, M., Bennett Gayle, D., & Yuan, X. (2025). Technology Adoption for Disaster Preparedness Among Older Adults and People with Disabilities. *27th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, HCII 25*.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Martinez, A., Sheiner, R., Volney, J., Phelps, B., Kim, D., Fain, B. (November 2024). Human Factors 101 [Breakout Session]. Atlanta Center for Engineered Point of Care Technologies (ACME POCT) SuperGLUE: Uniting Point-of-Care Diagnostic Innovators & Clinicians, Atlanta, GA.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Martinez, A., Sheiner, R., Volney, J., Phelps, B., Kim, D., Fain, B. (November 2024). The User Perspective [Breakout Session]. Atlanta Center for Engineered Point of Care Technologies (ACME POCT) SuperGLUE: Uniting Point-of-Care Diagnostic Innovators & Clinicians, Atlanta, GA.

Our Technical Reports

Sheiner, R., Farmer, S. Phelps, B., Volney, J., Razin, V., and Martinez, A. "Scout: HomeLab Iterative Design Feedback-Instructional Materials," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024419, A941773, May 2026, 6 pages.

Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Volney, J., Parcell, E., and Farmer, S. "Scout: HomeLab Iterative Design Feedback-Instructional Materials," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024419, A941773, May 2026, 10 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Volney, J. and Parcell, E. "Scout: HomeLab Iterative Design Feedback-Instructional Materials," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024419, A941773, May 2026, 10 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Razin, V., and Martinez, A. "Aceso Laboratories, Inc. Atida COVID 19+RSV+FLU A/B Combo Rapid Test: Preliminary Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024606, A873129, October 2025, 15 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Phelps, B., Kim, D., and Razin, V. "Instruction Materials Review- Healgen HBV," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00028964, A100899, August, 2025, 6 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Phelps, B., Kim, D., and Razin, V. "Instruction Materials Review- Healgen HCV," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00028964, A100899, August, 2025, 7 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Razin, V., and Martinez, A. "Co-Dx PCR Flu A, Flu B, COVID-19, and RSV Test: Preliminary Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024606, A873129, July 2025, 32 pages.

Sheiner, R., Farmer, S., Volney, J., Martinez, A. Phelps, B., and Peagler, A. "Head-to-Head Capillary Blood Collection Device Comparison: Preliminary Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00028964, A1008991, July 2025, 39 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Martinez, A., and Razin, V. "GADx COVI-Go PLUS: HomeLab Internal Concept Review," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024606, A873129, March 2025, 14 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Martinez, A., and Razin, V. "Global Diagnostic Systems: HomeLab Internal Concept Review," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024606, A873129, March 2025, 7 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Martinez, A., Volney, J., and Kim, D. "Global Diagnostic Systems: HomeLab Internal Concept Review," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024606, A873129, March 2025, 7 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Volney, J., and Sheiner, R. "brain4care B4C System: Internal Concept Review," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024419, A941773, March 2025, 14 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Volney, J., and Sheiner, R. "Buckley Lab MetaOx Guide: Usability Evaluation of Instructions for Use," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024419, A941773, March 2025, 7 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Volney, J., Phelps, B., and Kim, D. "Burst Diagnostics Strep A Test: Internal Concept Review," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024419, A941773, January 2025, 22 pages.

Our Technical Reports

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Martinez, A., and Kim, D. "PHASE Scientific International Limited INDICAIDTM: Preliminary Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024606, A873129, January 2025, 13 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Martinez, A., and Kim, D. "Healgen Heal-Check Rapid COVID-19 + Influenza A/B Antigen Test: Preliminary Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024606, A873129, January 2025, 13 pages.

Sheiner, R., Farmer, S., and Peagler, A. "Usability Feedback- Roche Cobas Liat," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00027883, A752200, December 2024, 3 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Martinez, A., Volney, J., and Kim, D. "Domus Diagnostics COVID-19, Flu A, Flu B, RSV Multiplex Molecular Testing Kit: HomeLab Internal Concept Review," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00024606, A873129, November 2024, 12 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Martinez, A., and Razin, V., "CardieX CONNEQT Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00027199, A873149, August 2024, 23 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Martinez, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., Kim, D., and Razin, V., "Caretaker VitalStream Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00027199, A873149, August 2024, 11 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Martinez, A., Phelps, B., and Razin, V., "Dionysus Digital Health Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00027199, A873149, August 2024, 15 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Martinez, A., and Razin, V., "GADx UTRiPlex Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00027199, A873149, August 2024, 2 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Martinez, A., and Razin, V., "HemoSonics Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00027199, A873149, August 2024, 4 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Razin, V., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., and Martinez, A., "MyLUA Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00027199, A873149, August 2024, 14 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Martinez, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., and Razin, V., "PyrAmes Bosimi Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00027199, A873149, August 2024, 14 pages.

Farmer, S., Phelps, B., Peagler, A., Martinez, A., Sheiner, R., Volney, J., and Razin, V., "Sanguina AnemoCheck Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00027199, A873149, August 2024, 11 pages.

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Martinez, A., Sheiner, R., Phelps, B., and Razin, V., "Sibel ANNE One Usability Report," Final, National Institutes of Health, GR00027199, A873149, August 2024, 7

Farmer, S., Peagler, A., Sheiner, R., Martinez, A., and Razin, V., "RizLab Health Inc. CytoTracker1 POC Analyzer System: Internal Concept Review," Final, National Institutes of Health., GR00024419, A941773, July 2024, 10 pages.



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Thank You

Contact Us

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