Open house, colloquium set for driving simulator facility

The Center for Visual and Cognitive Neuroscience in the Department of Psychology has scheduled an open house for the Driving Simulator Core Facility. It is set for Friday, March 31, from 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. in Minard Hall 126C8.

The facility provides faculty, students and researchers in the region with access to a state-of-the-art driving simulator. The facility uses a DriveSafety DS-600c Research Driving Simulator that projects the simulated driving environment onto five 65” LCD screens that provide a wide 180-degree field of view. The simulator includes a vehicle cab, driver and passenger seats, a center console, a fully instrumented dashboard, a rearview mirror display, and controls for steering, braking and acceleration. The cab is mounted on a motion platform in order to simulate the motions associated with driving.

The open house will give potential researchers an opportunity to tour the facility, drive the simulator, hear how other successful researchers have used the facility to address their research questions, and discuss new research ideas and directions.

The Open House will be followed by a colloquium presentation. Matt Rizzo, Frances and Edgar Reynolds Professor, chair of the Department of Neurological Sciences, and chief physician for Neuroscience Clinical Programs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, will present “Transportation, Simulation, Medication, Automation: Explication” from 3-4:30 p.m. in Minard Hall 230.

Driving simulators, instrumented vehicles and real-world sensors in the “internet of things” are revealing heretofore-unknown phenotypes of driver behavior and performance. Doctors, engineers, psychology and computer science experts are discovering links between health-related functional declines and driver safety. This translational research is informing systems (e.g., driver monitoring, collision warning, “smart” cars with differing levels of autonomy) designed to improve mobility and safety in drivers with a range of disorders. Rizzo will present cars as tools for detecting and responding to driver impairments in health, aging and medical disorders; connected to sensors deployed at home, at work and on the driver; and linked to clinical trials, EMRs and healthcare networks for improving patient/driver mobility, safety and quality of life.

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