

Paúl Pauca

Associate Professor of Computer Science at Wake Forest University

Winston-Salem, NC, US

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Biography

An expert in image analysis, mobile application development, and computer science education, Paúl Pauca has combined his professional research and personal passion to help improve the lives of people all over the world.

When his son Victor was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Pitt Hopkins Syndrome that makes it difficult for him to communicate, Pauca and a team of Wake Forest students developed an iPhone/iPad app called VerbalVictor as an affordable alternative to expensive communication devices on the market. One of the first apps for assistive communication, VerbalVictor has been downloaded more than 15,000 times and featured by The Associated Press, USA Today and CNN. Pauca says that the experience of interacting with users of VerbalVictor around the country is particularly rewarding and has given him the impetus to start a new line of research, aiming to help those with special needs. More recently his team developed and tested a wearable device allowing people with ALS to interact with mobile devices via slight motions of the head.

Areas of Expertise

Hyperspectral and LiDAR image analysis, Human-computer interfaces for disabilities, Mobile and pervasive devices, Computer Science Education, STEM and entrepreneurship, Pitt Hopkins Syndrome, Non-profit organization development, Parenting a Child with Special Needs

Education

Duke University

Ph.D. Computer Science

Wake Forest University

M.S. Computer Science

Wake Forest University

B.S. Computer Science

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