

# Willa Potosnak

Pittsburgh, PA

(724) 263-8915

[wpotosna@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:wpotosna@andrew.cmu.edu)

[Website](#)

[Google Scholar Profile](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

---

## Education

**Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), Robotics Institute**

Beginning Fall 2022

Ph.D. in Robotics

Mentor: Dr. Artur [Dubrawski](#)

**Duquesne University, Rangos School of Health Sciences**

May 2022

*Summa Cum Laude*

B.S., Biomedical Engineering with Minor in Mathematics

## Research Experience

**CMU**

May 2020-Present

*Mentors:* Dr. Artur Dubrawski (May 2020-Present), Dr. James Kyle [Miller](#) (May 2020-Present), Mr. Anthony [Wertz](#) (Summer 2020)

**Research Intern in the [Auton Lab](#) (hired between RISS summers)**

August 2021-Present

Conducting research with machine learning (ML) to improve the reliability of algorithms for distributed intra- and extra-institutional organizations with data privacy constraints.

August 2020-May 2021

Advanced research with ML to develop intraoperative binary classification models to predict multiple post-operative outcomes for cardiothoracic surgery patients.

**Robotics Institute Summer Scholars ([RISS](#)) Program Researcher in the Auton Lab**

Summer 2021

Conducted research with ML to improve the reliability of algorithms that aim to provide insight into beneficial knowledge transfer opportunities.

Summer 2020

Conducted research with ML to develop an intraoperative binary classification model to predict acute renal failure for cardiothoracic surgery patients.

**Duquesne University Biomedical Engineering Department Lab**

January 2019-May 2019

*Lab Director:* Dr. Benjamin Goldschmidt

**Assistive Technology Project Co-Lead**

Designed and 3-D printed an assistive device to facilitate tasks for those with grip disabilities due to stroke or other hand injuries.

Designed and printed an assistive device for a disabled faculty member to facilitate instruction with hand-held medical tools.

## Other Lab Experience

### The Citizen Science Lab

May 2019-August 2019

Curriculum designer and instructor of STEM lessons and experiments for K-12 students.

## Achievements

Nominated and accepted to the Undergraduate Consortium (UC) mentorship program at the Thirty-Sixth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI) (AAAI-22).

Student panelist for the 2021 Artificial Intelligence and Data Science Education Leadership meeting hosted by [CSforAll](#) and supported by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Awarded one of the [2019 John G. Rangos Prizes](#) for Duquesne curriculum proposal that integrated 3-D printing with prosthetic and assistive technology device design for patients.

## Skills

3-D Printing: 3-D printer use and maintenance, Autodesk Fusion 360, Ultimaker Cura

Languages/Software/Systems: Python, MATLAB, Linux, HTML, Git, LaTeX

## Extracurriculars

Volunteer project lead of a CMU Robotics Institute team developing the **RoboticsEd** website for the purpose of helping to make robotics and AI resources more accessible to educators and their students.

Piano (12 years of study); guitar (6 years of study)

## Publications and Presentations

Nagpal, C., **Potosnak, W.**, Dubrawski, A. (2022). auton-survival: an Open-Source Package for Regression, Counterfactual Estimation, Evaluation and Phenotyping with Censored Time-to-Event Data. *Proceedings of the 7th Machine Learning for Healthcare Conference, PMLR*, 182, 1-24. [Paper](#) [Blog](#) [Code](#)

**Potosnak, W.**, Dufendach K. A., Kaczorowski, D., Miller, J. K., Dubrawski, A. (2022). Machine Learning Models with Intraoperative Features Improve Risk Predictions Following CABG [Oral Presentation]. *Society of Thoracic Surgeons Coronary Conference*. [Abstract](#)

Dufendach, K. A., Nagpal, C., **Potosnak, W.**, Dubrawski, A., Kaczorowski, D., (2022). Novel Machine Learning Technique Defines Patients Who Benefit from Off-Pump CABG [Oral Presentation]. *Society of Thoracic Surgeons Coronary Conference*. [Abstract](#)

**Potosnak, W.**, Caldas, S., Dufendach, K. A., Clermont, G., Miller, J. K., Dubrawski, A. (2022). Robust Rule Learning for Reliable and Interpretable Insight into Expertise Transfer Opportunities [Research Summary]. in *Proceedings of the Thirty-Sixth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*.

**Potosnak, W.**, Caldas, S., Dufendach, K. A., Clermont, G., Miller, J. K., Dubrawski, A. (2021). Robust Interpretable Rule Learning to Identify Expertise Transfer Opportunities in Healthcare. *NeurIPS 2021 Workshop Bridging the Gap: from Machine Learning Research to Clinical Practice*. [Workshop details](#)

**Potosnak, W.**, Miller, J. K., & Dubrawski, A. (2021). ROCCER Evaluation Within Federated Classifier Selection for Improved Identification of Center Collaboration Opportunities. *Robotics Institute Summer Scholars Working Papers Journal*, 240-246. [Paper](#)

**Potosnak, W.**, Dufendach, K. A., Wertz, A., Miller, J. K., Kilic, A., Dubrawski, A. (2021 January 29-31). Continuous Intraoperative Data Analysis Using Machine Learning Reveals Multiple Parameters to Predict Post-CABG Renal Failure [Conference presentation abstract]. *Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*. [Meeting details](#)

Rühling Cachay, S., Erickson, E., Buckner, A. F. C., Pokropek, E., **Potosnak, W.**, Osei, S., Lütjens, B. (2020). Graph Neural Networks for Improved El Nino Forecasting. *NeurIPS 2020 Workshop on Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning*. [Paper](#)

**Potosnak, W.**, Wertz, A., Miller, J. K., Kilic, A., Dufendach, K. A., Dubrawski, A. (2020). Cardiothoracic Surgery Analysis for Predicting Acute Renal Failure Outcomes. *Robotics Institute Summer Scholars Working Papers Journal*, 170-175. [Paper](#)