Forlizzi, DiSalvo, Gemperle – Assistive Robotics

This article is long but very well written and thereby easy to read. I have two questions for you that are appropriate once you have read the entire report:

1) Consider a "declining elder" – create an example for yourself- in a managed care facility, specifically. Now let's apply the design principle of "functionally adaptive" robotics. Describe a specific robot that is functionally adaptive for this elder that you are imagining. Specifically explain how that robot provides value to the elder at one stage of the elder's functionality, and how as the elder declines the robot is able to specifically adapt.

2) Let's consider ecologies. An elder living alone in a home, visited by a nurse once a day, with family members who are visiting by phone less and less frequently (once a week) and in person even less frequently (once a year and declining). Explain what makes this environment an imbalanced ecology. Invent and describe a robotic system that helps to restore this situation to a balanced ecology.