



**International  
Seating  
Symposium**

*Presents:*

# **The 2024 Virtual Professional Summit**

**February 7, 2024 & March 6, 2024**

# **The ISS 2024 VPS Proceedings**



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# Proceedings from the International Seating Symposium: Virtual Professional Summit (ISS: VPS) Presented live February 7 & March 6, 2024

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In February and March 2024, the International Seating Symposium (ISS), presented by the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology, hosted its first-ever Virtual Professional Summit (VPS). The ISS: VPS featured hand-selected speakers who provided education in an accessible, fully online environment with interactive elements for attendees around the world.

The ISS: VPS was a hybrid event, that included both live and on-demand learning activities. Live sessions were presented on two dates: Wednesday, February 7, and Wednesday, March 6, 2024, in Microsoft Teams. All courses were also recorded. Content was hosted in the Canvas Learning Management System; this combination of media allowed attendees to engage with content on both the live dates and after the event's conclusion. This also increased the accessibility of the materials to individuals in different time zones or to those who could not attend live.

In lieu of a virtual exhibit hall, the ISS: VPS showcased Premier Partner and Supporter organizations from the assistive technology industry. These organizations were acknowledged during the VPS's sessions and had their

logos featured on webpages and other content. Premier Partners were also given exclusive Supporter Spotlight sessions: half-hour presentations, similar to virtual in-services, to discuss new devices and product lines.

In total, the ISS: VPS included eight instructional courses, four supporter spotlight presentations, and two collaborative, virtual social events.

We would like to thank all event participants, presenters, and partners for their involvement in making the ISS: VPS a success. Your commitment to education in seating, mobility, and other assistive technology inspires us to continue working to make our vision of mobility for everyone a reality.

**Sincerely,**  
**The International Seating Symposium Team**  
**[Seatingsymposium.us](https://Seatingsymposium.us)**

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## The ISS VPS Team

The International Seating Symposium is independently run by professionals in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Rehabilitation Science & Technology, which is part of the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences. Our team includes practicing clinicians, educators, and researchers.

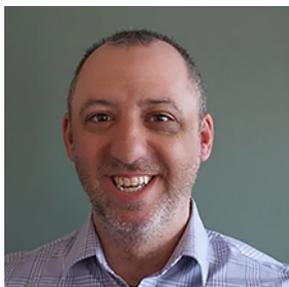
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**Rachel Hibbs, DPT, NCS, ATP**  
ISS Co-Director  
Assistant Professor, Director  
of Continuing Education



**Mark Schmeler, PhD, OTR/L, ATP**  
ISS Co-Director  
Associate Professor, Vice-  
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**Juli Harrison, OTD, OTR/L**  
UPMC Center for Assistive  
Technology



**Joe Ruffing, AST**  
Graphic Design & Multimedia  
Specialist



**Gede Pramana, PhD**  
Data Systems Administrator

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## Premier Partners & Supporters

We want to thank the following organizations for supporting the ISS: VPS. Premier Partners had the opportunity to present half-hour Supporter Spotlights, during which they showcased new devices and product lines.

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### Premier Partners:



#### Sunrise Medical

Supporter Spotlight: February 7, 2024  
11:15 AM – 11:45 AM EST

#### Merits Health Products

Supporter Spotlight: February 7, 2024  
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM EST

#### Permobil

Supporter Spotlight: March 6, 2024  
11:15 AM – 11:45 AM EST

#### Etac

Supporter Spotlight: March 6, 2024  
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM EST

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### Supporters:

Patented Independent Suspension



**Handi-Power Chair**



- Handi-Power Chair
- Invacare
- Motion Composites

- National Seating & Mobility
- Nymb Systems

## Schedule Overview

Below is an overview of each day's activities, followed by details on each session and speaker information.

### February 7, 2024

Time (EST)	Activity	Presenter(s)
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Global Initiatives for Assistive Technology	Satish Mishra, DrPH
11:15 – 11:45 AM	Sunrise Medical Supporter Spotlight	Sunrise Medical
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Riders on the Storm: Seating Interventions for Children with Dyskinesia	Bart Van der Heyden, PT
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Innovations in Auto Mobility: Integration of Driving and Mobility for Clinicians and Industry Professionals	Amy Lane, OTR/L, CDRS
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Merits Health Products Supporter Spotlight	Merits Health Products
3:15 – 4:15 PM	Updates, Advocacy, and Resources: What the Seating Team Needs to Know About Air Travel	Sivashankar Sivakanthan, PhD; John Morris; Kenny Salvini
6:00 PM	VPS + iNRRTS Mixer & Happy Hour	iNRRTS

### March 6, 2024

Time (EST)	Activity	Presenter(s)
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Current State of Complex Rehabilitation Technology (CRT) Wheelchair Repair & Maintenance	Laurie Watanabe (MC); Matt Castelluccio; Dan Fedor; Andrea Madsen, ATP, CRTS; Matthew Nelson; Lynn Worobey, PhD, DPT, ATP
11:15 – 11:45 AM	Permobil Supporter Spotlight	Permobil
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Secondary Supports: It's All in the Angles!	Michelle L. Lange, OTR/L, ABDA, ATP/SMS
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Aging in Place: "Real World" Challenges and Solutions	Pamela Toto PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA, FGSA
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Etac Supporter Spotlight	Etac
3:15 – 4:15 PM	Inpatient to Outpatient Transition: 'Who's on First' to Manage Evolving AT Needs?	Rachel Hibbs, DPT, NCS, ATP/SMS; Cathy Carver, MS, PT, ATP/SMS; Theresa Berner, OTR/L, ATP; Vince Schiappa, MS, ATP
4:30 -5:30 PM	Town Square Social with Friends of the VPS	ISWP, NCART, & RESNA

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# Global Initiatives for Assistive Technology

Presented Live: February 7, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EST

Presenter: Satish Mishra, DrPH

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## Abstract:

Globally, over 2.5 billion people need Assistive Technology (AT) to promote functional independence. In low- and middle-income countries today, only 10% of those in need have access to the necessary equipment; this is in stark contrast to the 90% of people in high-income countries who do. This gross inequity is unacceptable. In addition, the number of people who need AT across the world is growing quickly due to aging populations and non-communicable diseases. By 2050, the number of individuals needing AT will grow to an estimated 3.5 billion.

The time is right to invest in catalytic solutions to increase access to health technologies, and Assistive Technology in particular, throughout Africa, the Global South, and the less-resourced world. Shifting priorities within the global health arena, along with significant strides made by advocacy leaders, have elevated these priorities. This presentation will further discuss these issues and provide a framework for how AT practitioners can be champions of change at the community, national, and global levels.

## Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. Define “good health” from a global, holistic, and equitable perspective regarding access to Assistive Technology (AT).
2. Discuss how and why the concept of universal AT access is a pragmatic, just, and achievable goal worldwide.



## Speaker Details:

### Dr. Satish Mishra

Head of Global Programmes and Markets  
ATscale, The Global Partnership for Assistive Technology

Satish has 25 years of experience on assistive technology, rehabilitation, and disability inclusion in global public health at country, regional and global levels.

Most recently, Satish was the Regional Technical Lead for the Disability, Assistive Technology, Rehabilitation, Palliative and Long-Term Care unit at the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Satish is an occupational therapist by training with a diploma in business management from India, along with both Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health degrees from the United Kingdom. Satish has worked to increase access to health care, strengthen rehabilitation services, and improve access to assistive products for people with disabilities, older people, people with noncommunicable diseases, and people with various other health conditions. He has worked in over seventy countries. Satish has authored several publications.

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# Riders on the Storm: Seating Interventions for Children with Dyskinesia

Presented Live: February 7, 2024  
Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST  
Presenter: Bart Van der Heyden, PT

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## Abstract:

Dyskinetic cerebral palsy (DCP), sometimes referred to as dystonic, athetoid, or choreoathetoid CP, accounts for up to 15% of CP cases (1). Assistive technologies and seating interventions facilitating play can help with motor and sensory stimulation and play an important role in the child's development (2). Impaired trunk posture can be expected and may limit voluntary activities such as speech, swallowing, reach and eating (3). Dyskinesia is often initiated or worsened by voluntary action and associated with overflow muscle activation (4), so providing a seating solution facilitating play and growth along with the prevention of deformities remains challenging.

Several postural care approaches will be discussed on expected outcomes, including surgery, passive stretching, spasticity reduction, bracing, monitoring, adaptive seating, dynamic seating, and 24-hour postural care. Assessment techniques for DCP will be presented and illustrated with user cases and users who received different seating interventions.

## Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. List at least three differences between spasticity and dystonic CP.
2. List at least three different postural care approaches for managing seating with DCP and describe the expected outcomes.
3. List at least four benefits of a 24-hour postural approach.
4. Discuss seating assessment techniques for clients with DCP.
5. Describe the link between the findings of the assessment and seating interventions.



## Speaker Details:

**Bart Van der Heyden**  
Physical Therapist  
Owner, Super Seating

Bart Van der Heyden is a licensed physical therapist who has specialized in wheelchair seating & mobility

and would care for more than 19 years. Bart is licensed and has practiced as a physical therapist in Belgium, Germany and the USA. Now based in Belgium, he travels all over the world for lectures, educational events, and hands on sessions

for diverse audiences on seating and mobility issues, the provision of wheelchair equipment for children and adults with moderate to severe physical challenges, and wound care-related challenges.

He maintains strong hands-on working experience and works in the private physio practice (De Kine = Physical Therapy Practise) of his wife. He assesses many wheelchair users and provides innovative solutions for specific seating, mobility, and wound care-related concerns. Bart is also a clinical consultant on the application, design, and functionality of medical devices for several manufacturers and speaks German, English, Dutch, and French.

## References:

1. Elegast Monbaliu, Kate Himmelmann, Jean-Pierre Lin, Els Ortibus, Laura Bonouvrié, Hilde Feys, R Jeroen Vermeulen, Bernard Dan, Clinical presentation and management of dyskinetic cerebral palsy, *The Lancet Neurology*, Volume 16, Issue 9, 2017, Pages 741-749, ISSN 1474-4422.
1. Rashikj Canevska, Olivera & Ramo Akgün, Nergis. (2021). The Importance of Play for Children With Autism, Cerebral Palsy, and Intellectual Disability. *Mediterranean Journal of Educational Research*. 15. 189-200. 10.29329/mjer.2020.3670.10.
1. Goodworth A, Saavedra S. Postural mechanisms in moderate-to-severe cerebral palsy. *J Neurophysiol*. 2021 May 1;125(5):1698-1719. doi: 10.1152/jn.00549.2020. Epub 2021 Mar 31. PMID: 33788612; PMCID: PMC8356763.
1. Albanese A, Bhatia K, Bressman SB, DeLong MR, Fahn S, Fung VS, et al. Phenomenology and classification of dystonia: a consensus update. *Mov Disord*. 2013; 28(7):863-73. Epub 2013/05/08. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mds.25475> PMID: 23649720.

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# Innovations in Auto Mobility: Integration of Driving and Mobility for Clinicians and Industry Professionals

Presented Live: February 7, 2024

Time: 1:15 PM – 2:15 PM EST

Presenter: Amy Lane, OTR/L, CDRS

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## Abstract:

Driving and personal, accessible transportation options offer independence and sense of autonomy. This session will explore the current and evolving landscape of automotive mobility that may affect consumers interested in driving and mobility solutions. Participants will explore the challenges faced by clinicians and industry professionals often relied upon as resources for their clients. Attendees will gain insights into the practical applications and implications of auto mobility best practices that may affect their practice. Information will be offered to support clinicians on where to locate resources and available services.

## Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize the evolution of auto mobility innovations and the impact on driving and transportation.
2. Explain the intersection of automotive mobility technology and healthcare professionals to enhance driving, mobility, and accessibility for consumers.
3. Identify industry best practices in recommending reliable vehicle modifications and equipment installations while prioritizing consumer safety.



## Speaker Details:

**Amy Lane, OTR/L, CDRS**

Director of Education, Training and Conference  
National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA)

Amy Lane is an OT with 35+ years of experience working with all age groups and diagnoses, leading to a focused interest in driver rehabilitation. Through additional education, training, and experience, Amy earned her CDRS in 2000. Since then, she has managed and provided driver rehab services at the University of Pittsburgh's Adaptive Driving Program. She now serves as the Director of Education, Training and Conference at the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA), a nonprofit organization representing the automotive mobility industry. Through that position, Amy works closely with manufacturers of accessible vehicles/ vehicle modifications, mobility equipment dealers, and allied health professionals who are interested in learning more about the auto-mobility industry. She has collaborated with NHTSA, AOTA, and ADED on projects related to older drivers, driver rehabilitation, best practices, and defining driver rehabilitation programs.

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# Updates, Advocacy, and Resources: What the Seating Team Needs to Know About Air Travel

Presented Live: February 7, 2024

Time: 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM EST

Presenters: Sivashankar Sivakanthan, PhD; John Morris; Kenny Salvini

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## Abstract:

What does travel mean to you?

For many people, travel means freedom, adventure, and culture. To others, travel is a metaphor for health: it is the antidote to ignorance, and there's no cure like travel! On a cold, rainy day, the fantasy of escaping to a warm beach far away sounds like a dream come true.

But for users of assistive technology, travel may instead be a nightmare. More than half of all wheelchair users who have flown have experienced loss or damage to their wheelchairs—and over 70% reported avoiding air travel altogether out of concern for these damages and negative prior experiences.

In this session, we are joined by a group of intrepid panelists who have experienced—and overcome—these challenges firsthand. Attendees will learn “need to know” information on air travel, hear the best tips and tricks on making travel more accessible, and leave with a set of tools allowing us to make a difference in this quickly evolving area.

When systems fail, travelers with disabilities can feel like detainees—not discoverers. But through our advocacy and efforts, we can ensure that “accessibility” isn't just “wheels,” but “wings,” too.

## Speaker Details:



**Sivashankar Sivakanthan, PhD**  
Postdoctoral Associate,  
Human Engineering Research  
Laboratories  
University of Pittsburgh /  
US Department of Veterans  
Affairs

Dr. Sivashankar Sivakanthan  
attained his Masters &  
Ph.D. in Rehabilitation

Engineering. He is now a Postdoctoral Associate at the Human Engineering Research Laboratories under the guidance of Dr Rory Cooper. His research concentration covers accessible air travel, accessible autonomous transportation, and robotic wheelchairs. Dr. Sivakanthan is originally from the United Kingdom, where he attained his Financial Mathematics BSc at the Brunel University of London.



**John Morris**  
Writer, Speaker, & Advocate  
WheelchairTravel.org

A lifelong traveler, in 2012, John Morris sustained injuries in a car accident that led to the amputation of his hand and both legs. A year after the accident, John resumed traveling, crafting accessible itineraries from

various sources, some reliable, some not. With a year of traveling with a disability under his belt, he launched WheelchairTravel.org in 2014.

What originally began as a platform for sharing simple tips from his travels, WheelchairTravel.org has since grown into a network of readers and guest writers working in advocacy and inclusivity. The website and its newsletter are among the most-circulated publications for resources, news, and tips on accessible travel. For his work in advocacy and beyond, John was honored as New Mobility's 2023 Person of the Year.



**Kenny Salvini**  
Cofounder & President, Writer  
Here and Now Project &  
Typical Guy, Atypical Situation

Following a snow skiing accident in 2004, Kenny struggled to adjust to life with C3-4 quadriplegia. Though physically stable, the mental and social aspects of his once-vibrant life were missing—

until he met a network of other wheelchair users to share their stories. With this life-changing inspiration, Kenny started the Here and Now Project, a “social support network focused on connecting and empowering the paralysis community in the Pacific Northwest.”

Kenny chronicles his life in the blog “Typical Guy, Atypical Situation,” where his writing sheds light on the extraordinary experiences in ordinary life as a husband, father, and traveler. He is a resident of Sumner, Washington, and current president of the Here and Now Project.

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# Current State of Complex Rehabilitation Technology (CRT) Wheelchair Repair & Maintenance

Presented Live: March 6, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EST

Presenter: Laurie Watanabe (MC); Panelists: Matt Castelluccio; Dan Fedor; Andrea Madsen, ATP, CRTS; Matthew Nelson; Lynn Worobey, PhD, DPT, ATP

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## Abstract:

Complex Rehabilitation Technologies (CRT) are critical to the everyday lives of people with disabilities. When these custom devices and associated seating and positioning systems are not appropriately provided, their users experience reduced independent mobility and access to home and community resources, along with increases in pain and medical maladies like pressure injuries. Proper provision of CRT goes far beyond the final delivery of the user's technology. As with all types of equipment, these systems require routine maintenance, repair, and replacement of parts. The current processes can take 90 days or more due to the documentation requirements, in-home service provision, complexity of the repairs, and the wide variety of products needed to customize the systems to individual users. Delays in performing repairs and subsequent adversities is well documented. Studies further show that most users are unaware their device needs maintenance and are often unable to perform these tasks. Right to Repair legislation has been introduced to mitigate these issues, but there is no formal standard or guidance on when components should be maintained or replaced or who is qualified to perform this service.

An understanding of best practices for repair and maintenance is crucial to decrease the amount of time it takes to intake, diagnose, document, and complete a repair to minimize the impact on the consumer. This presentations' panelists include clinicians, researchers, providers, and consumers who will discuss the current state of device repair and maintenance, how data can help make more informed decisions, and the current challenges, opportunities, and threats. Laurie Watanabe from Mobility Management will moderate the session.

## Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. List at least two factors (or situations) resulting in the inability to address wheelchair repairs in an efficient manner.
2. Discuss at least two implementation opportunities on how to address wheelchairs repairs/maintenance.

## Speaker Details:



**Laurie Watanabe**  
Editor  
Mobility Management  
Magazine

Laurie Watanabe is the editor of Mobility Management Magazine, focusing on assistive technology for people with disabilities. Laurie is the host of today's session and will facilitate discussion.



**Matt Castelluccio**  
Vice President of Community  
Support  
United Spinal Association

After experiencing a spinal cord injury at 26 years old, I devoted my life to disability services and support. As VP of Community Support, I lead a team of 6 Information Specialists, and I personally recognize the benefit of community-based programs to create an environment that fosters resource sharing and peer support. Before working at United Spinal, I worked as a Program Coordinator for a rehabilitation hospital for 15 years and as a Director of Independent Living Services at a Center for Independent Living. I utilized my 20 years of experience in different areas of disability services to help my team to provide the highest level of community support and program development. When not working, I enjoy being a husband and a father to my twin boys.



**Dan Fedor**  
Director, Reimbursement and  
Education  
U.S. Rehab

Dan Fedor has been in the HME industry for more than 25 years and is currently the compliance director for VGM and US Rehab members. He is available

to assist members with documentation requirements, audits, and compliance for mobility products. He is a graduate of Penn State University, where he earned a BS in economics with a minor in business. Dan joined VGM in 2014, and before that, was the director of Education and Compliance for Pride Mobility Products Corp. for 13 years. Prior to joining Pride, Dan served as a senior manager for Professional Relations and Electronic Data Interchange for the Jurisdiction A DME MAC (United Healthcare) for nearly six years.



**Andrea Madsen, ATP, CRTS**  
Executive Director  
International Registry of  
Rehabilitation Technology  
Suppliers (iNRRTS)  
Andrea Madsen is the  
executive director of the  
International Registry of  
Rehabilitation Technology  
Suppliers (iNRRTS). She  
previously served as  
the Treasurer of NRRTS

and brings over 20 years of experience in the healthcare industry to her new role. Madsen is an Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) and Certified Rehabilitation Technology Supplier (CRTS®). She has been an iNRRTS Registrant since 2011 and has served on the Board of Directors since 2013. Madsen has also been a member of the American Association for Homecare and the International Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology.



**Matthew Nelson**  
Service and Repair Supervisor  
Alliance Rehab and Medical  
Equipment

Born and raised in Southeast Missouri, Matthew entered the durable medical equipment (DME) industry in 2000 while working for independent dealers in the area. In 2009, he joined

Alliance Rehab as a repair technician, where he fell in love with developing relationships and helping people in the world of complex rehabilitation technology (CRT). As Alliance grew, the need for a more structured repair process grew along with it—this presented an opportunity to move into a supervisory role. Using his experience with CRT, Matthew was instrumental in developing and implementing a streamlined and consistent repair process across the company.

Matthew is the dad to an amazing daughter who will be graduating from Mizzou in the fall of 2024. He is an avid outdoorsman who loves working on habitat restoration, hiking, and fishing.



**Lynn Worobey, PhD, DPT, ATP**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of PM&R,  
University of Pittsburgh  
Research Scientist, VA R&D  
Center of Excellence

Lynn Worobey is a research  
assistant professor in the  
Department of Physical  
Medicine and Rehabilitation

at the University of Pittsburgh and a Research Scientist at the VA R&D Center of Excellence. Her research interests focus on enhancing the independence and participation of individuals who use assistive technology and minimizing secondary injury. She has led studies involving quantitative ultrasound, upper limb mechanics, training in functional mobility, wheelchair quality, and the ergonomics of transfers and wheelchair propulsion.

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# Secondary Supports: It's All in the Angles!

Presented Live: March 6, 2024

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST

Presenter: Michelle L. Lange, OTR/L, ABDA, ATP/SMS

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## Abstract:

Wheelchair seating systems often include secondary supports including posterior pelvic belts, anterior trunk supports, and ankle and foot supports. This course will explore secondary supports and appropriate clinical applications, as well as what to do when secondary supports are required, and team members have restraint concerns. Case studies will be included.

## Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. Differentiate secondary supports as a part of a wheelchair seating system.
2. Compare 3 secondary supports used at the pelvis and clinical indicators for each.
3. Compare 3 secondary supports used at the trunk and feet and clinical indicators for each.

## Speaker Details:



**Michelle L. Lange, OTR/L,  
ABDA, ATP/SMS**  
Access to Independence, Inc.

Michelle Lange is an occupational therapist with over 35 years of experience and has been in private practice at Access to Independence, for over 15 years.

She is a well-respected lecturer, both nationally and internationally, and has authored numerous texts, chapters, and articles. She is the co-editor of *Seating and Wheeled Mobility*: a clinical resource guide.

She is the former NRRTS Continuing Education Curriculum Coordinator and Clinical Editor of NRRTS *Directions* magazine. Michelle is a RESNA Fellow and member of the Clinician Task Force. Michelle is a RESNAcertified ATP and SMS.

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# Aging in Place: “Real World” Challenges and Solutions

Presented Live: March 6, 2024

Time: 1:15 PM – 2:15 PM EST

Presenter: Pamela E. Toto, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA, FGSA

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## Abstract:

There’s never been a better time to grow old. Advances in science and medicine have increased life expectancy. Increased longevity, combined with a growing worldwide demographic shift often referred to as the “age wave”, has resulted in interest and economic necessity for technology and resources to help adults successfully age in place. Aging in place includes the ability and opportunity to maintain independence while living in their own home and participating in their community. Less costly than institutional care, aging in place promotes autonomy and social connectedness and is a primary goal for most adults. Successful aging in place is predicated on a good personenvironment “fit” which is often enhanced or achieved through technologies designed to compensate for disability and functional limitations.

Living longer does not necessarily equate to living well, and the opportunity to successfully age in place is not equal for everyone. Adults with limited resources, limited knowledge and who are medically complex are at greatest risk for experiencing unmet care needs that compromise their ability to age in place. Unsurprisingly, this at-risk population for aging in place includes people aging with long-term disability. Aging with disability is not the same experience as aging with a disability. People aging with long-term disability experience distinct challenges related to the interactive effects of their pre-existing disability and related secondary conditions, age-related decline, and age-related conditions. This presentation introduces key risk factors and evidence-based solutions for aging in place.

## Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. Describe personal and environmental factors that put adults aging with and without disability at greatest risk for failure to age in place.
2. Discuss evidence-based solutions that can be used to increase independence and safety in adults aging with and without disability who wish to age in place.



## Speaker Details:

**Pamela Toto PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA, FGSA**  
Professor and Director, CScD  
in Occupational Therapy  
School of Health &  
Rehabilitation Sciences,  
University of Pittsburgh

Pamela Toto is an occupational therapist with expertise in gerontology. Dr. Toto’s clinical, teaching and research interests focus on implementing client-centered interventions in “real world” settings to promote independence,

participation, and healthy aging in older adults. Her work incorporates behavioral change principles including goal setting and readiness for change. Specific topics of expertise and interest include frailty, physical activity, fall prevention, and environmental modification. Dr. Toto is the director of the Doctor of Clinical Science in Occupational Therapy program and the post-professional Advanced Practice Certificate in Implementation of Evidence in Clinical Practice.

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## Inpatient to Outpatient Transition: 'Who's on First' to Manage Evolving AT Needs

Presented Live: March 6, 2024

Time: 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM EST

Presenter: Rachel Hibbs, DPT, NCS, ATP; Theresa Berner, OTR/L, ATP;  
Cathy Carver, MS, PT, ATP/SMS; Bradley Hannan, ATP/SMS, CTRS;  
John Letizia, ATP, CAPS, CEAC; Vince Schiappa, MS, ATP

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### Abstract:

Picture this: a client acquires a new disability, or experiences a significant change in disability. Suddenly, everything changes, as they dedicate their time and energy to recovery as an inpatient. In due time, things begin to settle down in the safe and controlled rehabilitation environment, and the client is finally discharged. But instead of joy and comfort, the client feels lost and afraid—suddenly, everything has changed—again. Enter the inpatient-to-outpatient transition. Assistive technology professionals need to predict the future, matching equipment recommendations to their client's yet-unknown functional recovery or decline. This task is daunting enough before discharge—for outpatients, the variables multiply exponentially. Who will make sure the wheelchair fits at delivery? What if the client needs a new device entirely? Where do we go for the right resources: the supplier, inpatient rehab, outpatient team, or the seating clinic? For so many questions, the answer seems to be: I don't know! Inpatient to Outpatient Transition: 'Who's on First' to Manage Evolving AT Needs? is an expert panel discussion on process implementation. Topics addressed include strategies to prevent negative outcomes and role delegation among interdisciplinary team members during the pivotal time from inpatient to outpatient care. Join us to learn best practices to serve our clients through this transition.

### Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss three new variables to clients' seating and assistive technology needs that they may encounter after discharge from inpatient rehabilitation.
2. Explain the roles of the following interdisciplinary team members: the client, device supplier, inpatient rehab team, outpatient rehab team, and seating clinic.
3. Identify the necessary aspects of a transition plan, including goals, training, follow-ups, and contingency measures.



### Speaker Details:

**Rachel Hibbs, DPT, NCS, ATP/SMS**

Assistant Professor, Director of Continuing Education Rehabilitation Science & Technology, University of Pittsburgh

Rachel Hibbs is an Assistant Professor and Director of Continuing Education in the Department of Rehabilitation Science & Technology at the University of Pittsburgh. Additionally, she provides clinical care at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Center for Assistive Technology and the UPMC Rehabilitation Institute. She earned a BS in Rehabilitation Science and Doctor of Physical Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh. She is a Board Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist in Physical Therapy and Assistive Technology Professional. Her clinical and research experiences include working with individuals with neurological disorders and using wheeled mobility and assistive technology to improve quality of life. She has a specific research interest in quality improvement and outcomes in wheeled mobility device provision, exercise, and fitness for individuals with a physical disability, posture and seating systems, and upper limb preservation in primary wheelchair users. Her specific graduate teaching responsibilities are in clinical applications of wheelchair seating and mobility and functional and medical aspects of disability. She is an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America, and the Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals where she has served as Co-Chair of the Early Career and Trainee Support Committee for the past 4 years.

Dr. Hibbs is also active in the adaptive sports community as an advisory board member of the Pittsburgh Steelwheelers, a classifier for the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, and a member of the medical team for the Pittsburgh Marathon Handcycle Assistance Team.



**Theresa Berner, OTR/L, ATP**  
Occupational Therapist,  
Rehabilitation Clinical  
Manager  
The Ohio State University  
Wexner Medical Center

Theresa Berner, MOT, OTR/L, ATP is an occupational therapist and Rehabilitation Clinical Manager at The Ohio State University

Wexner Medical Center. She has more than 25 years of experience in seating and positioning and Adult Neuro Rehabilitation. Theresa has been certified by RESNA as an assistive technology professional (ATP). She is responsible for the Assistive Technology Center and the Adaptive Sports Institute. She is also a clinical instructor at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Ohio State and oversees the OT Neurologic Fellowship Program. Theresa is a member of the Clinician Task Force and she was recently appointed to the United Spinal Board of Directors. Theresa has participated in presentations nationwide at many national and international conferences. Theresa received the 2016 Academy of Spinal Cord Injury TLC Distinguished Clinical Award and the 2017 OSU Medical Center Values in Action Award.



**Cathy Carver, MS, PT, ATP/SMS**  
Physical Therapist  
The University of Alabama  
at Birmingham

Cathy Carver, a Mississippi native, graduated with a B.S. in PT from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1996. She later completed a M.S. in PT from the University

of Tennessee at Memphis in 2000 with emphasis in Adult Neurology. Her career began at UAB in inpatient neuro rehab from 1996 until 2003. From 2003 to 2005, she worked in Jackson, MS in inpatient rehabilitation within the Spinal Cord Injury unit. RESNA credentialed her as an Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) in 2004 and as a Seating and Mobility Specialist (SMS) in 2011. Since 2010, Cathy joined the Clinician Task Force (CTF), a national group of physical and occupational therapists. Cathy was named the Executive Director of CTF from 2018-2020. Since 2007, Carver has taught courses and delivered lectures on wheelchairs and seating throughout the southeast. She has presented nationally at AOTA, the National ALS Conference, and the International Seating Symposium. She has reviewed custom pediatric and adult wheelchair and seating claims for Alabama Medicaid since 2011. Carver has been an advocate for people who need complex rehab technology (i.e., custom wheelchairs) at state and national level. In 2016, she founded the “Come Roll With Me” program to increase school-age children’s awareness about people who use wheelchairs. Since then, over 250 Birmingham-area students have participated in experiences with “Come Roll With Me.” Through partnerships with colleagues,

“Come Roll With Me” has expanded to Mississippi and Florida in various capacities. Directions Magazine featured her in their “Clinically Speaking” article in 2018. She received the “Innovations in Physical Therapy” award from The Alabama Physical Therapy Association in 2009 and the Marilyn Gossman Award for “Professionalism in Physical Therapy” in 2018. She also received the UAB Medicine Clinical Excellence Award in 2019.

Cathy is currently employed by UAB since her return to Alabama in 2005. resides in Hoover, AL with her husband Jeff and their two children, Claire and Joel. In her free time, she enjoys coaching her kid’s sports teams and being outside.



**Bradley Hannan, ATP/SMS, CRTS**  
Director of Sales Operations  
NuMotion

Bradley Hannan received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, Ohio. Brad has been involved in the CRT industry since 1990. An early adopter of the CRT standards and credentialing

process, Brad has been a RESNA-certified ATP since 1997 and an SMS since 2012. Brad has been a DSO with Numotion since 2019.

Before joining Numotion, Brad spent 18 years as a practicing ATP in Columbus, Ohio. During that time, he presented CRT curricula to Master and Doctorate level students at The Ohio State University and Ohio University. Moving to Florida in 2008, Brad worked for Ottobock Healthcare, Permobil and Ki Mobility before moving to Atlanta in his current role. Brad has volunteered for and served on boards for MDA and ALSA.



**John Letizia, ATP, CAPS, CEAC**  
President  
Laurel Medical Solutions

John Letizia is the President and an ATP at Laurel Medical Solutions, a community-based medical supply store founded 1986 in Ebensburg, PA. John currently serves on the boards of Reagan’s Journey, ALS

Western PA Chapter, and United Spinal Southwest Central PA. He graduated from The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where Laurel Medical now operates its second location.



**Vince Schiappa, MS, ATP**  
Clinic Manager, Center for  
Assistive Technology  
University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center

Vince Schiappa is the Clinic  
Manager at the UPMC Center  
for Assistive Technology.  
His background includes a  
Bachelor of Science in Public  
Health, Master of Science in

Rehabilitation Science and Technology, and certification  
as an Assistive Technology Professional (ATP). His  
career initiatives focus on organizational leadership,  
corporate strategy, and business integration for assistive  
technology and rehabilitation services.

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## Special Thanks

The ISS: VPS was a group effort that would not have been possible without the invaluable efforts of countless different people and organizations. Below we would like to recognize just a few of them as a way of saying thanks.

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### Friends of the VPS

Thank you to the following organizations for their collaborative efforts and ongoing work in the fields of assistive technology and wheeled mobility. Special thanks to iNRRTS for inviting VPS attendees to their happy hour on February 7 and to representatives from ISWP, NCART, and RESNA for speaking at the “friends of the VPS” town square social event on March 6.

- iNRRTS, International Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers
- ISWP, International Society of Wheelchair Professionals
- NCART, National Coalition for Assistive & Rehab Technology
- RESNA, Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America

### The ISS Advisory Board

Thank you to all the members of the ISS Advisory Board:

Ana Allegretti, PhD, OTR, ATP

Kendra Betz, MSPT, ATP

Filipe Correia, MBA

Gerry Dickerson, ATP, CRTS

Carmen P. DiGiovine, PhD, ATP/SMS, RET

Julie Gallagher, PT, DPT

Wayne Grapes

Brian Rourke

Emma M. Smith, PhD, OT, ATP/SMS

Barry Steelman

### University of Pittsburgh

Finally, we would like to thank the University of Pittsburgh for supporting of our department and event.

Thanks to Anthony Delitto, PhD, PT, FAPTA, Dean of the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS), and Jonathan Pearlman, PhD, Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Science & Technology (RST).

Additional thanks to Anne Doring, EdD, Executive Director of Continuing Education for SHRS, and Dan Pinsky, Instructional Technologist with the Office of Online Learning, for their hands-on assistance in the development and execution of the ISS: VPS.

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