**PMG Conference 2017: Inspiration, motivation and lots of information.**

Having only recently taken on the role as a Rehabilitation Engineer, I have found it to be an extremely challenging and rewarding profession. It is fair to say that my attendance at the Posture and Mobility Group (PMG) conference this year has been the highlight of my time so far. I was encouraged by my colleagues to apply for the bursary and I am glad that I listened. The conference provided an overwhelming array of exhibitors and allowed me to meet and listen to some incredibly talented healthcare professionals.

The scale of the conference was the first thing that hits you upon arrival. The vast array of exhibitors all displaying their latest innovations made me feel like a deer in the headlamps not knowing which way to turn. My unease was not helped when I walked into the huge conference suite. However, the opening address by Chris Rattenbury talking about his life and his work as an ambassador for the charity Wheelpower really brought home the importance of the conference and served as a reminder of the struggles and triumphs that disabled people face each day. Events such as the PMG conference really serve to educate and advance the practice of healthcare professionals.

The Parallel session led by Sarah Greasley titled *Reducing temperature at the seat-patient interface in carved foam seating* was a subject that I have already had some first-hand experience with. In my previous job role I have encountered many clients that have asked if it was possible to increase the ventilation within foam carved seating. I found the talk to be comprehensive and insightful. It was fascinating to find out that under the seat cover at a depth of one centimetre the foam was at room temperature. The conclusions that came from this talk have made me rethink my whole approach to the problem going forward. The talk was truly insightful and I am very excited to see where this research will lead in the future.

The conference was impressive due to the unique opportunities afforded by having so many manufactures in attendance. After listening to Hans Candeborn talk about the complex solutions provided by Matrix seating I was delighted to walk into the exhibition hall and find the Matrix stand. This afforded me an opportunity to discuss the Matrix seating and gain some first-hand experience of how it is put together. I now feel confident that I understand the benefits of using Matrix very much look forward to the opportunity of using it in the future.

Walking through the main exhibition hall was a real highlight of the conference and I witnessed some exciting future products. I have already been able to pass on these benefits to my whole team as I have been able to set up several product demonstrations from companies with intriguing solutions and products.

One particular product that has already benefited my practice is the new Marley buggy from RMS. It has been designed so that the tilt in space mechanism is part of the buggy. This means that there are no bars for children to catch their arms on. This has provided a good solution to suit a particular client and shows how quickly information learned during the conference can benefit the end user.

Overall, the conference was a resounding success and I wish to thank all the organisers and sponsors for arranging such an incredible event. Personally, I have gained invaluable experience that will be of great benefit to my future practice. The contacts I have made with other professionals as well as with manufactures has already opened lines of communication that I was not aware of and will undoubtedly improve my overall service delivery for years to come.

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