**Introduction**

I am a qualified occupational therapist who worked outside of the UK in the field of posture management and mobility services. I have recently joined The East Berkshire Specialist Mobility Team. As I am new to the UK mobility services and unfamiliar with some of the products, I believed that it would be beneficial to attend the PMG conference. The conference had a positive impact on my professional development and allowed me to broaden my knowledge as follows:

**Products**

At the PMG conference, I was not only able to familiarize myself with so many different products but also, I had the chance to compare and evaluate them. I spent really good time speaking with reps of various companies. In addition, I identified some products that may be beneficial to our clients, as well as being cost effective to our service.

**Networking**

I was able to meet many experts from around the world. This was a great opportunity for me to explore / discuss solutions for some complex cases. It was fascinating how a particular problem could have multiple solutions and be addressed differently in different countries.

**Research and development**

It is noticeable that mobility technologies have developed greatly in the recent years. It was interesting to attend the research session by Chie discussing a current project of developing smart wheelchairs. Smart chairs that help the users overcome obstacles and self-correct the direction of the chair through the use of sensors. Following the session, I had the chance to discuss this further with Chie exploring the range of sensors, settings of indoors/outdoors use etc.

Another session which I found interesting was the introduction of a seating system with cooling fans, aiming to reduce heat for the user. I was excited about this technology as we often face the issue of heat in carved foam seating. Even though this could be overcome by offering other seating options, it was good to see that this issue is being looked at.

Even more fascinating is to find that some companies have already made products to overcome this issue e.g. the Sunrise backrest which can be used as a cooler/heater. In my opinion, this may have great impact on facilitating wound healing. Cooler temperatures may result in less sweating and thereby prevent one of the main contributing factor of pressure sores i.e. moisture.

In addition, attending the PMG conference inspired me with some research ideas that I may conduct in the future.

**Conclusion**

Attending the conference is one of the best learning experiences I have had. I believe my preparation prior to attending the conference played a big role in maximizing my learning gains. I prepared well for all the topics I wanted to discuss with the experts and company’s reps. Therefore, I managed to find answers to many questions that I had.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the PMG for the granted bursary that enabled me to have this outstanding experience.

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