

Rehab Ideas: Going Outside the Box

We create independence. We make the ordinary extraordinary. All of us do things everyday that we simply take for granted such as opening and closing a door, walking, talking, picking up objects, playing and just enjoying life. For many individuals with disabilities, these tasks are only possible through technology.

Through a collaborative partnership with the University of South Florida's College of Engineering, Rehab Ideas was formed to utilize the talented resources of faculty and students to create an unlimited pipeline of ingenious products that currently don't exist. Annually twenty-five projects are undertaken and the top five are selected for commercialization. Examples of these products include a kit to slide a wheelchair sideways, a kit to allow wheelchairs access the beach or parks and device to retrieve the backpack from behind the wheelchair to the side.

There are many accessories for wheelchairs that range from lifts, adaptive driving controls to cushions and tilt systems. Many of them are more of the same and are *not viewed* as a "cool" product. Rehab Ideas intends to change this paradigm by bringing to market innovative, useful and aesthetic products that will provide independence, mobility and respect to people with disabilities. Using the latest robotics and state of the art technologies Rehab Ideas is approaching this mission with the intent of thinking outside the box of the current industry norm from a medical-reimbursement model to a consumer driven model.

Our management team is led by Stephen Sundarrao, CEO who is a faculty member at USF and also the Associate Director of USF's Center for Rehabilitation Engineering. He has nearly 20 years experience in rehab and has worked in a hospital, manufacturing, government and academic environments. We have Dana Roeling as our COO and she was formerly the Executive Director of NMEDA. Her leadership skills and networking ability ensure a strong organization and smooth daily operations. John Trivento, Director of Sales and Marketing brings over 35 years of experience working in various manufacturing, distribution and sales environments. We have partnered with an ISO 9001 manufacturing company that has helped us refine our product designs and ramp up for production.

Rehabilitation Technology is still a new industry and we view ourselves as the pioneers that will set the standard for products and amaze not only individuals with disabilities that benefit from our product but also the general public that will no longer view disability products with a stigma and instead embrace them as exciting technologies.

Products

The Company has already obtained the exclusive right to produce and market in the United States the following four (4) exciting products. United States patent applications are pending for each of these products:

1. Sideways Wheelchair Kit
2. Folding Crutch
3. Backpack Retriever
4. Folding Armrest Tray

1. SIDEWAYS WHEELCHAIR KIT (SWK)

Product description: The Sideways Wheelchair Kit is an innovative adaptive device that is designed to be attached to a rear

wheel drive power wheelchair. Normal movement of a wheelchair is limited to forward/backward with left and right turning capability. The SWK enables the wheelchair to move sideways and therefore permits wheelchair users to access tight spaces. The SWK does not require any structural or other design changes to the wheelchair. The kit can simply be bolted onto the existing frame of the wheelchair and appears to be universal for most major brands of power wheelchairs. The SWK replaces the anti-tip wheels, and the kit provides rollers to reduce the likelihood of the chair tipping backwards while negotiating steep slopes or curbs.

2. FOLDING CRUTCH (FC)

Product description: Forearm crutches and underarm crutches are used by individuals with permanent disabilities such as polio and cerebral palsy, as well as individuals who may have fractured (or otherwise injured) their leg and need a crutch on a temporary basis. Commercially available products are rigid and do not fold or compress. As a result, when accessing vehicles or while sitting down, they interfere with other individuals or are difficult to handle.

Our design allows the crutch to fold, unlike any other product on the market. In addition, we intend to offer the product with several color designs and customization options to make the product more attractive to individuals.

3. BACKPACK RETRIEVER (BR)

Product description: Most individuals using wheelchairs carry a backpack mounted to the rear of the chair behind the backrest. Backpacks mounted on the side of the wheelchair interfere with door openings. Wheelchair users must often rely on the assistance of others to access the contents of the backpack. Our product is a battery powered device that enables the user to bring the backpack from behind the wheelchair to either the left or right side of the wheelchair and thereby access the contents independently.

4. FOLDING ARMREST TRAY (FAT)

Product description: Most armrests for power wheelchairs are not ergonomically designed. This device provides a very functional armrest with a built-in tray that folds out for the user to use for various tasks including writing, reading, and eating. The integrated wheelchair armrest tray concept provides a portable tray for use in power wheelchairs. It is designed to have a universal fit with most commercially available wheelchairs. Individuals with disabilities using power wheelchairs often have limited reach and are unable to use traditional desks and tables. In some environments such as restaurants and the workplace, these individuals use trays attached to their wheelchair for convenience and accessibility. The problem is that these trays are fixed and require assistance to attach and detach. The fixed trays are also not aesthetically pleasing.