

TechLINK

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REHAB Tech Services Update

As many of you are aware, the federal contract covering many of the services that **REHABTech** provides to you will cease at the end of June this year. Fortunately many States and Territories have committed support to the continuation of these services and so for many nothing will change. A full list of those who will continue to receive these services will be available in next month's **TechLINK**.

Segway at RehabTech

In the **TechLINK** of February 2003 (Number 105), we posed the question of whether the Segway, an electrically powered, precisely balance controlled mobility device, would be the next big thing in prosthetics and orthotics. We didn't expect that by May we would be getting so much closer to the answer! On the May 16, for a select specially invited few, **REHABTech** was able to not only review this remarkable piece of technology but do a "proof of point" trial with an elderly trans-tibial amputee.

Following a review of all safety aspects and an excellent introduction by Mr Michael Mote (the man responsible for importing this device and assisting the introduction of the machine), a controlled trial using **REHABTech**'s unique overhead harness system was initiated. Within very little time, the patient could reliably mount and use the Segway without the safety of the harness system prompting his comment:

"When my right (non -prosthetic) leg eventually gives out, I will be confined to a wheelchair. If I use the Segway, I will be more mobile and for longer."

(Of course all of the invited guests took the opportunity to try it also.) **REHABTech** is **planning an information seminar about the Segway in the near future. Keep an eye on TechLINK for details.**



Figure 1- Trans tibial amputee took little time to adapt to the Segway

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King's College London and Monash University collaboration.



Figure 2 - from left, Assoc Prof. Ian Brown, Dr Andrew Nunn, Mr Alan Turner-Smith

King's College London and Monash University have established a number of collaborations recently particularly with the establishment of Monash's London office. Also in May as some of you may be aware, Mr Alan Turner-Smith, Reader in Rehabilitation Engineering visited a number of Rehabilitation Engineering centres throughout Australia. A unique opportunity to initiate discussion about collaborative teaching and research work in biomedical and rehabilitation engineering was available during his visit to **REHABTech** in early May. These discussions are to continue and will hopefully form the basis of on-line collaborative teaching projects involving the two Universities.

News from UNSW – Industry Survey

The workshop is not the only thing under construction at UNSW's Prosthetics and Orthotics (P&O) Programs Unit.

The UNSW are also in the process of reviewing and modifying the existing curriculum for the BSc program to better meet the needs of the P&O industry.

To facilitate this, the P&O unit is conducting an industry-wide survey to ascertain the skills and knowledge required of our future graduates.

They welcome your participation in a survey that may be submitted on-line on the website

http://www.pando.unsw.edu.au/survey/form_agree.html.

Please give them your views on what knowledge and skills you see being important in newly graduated P&O

practitioners, professional trends such as the changes that you think will impact the P&O profession and what will be required of practitioners in the future.

They would also like to hear your thoughts on who you think should be conducting research in this area.

The information collected in this survey will be used for the purposes of course development. All personal data collected as a result, will be removed before publication.

If you are aware of others who may wish to contribute, please pass on the UNSW website details or have them contact the office to obtain the same information.

Positions Vacant — Job WATCH

Please visit our website <http://rehabtech.eng.monash.edu.au/rehabtech/employment.asp>

for detailed information on vacancies as they occur.

COMING EVENTS

Calendar of events – now on the web – www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech

1–4 June, 2003	XV. International INTERBOR Congress and Exhibition 15th International INTERBOR Congress on Prosthetics and Orthotics. Budapest, Hungary. URL: http://www.INTERBOR2003.hu
17 June, 2003	Meeting of Advisory Board of REHABTech - deadline for submissions for consideration by this group: contact REHABTech
30 June, 2003	Deadline for provision of REHABTech services to non supporting organisations: contact REHABTech

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