

## Long term measurement of physical function: Implications for rehabilitation prescriptions and costs

This videoconference update seminar took place on 21<sup>st</sup> of August and was linked to eight centres Australia-wide.

Kim Coleman (of Cyma) presented a number of studies that have been conducted which analyse the objective outcome measures of various interventions. At the heart of the studies is technology that can remotely monitor steps over a long period of time and can analyse the numbers taken, times of day, speeds at which the steps were taken etc. It has been validated and clearly shows whether someone is very active or not and even more importantly if there activity increases with an intervention.

Further, this technology allows for prescription, repairs, servicing and most importantly replacement based on **real data**.

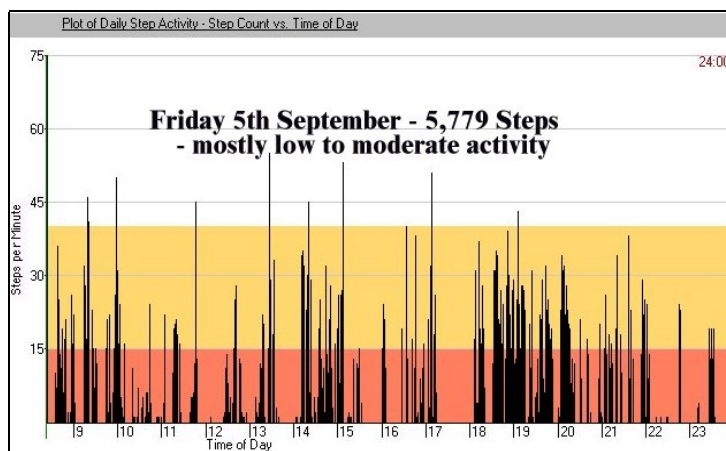


Figure 1- Sample data can be collected for several days at a time

Some of the benefits discussed are:

- ◆ **Reduces cost and burden of unnecessary maintenance visits.**
- ◆ **Reduces incidence of field failures.**
- ◆ **Optimizes replacement schedules.**

It gives us the ability to know what to do and when to do it. **REHABTech** will be making this technology available for research with our supporting organisations.

(Seminar details will be available as a resource page on the **REHABTech** website soon and further seminars in this area are planned.)

Also, you can find some unbiased commentary by John W. Michael at:

<http://www.oandp.com/news/jmcorner/2001-10/2.asp>

under the heading "Most Controversial "Outcomes" Paper at ISPO World Congress in Glasgow"

## Clinical Management of the Upper Limb Amputee—Register Interest NOW!

The dates for this Course are February 9–13, 2004. The Course is run for a limited number of participants only each year and is **always** over subscribed. Priority is given according to date of registration of interest so take advantage of the 'early bird fee' available now.

Please address correspondence to: The Editor- **Tech LINK**  
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INTERNET - <http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech/>



## Services Update—Queensland

We had previously reported that Queensland Health had formally declined to participate in negotiations for the continuation of **REHABTech** services. We are pleased to report that discussions are now proceeding with the QALS manager to prepare some more comprehensive information for Queensland Health. (Apologies to all in Queensland who may have missed out on services.)

Negotiations with other States and Territories are continuing and we can expect announcements shortly. In the meantime make sure you let your local State or Territory people know which services you have been using and which you would like to continue receiving. If you are not sure who you should be speaking to please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Super hard worker arrives at REHABTech

A great deal of work has been performed (at **REHABTech**) by an unsung hero known as our webserver. After a valued contribution the current web server is being replaced by a 'super' web server to meet the increased demands of volume and flexibility.

Working 24 hours a day the new **REHABTech** specific server will be housed at Monash University (Clayton) so that it can be supported 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Amongst its tasks will be the running of *information databases accessible on the Internet; the TechGUIDEs; access rights and security for different groups; on-line purchasing of products and services; discussion forums, Listservers; Supporters' websites, and interactive submission of requests.* (Some of you may have already met!)

## Positions Vacant — Job WATCH

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

for detailed information on vacancies as they occur.

For those who have this web site bookmarked, please note the changes in the URL—**REHABTech** has recently completed new employment pages. All positions vacant will be advertised on this site. Position descriptions for advertising on the **TechLINK** and **REHABTech** website can now be dynamically submitted via the web at <http://rehabtech.eng.monash.edu.au/rehabtech/employment.asp>. Position descriptions can also be directed to AOPA website via this submission. To have position descriptions directed to your website please contact us for further information.

## COMING EVENTS

### Calendar of events – now on the web – [www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech](http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>**Postponed**19 September, 2003 to Early next year</b> | <b>Videoconference Lecture Series No.1: Stance Control Orthoses</b><br>Presented by John W. Michael, MEd, CPO, FISPO, FAAOP, a certified Prosthetist/Orthotist with a longstanding interest in clinical education.<br>Contact <b>REHABTech</b> for your nearest site details. |
| <b>9–13 February, 2004</b>                                | <b>Clinical Management of the Upper Limb Amputee, Melbourne.</b><br>Contact <b>REHABTech</b> 03 9528 1960   |
| <b>16–20 February, 2004</b>                               | <b>Lower Limb Prosthetics &amp; Amputee Rehabilitation, Melbourne.</b><br>Contact Nicholas Freijah on 03 8387 2288.   |

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