

Chicago, IL Evening of Education Schedule

4:30 PM: EXPO

5:00 PM: [Power Wheelchair Mobility and Positioning: Solutions for Older Adults](#) presented by Jennier Craig OTR/L, ATP, Clinical Educator for Numotion

Course Description: Power wheelchairs are an essential mobility tool for individuals who have mobility limitations and are unable to propel a manual wheelchair and/or perform an effective pressure relief. Mobility limitations can be caused by injury or illness but also occur as part of the natural aging process. Limitations in mobility result in decreased physical activity, decreased ability to independently perform activities of daily living, social isolation, and increased risk of falls. Providing an optimally configured power wheelchair can improve function, safety, independence, activity levels and prevent further decline of posture and skin breakdown. When poorly fit or insufficient training is provided, a power wheelchair can impair independence with mobility and daily tasks. Additionally, a power wheelchair that does not provide optimal postural support may promote decline of posture and body functions. This course aims to provide a better understanding of the importance of providing optimal mobility solutions for adults with mobility limitations due to illness, injury, or the natural aging process. Evidence-based recommendations for optimal configuration for mobility and positioning will be provided. Research supports providing options for mobility for maintaining activity and assisting in reducing decline of body functions and posture.

6:00 PM: EXPO

6:30 PM: [Hands-On Power Wheelchair Adjustments: Optimizing Fit, Function, and Preventing Adverse Events](#) presented by Jennier Craig OTR/L, ATP, Clinical Educator for Numotion

Course Description: The World Health Organization Wheelchair Provision Guidelines recommends that wheelchairs must be prepared and fitted for each person based on their individual assessment and training on wheelchair maintenance and repairs should be provided. Wheelchair fitting, maintenance and repairs require access to tools, materials, and a workspace. Therapists receive little to no training or formal education in how to assess, adjust, and maintain equipment

that their patients use. Therapists are positioned to have a significant impact on preventing adverse events related to equipment failure and improving fit and function of their client's equipment. This course will provide participants with entry level skills to identify wheelchair parts, make simple adjustments, repairs, and assess when an item requires referral for repair by their vendor. By learning how to identify and adjust seat depth, footplate/footrest height and positioning, headrest and armrest placement and positioning, and joystick positioning, participants will gain practical experience in optimizing client comfort, posture, and function. The session emphasizes hands-on practice and guided instruction, giving attendees the confidence to implement basic wheelchair modifications to support mobility and prevent secondary complications. This course will be 1.5 hours and fully interactive. It will provide occupational and physical therapy professionals with foundational skills in assessing and adjusting power wheelchairs.