Your research, education or innovation snapshot

SSPO’s ongoing research agenda is geared towards the design, development and clinical outcomes of affordable prosthetic and orthotic technologies. Overall, our scholarship is in line with “Beyond Limits”, our 5 year plan to increase access, activity and participation for persons with disabilities. Determining the outcome of AT and services is cornerstone to evidence based practice. Outcome measurement programs are being integrated within our system to determine relevant outcomes on mobility, activity and satisfaction of wheelchair, seating and prosthetic & orthotic devices.

The inclusion of wheelchair, custom seating and AT (National Rehabilitation Center) have been integrated into existing coursework which taught by the trainer certified by WHO programme.

What is the impact for AT users and other stakeholders?

Our primary stakeholder, the patient, now has access to a low cost prosthetic foot made locally from natural rubber harvesting. In addition, our RAC component provides prosthetists with a means of faster and accurate optimization of lower limb prostheses for users. The multidisciplinary team assessment for the neuromuscular disease treatment on the assistive device is one of the model to provide custom-molded seating aimed for quality of life improvement.

Implications for Products, Provision, Personnel or Policy?

**Products**

Through our institutional partnerships we have collaborated on research revolving around the design and development of AT for individuals with limb and body differences.

**Provision**

The national policy-based vision to the innovation-driven economy through transformation of “comparative advantage” This approach will fulfill the country with knowledge, creativity, innovation, science, technology, research and innovation, and build upon comparative advantage with Health, Wellness and Biomedical: building medical infrastructure and move Thailand forward to be “Medical Hub”

In addition, the ASEAN University Network - Health Promotion Network integrate the work of the Alliance of Prosthetics and Orthotics School Asia (APOS) into the group since 2016 aimed to Create a professional network to lead the policy changes in holistic care for Persons with Disabilities and building tomorrow’s leaders in Prosthetics and Orthotics in ASEAN nations by having action and annually meeting. This endorsing the development goals as well as the Sustainable Development Goals where they are set to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. It was learned that there was no emphasis of PWDs in the last Millennium Development Goals even it was said that inclusive development requires participation and inclusion from all people.

**Personnel**

Facilitating the robust education and training for qualified professionals through the various education curricula and programs; Assistive Technology education and training (National Rehabilitation Center certified by WHO)

Implications for other aspects of the Global Research Agenda

It is our desire to continue research that will solve key problems within our context but that will also provide opportunities for our global partners as well. Our research and education initiatives have been designed and implemented following international standards. Thus allowing for replication and implementation in variety of settings throughout the globe. Finally, we stand committed to the sound translation of research into assistive technology practice and encourage continuous and ongoing dissemination of research to professionals working in the field.

Strategies to share and build global capacity based on this work

It is our hope that these technologies can be adopted and implemented throughout the globe. In doing so, the reach of these and other AT can reach users in other global settings. Bangkok continues to serve as the central hub of our educational programs and therefore an ideal setting for global capacity building. Potential students seeking to develop AT education and research capabilities are encouraged to visit our WHO accredited AT site as well as undergraduate and graduate education programs.

Contact details for global liaison

Jutamat Pinitlertsakun
Sirindhorn School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand
Bow.jutamatpinit@gmail.com