Users of powered wheelchairs and powered scooters experiences should be taken seriously as they convey different aspects of how the use of such devices could be optimized. To optimize independence in terms of mobility and participation, deepened knowledge on architecture and design of sustainable environments is important.

Your research, education or innovation snapshot

Acknowledge the characteristics and requirements of both powered mobility devices and accessibility problems in order to optimize the use in the home and neighborhood, taking into account the complexity of participation, independence and autonomy.

Knowledge is needed concerning housing accessibility and usability as related to powered mobility device users' homes.

Implications for Products, Provision, Personnel or Policy?

Provision

In the service delivery process, it is important to identify what the user intends to accomplish with the powered mobility device in terms of occupation, participation and autonomy.

The timing of powered mobility device provision must be carefully considered; finding a balance between demonstrating the opportunities and advantages of such devices and the individual’s readiness to begin using one.

Personnel

Occupational therapists should be more active and use their specific knowledge to influence societal planning, in collaboration with politicians, designers, services providers, municipal officials and powered mobility device users.

Implications for other aspects of the Global Research Agenda

Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden welcome interest from colleagues interested in architecture and environments for wheelchair users.

http://www.chalmers.se/en/centres/cva/Pages/default.aspx

Strategies to share and build global capacity based on this work

Architectural Inventions for Dwelling, Ageing and Healthcare AIDAH


Contact details for global liaison

Reg. Occupational Therapist, Dr Cecilia Pettersson

cecpett@chalmers.se