



15TH BI-ANNUAL SUPERIOR SEATING & MOBILITY CONFERENCE

Building a Network



**THE SUPERIOR INN HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE:
555 ARTHUR ST WEST, THUNDER BAY, ON**

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Superior Seating and Mobility Conference 2025. This conference is especially meaningful as we have not gathered since November 2019. We are very grateful to our sponsors for making this conference a reality, and we are very fortunate to have a number of clinical educators participating in this year's educational sessions.

The target audience for this conference is therapists and care providers who are a little hesitant to venture into the world of wheelchair prescription and feel overwhelmed at the volume of choices and products. This conference will review the process for assessment and prescription of seating components and wheeled mobility devices and leave you with practical advice that can be applied to your practice. We hope you leave the conference with the knowledge that you have a team of support behind you to optimize wheelchair outcomes for your clients.

SPEAKERS

- Alli Speight
- Jessica Presperin Pedersen
- Kathy Fisher
- Markie Rykman
- Brenlee Mogul-Rotman
- Tanya Falkenberg
- Linda Norton

GOLD SPONSORS



**THURSDAY
MAY 8, 2025**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Traditional wheelchair prescription often overlooks cultural identity, socioeconomic realities, and systemic barriers. How do biases, funding limitations, and policies shape mobility choices? How can clinicians and wheelchair users advocate for inclusive, person-centered solutions?

This keynote will challenge conventional approaches and explore:

- The intersection of IDEA principles (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) with rehabilitation technology.
- The impact of restrictive funding policies on mobility outcomes.
- How cultural competence improves device selection, adherence, and satisfaction.
- Strategies to reduce bias in equipment prescription and promote equitable solutions.

A highlight of this session is a panel discussion with members of the Northwestern Ontario Wheelchair Curling Team. These athletes will share their experiences navigating mobility challenges on and off the ice, providing insights into advocacy, resilience, and the need for individualized mobility solutions beyond medical necessity.

With a focus on aligning mobility solutions with client choice, autonomy, and dignity, this session will offer practical tools to move beyond funding constraints and standard checklists. Whether you're a clinician, policy advocate, or wheelchair user, join us to rethink rehabilitation technology, challenge barriers, and drive change in accessible healthcare.

Key References

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OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this keynote, participants will be able to:

1. Identify key systemic barriers (e.g., funding limitations, biases, and policies) that impact wheelchair prescription and mobility choices.
2. Explain how IDEA principles (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) intersect with rehabilitation technology and mobility solutions.
3. Utilize cultural competence strategies to improve client-centered mobility device selection and adherence.
4. Examine real-world experiences, including insights from the Northwestern Ontario Wheelchair Curling Team members, to assess how mobility challenges extend beyond medical necessity.
5. Critique current healthcare structures and policies to determine their impact on client autonomy, dignity, and mobility outcomes.
6. Develop advocacy strategies to promote more inclusive, person-centered approaches to wheelchair prescription and assistive technology funding.

DAY 1

MAY 9, 2025

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

SESSION A: THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR WHEELED MOBILITY AND SEATING

Speaker: Jessica Presperin Pedersen

The assessment process is performed with the rider (wheelchair user) and significant others to work with the clinical therapist, supplier, and sometimes the manufacturer to gather medical, physical, functional, and environmental information necessary to determine the parameters for recommending an optimal wheelchair and seating components. The assessment process for individuals requiring a wheelchair or seating incorporates medical history, home environment, transportation, MRADLs, physical & functional abilities, skin integrity, sensation, strength, range of motion, balance, neurological status, sitting posture, transfers, ambulation, wheelchair skills, and measurements. This seminar guides the participant through the process using an evaluation form for documentation, while providing an illustrated overview of the process.

SESSION B: MAT ASSESSMENT

Speaker: Markie Rykman

This training session will review the principles of a thorough MAT assessment from beginner to intermediate in client complexity and equipment considerations. It will include the opportunity to practice the hands-on physical assessment, proper measurement of body segments/joint ranges, translate assessment findings to prescription, and review considerations for equipment configuration to support proper fit and function for each unique client.

DAY 1

MAY 9, 2025

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

SESSION C1: UNLOCK THE SECRETS TO CONFIDENT WHEELCHAIR PRESCRIPTIONS!

Speaker: Linda Norton

Prescribing the *right* mobility equipment for your clients can be one of the most complex and critical decisions in seating and mobility. Even with extensive training and thorough clinical assessments, finding the best wheelchair solution can still feel overwhelming.

Join us for this hands-on, interactive workshop designed to give you a clear, systematic approach to translating clinical assessments into precise wheelchair prescriptions. Learn how to confidently match equipment parameters to client needs, streamline your decision-making process, and improve outcomes for your patients. Walk away with practical strategies you can immediately apply in your daily practice!

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your expertise and make a lasting impact on your clients' mobility and quality of life.

SESSION C2: ENHANCING FUNCTION - THE POWER OF POWER ASSIST DEVICES

Speaker: Brenlee Mogul-Rotman

Manual wheelchair propulsion can be inherently difficult, and research shows that the longer a person propels a manual wheelchair for functional mobility the greater incidence of pain and repetitive injury; the resulting pain can limit function, reduce participation, and limit life roles of individuals who use manual wheelchairs for their functional mobility. Power assist devices present the opportunity to reduce pain and improve function of clients who utilize manual wheelchairs for mobility. By understanding the different types of power assist devices available; having the ability to identify the appropriate client; and knowing how to apply power assist devices based on clinical presentation, therapists will be able to improve function, reduce pain, and increase quality of life of the people they serve.

DAY 2

MAY 10, 2025

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

SESSION D1: WHEELCHAIR CONFIGURATION

This is a joint session with 4 stations: Center of gravity, seat width, seat to floor height, front end angles.

Speakers: Alli Speight, Brenlee Mogul-Rotman, Tanya Falkenberg

This hands-on workshop will provide an opportunity to explore and discuss key clinical considerations in manual wheelchair configuration. Structured as four rotating stations, attendees will engage in interactive learning focused on center of gravity, front-end angle, seat width, and seat-to-floor height. Each station will be facilitated by clinical representatives from Ki Mobility, Motion Composites, Permobil, and Sunrise Medical. Emphasizing clinical principles rather than product-specific demonstrations, this session will enhance participants' understanding of wheelchair setup and its impact on user function, mobility, and independence.

SESSION D2: CUSTOM SEATING - THEORY, TROUBLESHOOTING AND MANUFACTURER COLLABORATION

Speaker: Jessica Presperin Pedersen

This advanced-level session is designed for clinicians with experience in custom wheelchair seating prescriptions who are seeking to deepen their expertise in complex seating configurations. This course focuses on advanced decision-making theories, troubleshooting common and uncommon challenges and strengthening collaboration with supportive manufacturers. Clinicians will enhance their problem-solving skills, refine their approach to custom seating prescriptions and gain insights into optimizing comfort, function, and mobility for individuals with complex needs

DAY 2

MAY 10, 2025

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

SESSION E1: REVERSE ORDER FORMS - MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS

Speaker: Alli Speight

This hands-on session will guide participants through the process of completing wheelchair order forms based on demo wheelchair evaluations. By engaging with real equipment, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of key wheelchair components, measurements, and configuration choices. Participants will practice identifying frame dimensions and selecting components, translating their observations into accurate order specifications—just as done during wheelchair assessments. This interactive exercise will enhance comprehension of product selection, improve familiarity with industry terminology, and build confidence in specifying appropriate configurations for end users. Ideal for clinicians, suppliers, and students, this session bridges theory and practice in wheelchair prescription.

SESSION E2: REVERSE ORDER FORMS - POWER WHEELCHAIRS

Speaker: Kathy Fisher

Completion of power wheelchair order forms can be challenging and sometimes overwhelming! What does the description of technology and components listed really look like on the chair? How do these components translate into funding codes? This hands-on session will guide participants through the process of completing power wheelchair order forms based on demo wheelchair evaluations. By engaging with real equipment, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of key power wheelchair components, measurements, and configuration choices. Participants will practice identifying frame dimensions and selecting components, translating their observations into accurate order specifications—just as done during wheelchair assessments. This interactive exercise will enhance comprehension of product selection, improve familiarity with industry terminology, and build confidence in specifying appropriate configurations for end users. Ideal for clinicians, suppliers, and students, this session bridges theory and practice in power wheelchair prescription.

SESSION F: PANEL DISCUSSION - BUILDING A NETWORK OF SUPPORT

Join a dynamic panel discussion featuring clinical educators, where we will explore the importance of building a strong network of support for all clinicians at all levels. This interactive session will provide an opportunity for attendees to engage directly with experienced educators, ask questions, and share challenges. Panelists will discuss strategies for fostering collaboration, navigating the complexities of our diverse population. This is an invaluable opportunity for clinicians to gain advice, inspiration, and practical tips from seasoned educators dedicated to advancing the field.

SPEAKER BIOS

ALLI SPEIGHT MScOT, ATP

Alli began her career as an Occupational Therapist in the community setting, where her expertise was sought after for conducting home safety and mobility device evaluations. Her dedication to enhancing the lives of individuals through optimal seating and mobility solutions led her to join Motion Composites in 2016 as a Clinical Education Specialist.

Now as Director of Education with Motion Composites, Alli is instrumental in elevating the brand's presence across Canada and the United States. She is a respected figure in the field, providing global education on best practices in complex rehab technology, with a primary focus on ultralightweight manual wheelchairs and seating and positioning prescriptions. Alli's passion and expertise earned her speaking opportunities at prominent conferences, including the ISS, CSMC, and ATSA. Alli is also a member of the Canadian Advisory Committee for iNRRTS.

JESSICA PRESPERIN OTD, MBA, OTR/L, ATP/SMS

With over 40 years of clinical practice as an OT, Jessica Presperin Pedersen has worked in all sectors of the wheelchair and seating industry as a master clinician, supplier, manufacturing consultant, design representative, and educator. Jessica started the first seating clinic in Chicago in the 1980s and continues to be involved in research, focusing on postural supports and power wheelchairs.

She is a RESNA and AOTA Fellow, serves on the Clinician Task Force, the seating and Wheeled Mobility Committee for AOTA, and has shared her experiences internationally through publications and presentations. Jessica loves to take advantage of what Chicago has to offer in food, sites, and entertainment, but also enjoys hikes through the local forest preserves and along the lake.

KATHY FISHER B.Sc.(OT)

Kathy Fisher, B.Sc.(OT) has worked as a Complex Rehab Technology Provider and Clinical Educator for the past 35 years representing both the vendor and manufacturer sectors of the industry. Kathy provides clinical education and product consultation across Canada with the goal of professional development among those involved in CRT. In Kathy's most recent position as Clinical Education Specialist with Motion Concepts she is focused on her main area of interest and expertise, high technology powered mobility and complex seating.

MARKIE RYKMAN OT Reg. (Ont.)

Markie has been an Occupational Therapist for over 10 years, working in various clinical settings including long term care, transitional care, inpatient hospital, outpatient clinic, and in the community. She is currently a private independent contractor and educator in Southern Ontario with a passion for mobility and seating practice. Markie strives to practice, educate, and advocate for truly client-centred care, as well as maintenance and improvement of standardized practices to ensure the most ideal outcomes and experiences for clients near and far.

BRENLEE MOGUL-ROTMAN OT Reg. (Ont.), ATP/SMS

Brenlee is an occupational therapist and ATP/SMS and is currently the National Clinical and Technical Education Manager, for Permobil. Brenlee has a background in clinical work and owned a private practice in Toronto for the past many years. She has experience with a variety of clinical client populations and has worked in the past with various groups in product trials and clinical outcomes. She is a member of the OSOT (Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists) Seating and Mobility Team and a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Spinal Research Organization. Brenlee is a past presenter at the International Seating Symposium, Canadian Seating & Mobility Conference, The OSOT conference, The RESNA conference and other related events. She is a past member of the Professional Standards Board of RESNA.

TANYA FALKENBERG OT Reg. (Ont.)

Tanya Falkenberg, OT received her degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Toronto in 1996. She began her career in an assistive technology and seating clinic, working primarily with individuals with neurodegenerative conditions.

With nearly 30 years of experience, Tanya has spent the past 18 years in private practice, specializing in seating and wheeled mobility for clients across various diagnoses. She has also presented continuing professional education courses domestically.

Currently, Tanya serves as a Clinical Manager at Ki Mobility. She is an active member of the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists (OSOT) and holds a position on the OSOT Seating and Mobility team.

LINDA NORTON B.Sc.OT, M.Sc.CH, PhD, OT Reg. (Ont.)

Linda is an Occupational Therapist who is passionate about the provision of appropriate seating and mobility equipment. Her diverse experience in various settings including hospital, community, and industry; and experience in various roles including clinician, educator, manager, and researcher gives Linda a unique perspective.

Wound prevention and management are also Linda's passions. She has completed the International Interprofessional Wound Care Course (IIWCC), a Master's in Community Health focusing on pressure injury prevention and a PhD in Occupational Science focusing on chronic wounds. Her research focused on how health care providers identify and address lifestyle factors for clients with chronic wounds.

Linda is a co-director and faculty member of the IIWCC accredited by the University of Toronto and is a faculty member of the Advanced Health Care Practice - Wound Healing program at Western University. Linda regularly presents workshops and webinars and is the Director, Learning and Clinical Education for Motion.

AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 8	FRIDAY, MAY 9		SATURDAY, MAY 10	
	8:00-8:30AM Opening Remarks Introduction of Clinical Educators Continental Breakfast		8:30-10:00AM	
			Session D1: Wheelchair Configuration	Session D2: Custom Seating - Theory, Troubleshooting and Manufacturer Collaboration
	8:30-10:00AM Session A: The Assessment Process for Wheeled Mobility and Seating		10:00-10:30AM Break & Tradeshow	
	10:00-11:00AM Break & Tradeshow		10:30AM-12:00PM	
			Session E1: Reverse Order Forms - Manual	Session E2: Reverse Order Forms - Power
	11:00AM-12:30PM Session B: Mat Assessment		12:00-1:30PM Lunch & Tradeshow	
	12:30-2:00PM Lunch & Tradeshow		1:30-3:00PM Session F: Panel discussion – Building a Network of Support	
6:00-8:30PM Tradeshow & Refreshments	2:00-3:30PM		3:00PM Closing Remarks & Prizes	
	Session C1: Unlock the Secrets to Confident Wheelchair Prescriptions!	Session C2: Enhancing Function - The Power of Power Assist Devices		
6:30PM Keynote Address	3:30-5:00PM Tradeshow			

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REGISTRATION FORM

IMPORTANT DATES

Early Bird Deadline (on or prior to April 17, 2025)

- \$150 for 1 day
- \$250 for 2 days

Regular Deadline (on or prior to May 2, 2025)

- \$225 for 1 day
- \$350 for 2 days
- Students \$50/day

PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Please send registration form, along with payment, to Superior Seating & Mobility Conference with the address or email address below. Please make cheques payable to Superior Seating & Mobility Association and mail to the address below.

- **Superior Seating & Mobility Association**
79 Court St N, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4T7
- **superiorseatingconference@gmail.com**
(e-transfer password:SSMC2025)

REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Province/State _____

Postal Code/Zip code _____

Email _____

Profession _____

Workplace Name _____

Dietary Requirements

- ☐ Regular
- ☐ Vegetarian
- ☐ Celiac Diet
- ☐ Other _____

SESSIONS ATTENDING (please check all that apply)

☐ **Keynote Address** (Thursday, May 8: 6:00 - 8:30pm)

Day 1 (Friday, May 9)

☐ C1 or ☐ C2

Day 2 (Saturday, May 10)

☐ D1 or ☐ D2 & ☐ E1 or ☐ E2