

VI. PEOPLE: 1993-1998

RERC STAFF

Jennifer Angelo	Task Leader, PM-5; Co-investigator, PM-3
Michael Boninger	Task Leader, S-4
Gina Bertocci	Task Leader, T-1; Co-Investigator: T-2, T-3, T-4
David Brienza	Task Leader: PM-1, PM-3, S-1, S-2; Co-investigator: PM-2, PM-6, MM-1; Coordinator of Student Research Training
Clifford Brubaker	Project Co-director; Task Leader: PM-2, MM-1; Coordinator Technology Transfer
Rory Cooper	Task Leader, STD-1
Steven Garand	Co-investigator, WP-2
Douglas Hobson	Project Co-Director; Task Leader: PM-1, PM-6, PM-7, T-2, T-3, T-4; Co-investigator: PM-2, S-4, T-1
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Nigel Shapcott	Co-investigator: PM-7, WP-2, STD-1; Consumer Training
Elaine Trefler	Task Leader, WP-1; Co-investigator: PM-5, S-4; Coordinator of Dissemination
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STUDENTS

Name	DegreeProgram	Task(s)
Preetam Alva, BS, MS ME	Ph.D. ME	PM1, PM6
Thomas Ault, BS Computer Eng.	Ph.D. CS	S2
Randy Bernard, BS, MS Ind. Design	Ph.D. SHRS	PM6
Gina Bertocci, MS	Ph.D. Bioeng.	T1-4
Dalthea Brown, MS Physical Therapy	Ph.D SHRS	S4, S5
Jonathan Evans, Undergraduate B.S.	M.E.	PM1, PM 6
Jess Gonzalez, BS	M.S. Bioeng.	STD1
Thomas O'Connor, B.S.	Ph.D. SHRS	STD1
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Heather Rushmore, BS Speech Path.	M.S. RST	WP1
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Jue Wang, BS EE, MS Bioeng.	Ph.D. RST	S1, S2
Linda van Roosmalen	Ph.D SHRS	T-2, T-3, PM-6
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Mary Jo Geyer, RPT	Ph.D. SHRS	S-1

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

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Sally Murray	Center for Independent Living	PM-3, T-1, T-3
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Robert Schneider	Westinghouse	PM-6, T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4
Janet Schneider	OVR	PM-6, T-1, T-2, T-3
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Robert Cerminara	Consumer	S-4
Tina Williams	Consumer	S-4
Scott Williams	Consumer	S-4
Todd Albright	Consumer	S-4

BIOGRAPHIES OF DIRECTORS AND TASK LEADERS

Jennifer Angelo, Ph.D., OTR, Task Leader: PM-5, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh. She has knowledge of the problems faced by users of integrated controllers. Prior to her present appointment, she was at the State University of New York at Buffalo. There she was the primary investigator for a three year grant from the US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration's and the co-investigator on a project from the Social Security Administration Demonstration Grants Program. Within these two grants she surveyed users of technology in the work place and helped persons with physical disabilities return to employment. A portion of the users she surveyed and helped return to work used integrated controllers. She brings this knowledge base to the current project, as well as from at least two other research projects related to access to electronic assistive devices.

Gina E. Bertocci, Ph.D., P.E., Task Leader: T1, is an Assistant Professor with the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology at the University of Pittsburgh. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Bioengineering. Dr. Bertocci conducts research in the area of wheelchair transportation safety, biodynamics

modeling and injury biomechanics. As a part of the University's NIDRR Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center, her research has focused on the investigation of parameters, which influence injury risk of wheelchair occupants in motor vehicle accidents. Dr. Bertocci is a member of the ANSI/RESNA committee charged with the development of the Transport Wheelchair Standard (WC-19) and provided research support for the ISO and SAE wheelchair transportation standards efforts.

Michael Boninger, MD, Task Leader: S-4, is an Assistant Professor and Research Director in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He also holds adjunct appointments in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Boninger also serves as the co-director for the Electromyography Laboratory at UPMC Health System. He graduated from the Ohio State University with degrees in both medicine and engineering. He received his specialty training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Michigan Medical Center where he served as Chief Resident. After his residency program, he completed an NIDRR Fellowship in Assistive Technology at the University of Pittsburgh. He is the Director for the Center for Assistive Technology at the UPMC Health System

and also serves as its Medical Director. This clinic incorporates many disciplines in order to provide patients with the most appropriate assistive technology (rehabilitation engineering, occupational therapy, physical therapy and rehabilitation medicine). Dr. Boninger also serves as the Medical Director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories. His research interests include causes of upper extremity pain in individuals who rely on manual wheelchairs for mobility, fall prevention in the elderly, wheelchair biomechanics, and appropriate utilization of assistive technology.

David M. Brienza, Ph.D., Task Leader: S-1, S-2, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. He received the B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, in 1986, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1988 and 1991, respectively. From 1987 to 1991 he worked as a research assistant at the Rehabilitation Engineering Center at the University of Virginia. In 1991 he joined the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Electrical Engineering. His particular areas of expertise are control theory and soft tissue biomechanics. Dr. Brienza is a member of IEEE, RESNA, and the Pittsburgh Assistive Technology Association—a local organization of professionals and consumers dedicated to sharing information concerning assistive technology.

Clifford Brubaker, Ph.D., Project Co-Director, Task Leader: MM-1, has been Professor and Dean of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and Professor of Industrial Engineering since July 1991. Dr. Brubaker was formerly the Director of the UVA-REC for Wheelchairs and Seating Design from 1987 to 1991. During this period, the Center established its leadership reputation in research and design efforts for innovative wheelchair design and CAD/CAM seating, and he has three patents pending in this area. He is a fellow of both RESNA and American Institute on Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE). He has served as President of RESNA since January 1995.

Rory Cooper, Ph.D., Task Leader: STD-1, is currently an Associate Professor and Director of the Pitt/VAMC Human Engineering Research Laboratories and of the Rehabilitation Engineering Program (REP) and Chair, Rehabilitation Science and Technology in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to coming to Pittsburgh, he was an Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Cooper is also a research scientist at the Highland Drive VAMC (Pittsburgh). Dr. Cooper is a Senior Member of IEEE. He was the 1993 recipient of the IEEE-EMBS Early Career Achievement Award. Dr. Cooper has made significant contributions to research and development in the field of rehabilitation engineering. He has close relationships with several companies in the areas of rehabilitation product design. He has developed a Biomechanics and Neuromotor Control Laboratory to study upper extremity pain among wheelchair users. Dr. Cooper has authored or co-authored more than seventy-five papers, expanded abstracts, and book chapters. Dr. Cooper is a member of the RESNA/ANSI and ISO Wheelchair Standards Committees. He is also a Trustee of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Spinal Cord Research Foundation, and on the board of directors of the Tri-State PVA Chapter.

Kennerly Digges, Ph.D., Task Leader: T-1, received his advanced degrees from Ohio State University. Dr. Digges managed the DOT-NHSTA's research division for 12 years, during which time he was dedicated to the advance of motor vehicle safety standards. In this capacity he directed hundreds of research projects resulting in more than 1000 authoritative technical reports dealing with auto safety. He retired from DOT in 1989 and was the Director of the Transportation REC at the University of Virginia from 1991-92. Since 1986, he has had over 20 publications. At this time Dr. Digges is using his vast experience in crash safety as a private consultant, and has an adjunct faculty appointment at the University of Pittsburgh.

Douglas A. Hobson, Ph.D., RERC Co-Director, Task Leader: PM-6, S-3, T-2, T-3, T-4, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology and is Director of the Rehabilitation Technology Program (RTP). The RERC is located within the RTP giving it a direct affiliation with the Center for Assistive Technology, our service delivery center. Dr. Hobson began and directed the Rehabilitation Engineering Program at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, TN from 1974 to 1990. It is recognized world-wide for its contribution to the field of specialized seating and mobility. During the years from 1976-81, the UT program was awarded a NIHR-REC grant for research and development of seating technology. Four product developments that occurred during this period are currently being marketed by commercial suppliers. Many of the seating principles now being taught to clinicians and suppliers were developed and communicated by the UT staff. The UT program co-hosted the International Seating Symposium, which is the single largest annual event in the seating field. He currently serves as chairman of the SAE, ISO, and the ANSI/RESNA-SOWHAT standards committees related to wheelchair securement and transport wheelchairs. Dr. Hobson served as the President of RESNA during the period 1991-92, and is currently Chairman of the Education Committee.

Nigel Shapcott, M.Sc., Task Leader: WP-2, received a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Mechanical Engineering from Thames Polytechnic and an M.Sc. in Biomechanics from the University of Surrey, both while living in the UK. Nigel's previous position was Director of the Rehabilitation Technology Service Delivery and Development Programs at the State University of New York in Buffalo. He is currently working on developing Assistive Technology Service Delivery Programs in Western Pennsylvania. He has recently been awarded a VA grant to develop a Computer Aided Wheelchair Prescription program and continues a long term commitment to the development of ANSI and ISO Wheelchair Standards. Nigel is also active in the transfer of appropriate Assistive Technology to developing countries.

Elaine Trefler, M.Ed., OTR, FAOTA, Task Leader: S-5, S-6, Training, is trained as a physical and occupational therapist and has specialized in the application of assistive technology for persons with physical disabilities. Her area of special interest is seating and wheeled mobility. She has published widely and is responsible for many continuing education seminars and symposia in the broad scope of assistive technology. Specifically, she is responsible for the International Seating Symposium when it is held in the United States and numerous training programs for therapists and rehabilitation technology suppliers on topics related to seating and wheeled mobility. Ms. Trefler has been on the Executive Committee of RESNA and is currently on the Board of Directors and is Secretary. She has been awarded the honor of Fellow in the American Occupational Therapy Association for her contribution in the area of assistive technology. She is involved in coordinating the dissemination plans for the RERC, which include continuing education programs, in-service programs and the writing of articles for publication. She participates in several research projects and teaches in the departments of Rehabilitation Science and Technology and Occupational Therapy.