

The Introduction and the Roles of The Japanese Society of Seating Consultants (JSSC)

TAKASHI KINOSE & HIDEYUKI HIROSE

Tokyo Metropolitan University, National Rehabilitation Center for The Disabled Research Institute

The Japanese Society of Seating Consultants (JSSC) was established in June 2003 by some physical therapists (PTs) and occupational therapists (OTs) who are wheelchair (w/c) seating specialists. There are 5 sections (projects) in the JSSC: A: Education and Studying, B: Academic Research, C: Public Relations, D: Consultation, E: Products Evaluation. In this paper, I will introduce the origin and circumstances of the JSSC, some of our activities, spotlighting A and B projects, and our future tasks.

1. Member transition:

Presently (November 2006), members including member corporations are about 400, which has been increasing constantly every year: 04'=107 → 05'=232 → 06'=402. (PTs:165, OTs:173, w/c makers/salespersons:32, rehabilitation engineers:3, social welfare staff:5, nurses:2, doctors:2, member corporations:13)

2. The Introduction of some of The JSSC Activities:

A. Education and Study:

We provide basic and advanced study courses for members. The basic course includes biomechanics, mat evaluation, pressure ulcers and skin assessment, w/c adjustment for clients, and clinical practice. The advanced course, which is usually a one or two day seminar for seating professionals, teaches measurement methods of adjusting w/c and cushions for clients, selecting and adjusting methods of adjustable (modular type) w/c and w/c cushions in order to prevent pressure ulcers for w/c users.

A-1. Basic course:

In February 2005 the first seating basic course was held for three days with 60 participants. After that four basic courses were held in Tokyo (3times) and Kagawa (west side of Japan). The fifth basic course will be held in Shiga (west side of Japan) this year.

The basic three day course includes twelve lectures, which are 90 minutes each in duration.

Table1. The History of the JSSC activities

2003.06	Established JSSC
2004.02	The first general meeting of Establishing JSSC
2004.12	Present situation of consulting and future tasks (Study group)
2005.01	The seating posture evaluation method (ISO16840-1) (Research group)
2005.02	JSSC basic training course (lecture #1)
2005.07	Maintenance and management of regular w/c (Seminar #1)
2005.09	JSSC basic training course (lecture #2)
2005.10	Consultation at International Welfare devices Exhibition (Show)
2005.11	The first JSSC Symposium
2006.01	Adjusting technology of Modular w/c (Seminar #2)
2006.03	JSSC basic training course (lecture #3)
2006.05	Maintenance and management of regular w/c (Seminar #3)
2006.09	JSSC basic training course (lecture #4)
2006.10	The second JSSC Symposium
2006.11	Selection and Adjustment of w/c cushions (Seminar #4)
2006.12	Sitting posture measurement based on ISO (Study group)
2007.02	JSSC basic training course (lecture #5) ... (a future plan)

Table2. The lecture details are:

-
1. Introduction of seating and handicapped persons' living skills
 2. Technical terms and seating ability classification
 3. Biomechanics for understanding seating
 4. Clinical evaluation of physical function
 5. Understanding w/cs
 6. Prevention and treatment of pressure sores
 7. w/c cushion selection
 8. Equipment for transfer to/from w/cs
 9. Risk management in w/c use.
 10. Understanding devices for seating positions
 11. Present situation of seating for the handicapped persons
 12. Present situation of seating in medical organizations
-

The purpose of the basic course is to increase technical knowledge of kinematics and seating technique.

A-2 Advanced Course: (1.5 days Seminar)

#1&3: “Present situation of regular w/c maintenance and management”

We will discuss the present situation and problems regarding regular w/cs. Some of the problems are: low tire pressure, malfunctioning brakes, no consistency in level of left and right footsupport in medical institutions and social welfare facilities. In addition, PTs & OTs’ in those facilities lack of knowledge of w/c maintenance and management.

To solve those problems, a study group on maintenance technique and management of w/cs held a seminar. The outline of the seminar #1 is the following:

1. History and background of Keio Hospital's use of seating method
2. Construction of, kinds of, and devices for Tilt & Reclining w/c
3. Maintenance of Tilt & Reclining w/c
4. Relationship between client's physical function and the limits of Tilt & Reclining w/c adjustment

#2: “Selection and Adjustment of Modular w/c”

1. Case study: Selection and Adjustment of Modular w/c
2. Case study: Tilt Recline Modular w/c
3. Practicum: Adjusting Modular w/c
4. Problems and issues in introducing Modular w/c to medical facility

#4: Selection and Adjustment of w/c cushions (Practicum seminar)

1. Purpose of cushions and prevention of pressure ulcers
2. Selection and adjustment of cushions
3. Understanding cushions
4. Pressure measurement involved in

cushion selection and adjustment

5. Case Study: Cushion Selection and Adjustment

B. Academic Research:

B-1 Method of evaluation of seating position (Research group)

The JSSC members hold study group on ISO16840-1, and study seating ability and body measurement method. Based on the ISO regulation TC173/SC1/WG11 (w/c seating), RPT Hirose and other members researching:

1. The measurement method of seating postures by using the ISO
2. Clinical application of the ISO posture measurement
3. Development and clinical application of posture measurement tools (devices)
4. Some of the research results will be presented in the next ISS.

3. Future Plans of JSSC:

In Japan the demands of seating technique is increasing parallel to assistive technology. But there are problems in using seating technology in Japanese medical and social welfare systems.

Prohibition of bodily restraints was instituted in March of 1999 by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Without professional assessment the use of restraining belts with w/cs was prohibited. Elder Care Insurance was started to support senior citizen care. Since 2002 Doctor Treatment Plans were required for pressure ulcers treatment in medical facilities.

So the demand for PTs and OTs seating knowledge has increased. The JSSC is working hard to educate PTs and OTs to improve their knowledge and techniques to give very personal help to their clients.