



Orientation and Mobility Division Update

www.aerbvi.org/OandM

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From the Chair

It is hard to believe that it is already March 2017. The Division has been working on a number of projects that may be of interest to the division members.

Division Updates:

- As part of the Preferred Provider project, we have continued to work on identifying the requirements to provide O&M instruction in each state for children or adults. We have not been able to find any of this information for numerous states. If you have information on one of these states, please contact me directly.
States: Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Wyoming
- The Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning and Division Initiatives has continued to work towards a detailed document to guide the focus and efforts of the division in the future. This will be shared with the division membership for input and feedback. We are planning to have the final plan available to share and discuss at the July AER O&M Conference in Pittsburgh.
- The Liability Insurance Task Force has continued to review policies held by O&M specialists and are working to identify coverage needs. We are planning to discuss this with Forest T. Jones in the near future. We will continue this process until the concerns about the current liability insurance options have been addressed.

- Connect with the O&M Division and take advantage of the new digital O&M resources available. Chris Tabb, Chair-Elect, has been active in developing these resources and social media accounts. O&M Division on AERBVI Webpage:

<https://aerbvi.org/about/divisions/orientation-mobility-division/>

AER O&M Division "Outpost" Web site:

<http://aerom.org>

Facebook page for O&M Division:

<https://www.facebook.com/aeromdivision>

Twitter page for O&M Division:

<https://twitter.com/aeromdivision>

Dropbox resources for O&M Division (characters in this link are case specific):

<http://bit.ly/AER-OM>

Please contact me if you have questions or if you would like to be involved in the Division activities.

Justin Kaiser, Chair
jkaiser@uscupstate.edu

AER International Orientation and Mobility Conference 2017 ***(Reprinted from the Fall 2016 AER Report)***

Calling all orientation and mobility (O&M) specialists!

The AER International O&M Conference is coming, July 19-22, 2017, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The AER International O&M Conference 2017 offers an unsurpassed opportunity to learn and network with the best of the best! Achieving excellence in professional growth and service delivery is the aim of this conference. Here you will engage with hundreds of O&M specialists from around the world, explore critical topics in the field and be a part of conversations that will shape the future of orientation and mobility!

O&M all day, every day

Why make the trek to Pittsburgh for this exciting conference? The easy answer is, because it's O&M, all day, every day. Recalling the AER International Conference 2013 in New Orleans, La., Chris Tabb, COMS, chair-elect, AER O&M Division, said "What made the 2013 conference such a terrific event was that it offered O&M specialists, guide dog mobility instructors and others the chance to have back-to-back offerings of topics related to the field of O&M. It was all O&M, all the time—that's hard to replicate at other conferences."

O&M 360

No other conference offers the breadth and depth of O&M discussion as the AER International O&M Conference. The extensive list of topics and expertise of all who attend create opportunities to examine the profession in 360—from all angles and all approaches. Said Tabb, "Because ours is such a unique field, O&M specialists have few opportunities for professional development that maximize our time. A conference that focuses wholly on O&M allows us to fully utilize our time away from our regular work and gain the most knowledge that is directly related to the profession. We can then take that information back and put it directly into practice." Added Justin T. Kaiser, Ph.D., COMS, TVI, chair, AER O&M Division, "I think a large conference focused only on O&M also encourages discussion of those unique and niche topics that may not get as much attention or may not make the cut for some other conferences."

O&M strength in numbers

The AER International O&M Conference is one of the largest, if not the largest, professional conference on O&M. Kaiser recalled, "The 2013 O&M conference was significant for me because it was the largest gathering of notable O&M professionals gathered into one location.

While many of these professionals are also at the AER International Conference, the O&M conference allows the program content to be much more focused directly on O&M."

Added Tabb, "The sheer numbers of O&M specialists involved in AER, combined with the planning, communication and marketing expertise of AER, lends itself to making an AER International O&M Conference one of the largest offerings available. It brings together all the regions of the United States, as well as professionals from other countries."

O&M growing the profession

Besides enhancing their professional skills, attendees also have the opportunity to guide the profession's future. "The conference provides opportunities for O&M Division members who participate in committees, working groups and so forth to meet and share information," said Tabb. "The conference is a chance for attendees to learn about the division's activities as well as a forum for members to provide input and feedback to the O&M Division and AER."

O&M to get excited for

What topics are folks most excited to explore at the conference? Several O&M members weighed in on this topic; joining Kaiser and Tabb were Laura Bozeman, Ph.D., COMS, CLVT; Bonnie Dodson-Burk, COMS, TVI; and Susan Langendonk, COMS, TVI, past chair, AER O&M Division, chair, AER International O&M Conference 2017. Here's a brief list of topics they look forward to discussing in Pittsburgh:

- Developments in technology, such as apps for smart phones, new tactile ways of relating to information (e.g., tactile map making, 3D printing, etc.)
- Updates on traffic engineering, such as new intersection designs and guidance on pedestrian access to these designs
- Research about effectiveness of teaching strategies, driver behavior in relation to skills or techniques used by travelers who are non-visual
- Information about private practice insurance
- Information about third party reimbursement and licensure for the field
- Ways to further develop internship placement opportunities
- Early intervention techniques
- Unique programs for service delivery around the country and world

AER International O&M Conference 2017 (continued)

- Travel instruction for persons with disabilities other than visual impairment/blindness.
- Autonomous vehicles

O&M on the town

While you're at the conference, don't forget to explore the mighty and beautiful Pittsburgh! Said Langendonk, "I'm excited about the venue in Pittsburgh with easy access to Point State Park where the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers meet. I've been told to be sure to experience the ride up the Duquesne Incline to view the city." Recently named the top food city by Zagat, Pittsburgh is sure to appeal to all palates, with many top restaurants within an easy walk of the Wyndham Grand Hotel.

O&M Conference – What are you waiting for?

Previous AER International O&M Conferences were huge hits. Said Dodson-Burk, "I attended the past two AER International O&M conferences, and I left them

both feeling happy, rejuvenated and ready to incorporate what I learned into my teaching practice." Added Tabb, "Go; just go! I have yet to attend an AER O&M Conference that I did not come back raving about and wanting it to just keep going. I always walk away feeling that I received more than I expected, and certainly it was always well worth the time and financial cost to attend."

Nothing beats face-to-face interaction with hundreds of colleagues who share your passion and interest in the field. The exchange of ideas, the exploration of new methods, the discussion of O&M's future—it all happens at the AER International O&M Conference!



Your Input is Needed

The Federal Highway Administration has funded a project titled *Innovative Street Design Practices and Accessibility* to look at how some of the new and emerging street designs meet the needs of people with disabilities, with specific questions about navigation for pedestrians with vision disabilities. Some of the new designs to be considered include:

- o Shared streets,
- o Separated bike lanes and pedestrian orientation and safety issues where the bike lanes intersect crosswalks or sidewalks
- o Separation between sidewalks and parallel bicycle facilities, such as on shared use paths or sidewalk level separated bike lanes
- o Bike ramps that connect streets to the sidewalk or other paths,
- o Transit platforms located within the street area
- o Pedestrian plazas, temporary and permanent, reclaiming the street.
- o Location of midblock crossings,
- o Navigation of skewed or complicated crosswalks and intersections

These types of facilities are being built rapidly in cities throughout the U.S. There are questions about how to separate and identify different "lanes", finding the floating transit stops, whether guidance surfaces are needed, where detectable warnings should be installed, and many others.

If you are familiar with any facilities of this type in your area, and accessibility and navigation problems and solutions, I'd like to hear more about your experience and your thoughts. Please email me at jmbarlow@accessforblind.org or call at 770-317-0611. Pictures will be appreciated.

Thanks, Janet Barlow

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 1 - Loana Mason

Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico, California, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Northwest Territories, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Yukon Territories

The orientation and mobility specialists in District 1 have been busy. Here are some highlights from some of our state and regional chapters regarding mobility-related events.

Arizona

Arizona hosted its third Cane Quest competition. This is a competition developed by the Braille Institute. Blind and visually impaired cane travelers in third grade through twelfth grade are challenged to safely and efficiently complete secret travel routes. Routes vary in complexity from traveling in a school environment or a mall to traveling through residential neighborhoods and business districts. Cane Quest competitions have also been held in both southern and northern California.

Colorado

Last summer Colorado lost a beloved mobility specialist, Ken Neve. Ken worked as an orientation and mobility instructor for the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for 29 years. Ken has been described as an amazing role model who taught with warmth and humor. The Colorado AER chapter has honored his memory by developing the Ken Neve Award, which will be given to a CAER orientation and mobility specialist who is a role model committed to lifelong learning.

New Mexico

The New Mexico AER chapter hosted its first state conference after a six-year hiatus. Ron Later, Gail Melpolder, and Michelle Chacon provided two trainings for orientation and mobility specialists and cane travel instructors. One training involved analyzing complex intersections in Albuquerque while the other involved traveling with a cane to and through an outdoor mall while blindfolded. These trainings were quite popular and very well attended. Mark Carter is also in the process of establishing a listserv/online group for New Mexico orientation and mobility specialists to have an on-going dialogue about professional challenges and resources.

Please do not hesitate to let Loana Mason, your District 1 Director, know if you have any special events or issues you want to share with the AER O&M Executive Committee and/or the AER District 1 membership. Loana can be reached at loanam@nmsu.edu.

District 3 - Maggie Winn

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario and Wisconsin

Michigan

Michigan AER Conference is scheduled for April 27-28, 2017

<http://maerbvi.org>

The Michigan Chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (MAER) will pay \$25 towards your AER/MAER membership. This applies to members who are renewing as well as new or lapsed members. If you have a question, please email bradlesk@aol.com. This campaign runs from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. The coupon code to use when renewing is MIRebate16. To renew online go to:

<http://aerbvstore.corecommerce.com/Membership-c16/>

Wisconsin

Wisconsin AER Conference or Collaborative Vision Conference 2017 is scheduled for April 24-25, 2017.

Use the link below for more information and to register.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaborative-vision-conference-2017-tickets-31182134604>

Leader Dogs for the Blind is Accepting Applications for their 2017 Summer Experience Camp

Summer Experience Camp is a week of outdoor fun, friendship and skill building. The program combines physical activities like kayaking, rock wall climbing and tandem biking with things exclusively Leader Dog—GPS training and the opportunity to spend time with future Leader Dogs. The combination will help increase independent travel skills!

The free program is for boys and girls ages 16 and 17 who are legally blind. Leader Dog covers all costs including airfare to Michigan—and everyone receives a free HumanWare Trekker Breeze+ GPS device. [Summer Experience Camp is scheduled for June 23—June 30, 2017](#). Applications are due by April 1, 2017.

For more information and to download an application, go to www.leaderdog.org/clients/programs/summer-experience-camp or call the Leader Dog client services department at [888-777-5332](tel:888-777-5332).

DISTRICT REPORTS

continued

District 5 - JoAnne Chalom

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Tennessee

Alabama Scholarship

The Alabama Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) is offering an academic scholarship in the amount of \$2500 to a resident of Alabama who is pursuing a degree in one of the following disciplines:

Vision Rehabilitation Therapist
Orientation & Mobility
Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Rehabilitation Counseling
Related degree at the discretion of Scholarship Committee

The scholarship recipient will be announced at the 2017 AER Annual Training Conference to be conducted in October 2017. Recipients must be enrolled in school for the 2017 school year. For more information contact Julie Brock, AER Scholarship Chairperson.

Florida Most Promising Visually Impaired High School Senior Award

FAER will be presenting the **Most Promising Visually Impaired High School Senior Award**. Applicants should be graduating high school seniors (2016-2017) who have shown achievement through school and community involvement and academic accomplishments as well as by overcoming obstacles as necessary to obtain independence and self-sufficiency.

Nominations should include supportive documentation such as letters of recommendation, awards, and grade-reports. For further information please contact Amy Johnson at amyfaer@earthlink.net.

Georgia GA-AER Mini Grant

GA-AER is pleased to announce that the mini-grant fund continues to be available to its members. The goal of the GA-AER Mini-Grant Program is to encourage opportunities to further the purpose of AER. This purpose is stated as:

"To render all possible support and assistance to the professionals who work in all phases of education and rehabilitation of blind and visually impaired persons of all ages."

The deadline for submitting a proposal is March 31st, 2017. Grants may be awarded for, but are not limited to, curriculum development, research, improvement of a area of service (e.g. communication), community based activities, units of instruction, fieldtrips and the implementation of unique activities or ideas. Collaboration with other agencies is highly recommended. All GA-AER Members are eligible to apply. Grants are capped at \$500.00. For further information please contact Deborah Lovell (Lovell.d2000@gmail.com).

Kentucky March 20-23rd, 2017 Kentucky Chapter AER Annual Professional Conference

Come Together is the theme for the 2017 Kentucky Chapter AER Annual Professional Conference. As the theme implies this conference promises to be dynamic. It is being held at The Campbell House in Lexington. Attendees will experience an equestrian farm paired with southern charm at The Campbell House. This classic hotel with large columns, horse farm fencing and antebellum style has become a favorite getaway for equestrian enthusiasts and travelers of all types. For more information contact Teresa Osborne, KAER 2017 Conference Chair teresa.osborne@floyd.kyschools.us

North Carolina March 9 - 10, 2017 NCCVIB -Looking Forward to New Opportunities

The NCCVIB returned to the City of the Arts and Innovation, also known as Winston-Salem. Some locals refer to the city as "The Dash," which refers to the hyphen in its name. Whether you work with infants/toddlers, pre-schoolers, students, Kindergarten through high school, or adults, we all seek innovative ways to support them and are always dashing quickly to stay informed of the latest best practices in the field.

2017 DONALD BLASCH SCHOLARSHIP

The Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Division of AER is now accepting applications for the 2017 DONALD BLASCH SCHOLARSHIP.

AER's O&M Division sponsors an annual scholarship competition for students enrolled in AER approved O&M programs. The scholarship recognizes the vital contributions of the late Donald Blasch to the profession of O&M during his long tenure at Western Michigan University.

Individuals selected for the scholarship receive an unrestricted award of \$1,000.00. Two scholarships are awarded each year (depending on availability of funds).

The deadline for receiving applications for the Blasch Scholarship is **March 15th, 2017**. More information can be found on the AER O&M Division website.

Good Information for Low Vision Travelers

Here is a link to a guide for travelers with vision impairment containing useful traveling tips, rights for the visually impaired and additional resources.

<https://upgradedpoints.com/resources-for-travelers-vision-impairment/>.

Ready for support from a team that understands your profession?

Want a job where you are valued for your knowledge and expertise?

Are you passionate about and dedicated to your field?

Do flexible hours appeal to you?

Then AIS is the place for you!



**Please contact Karen Vay Walker
804-368-8475
kvay@alliedinstructional.com**

MOVING FORWARD

Report from the AER Orientation and Mobility Environmental Access Committee By: Laura Park-Leach

Members of the Environmental Access Committee including Janet Barlow, Beezy Bentzen, JoAnn Chalom, Lukas Franck, Meg Robertson, Laura Park-Leach, and Dona Sauerburger represented the AER O&M Division at the 96th Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in January 8 – 12, 2017.

The EAC goal in attending TRB is to educate transportation researchers and specialists on the needs of people with visually impairment. World-wide research being conducted informs the way communities are designed. EAC members attending the TRB Conference educate these influential researchers by attending sessions, presenting and participating in committee and subcommittee meetings as a member or friend of the committee. As an example, Janet Barlow serves on the TRB Pedestrian and Roundabout Committees and presented at TRB on “Roundabouts and Channelized Turn Lanes: Access for Pedestrians, Particularly Those with Visual Disabilities”. Meg Robertson serves on the Work Zone Traffic Control Committee. Beezy Bentzen and Janet Barlow presented “Wayfinding Problems for Blind Pedestrians at Noncorner Crosswalks: Novel Solutions” in a poster session. Laura Park-Leach has been nominated for a three-year term on the TRB Pedestrian Committee. The EAC represented AER at the Senior Mobility Options Subcommittee, Pedestrian and Autonomous Vehicle Interactions Subcommittee and the Traffic Control Devices Committee, to name a few.

There were hundreds of presentations and poster sessions during this conference. One presentation on Designing Shared-Use Streets is an emerging issue that may impact people who are visually impaired. This shared space concept from Europe mixes pedestrians, bicyclists and low-speed vehicles on flat roads without markings. One question to ask is whether the contextual safety cues available to someone who is sighted will suffice for a person moving through this

environment with vision loss. A resource to learn more is located at www.cnn.com/2014/09/22/living/shared-spaces/index.html.

Another topic that has been on the TRB agenda for the last few years is Gateway Treatment. Research was presented by Ron Van Houten using the Gateway Treatment as a means to increase drivers yielding to pedestrians. The research is on multi-lane roads which have in-street signs as well as signage on both edges of the roadway. One of the experiments noted a 57% yielding with only one sign and 82% yielding with the Gateway Treatment. Other experiments were conducted using the Gateway Treatment with a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon or combined with a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon. Using the Gateway Treatment plus one of the other treatments increased yielding to 85%. Access the research paper by Bennet, Manal, Van Houten and Thompson at <http://docs.trb.org/prp/14-0222.pdf>. Among the hundreds of topics discussed and/or researched are autonomous cars, bicycle and pedestrian interactions at crosswalks, emerging vehicles for low speed transportation, roadway treatment systems to reduce interactions between vehicles and pedestrians or bicyclists, distracted drivers, safe routes to school, bridge accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians, and livable transit corridors.

The EAC would like to thank the AER Orientation and Mobility Division and Polara Engineering for sponsorship in attending this significant conference which discusses topics that will impact our clients for decades to come. By sharing this critical information with vision professionals, we can each advocate for livable and walkable communities.

Be on the lookout for presentations at upcoming AER conferences where these and more topics will be detailed for the membership.

The Toddler Cane

by Grace Ambrose-Zaken, Ed.D., COMS
Hunter College of The City University of New York

The purpose of this paper is to briefly describe the lack of developmentally appropriate mobility devices for toddlers with MVI and report on two single-subject studies, conducted with a 27-month old toddler girl with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI), walking under 5 mobility conditions (no device, push toy, adaptive mobility device (AMD), long cane, and the Toddler Cane (TC)).

Lack of Developmentally Appropriate Mobility Devices.

O&M professionals have very limited mobility device options to address the mobility needs of toddlers with VI; they are the long cane, the AMD and push toys. A thorough review of refereed journals and unpublished conference proceedings has found no research studies of toddlers with VI (ages 11 months to 2 years 11 months) reliably using a long cane, AMD, push toy or other AMD for safe mobility.

In their textbook, Anthony, Lowry, Brown and Hatton (2004) stated that the common disadvantage of push carts, AMDs and long canes is that, in the hands of toddlers they “are training tools rather than protective devices” (p. 27). In addition, they stated that when toddlers with VI use a long cane it leaves “broad areas of the body unprotected” (p. 29). The primary purpose of mobility devices is to provide the user with reliable tactile next step warning (NSW). Tactile NSW occurs when a mobility device sweeps the floor space ahead of the next footstep. Walking without NSW is known to contribute to motor and subsequent related delays. Glanzman and Durcret (2003) found that preschool learners with VI (without neuromotor impairment) and who seldom used a mobility device exhibited problematic gait patterns (wide-based, out-toeing, hesitant and shuffling, or propulsive and unsteady) and postures (head drop, abdominal protuberance, lordosis).

A developmentally appropriate mobility tool that could be worn rather than manipulated by a young child was introduced to a toddler with CVI who demonstrated poor visual skills for mobility and limited age-appropriate movement. The questions this report asks are: 1) What level of NSW will push toys, AMDs and long canes provide when used by the toddler with CVI; and 2) How will wearing a developmentally appropriate mobility tool compare to using a long cane or walking without a device in a 27 month old girl with CVI on measures of gait, posture and NSW?

Two single-subject studies were conducted with a toddler girl aged 27 months who was diagnosed with CVI and exhibited lower quadrant field loss. Subject’s daily mobility condition was walking with “no device.” For over a year, she has been instructed to hold a long cane in diagonal position by an OT, PT, TVI, a paraprofessional or her parents. In study 1, smart phone videos captured the subject traversing the hallway using her impaired vision only (no device), a push toy, and a long cane. The videos were coded for percentage of foot falls on the path that had visual or tactile NSW.



The percentage of NSW was calculated by dividing the number of steps checked by a device (or visually) by total number of steps taken in 3, 10 second routes. The closer NSW is to 100%, the safer the subject’s mobility.

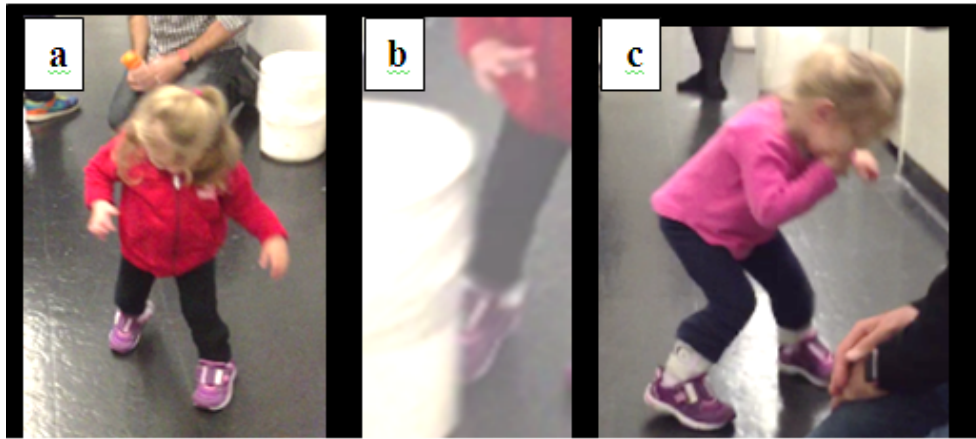


Figure 2. Subject walking with impaired vision and no mobility device provided no NSW: a) wide-based gait, b) foot contacted obstacle, and c) off balance.

Results: The subject's mobility received insufficient NSW in all three conditions: No Device, subject's impaired vision provided no NSW, as can be seen in Figure 2 b, without warning the subject's foot contacted the white garbage can, visual NSW 0.0%. Push toy: Figure 1 b, tactile NSW averaged 45.3%, subject walked more than half of the route after letting go of the push toy. Long Cane: The subject never positioned the cane tip in the space of her next footfall as seen in Figure 1 c and d; tactile NSW averaged 0.0%.

In Study 2: Smart phone videos captured the same 27 month old toddler with lower quadrant field loss walking freely for 1 minute under 3 mobility conditions: Wearing the Toddler Cane (TC) prototype, holding the long cane, and walking with no mobility device. Measures included percentage of tactile NSW, stride length, and path direction. Subjects gait and posture were also evaluated.



Figure 3. The 27 month old toddler wearing the TC prototype.

The toddler's posture and gait were the same in no device and long cane conditions: Wide-based, lurching, unsteady, disjointed, uncontrolled, and she exhibited weak control of her legs and trunk. Her path direction was "S" shaped; her frequent changes in direction appeared balance related. The "no device" condition offered no NSW, the long cane tactile NSW was calculated to be 22.4%.

TC condition: The TC (See Figure 3) provides no balance or physical support to the wearer. The TC is connected via a harness that seeks to maintain the position of the cane polygon and tips, on the path one to two steps ahead.

Data: TC condition, the subject's gait was narrow, steady, with long, consistent stride lengths. The path she walked between objects was I-shaped. She turned in order to 1) walk directly towards objects and people and 2) round corners at the end of the hallway.

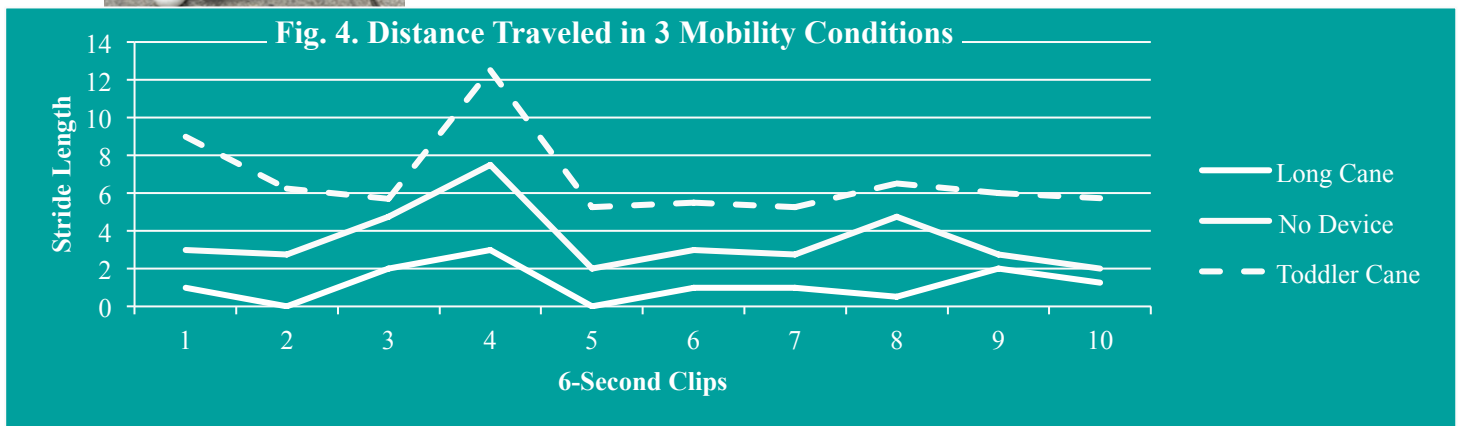


Figure 4 showed that, when wearing the TC prototype, the subject's stride length was longer and she walked farther.

Discussion

In study 1, subject was exhibiting MVI, as her impaired vision did not provide sufficient reaction distance or time to obstacles. When using the push toy, her NSW was less than 50% because she let go of the device, signed "finished," and walked away.

In the long cane trial, during the short video clip, the toddler's cane tip did not once sweep the location of her footfalls. She held the cane while traversing the entire route, but the toddler's next step was into a space that had not been pre-checked.

In study 2, the tactile NSW score of the long cane was just over 22%. The toddler's gait and pace in the long cane and no device conditions were unsteady, lurching, and lacked leg and trunk control. Her path of movement was not straight or purposeful; rather it was a series of turns with frequent changes in direction.

The TC provided 100% NSW. The subject walked with her head, shoulders, hips and heels in alignment. Her gait was narrow, smooth and even and her toes were pointed in the same direction. She walked a more direct path turning intentionally towards objects and people.

The TC outcome suggests that a very short duration of walking with a mobility device that provides reliable NSW resulted in great improvement in gait, pace and purposeful movement. NSW Study 2 outcomes support the theory that subjects with MVI are aided by having 100% tactile NSW. A wearable mobility device is an easy, age-appropriate solution to toddler MVI.

The TC, as a wearable device, cannot be dropped or positioned incorrectly. A wearable TC takes the need for dexterity and precision out of the hands of the toddler and builds it directly into the device design.

Limitations

The prototype has shown promise on smooth flooring, but has not been tested in less forgiving terrain and on level changes.

Conclusion

Early testing of a prototype worn mobility device designed to be used by toddlers with MVI has shown that there was immediate improvement in gait, posture and pace when the toddler wore the TC, in contrast to her performance using mobility devices that are now available for very young children. The results suggest that current mobility devices are not providing safety and that walking without warning of obstacles can be shown to be detrimental to the development of toddlers with MVI.

The goal of the TC project is to meet the mobility needs of the very young learner with MVI. Safe Toddles is a small group of like-minded O&M specialists collaborating with Hunter College, Bikson Engineering Group and the Zahn Center of City College of New York. We are all contributing our expertise to the important goal of obtaining the outcome of reliable tactile next warning for toddlers with MVI (ages 11 months to 2 years 11 months). We are seeking partners interested in this same outcome.

- Do you have students in this age group? Are you looking for better solutions?
- Are you interested a demonstration of the TC at your school or agency?
- Are you interested in partnering for further research and product development?
- Interested in working with Safe Toddles in another way?

For more information on the Toddler Cane contact: Grace Ambrose-Zaken, Ed.D., COMS, gambrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 914-204-9292

References

- Anthony, T. L., Shier Lowry, S., Brown, C. J., & Hatton, D. D. (2004). Developmentally Appropriate Orientation and Mobility, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Glanzman, A., Ducret, W. (2003). Interdisciplinary collaboration in the choice of an adapted mobility device for a child with cerebral palsy and visual impairment. *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*, 97(1), 38-41.

Division Executive Committee

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Visit the O&M website for a list of Committees: <https://aerbvi.org/about/divisions/orientation-mobility-division>



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