

**WORKING OUTSIDE THE BOX:  
CUSTOMIZING POWER SOLUTIONS**  
*STEPHANIE TANGUAY, OTR, ATP/S*  
**Motion Concepts**

At its most fundamental core, Rehab is the customization of devices for individuals. From modifying eating utensils to one of a kind seat or back surface; the design and fabrication of unique solutions for individuals is the premise of Rehab Technology. In today's fast paced healthcare environment, it can be quicker and easier to simply use standard equipment. However, there are many consumers whose needs cannot be met by "in the box" solutions.

The challenge for clinicians and rehab technology suppliers is to think outside of the box and concentrate on clients' needs. One of the most frequent reasons to consider custom power modifications is to enhance independence for transfers into and out of the power mobility device. Power swing-away footrests, power flip back armrests or power flip down armrests that can be used as a transfer surface are just some of the custom modifications requested by therapists. Power lift platforms that can rise from floor to seat level can enable some consumers to complete this transfer independently as well.

Rehab clients whose therapists and suppliers refused to limit their options to what is on the standard order form can benefit greatly from these types of custom adaptations. The process, from initial assessment and conception of the custom system to justification and provision can certainly take more time. Pictures and detailed measurements are imperative for the design and provision of customized power systems. Some custom components may have the secondary consequence of limiting other aspects of the equipment. For example, power swing-away footrests may not be removable. The increased independence in one area may outweigh the loss of some other aspect of equipment function.

Clinicians who think outside of the box continue to challenge manufacturers to design custom components which may later be considered more common options or accessories.

**Speaker Bios**

Stephanie Tanguay OTR, ATP/S has more than 20 years of experience in the field of seating and mobility, as a clinician and equipment provider. She is currently the Clinical Education Specialist for Motion Concepts.

Bradford Peterson is the Vice President of Sales and Education for Motion Concepts. He has worked as an equipment provider and extensively in the area of sales and education of mobility and seating products for fifteen years.