

Innovations

New technologies for people with SCI

Enjoy the View from Elevation

Elevation is a new wheelchair that can elevate users as much as 10 inches at the pull of a lever. The chair uses a unique hydraulic system to elevate users for better interaction or reaching ability, or decrease height for a better wheeling position. The Elevation also offers many other adjustability features: over 30 degrees of real-time adjustable backrest angle/tilt, zero to 10 degrees of adjustment to rear wheel camber, adjustable footrest height, and adjustable backrest height. It's constructed of 7005 heat-treated aluminum and weighs in at just 24 pounds (the frame is constructed in Canada by mountain bike specialists). Other standard features include scissor-lock or push-to-lock brakes, Spinergy wire wheels, and Froglegs Softroll casters.

The chair is the brainchild of Vancouver's Dr. Jaimie Borisoff, who spent four years designing and researching Elevation. His inspiration came from his academic and sporting pursuits. During grad school, Borisoff, who is paraplegic, was often in the lab and tried a standing chair to reach the lab benches, but he found it too awkward. He also plays wheelchair basketball, which requires a lower position for more maneuverability.

"It's ironic that we hear from health professionals that we should adjust our posture and seating throughout the day, but that the people who sit the most aren't able to do that with rigid chairs," says Borisoff.

For more information on the Elevation wheelchair, visit the company's website at www.useyourinstinct.com.

Get Closure

Sometimes, it's the simple stuff that can make life easier. Take, for example, the E-Z Pull Door Closer. If you've got a door in your house that's difficult to close after you wheel through, this low-cost device might be the answer. It's easy to install with no tools required. The clear acrylic rod is strong, flexible and unobtrusive. An acrylic hook with adhesive backing is provided to store the E-Z Pull when not in use. For more information, visit www.e-zpulldoor.com.

Say Goodbye to Handrims

NuDrive is a new lever-drive propulsion system that installs on any manual wheelchair with 24 inch spoked wheels. It allows users to propel themselves forwards and backwards, and manoeuvre and brake, by pushing levers instead of gripping handrims. The product, designed in the UK, debuted last October and subsequently won first place in the Independent Living Design Awards from the British Healthcare Trades Association. A recent study funded by the U.S. National Institute of Disability in the USA shows that lever-drives such as NuDrive shift the shoulder loading and can reduce shoulder degradation and injury. In addition to reducing shoulder wear and tear, NuDrive is said to reduce the force needed to self-propel by up to 40 percent. Other benefits include protecting the hands and wrists, and improving hygiene. For more information, visit www.nu-drive.com.

The SCI Solutions Network in no way endorses, recommends, or approves the products described above. Consumers are urged to perform their own research prior to purchasing these or any other products.

