

Mounting systems help to optimize access to technology and more. With the wide variety of mounting options available, it is important to be familiar with feature considerations to determine the best mounting recommendation for the client's functional independence, well-being and quality of life.

## Initial Considerations

What do they need to access?  
What do they want to do? What else do they want to do?  
Think outside the box.  
What mount and position do they presently use?  
What works - what doesn't?  
Will they be using multiple devices?  
How easy is it to switch out devices?  
Where does it need to be mounted? Wheelchair and/or table or other?



Camera mount



Triangle attached to the Mount'n Mover for band (communication device is usually attached)

## Usage

Emerging technologies: tablets, laptops, mobile phones, MP3's  
Communication Devices: Dynavox, Tobii, PRC  
Unique needs: eating, vocational, social, hobbies, book rest

## Other Considerations

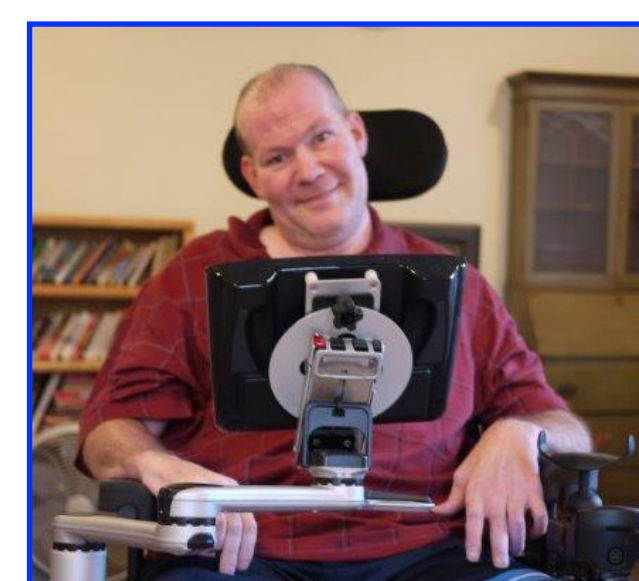
Does it need to be repositioned for different uses? At different times (i.e. driving, communicating, eating)?  
Does the device require a heavy or a light duty mount? Consider device weight and access force.  
How heavy and secure does it need to be?



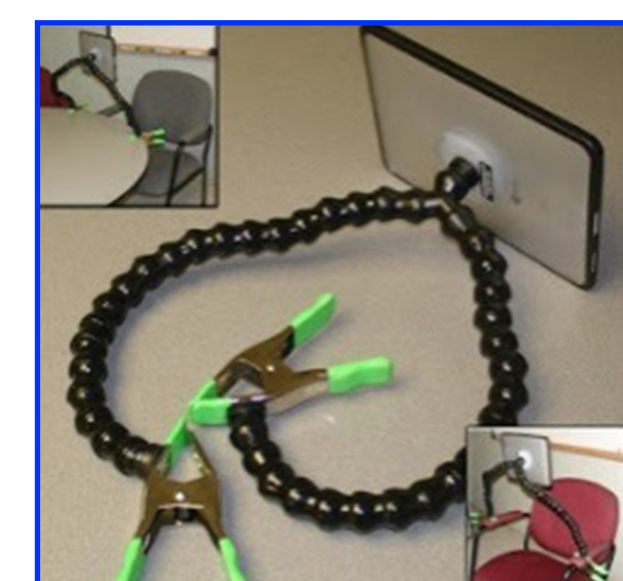
Heavy duty Mount'nMover with iPad tray and Big Grip Case



Mounted plate for easier access for optimal positioning for eating



Communication device with Universal Rotator Plate



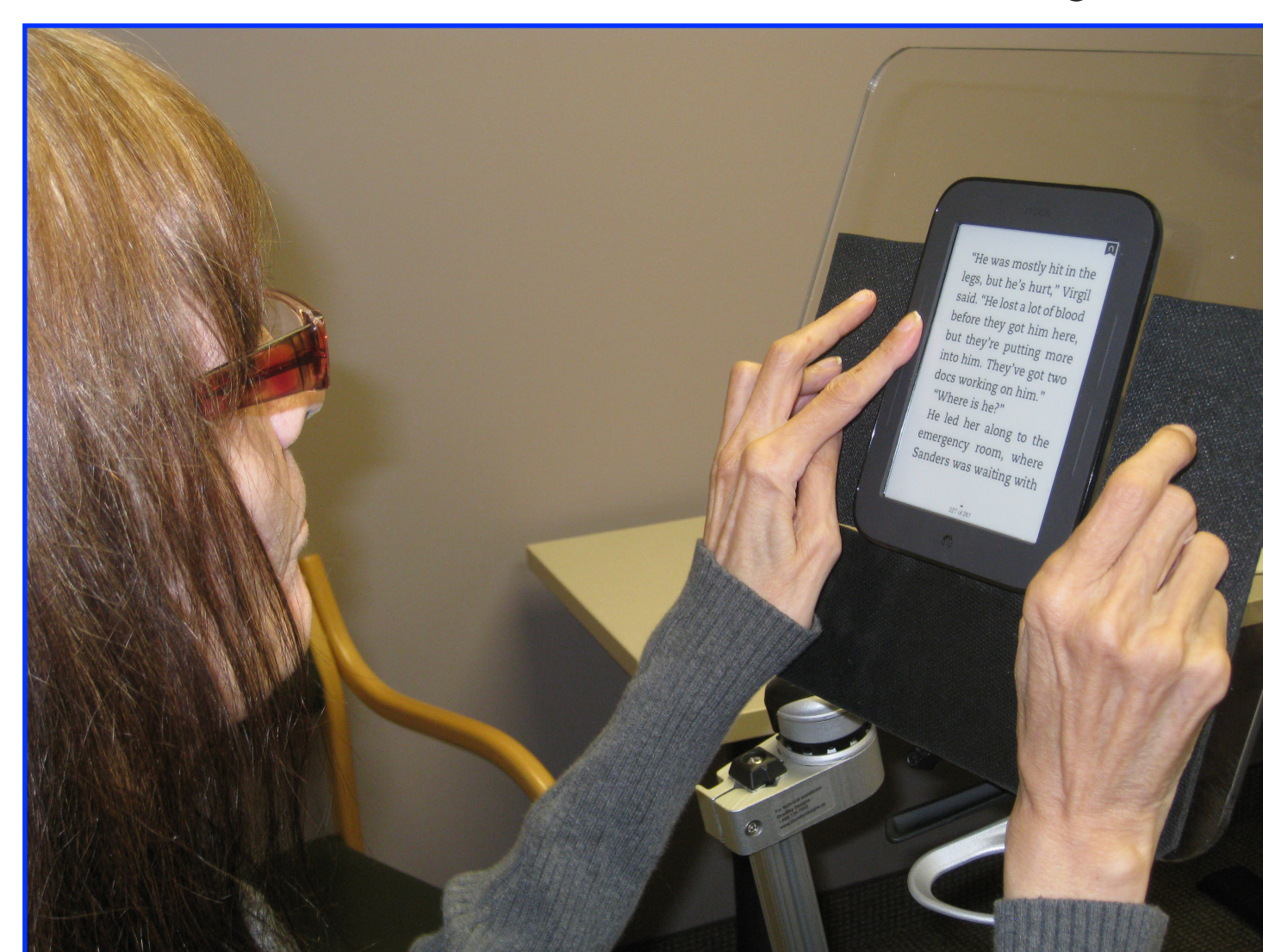
Light duty Loc-Line mount

## Visual Access Considerations

Where is it best positioned for visual access of device?  
Do they need it at a specific angle?  
Does device obstruct vision when driving, communicating, watching TV or in school?  
For outdoor use the mount should have the ability to change tilt due to glare on device from light.



Lateral and visual access to two devices



Visual access and hand stabilization



Device is tilted for driving and seeing the views

## Physical Access Considerations

How do they access their device: direct select with body part, eye gaze, head switch, or single/dual switch? Do they use a combination of these?  
What is their most reliable access method?  
Where do they need it for optimal access?  
Evaluate client's physical strength, spasticity and ROM.  
Do they have a reliable motor movement for access?  
Can they move it independently? If not, who will move it?  
If moved out of primary position is device still accessible-- (i.e. when driving, eating, transferring, or watching TV)?  
Does access method change when moved to bed, wheelchair, table or floor?  
Do they need more than one operational and locking position?  
If device needs to be moved, can it get into consistent locking positions?  
Does it have the ability to adapt and change as individual's ability changes (ALS, MD)?



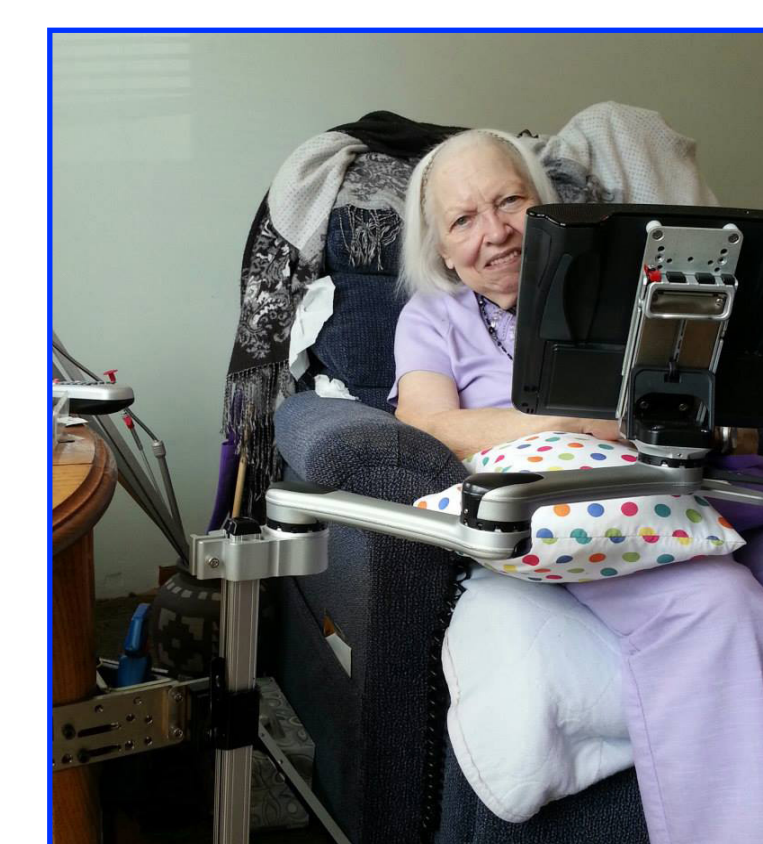
Table mount at school



Prolite by CJT



Accessing device in and out of chair



Device swings for access from chair and table



Standing position for eye gaze access to communication device using a floor stand



Switches mounted on a head rest

## Eye Gaze Considerations

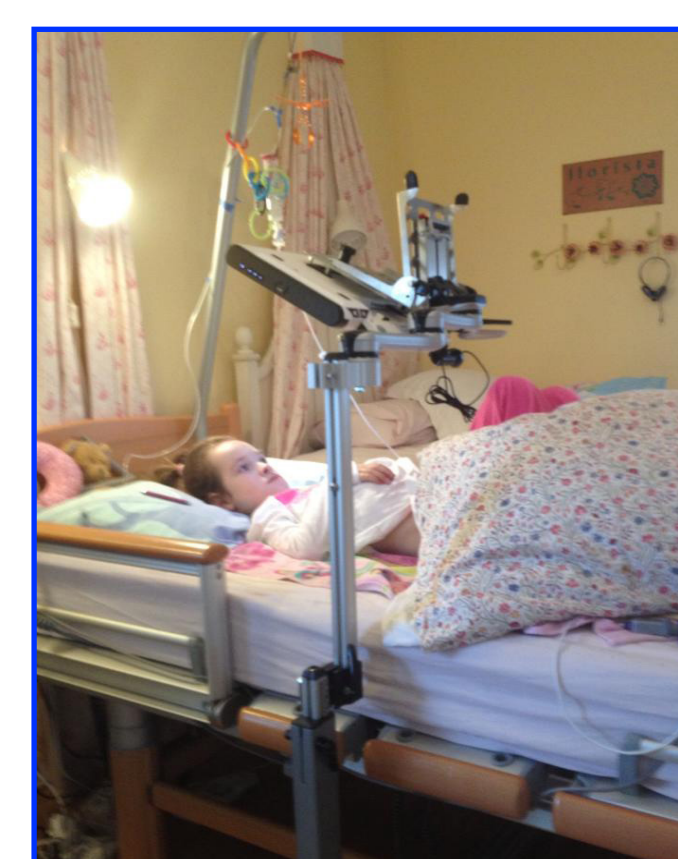
Custom lock positions and consistent placement of device are essential for eye gaze users. As positioning changes throughout the day, so must the mount. Mount must have the ability to adjust height, distance, and tilt for optimal device placement. Consider: Will they need to rotate device for head tilt? Will it need to face downward?



Wheelchair mount with Universal Rotator for head tilt



Table mount for communication device



A downward facing tilt feature allows for access from bed

## Device Attachment Considerations

Will they use more than one device?  
Will there be a need to use devices in combination and/or separately?  
Can they be easily swapped out?



Reading tray is now eating tray



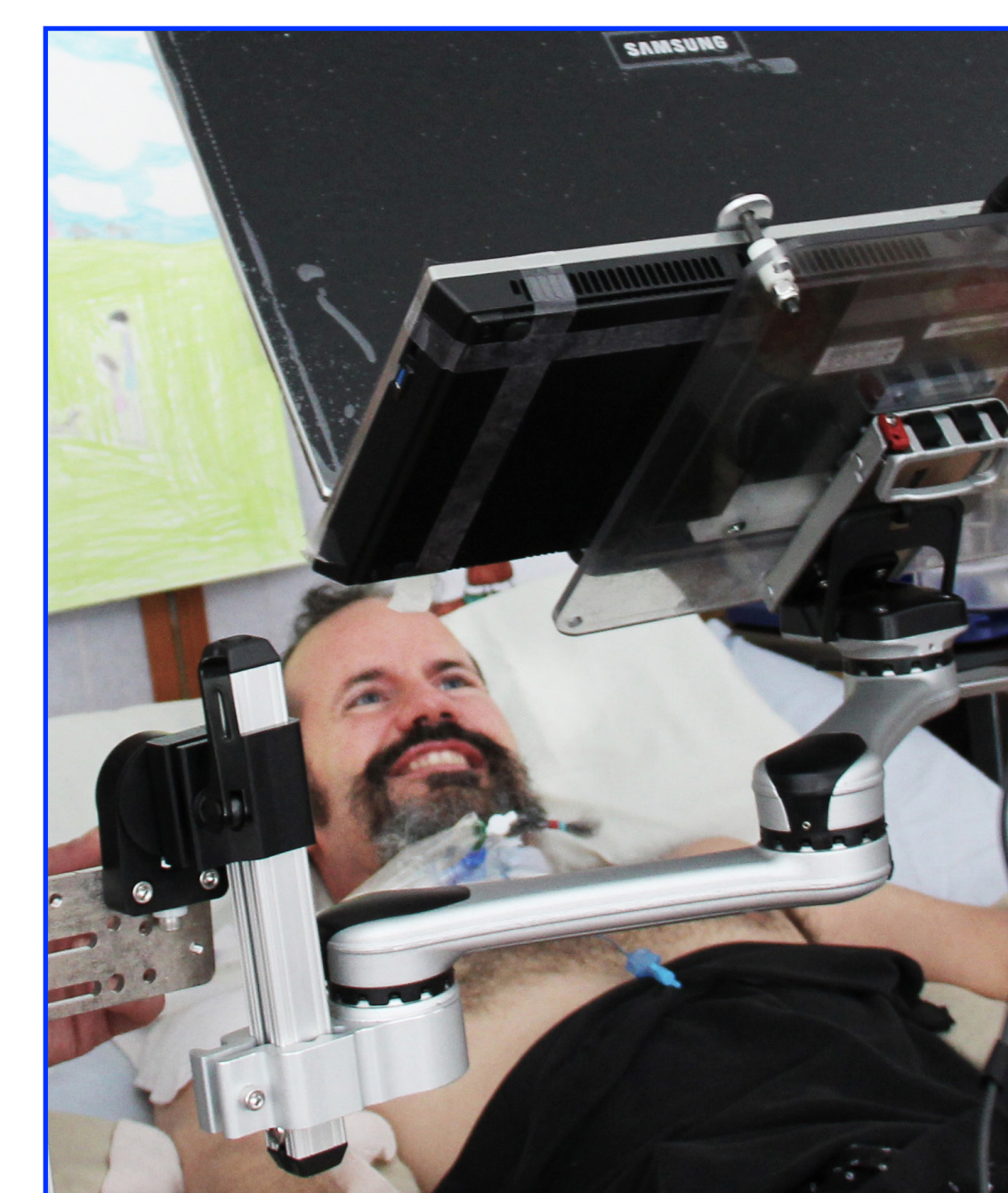
Laptop and tray mounted on one post



Phone and communication device mounted on separate posts

## Safety Considerations

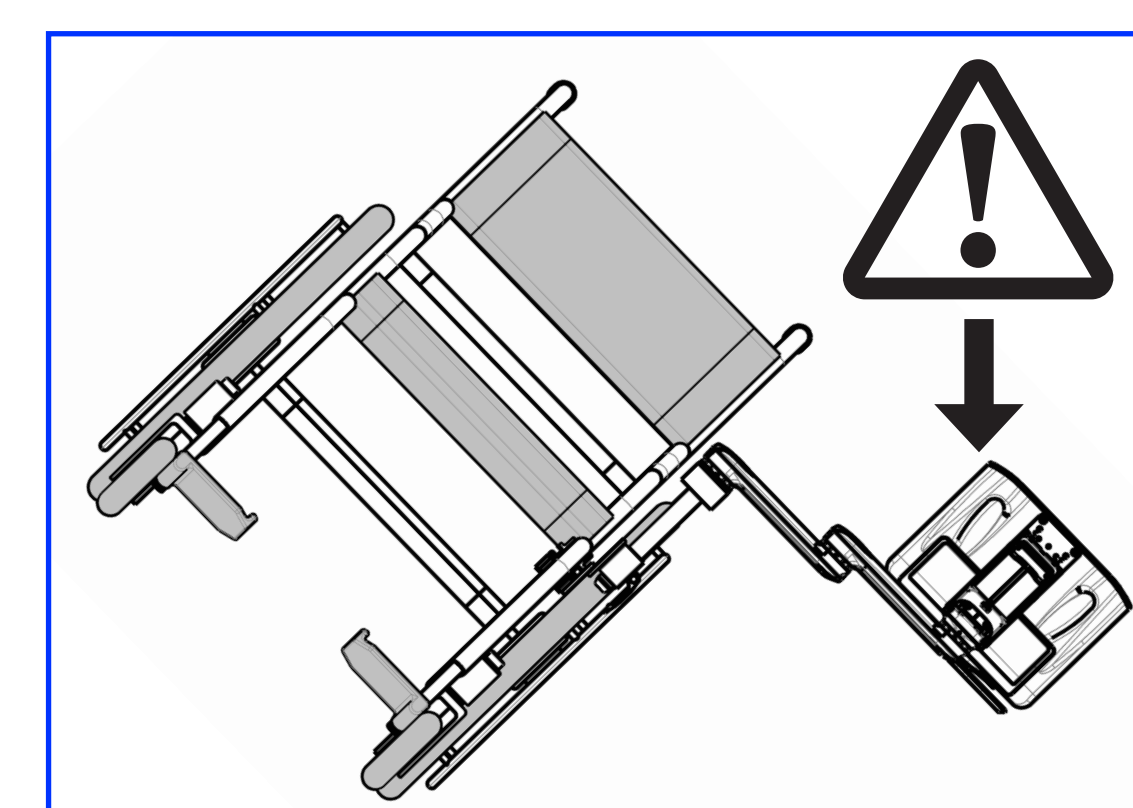
Decrease tipping hazard by keeping device closer to the wheelbase of chair when moved out of the way.  
Avoid obstructing vision when driving.  
Static mounts may impede transfers or access.  
Need the ability to move quickly out of the way in case of emergency (aspiration, seizure) without removing the device.  
How secure is the device from theft or damage?



Secure mounting



Rotated and off to side for driving through doorway



Tipping hazard



Horizontal placement of communication device for driving

## Health Benefits of Optimal Device Placement

- Proper positioning improved ergonomics; less pain
- Better head control due to device positioning (height and tilt)
- Ability to exercise without restrictions
- Access to a moveable mount can increase range of motion
- Proper positioning and use of device can improve fine motor dexterity
- Improved access to use a sink or toilet (hygiene)



Less fatigue with ability to recline



Positioner mount by Daessy



Improved ability to eat with better positioning of tray, plate, or table

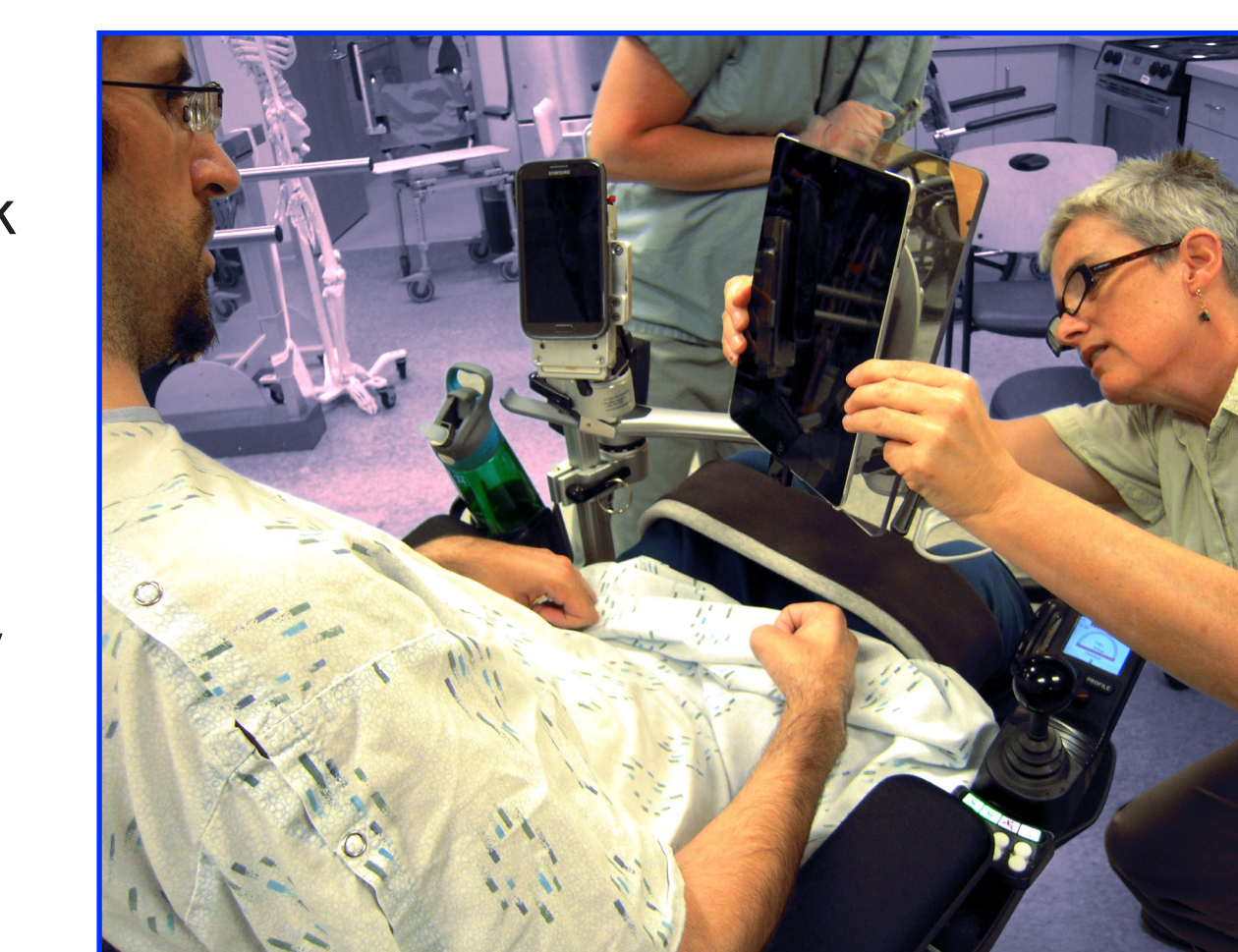
## Functional and Psychosocial Research Study

"Outcomes Research Study Finds Mount Provides Functional and Psychosocial Benefits"  
Mount'n Mover mounting system study by Ithaca College OT Department 2013

- Increased: happiness, usefulness, productivity, competence, quality of life, ability to participate, ability to adapt to activities of daily living, ability to take advantage of opportunities
- Reduced: frustration, embarrassment, confusion

## Evaluation and Assessments

Systems that are flexible and customizable with ability to move and lock easily are preferred. For the therapist, a moveable mount can be quickly attached to a variety of surfaces, easily moved, and provide a stable set up for evaluation. It is best to pull together a team to participate in the evaluation process. The team should include: the individual, family member, therapist, and vendors of related technology (i.e. speech devices, wheelchairs, and mount manufacturers).



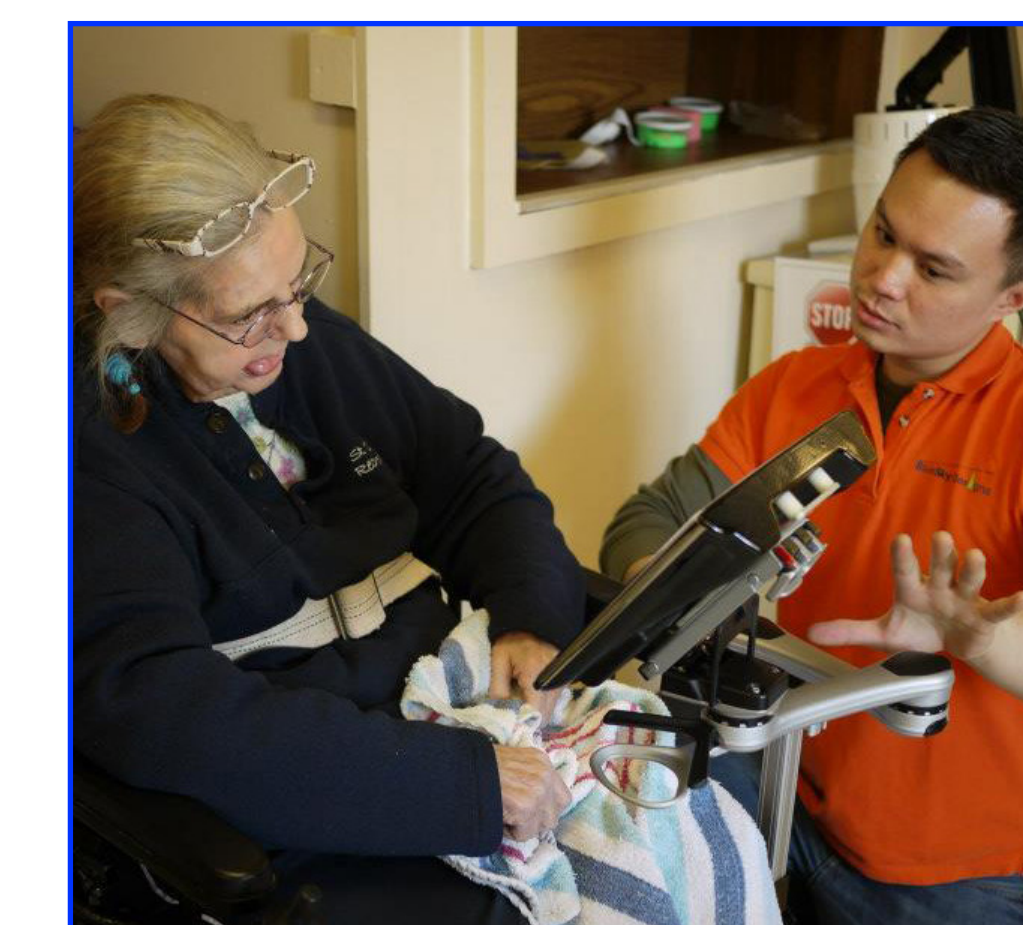
Customizing mount to meet client's needs

## Funding

Rationale and justification for choosing a mount includes features, benefits and medical necessity. Arguments to be made for medical necessity for funding might include the following features and functions: safety, improved visual access, and customization with multiple lock positions. When investing in a system, consider if the mounting system will grow with the individual as they grow. Can it be transferred to a new wheelchair if they grow out of current chair? Look for mounts that can be adapted to accommodate changes in the individual's physical abilities (ALS, MD). This may eliminate the need to invest in a new system later on.

## Warranty and Manufacturer Support

When choosing a system, consider how the product will be supported. Customer service and warranty policy should be evaluated.



Evaluation for positioning and access