


<p>Name</p>	<p>Jack D. Murphy 116375743@umail.ucc.ie</p> 
<p><i>Title of study</i></p>	<p>A qualitative enquiry to understand both the clinician's and wheelchair user's perspectives of the Irish publicly funded selection criteria of wheelchairs, its impact on practice, and the influence on occupational engagement and participation in contemporary Ireland.</p>
<p><i>Supervisor(s)</i></p>	<p>Ms. Yvonne Pennisi & Dr. Bryan Boyle</p>
<p><i>Background/ Abstract (350 words max)</i></p>	<p><u><i>Introduction & Background:</i></u> Proper Assistive Technology [AT] provision results in better health, wellbeing and occupational engagement. However, the literature also shows that many ATs are underused, or causes adverse side-effects for users such as pain, social barriers, extra costs, and stigma.</p> <p>The singular focus of the device alone is emphasised by the regulatory frameworks, the status, and funding of medical devices. Many ATs are classified as medical devices by funders, manufacturers, health insurance agencies, and policymakers – regulated by the Irish Government and European Union. This dominance of the medical device paradigm appears to frame AT as a biomedical intervention, marginalising perspectives such as person-centred design and person-environment-occupation fit.</p>

	<p><u>Research Question:</u> Wheelchairs are one of the most frequently prescribed and provided pieces of AT. In Ireland, the publicly funded wheelchair procurement system had limited scope for the perspectives of clinicians' and wheelchair users' in its development. The literature is clear regarding the consequences of AT use, both positive and negative. Hence, the researcher will examine and analyse the doctrine, interview the clinicians and wheelchair users' in order to explore how the procurement system's priorities match and impact the differing perspectives on how users' function and engagement in everyday life.</p> <p><u>Methodology and Methods:</u> The overarching methodology will be a qualitative enquiry to the lived experiences of the population groups of both the wheelchair users and the clinicians who prescribe their wheelchairs. A descriptive phenomenological approach will be employed. To begin the research, the researcher will first analyse the Irish publicly funded selection criteria and specifications of wheelchairs, which will inform the semi-structured interview questionnaire. Purposive sampling will be completed via contacting gatekeepers (such as Irish Wheelchair Association, Enable Ireland, Association of Occupational Therapists Ireland) to obtain participants. Participants will be interviewed on their experiences; this will be conducted in a manner that is most suitable to the participants while allowing for COVID-19 restrictions. Ethical Approval from SREC is currently pending. Interviews will be recorded and transcribed by the researcher. Data analysis will be completed using a Thematic Analysis using coding and emerging themes.</p>
<p><i>Publications (e.g. articles, conferences etc)</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><i>Link to Orchid Profile/ Research gate profile/Iris profile or website</i></p>	<p>LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/settings?trk=d_flagship3_profile_self_view_public_profile&lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_self_edit_top_card%3BecZaqU74TISM83C1lDiBoQ%3D%3D</p> <p>Research Gate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jack_Murphy46</p> <p>Orchid: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5728-3932</p>

<p><i>Biography, e.g. qualification/training/work history (200 words max)</i></p>	<p>Jack D. Murphy is a recent graduate of the Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy [OSOT] degree program. Jack's first interest in Assistive Technology [AT] began on a placement working with adults with physical impairments. After seeing first-hand AT's ability to become a gateway for occupation, Jack immediately identified with AT's positive potential. Jack began self-directed research in AT during his undergraduate studies and approached his then-lecturer/now-supervisor, Yvonne Pennisi, about post-graduate education in the area. Although Jack is interested in all AT areas, Jack has a particular interest in wheeled-mobility and seating-systems. When applying for the Masters' opportunity, Jack drew on his long-standing interest in AT to develop a research proposal and was awarded funding from the OSOT department in UCC.</p> <p>Jack is currently working part-time as an Occupational Therapist supplying AT to a wide variety of people, while also conducting a Research Masters' full-time. Jack has also undertaken teaching responsibilities to undergraduate students, in which he is continuing to meet his research, teaching, and work responsibilities. The student affairs committee personally thanked Jack. Jack aims to explore the lived experiences of those who use technology everyday, to examine how government policy impacts peoples occupational engagement, identity and participation.</p>
<p><i>Funding body (if relevant)</i></p>	<p>Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University College Cork.</p>