Flat fat feet in obese children: An international collaborative initiative

• Aims:
  – To develop an intensive research collaboration between the Biomechanics Research Laboratory, UOW; the Institute of Biomechanics, ETH Zurich; and the Department of Sports Medicine, University of Tübingen (UKT) to investigate the effects of childhood obesity on foot structure and function.
  – Foster inter-institutional postgraduate and staff exchanges, high quality research publications and an enhanced reputation of the UOW in the international arena.

• Processes:
  – BRL personnel will travel to ETH Zurich in early 2007 to meet with research personnel, potential industry partners and government funding body representatives.
  – Collaborative funding applications will be refined and smaller research projects involving inter-institutional exchanges with true collaborative outputs will be initiated.
BRL, UOW
1st internationally to publish on obese child’s foot.
The main strength of their research is innovative methods to evaluate foot structure and function of children in the field.

ETH Zurich
Experts in footwear design & locomotion assessment.
The main strength of their research is laboratory-based locomotor assessment and innovative techniques used to understand diseased lower limb function.

UKT
Experts in establishing footwear & orthotic solutions for podiatric problems.
The main strength of their research is industry- & medically-directed research with innovative outcomes to ensure all children can exercise in comfort.