

Our Child's TBI: A Rehabilitation Engineer's Personal Experience, Technological Approach, and Lessons Learned.

James Sulzer, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
The University of Texas at Austin*

I am currently a faculty member at The University of Texas at Austin in Mechanical Engineering. My primary research focus is rehabilitation engineering. In May 2020, a week before her fourth birthday, my daughter suffered a severe traumatic brain injury in the early days of the pandemic. The purpose of this article is to describe the current state of pediatric neurorehabilitation from technologically-informed parents' first-person perspectives in order to inform and motivate rehabilitation engineering researchers. We describe the medical and personal challenges faced during the aftermath of the accident, the technological approaches to her recovery that my wife and I have examined, some of which may be considered beyond standard practice, and the lessons we've absorbed during this period regarding both the state of rehabilitation research and the clinical uptake of rehabilitation technologies. We conclude by proposing a set of questions for designers to ask as they create and evaluate new technologies for pediatric rehabilitation.



Friday, March 5, 2021 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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