# SwimEx: Advancement in Hydrotherapy Technology



Jim Bui & Brandon Pounds
Faculty Sponsor: Kris Mahlock, MS, ATC, LAT
Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Weatherford, Oklahoma



## What is the SwimEx?

The SwimEx is a revolutionary, aquatic, multifunctional pool that can be used for physical therapy, rehabilitation and sports conditioning, among other applications. The SwimEx is a fiber glass swimming pool that utilizes motors and paddles to draw in water from the surface and send it back into the pool. This helps to create a steady, deep current.

## **Brief History**

- Created by fiber glass pioneer Everett Pearson
- •Combined patented paddle wheel motor with years of fiber glass experience

## What are the different types of Equipment?

- •Used to help increase cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and muscular endurance
- Aqua Bike
  - Useful for patients with injuries to:
    - Hamstrings
    - •Quadriceps
    - Gastrocnemius
- Aquatic Ellipse
- \*Useful for patients with injuries to:
  - •Gluteus Muscle Group
  - •Gastrocnemius
  - Hamstrings
  - Quadriceps

#### Aquatic Recliner

- .Benefits to using this equipment:
  - •Complete immersion causes whole body to work in unison
- ·Low impact forces generated
- •Useful for patients coming back from
- •Helps to recondition the knee ligament

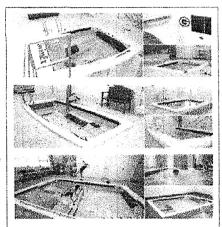
#### SPT Underwater Treadmill

- •Benefits to using this equipment:
  - ·Low impact forces generated
  - ·Low weight being exerted to injured limb
- •Useful for patients with injuries to:
  - Knee ligaments
- Ankle ligaments



## What are some advantages to using the SwimEx?

- · Allows athletes to begin rehabilitation faster
  - ·Allows for a quicker recovery and return to participation rate
- · Athletes can perform wide variety of rehabilitation exercises
  - Non-weight bearing exercises
  - Gate corrective exercises
- Resistance exercises
- Variable sizes for different locations
  - •Compact size (7'7" x 13'7" x 5'10")
  - \*Utilized in a limited area of space
  - Athletic training setting
  - •Standard size (7'8" 17'6" x 5')
    - Utilized in a moderate area of space
  - Physical therapy setting
  - Largest size (11'5" x 21' x 7')
    - \*Utilized in a very large area of space
  - Large hospital setting
  - ·Large physical therapy setting
  - Low maintenance
    - Reliable motor equipment
    - •Durable fiber glass hull



## What are some disadvantages to using the SwimEx?

- Costly investment
- •\$37,000 to \$45,000
- •Top of the line model costing up to \$95,000
- Setting necessities
  - •Water lines in and out
  - •Electrical lines with a GFCI (Grounded Fault Circuit Interrupter)
  - ·Available space for equipment

## What types of programs can be conducted in the SwimEx?

- •Rehabilitation Programs
  - ·Aid in proprioception, balance, little weight-bearing movements
- ·Resistance Training
  - •Foam dumbbells
- •Working against different water currents (short to moderate amount of time)
- Endurance Training
  - •Working against different water currents (elongated amount of time)
  - Utilizing stationary equipment
- Assisted living center
- •Helps get elderly up and moving without exerting too much pressure on joints
- Veterinary Hospitals
  - •Teaching rescue animals to swim against variable currents
- •Keeping up animals cardiovascular fitness while injured

