Keynote: Nils-Krister Persson

Smart textiles – a future technology for the fields of disability and rehabilitation?

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ABSTRACT

Many things are smart these days; smartphones, smart cars, smart watches, smart materials - and smart textiles. What does this smartness really mean? And what has it to do with rehabilitation and medical devices? In this keynote, Nils-Krister will review the concept and the industry, taking a critical look at some examples of what hitherto have been presented in this genre and discussing ways to go from a gadget phase to a serious technology solving real world problems in many parts of care and medicine. Through a number of examples, the possibilities of smart textiles are shown, conducted with both international and domestic perspectives. The ultimate purpose of the talk will be to convince delegates that smart textiles should be considered an important factor within the fields of disability and rehabilitation.

BIO-SKETCH

Nils-Krister Persson, PhD, is the head of the Smart Textiles Technology Lab (STTL), the technological research body within the Smart Textiles initiative. Smart Textiles is a governmental financed research and innovation cluster in Sweden encouraging new advanced solutions in the textile related industry. Smart Textiles is based at the Swedish School of Textiles at the University of Borås. One of the primary directions of the Smart Textiles initiative is in the area of health and medicine. Nils-Krister is physicist from Lund University and holds a PhD in organic and biomolecular electronics from Linköping University. Research interests include conductive all-polymeric fibres, textile water purification systems, textile photonics for medical applications and dynamic textiles.

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