IPRO 310 Designing and Building Prototypes for Assisting Blind Swimmers

PROBLEM

- There are 15 million blind and visually impaired people in the North America
- 99% or more of blind people do not participate in any kind of athletic activity because they don’t feel safe and secure when exercising
- Current methods that blind and visually impaired swimmers use, have many problems:
  - Restrictive – swimming only when no other swimmers are present
  - Unsafe – constantly hitting lane dividers with their arms
  - Expensive and dependent – hiring human Tappers

OUR MISSION

Provide a safe, effective, and reliable assistive device for blind and visually impaired swimmers

IPRO310
Code of Ethics: Over-arching principle

We are: IPRO It takes a team INTERPROFESSIONAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

OUR PRODUCT: eyeSwim

eyeSwim is a passive device used by blind swimmers to position themselves in the pool and execute corrective maneuvers.

ADVANTAGES of eyeSwim

✓ Alerts – swimmer to pool sides and end
✓ Swimmer Independence – no Tappers required
✓ Safe – made of soft and flexible materials
✓ Affordable – cheaper than hiring Tappers
✓ Orients – minimizes zigzagging along lanes

TESTIMONIALS

After testing our product with blind swimmers, we got many positive responses:

“For the first time I actually did a backstroke without hitting anything”
- Ann Brosch, blind swimmer

“You guys are doing something really great!”
- Mazen Istanbouli, blind swimmer

“It was fun!”
- Timothy J. Paul, blind swimmer

“I feel safe!”
- Tim Spencer, blind swimmer