



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **GEORGIA TECH RESEARCHER, BRAD FAIN, to LEAD MOBILITY WORLDWIDE EFFORT**

Brad Fain, a principal research scientist at the Georgia Tech Research Institute, was unanimously elected to the board of directors of Mobility Worldwide, a global charity that builds and provides three wheeled, off-road wheelchairs to those unable to walk in the developing world. Fain was recruited by the organization to help lead a research and development (R&D) effort to investigate new designs for worldwide use. The specialized wheelchairs are ideal for those who lost limbs in land mines or who cannot walk due to birth defects or disease. Since its founding in 1994, Mobility Worldwide has distributed more than 57,000 of the unique wheelchairs among 103 countries.

“This organization’s commitment to those with mobility needs is impressive,” said Fain. “I look forward to being a part of the process – to applying human factors principles in a way that not only improves mobility for those in need, but also makes it more accessible.”

Mobility Worldwide recently adopted its new name and was previously called PET International. P.E.T. was an acronym for Personal Energy Transportation.



“We are thrilled that Dr. Fain decided to lead this international effort as many millions of people in the developing world are in need of personal transportation devices and systems,” Scott Walters, Mobility Worldwide Executive Director stated. “We know that conventional wheelchairs are not functional in areas where sidewalks or roadways are nonexistent or severely damaged. Brad will help us design a better product to help those in need,” he said.

### **ABOUT MOBILITY WORLDWIDE:**

Mobility Worldwide first began as the P.E.T. Mobility Project by Reverend Mel West and missionary Larry Hills in 1994. Over 57,000 Mobility Carts have been distributed in 103 countries since its founding in 1994. Each cart is built at one of 23 production facilities located throughout the US and Zambia, Africa. Carts are donated to distribution partners who handle the shipping, importation and assessment of beneficiaries and then given free of charge to those in need. Mobility Worldwide (an initiative of PET International, Inc.) is a tax-exempt 501 (C) (3) NGO/charity with a mission of: Seeking to reflect the love of God by bringing mobility and dignity to those in developing countries who are unable to walk. While the “flagship” operation is located in Columbia, MO, Mobility Worldwide is a virtual organization with its executive director located in the Atlanta, GA area. Plans call for the establishment of a manufacturing center in the Atlanta market in the near future.

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## ABOUT BRAD FAIN:

Brad Fain, Ph.D., is a principal research scientist for the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). With more than 23 years of experience in human performance research, Dr. Fain leads the human factors program and human systems integration efforts for both military and industrial customers at GTRI. He is experienced in military and civilian system human factors analysis, anthropometric analysis, design, and human performance testing and evaluation. He established the Accessibility Evaluation Facility (AEF) at Georgia Tech and has pioneered evaluation techniques designed to measure accessibility and usability of products and services for people with disabilities. Dr. Fain is the director of Georgia Tech's HomeLab, a program in the Atlanta area that support a diverse roster of research projects and product evaluation activities related to health and well-being of older adults; and is the director of the independent test lab for the Arthritis Foundation's Ease of Use commendation program and similar programs for Arthritis Australia, Arthritis New Zealand, and the Arthritis Society of Canada.

\*\*Media Note: Demonstrations are available. Please call Scott Walters at (678) 756-1882 for more information.



(L) Two women from Lunsar, Sierra Leone, sit on their Mobility Carts during a distribution earlier this year.

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