When More is Better. Multiple Access Options for Computers and Devices.

When considering all the access options available for devices and computers it often takes creativity to combine access methods, to find the most efficient solution. Here we are considering alternatives to the standard keyboard and mouse, and touchscreen. There are two main scenarios where multiple access methods are needed. First, access methods can be combined for increased

efficiency. Second, one individual may need different access options depending on their positioning, for example one setup for sitting at a desk and a different setup for lying in bed. In this session we will explore case stories to demonstrate scenarios where multiple access methods are indicated, and provide information on the more useful combinations.

When considering the access methods available there are a several combinations that work well together. Switch access can be slow when used with row/column scanning, but using a switch to make a selection complements head-tracking mouse control and efficiency can be achieved. Voice control for text entry can be complemented with eye gaze for mouse control. Eye Gaze selection speed can be increased using a switch to select rather than waiting for the dwell time. This session is relevant to Assistive Technology practitioners who wish to go beyond the boundaries of what the technology appears to offer.