Tina Amirtha is conducting a 2-month externship at NUPOC. Ms. Amirtha graduated from Northwestern University (BS, 2006) and is an MSc candidate in Biomechatronics, Mechanical Engineering, Delft University (Netherlands). Her learning objectives while at NUPOC are twofold: 1) to become familiar with methods used for gait stability analysis; and 2) to work with orthotics-assisted gait studies. She will participate in the NUPOC research project that investigates stroke patients’ stability during gait, specifically to determine the contribution of Ankle-Foot Orthoses (AFO) to gait stability.

Ms. Amirtha plans to conduct her master’s research under the mentorship of Jaap Harlaar, PhD, Human Movement Laboratory, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Research Institute MOVE, VU Amsterdam Medical Center. While there, she will focus on gait stability in children with cerebral palsy.

As a Northwestern undergraduate, Ms. Amirtha was awarded a Gates Millennium Scholarship for leadership and merit, enabling her to spend her junior year at École Polytechnique (Palaiseau, France) where she focused on Applied Mathematics. After graduation, Ms. Amirtha spent four years working in industrial engineering where she managed projects that include development of automated testing of medical valves; quality improvement in the pneumatics performance of an apheresis device; and revisions to a financial planning tool.

Ms. Amirtha grew up in the Chicago area where her mother fostered her interest in mathematics; and her father, also an engineer, encouraged her to learn how things work and to address and answer difficult questions. She enjoys re-discovering her cultural roots through cooking fusion cuisine of Andhra Pradesh. A violinist since childhood, she is learning to play the guitar. Living in the Netherlands has engendered her advocacy of biking to lessen environmental pollution. International in her experience and perspectives, Ms. Amirtha enjoys a network of caring, cosmopolitan friends.

We are delighted that Ms. Amirtha has selected NUPOC for her externship. Welcome Tina Amirtha!