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U-CAN NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Hello,

Welcome to the April Edition of the U-CAN Newsletter.

Did you know that April is designated as Limb Loss Awareness Month.

It is celebrated in the U.S and around the world as a time to recognize those living

with limb loss and limb difference.

This was started by the Amputee Coalition (AC) 12 years ago to honor this

community and to educate people about what it’s like living with a limb loss or limb

difference.

The theme for this month is “Inspire to Elevate”.

Those of us that have been affected by limb loss or limb difference has a story to

tell. Maybe your story will help someone else. We all have had victories and

defeats. Celebrate your victories, no matter how small.

In celebration of this month’s theme: Elevate your story, your voice, your

community and your potential.

The AC is hosting educational webinars throughout the month of April. They are

free but you must register to attend. Check out the website for more information;

<https://www.amputee-coalition.org/limb-loss-resource-center/webinars/>

**Amputee Insurance Law Update….**

In the February newsletter, there was an article from ‘Amplitude Magazine’

about a newly introduced insurance bill in the state of New Mexico, *HB 131-*

*Prosthethic & Custom Orthotic Device Coverage.* The bill just passed the Senate

unanimously and heads to the governor’s desk for signature. This is the 22nd state

with a fair insurance law and the 2nd to expand to ‘medical necessity’. This means

insurers have to cover prosthetic devices that are suitable for recreational

activities.

**Interested in being part of a paratriathlon team….**

UM Adaptive Sports & Fitness along with the Ann Arbor Triathlon Club is looking

for people with all ability levels to become part of their team.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please complete

A brief survey/questionnaire to find out more.

**Fun Michigan Springtime Activities….**

For a list of the best things to do in Michigan this month: events, festivals and

celebrations happening all over the state, click on the link;

<https://mymichiganbeach.com/april-michigan/>

***Touching Animal Story…***

A geese love story, March 5, 2023, CBS News;

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/a-geese-love-story/#x>

***Act of Kindness stories…***

Engineering students help photographer find a way to pursue his passion,

March 28, 2023, NBC News;

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/engineering-students-held-photographer-find-a-way-to-pursue-his-passion-167020101781>

***And now for a few laughs….***

An Easter song from SNL, March 2018 (original air date- April 2004);

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M5kh-P-xTU>

**U-CAN Meeting**

Our next U-CAN meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 4, 2023 from 5:30-7:30**

**PM at the Orthotic & Prosthetic Center, 2850 S. Industrial Hwy, Suite 400, AA**

**48104.**

On the agenda is movie night! In honor of Limb Loss Awareness Month, we have a

Special movie picked out and great movie night snacks!

Brittany and I hope you are able to join us a fun evening!

If you are unable to come in-person, you can join the meeting virtually.

If you have a zoom account, just click on the link below for quick and easy access

to the meeting(s).

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://umich.zoom.us/j/97544788830>

**Meeting ID:** 975 4478 8830

**Passcode**: 890707

If this is your first-time using zoom and do not have an account set up, please

read the information below and follow the steps.

**Creating your own account**

To sign up for your own free account, visit [zoom.us/signup](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/zoom.us/signup) and enter your email

address. You will receive an email from Zoom ([no-reply@zoom.us](mailto:no-reply@zoom.us)). In this email

click **Activate** **Account.**

**If Joining from a Mobile Device**

If you are joining from a mobile device (Android, Smartphone, tablet, Apple

iphone/iPad) then it will simply prompt you to download the Zoom Cloud

Meetings App from the App/Play store.

**If Joining from a Computer**

When entering a Zoom meeting for the first time from a computer, you will need

to Download a small application file:

1. Open web browser to Chrome
2. Enter ‘**join.zoom.us’** in the address field which brings up **“Join a Meeting”**
3. Enter the **meeting ID** (*listed above*)
4. Click **Join.** If this is your first time joining from Google Chrome, you will be asked

To Open **The Zoom** client to join the meeting.

**Quote for the month:** “Life becomes easier and more beautiful when we see the

Good in other people”- Roy T. Bennett

**Articles**

* Amputee Nick Harrier creates picturesque prosthetics, livingwithamplitude.com, February 28, 2023; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/article/banksy-goes-bionic-nick-harrier-steampunk-prosthetics/>
* Mantra helps former marine thrive, opedge.com, March 1, 2023; <https://opedge.com/mantra-helps-former-marine-thrive/>
* Herbert Marshall, Hollywood’s first amputee movie star, livingwithamplitude.com, March 7, 2023; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/herbert-marshall-amputee-actor/>
* March Madness, amputee style, livingwithamplitude.com, March 15, 2023; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/standup-amputee-basketball-amp1-cactus-classic/>
* Boom times ahead for Osseointegration?, livingwithamplitude.com, March 22, 2023;

<https://livingwithamplitude.com/osseointegration-amputees-older-patients-robert-rozbruch/>

* A daily coffee may reduce your type 2 diabetes risk, healthline.com, March 23, 2023; <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/a-daily-coffee-may-reduce-your-type-2-diabetes-risk>
* Smart bandages can monitor wounds, aid healing, researchers say, upi.com, March 24, 2023; <https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2023/03/24/smart-bandages-wounds-Caltech/9281679674149/>
* Following the breakthroughs in prosthetics, CBS News, March 26, 2023; <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/following-the-breakthroughs-in-prosthetics/>
* Why Brenna Huckaby now shows her prosthetic when snowboarding, teamusa.org, March 27, 2023; <https://www.teamusa.org/News/2023/March/27/Why-Brenna-Huckaby-Now-Shows-Her-Prosthetic-When-Snowboarding>
* Amputee Jeans pioneer Erica Cole returns to Shark Tank, livingwithamplitude.com, March 29, 2023; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/amputee-jeans-erica-cole-returns-to-shark-tank/>

**Research Corner**

* The University of Michigan Powered Prosthetic Lab Research is looking for volunteers with or without a single above-knee amputation to participate in research studying the design and control of powered prosthetic legs.

Participation Requirements:

* Age 18 – 70 years old
* One or more AK (above knee) amputations
* Must be able to withstand testing: walking, stair climbing & sit-standing

Participants will be compensated $40 an hour for their time.

For questions or to learn more about this study, please contact:

Robert Gregg, Professor

Email: [rdgregg@umich.edu](mailto:rdgregg@umich.edu)

734-763-1156

* Michigan Medicine is currently collaborating with MedStar Health Research Institute and

The Curtis Hand Center in Baltimore on a clinical trial evaluating a new surgical method to

Treat neuroma pain.

Participation Requirements:

* Age 18 years or older
* Suffer from chronic pain from a previously amputated finger or other part

of the hand

Participants will agree to be randomized to one of two surgical groups to treat neuroma

pain

Participants will also answer questionnaires and take health measurements to record blood

pressure and heart rate.

To learn more about this research study, click on the link below;

<https://www.medstarhealth.org/blog/neuroma-research-rpni>

For questions or for more information about this study, please contact:

Jenni Hamill, study coordinator

Email: [jenberry@med.umich.edu](mailto:jenberry@med.umich.edu)

* ***University of Michigan’s*** Locomotor Control Systems is currently looking for paid volunteers with a single, above knee amputation to participate in a research studying powered prosthetic limbs. This research project seeks to improve the control of powered prosthetic legs used by lower-limb amputees.

Participation Requirements:

* Age 18 years or older
* Single Above the Knee amputation

The study involves one experiment which will take no longer than 4 hours after setup and will

be paid for their time.

For questions or for more information about this study, please contact:

Dr. Bobby Gregg

Email: [rdgregg@umich.edu](mailto:rdgregg@umich.edu)

* ***Researchers at the University of Washington*** in partnership with the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, is looking to evaluate chronic pain therapy for people with disabilities, such as: amputation, spinal cord injury, brain injury, Multiple sclerosis

Participation Requirements:

* Age 18 years +
* Currently employed, working minimally 15-20 hours a week
* Self-reported physical disability
* Daily access to a phone and internet

Participants will be randomly assigned to attend eight weekly treatment sessions via

telephone over the course of 8-10 weeks, no in-person visits required.

Participants will be required to complete four online surveys, before, during and after

treatment and compensated up to $125 total.

For questions or for more information about this study, please contact:

Kara link

Phone: 855-887-9384 (Toll Free)

Email: [tipsstudy@uw.edu](mailto:tipsstudy@uw.edu)

* ***University of Michigan*** Graduate Innovative Design in Biomedical Engineering students are looking to better understand the problem of sweating in prosthetic liners and make a medical device to address sweat accumulation of lower limb amputees.

Participation Requirements:

* Lower Limb amputee who faces issues with sweat buildup in their liner
* Would prefer but is not inclusive to individuals who have used products to address this issue, such as:

Antiperspirants, sheat or sock under liner

Iontophoresis

Participants will be required to have a short 30 -minute video Zoom meeting

For questions or for more information about this study, please contact:

Pit Vollmers

Phone: 616 647 7811

Email: [Pitv@umich.edu](mailto:Pitv@umich.edu)

* ***Researchers at Northwestern University*** are studying attitudes, preferences and information needs about hand/arm transplantation among people with upper limb amputations.

The purpose of this study is to assess people’s attitudes, decisions, and expectations about

hand transplant as a treatment option.

Participation requirements:

* Age 18-45 years of age
* Have an acquired unilateral or bilateral upper limb amputation
* Be able to use a smartphone or landline phone as a communicating device
* Be able to work independently

Current recruitment for telephone interviews and telephone focus groups will be

conducted over the next few months.

Participants will receive compensation for each interview or focus section.

For more information about this study, please contact:

Elisa Gordon, PHD, MDH

Email: [e-gordon@northwestern.edu](mailto:e-gordon@northwestern.edu)

Phone: (312) 503-5563

* ***The University of Michigan has created an Orthotic & Prosthetic Registry***. This is a simple way to connect interested research participants with as many researchers at UM as possible.

Participation requirements:

* 18 years or older
* Currently use an orthotic and/or prosthetic device

If you are interested, please fill out a short survey that is stored in a secure database and

your information will only be accessible by UM research groups. These groups will then

contact you if you are eligible for any future studies. To sign up, please visit the link;

<https://redcapproduction.umms.med.umich.edu/surveys/?s=K4JE8F94TY>

For more information, please contact:

Deanna Gates

Phone: (734) 647-2698

Email: [gatesd@umich.edu](mailto:gatesd@umich.edu)

* ***University of Michigan School of Kinesiology*** is looking volunteers for the two studies listed

below:

*Transfemoral (AK) amputation to examine the effectiveness of adjustable prosthetic*

*sockets.*

Participation requirements:

* 18 years or older
* Have an above-knee amputation of 1 leg
* Have worn a prosthesis for at least 6 months

In this study, you will test three adjustable sockets, both in the lab and at home. At the

end of the study, you are able to keep the socket you had the best experience with.

Participants will receive $50 for the initial consent and monitor meeting, $40 per hour of

clinic testing, $60 per socket fitting, $100 per monitoring period and whichever socket

he/she prefers. All session will be completed at the Orthotics & Prosthetics Clinic in Ann

Arbor.

*Runners to test a newly designed foot.*

Participation requirements:

* 18 years or older
* Have an AK, BK or bilateral amputation(s)
* Are able to run or have owned a running foot in the past

If you are interested in volunteering for the above projects, please contact:

Deanna Gates

Phone: (734) 647-2698

Email: [gatesd@umich.edu](mailto:gatesd@umich.edu)

* For a listing of all the current amputee clinical trials all over the U. S., visit the WCG

Centerwatch website and use the drop - down menu to type in amputation (a listing will

pop up with different options available);

<https://www.centerwatch.com/clinical-trials/listings/search/?q=Amputation&place=&geo_lat=&geo_lng=&user_country=>

**Upcoming In-person Events**

* **First Clinic Adaptive Sports Day, Saturday April 1, 2023 from 9 am – 4 PM in Ypsilanti Michigan.** The event is free and is hosted by Eastern Michigan University’s O & P Program, College Park Industries and OPAF (the Orthotic & Prosthetic Activities Foundation).  Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Activities include:

Yoga: 9-10:30 am, Dance: 11-12:30 & Swimming: 1:30-3:00

**Note: that you can attend the events of your choosing or attend all 3.**

For more information about this event and to reserve a spot, please visit the website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/first-clinic-adaptive-sports-day-ypsilanti-mi-april-1st-tickets-579409488377>

* **U-CAN (University of Michigan Community Amputee Network) is hosting a Tiger Game, July 23, 2023.**

**Cost- $36.00 per person and includes transportation and a goodie bag for the bus ride.** Transportation is free – being provided by UM Orthotics & Prosthetics.

Family and friends of all ages are welcome.

Seats are along the 1st base line and are covered (protected from the elements). Accessible seating is available upon request.

Reservations are required and payment is due no later than June 21, 2023.

Please contact Carla Vollmer for more information:

Phone: 734-975-7432

[cvollmer@med.umich.edu](mailto:cvollmer@med.umich.edu)

* **Dance Mobility- Amputee and wheelchair Ballroom Dance class, will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2023 from 11:00 – 12:30 PM. The classes are held at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 2172 Franklin Rd, Bloomfield Hills.** The class is free but you need to register to attend. The Dance Mobility program provides free amputee and wheelchair ballroom grouplessons led by Fred Astaire’s professional, certified, dance instructors with experience in teaching amputee and wheelchair ballroom dance.  Participants are welcome to bring their own dance partner or be paired with a volunteer. **For more information or to register, please call: 248-454-1715.**

* **Summer camps for kids June – August, 2023.** The link includes information about all the camps, where they are located and the link to register;

<https://livingwithamplitude.com/summer-camp-for-amputee-kids-2023/>

* **UM Adaptive Sports & Fitness program offers wheelchair tennis and basketball**.

Visit the website for more information;

<https://www.umadaptivesports.com/>

<https://www.umadaptivesports.com/calendar>

* **Michigan Adaptive Golf Association is hosting golfing events throughout the summer-**

**June- August.** Visit the website for more information;

<https://www.maga.golf/>

* **Mary Free Bed is hosting many in-person adaptive spring/summer clinics.** To find

out more information or to register, please visit the website;

<https://maryfreebed.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/maryfreebed/eventList.jsp>

* **Kids Camp,** **July 23-29 in Harrisonburg, VA,** supported by USA Patriots, is for kids with an amputation or limb loss, ages 8-12 years of age. Veterans serve as coaches and mentors for these children, teaching them adaptive techniques and life lessons. All expenses are paid to attend. To fill out an application or for more information, visit the website; <https://usapatriotsathletics.org/kidscamp/>
* **Amputee Coalition National Conference will be held August 2-5, 2023 in Orlando Florida**. Registration is open. To find out more information about this event, visit the website; <https://www.amputee-coalition.org/events-programs/national-conference/>

Have a great April!

Be safe and take care

Carla