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U-CAN NEWSLETTER

April 2024

Hello,

Happy April!

April is Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month (LLAM).

The Amputee Coalition organized the first LLAM in April 2011, but named April as the

official month back in 2010. Today the month is celebrated in the U.S. and around

the world as a time to recognize those living with limb loss & limb difference and

raise awareness. Currently, there are 5.6 million Americans living with Limb loss and

limb difference.

Be sure to make time to celebrate you!

***Unique holidays to celebrate this month….***

April 5- Deep Dish Pizza Day

April 7- Caramel Popcorn Day

April 10- National Siblings Day

April 12- Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day

April 22- National Jellybean Day

April 25- World Penguin Day

April 26- National Pretzel Day

(from parties365.com)

***Amputee news…***

‘ So Everybody Can Move’ is at the forefront of the national disability rights

movement. Creating equitable and life-changing access to prosthetic and orthotic

care for physical activity in 28 states by the 2028 paralympic games. To learn more

about this, visit the website; <https://soeverybodycanmove.org/>

***Camps for kids….***

Are you getting ready for summer activities for your child. Check out the list for

amputee summer camps. The website lists all the information on cost, when and

where;

<https://livingwithamplitude.com/article/amputee-summer-camps-kids-2024/>

***Act of Kindness story…*** Community forms to help blind man get to work, CBS News, March 8, 2024;

<https://www.cbs.com/shows/video/pxIu1XlkHB601Pdq22mcdYKsXfvmzujQ/>

How an 8 year- old became a trend setter at his school, CBS News, March 15, 2024;

<https://www.cbs.com/shows/video/o29xu6XKOuAnIDruAj6J6dymF2IuXmRx/>

***And now for a few laughs….***

‘Bunny Business’, SNL, 2009, nbc.com;

<https://www.nbc.com/saturday-night-live/video/bunny-business/2751105>

**U-CAN Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Meeting will be held in-person at the Orthotic & Prosthetic Center, 2850 S.

Industrial Hwy, Suite 400, Ann Arbor and virtually, using the zoom platform**.**

On the agenda are the Prosthetic Residents, they will be talk about new

technologies and how to handle sweating in the socket.

We hope you can join us for a nice evening with good treats and good people.

If you are unable to join us in-person, please join us virtually.

If you already have a zoom account, just click on the link below for easy

access to the meeting;

**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, please read the

information below and follow the steps.

**Creating your 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.

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.

***What is upcoming for Group…***

May 7th- Debra from Easy Access Travel will give us tips and tricks for navigating travel

With wheelchairs, scooters, etc.

**Quote for the month**: “If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else”- Booker

T. Washington

**Articles**

* Why do prosthetics cost so much, livingwithamplitude.com, February 29, 2024; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/article/why-prosthetics-cost-so-much-amputees/>
* Virginia teen developed 3D- printed, accessible prosthetic for amputees, the74million.org, March 4, 2024; <https://www.the74million.org/article/watch-virginia-teen-developed-a-3d-printed-accessible-prosthetics-for-amputees/>
* RIT professor creating 3D prosthetics for those in need, spectrumlocalnews.com, March 10, 2024; <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2024/03/10/-creating-3d-prosthetics>
* Woman goes viral for her story of becoming an amputee, kare11.com, March 12, 2024; <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/kare11-sunrise/minnesota-amputee-goes-viral-on-tiktok/89-f3f87d64-a8f1-4c84-8058-5b78ec6c2bf5>
* Prosthetic Insurance reform, investment in amputees’ health, livingwithamplitude.com, March 13, 2024; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/prosthetic-insurance-reform-amputees-save-money/>
* Grasp Robotics developing artificial muscle at the University of Michigan, dbusiness.com, March 18, 2024; <https://www.dbusiness.com/hustle-and-muscle-articles/grasp-robotics-developing-artificial-muscle-at-university-of-michigan/>
* Universal controller could push robotic prosthesis and exoskeletons into real-world use, sciencedaily.com, March 20, 2024; <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2024/03/240320160442.htm>
* The children who lost limbs in Gaza, newyorker.com, March 21, 2024; <https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/the-children-who-lost-limbs-in-gaza>
* Periopception Research (the sense of knowing the position and movement of body parts) may advance prosthetic control, March 26, 2024; <https://opedge.com/proprioception-research-may-advance-prosthetic-control/>
* The smartest guy in the room, livingwithamplitude.com, March 27, 2024; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/amputee-research-prosthetics-cdmrp-phil-skiff/>

**Research Corner**

* ***An Eastern Michigan University Orthotics and Prosthetics Master's student*** is examining

the effects of physical activity habits among those with limb loss / limb difference have on

their ability to perform different activities.

Some of these activities will be standard tasks such as walking on a level ground & cleaning

the house. Other questions will be more specific such as the ability to run or do yard work.

The study will be completed in survey format. The survey will be completed in Google

Forms and is completely anonymous. The information you provide will be compared to

other anonymous responses to identify correlations and trends.

Participation is completely voluntary and can be terminated at any point in the survey; <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1X7JZqpv45b219yOCs1j8xnVWLsxoFUWZ4_Na1SNBAgo/viewform?edit_requested=true>

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

Noah Krichau

Email: [nkrichau@emich.edu](mailto:nkrichau@emich.edu)

* ***University of Michigan Research Center for Group Dynamics*** is working on gathering small focus groups of **wheelchair users** to learn about experiences and challenges of mobility with chairs, particularly when outside.

They are looking into at possible technological features and designs that could be added in the future and what would be useful to wheelchair users.

Participation Requirements:

* Wheelchair user
* Know how to use Zoom

Each focus group will take place for an hour or one-and-a-half hour sessions and will be

conducted **remotely via Zoom.**  Only one session is required.

Participants will be reimbursed $50 for an hour session or $75 for a 90- minute session.

Payment can be by check or by Amazon.com e-gift certificate.

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

Dr. David Dunning

Phone: 734-763-0063

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

* ***Undergrad students at the University of Chicago*** are currently working with the Polsky

Center on a research project that is aiming to improve prosthetic usability.

They would like to hear about your experiences with your prosthetic devices- what are

your likes/ dislikes, how can the devices be improved upon, etc.

Participation Requirements:

* Age 18 years or older
* One or more amputation
* Complete a 5-10 minute survey online;

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ljZiJWps7eFCzr8Vo1oO2lLXtsBDon3g8kCItBgin1c/viewform?edit_requested=true>

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

Katja Edwards

Email: [katjae@uchicago.edu](mailto:katjae@uchicago.edu)

Phone: 312-894-9066

* ***The Veterans Health Administration*** is conducting research on how well upper limb

prosthetic users can do everyday activities and comparing the abilities of people who use

different types of prosthetic systems. The study will provide evidence to help consumers

and clinicians make informed choices about upper limb devices.

Participation Requirements:

* 18 years of age or older
* Ability to understand English
* Have a unilateral, upper limb amputation at the transhumeral, elbow disarticulation, transradial, or wrist disarticulation levels
* Have a body powered, myoelectric or hybrid prosthesis that fits and is in good working condition

Participants will be reimbursed for their study visit time and effort as well as travel

expenses and accommodations.

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

John Davey

Phone: 401-273-7100 X16535

* ***The University of Michigan*** ***Powered Prosthetic Lab Research*** is looking for volunteers to

participate in research studying the design and control of powered prosthetic legs.

This research studies the design & control of powered prosthetic legs and will help new

prosthetics improve quality of life.

Participation Requirements:

* Age 18 – 70 years old
* Single AK (above knee) amputation

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

Testing sessions will take place on the University of Michigan North Campus.

Testing includes walking, stair climbing, sit-stand, and other lower-limb activities in a

laboratory environment.

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

Robert Gregg, Professor

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

Phone: 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, 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)

* ***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)

For a listing of all the current medical specific and/or amputee clinical trials all over the

U.S., visit the WCG CenterWatch website and use the drop-down menu to type in location

(to see if there is a study in your area); <https://www.centerwatch.com/clinical-trials>

**Upcoming Events**

* **Dance Mobility- Amputee and wheelchair Ballroom Dance class will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 11:00 am -12:30 pm at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 2172, Franklin Rd, Bloomfield Hills.** The classes are free but you must register in advance to attend. 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.

* **University of Michigan Adaptive Sports & Inclusive Sports Experience (UMAISE) currently has 2 activities going on: Rollverines** -practices for youth wheelchairbasketball and with the Adults Sports Club - Adaptive Martial Arts. For more information and to register, please visit the website; <https://medicine.umich.edu/dept/pmr/patient-care/therapeutic-other-services/umaise-university-michigan-adaptive-inclusive-sports-experience/offered-programs>
* **Michigan Amputee Golf outings June 26, July 26-28, and August 16, 2024**. For more information about these events, please visit the website; <https://www.maga.golf/events>
* **Move United**, the nation’s largest network of community-based adaptive sports & recreation organizations released it’s competitions for the 2024 year- 35 total in 24 states and Michigan will be hosting 2 of them:

**Thunder in the Valley Games in Bridgeport, MI** Archery, para powerlifting, shooting, and track & field Michigan, hosted by *Sports Unlimited, Inc*, **May 31- June 2, 2024.**

For more information, contact: Mary Kunz, [gemgirl1873@gmail.com](mailto:gemgirl1873@gmail.com), 989-225-0545

**University of Michigan Adaptive Track & Field Meet in Ann Arbor MI, June 28-June 30,**

**2024,** *hosted by the University of Michigan Adaptive Sports & Fitness.*

For more information, please contact: Erik Robeznieks,

[erikrob@umich.edu](mailto:erikrob@umich.edu), 734-358-0038

* **Amputee Coalition National Conference, August 8-10th, 2024, Hyatt Regency Atlanta, GA.** Registration is open and for first time attendees can apply for a scholarship that will pay for your registration. For more information about this event, visit the website;

<https://web.cvent.com/event/58aadbcc-aa31-4131-bb2e-0805995e8606/websitePage:cf593ef0-d788-4686-9cf4-bde9435cf572?rp=e5c678f2-95a5-4da5-94df-2d0ca230f4a3>

* **Mary Free Bed is hosting spring and summer adaptive events.** For more information, please visit the website;

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

Best,

Carla & Brittany