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U-CAN NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Hello,

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

This month starts the end of one season and the beginning of another.

We sadly say goodbye to summer with all its wonderful outdoor activities and

say hello to the start of fall- the smell of cider, donuts, bonfires, campfires and

the beautiful leaf colors.

To welcome the official start of fall on September 23rd, please enjoy a poem about

The new season that’s about to begin:

‘Autumn’ *by June Kellum*

There’s nothing as fine as an autumn day,

With the smell in the air of fresh mown hay,

Each tree is a wonder of beauty untold.

Each leaf brushed with color, a sight to behold.

There’s a nip in the air – crisp, cool and clear-

To remind us that winter soon will be here.

But for now we have autumn, the ‘show- off’ of seasons!

My favorite, by far, and these are the reasons.

It’s that time of year for Fall Festivals and Cider Mills. If you are looking for a fun

outing on a nice autumn day, check out the links below for more information;

<https://www.funtober.com/festivals/michigan/>

<https://www.awesomemitten.com/apple-festivals-in-michigan/>

<https://littleguidedetroit.com/2023-opening-dates-for-metro-detroit-cider-mills/>

***Act of Kindness story…***

Couple who’s wedding reception venue caught fire, return for anniversary trip,

CBS News, August 4, 2023;

<https://www.cbs.com/shows/video/nGgkIFAMnW8rxZkdGHsk5d7ZltXm5Rne/>

A college football player gave his scholarship to another teammate, CBS News,

August 10, 2023; <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/eastern-michigan-university-football-player-gives-scholarship-to-teammate-zack-conti-brian-dooley/>

How restoring an old Mustang fostered joy and friendship, CBS News, August 11,

2023; <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/how-restoring-an-old-mustang-fostered-joy-friendship-for-one-als-patient/>

**U-CAN Meeting**

**Our next U-CAN meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023** at the

Orthotics & Prosthetics Center, 2850 South Industrial Hwy, Suite 400 Ann Arbor,

48104. On the agenda will be adaptive yoga with Becky McVey from UMAISE.

Dress in comfortable clothing and enjoy a nice evening of chair yoga and

Good people.

Brittany and I look forward to seeing you next Tuesday.

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.

**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.

Take a look at what’s Ahead

October 3rd- Information Session

November 7th- Halloween Party

December 5th- Holiday Party

**Quote for the month**: “You’re braver than you believe, stronger than you seem,

and smarter than you think”- A. A.Milne

**Articles**

* Did you spot the amputees in BarbenHeimer, livingwithamplitude.com, July 26, 2023; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/barbie-amputee-oppenheimer-edward-teller/>
* Future airplanes must meet stricter accessibility standards, but not for years, cnn.com, July 26, 2023; <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/airplane-handicap-accessible-disability-wheelchair/index.html>
* Skateboarder brings attention to the adaptive sport, spectrumnews1.com, August 1, 2023; <https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/human-interest/2023/07/31/the-angelino-man-making-skateboarding-more-accessible-to-people-with-disabilities>
* 3-D printing system can speed up wound healing, mddionline.com, August 2, 2023; <https://www.mddionline.com/3d-printing/3d-printing-system-can-speed-wound-healing>
* Former soccer pro uses loss of leg to inspire on and off the field, fox13news.com, August 3, 2023; <https://www.fox13news.com/news/tampa-youth-soccer-coach-who-had-leg-amputated-using-his-journey-to-inspire-others>
* Robotic gripper could supplement prostheses features, wraltechwires.com, August 4, 2023; <https://wraltechwire.com/2023/08/04/quite-a-grip-ncsu-robotic-gripper-can-handle-drop-of-water-to-14-pounds-even-turn-a-page/>
* Gaza-based amputee finds hope in being a kids swimming instructor, martinsvillebulletin.com, August 7, 2023; <https://martinsvillebulletin.com/news/nation-world/gaza-based-amputee-finds-hope-in-being-a-kids-swimming-instructor/video_d01959f7-dbd7-5735-9926-63916b104a9c.html>
* 8 year old from the UK climbs Lakeland Fell with prosthetics and raises money for charity, itv.com, August 8, 2023; <https://www.itv.com/news/border/2023-08-08/eight-year-old-boy-climbs-lakeland-fell-and-raises-nearly-2million-for-charity>
* Vascular amputees make a LEAP Forward, livingwithamplitude.com, August 9, 2023; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/article/vascular-amputee-LEAP-protocol/>
* Animated amputee series on Netflix titled, “Mech Cadets”, draws lifelike portrait of amputees, livingwithamplitude.com, August 9, 2023; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/animated-amputee-netflix-series-mech-cadets-josh-sundquist/>
* Paracyclist and triple amputee being applauded for his sense of humor after receiving a wristwatch trophy after winning the world Championships, insider.com, August 16, 2023; <https://www.insider.com/para-cyclist-amputee-awarded-wristwatch-applauded-for-humor-2023-8>
* Veteran with amputations rebuilds classic cars, abc12.com, August 17, 2023; <https://www.abc12.com/community/back-to-the-bricks/mike-neeley-built-back-to-the-bricks-feature-car-with-no-legs/article_61f7828e-3d0e-11ee-8204-0b500b65ef10.html>
* Ukranian nonprofit helps thousands of amputees injured from war get prosthetic limbs, pbs.org, August 20, 2023; <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/ukrainian-non-profit-helps-thousands-of-amputees-injured-in-the-war-get-artificial-limbs>
* Innovative glove and armband device gives people with upper limb prosthetics a sense of touch, attoday.co.uk, August 22, 2023; <https://attoday.co.uk/innovative-glove-and-armband-device-gives-people-with-upper-limb-prosthetics-a-sense-of-touch/>
* A scientist who pioneered sensations in prostheses dies, washingtonpost.com, August 25, 2023; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2023/08/24/sliman-bensmaia-who-added-sensations-of-touch-to-prosthetics-dies/?wpisrc=nl_sb_smartbrief&utm_campaign=7CE7E126-D0FF-4B49-8CBE-174C9A1C35DF&utm_content=36A3DCEC-21B6-4222-8761-4BE56EB8AEA8>
* Amputee characters remain absent from top movies, livingwithamplitude.com, August 30, 2023; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/2023-amputee-movie-representation-annenberg-inclusion-initiative/>

**Research Corner`**

* ***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 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)

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

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, sheath 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=&sx=amputation+of+the+lower+limb>

**Upcoming Events**

* **Dance Mobility- Amputee and wheelchair Ballroom Dance classes for the rest of the year are as follows: September 9, October 14, November 11 & December 9, 2023. The classes are held on Saturdays 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 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.

* **Adaptive MOGO is back through October 28, 2023.** Adaptive MoGo offers cycling options for riders of all abilities! With 16 bicycles including recumbent tricycles, upright cargo tricycles, hand tricycles, tandem bicycles, tandem tricycles, side-by-side quadricycles, and a box-bike, Adaptive MoGo accommodates a wide range of rider needs with 2 locations to choose from: **Detroit and Ferndale.**

Anew Life Prosthetics has partnered with MOGODetroit to give you your first ride free-

just mention Anew Life Prosthetics & Orthotics.

To find out more information about cost, hours, location and bike rental, please visit the website; <https://mogodetroit.org/mogo-for-all/adaptive-mogo/>

* **UMAISE (University of Michigan Adaptive & Inclusive Sports Experience) has a few September activities for you to enjoy:** Hand Cycling/adaptive cycling and Camping (to be determined). Please visit the website for more information and to register for these events;

<https://medicine.umich.edu/dept/pmr/patient-care/therapeutic-other-services/umaise-university-michigan-adaptive-inclusive-sports-experience/offered-programs>

* **Mary Free Bed is hosting many in-person fall activities and clinics.** To find

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

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

Have a safe and happy Holiday!

Carla and Brittany