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U-CAN NEWSLETTER

October 2024

Hello,

Welcome to the October edition to the newsletter.

Fall has officially started and even though I am very sad to see my favorite season

Come to an end, I do love all that fall has to offer in Michigan: leaves changing,

Pumpkins and fresh cider and donuts.

To get you in the mood for the season, I found an article about the lesser known

Cider mills in Michigan. Maybe you will even take a trip out and visit one of these

Hidden gems; <https://www.michigan.org/article/trip-idea/lesser-known-cider-mills-orchards-michigan>

***Act of Kindness story….***

Burglar arrested in Captain America costume celebrates 5 years sober, CBS News,

September 13, 2024;

<https://www.cbs.com/shows/video/1NCHeLqtUSMDH3Ee_fxlC7_SAV3ro813/>

Virginia students surprise school custodian with dream suv, CBS News, September

20, 2024;

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/vienna-virginia-students-james-madison-high-custodian-francis-apraku-dream-suv-jeep-wrangler/>

**U-CAN Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 1, 2024 from 5:30-7:30 pm**

at theOrthotic & Prosthetic Center, 2850 S. Industrial Hwy, Suite 400, Ann Arbor,

48104. The meeting will be held in-person and virtually, using the zoom platform.

On the agenda for this month’s meeting is Osseointegration (an advanced

reconstructive surgery technique for amputees that eliminates the need for a

traditional prosthesis). Our guest speakers with be Dr. Brian Kelly, Medical Director,

UM Orthotics & Prosthetics Center & Jeff Wensman-Clinical & Technical director,

Who will talk about the procedure along with a bilateral amputee who had the

surgery done on both limbs. She will share her story and talk about how she is

doing since having had the procedure.

Brittany & I hope you can join us on Tuesday for this informative meeting.

To join the meeting virtually, click on the link below for easy access;

**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.

**Take a look at what’s ahead for our U-CAN Meetings:**

**November 5- Halloween Party and Game Night**

**December 3- Holiday Party**

**Quote for the month: “**Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and

most underrated agent of human change” –Bob Kerrey

**Articles**

* Scientists discover how the starfish becomes’ legless’, sciencedaily.com, August 29, 2024; <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2024/08/240829132542.htm>
* An amputee’s guide to finding the right prosthetist, livingwithamplitude.com, August 31, 2024; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/article/matchmaking-an-amputees-guide-to-finding-the-right-prosthetist/>
* The latest numbers on Osseointegration, livingwithamplitude.com, September 4, 2024; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/amputees-osseointegration-outcomes-statistics/>
* How the upcoming amputee movie, “ Unstoppable” made it to the big screen, livingwithamplitude.com, September 9, 2024; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/amputee-movie-jennifer-lopez-anthony-robles-unstoppable/>
* A gold medal for Ottobock’s response at the Paralympic games, olympics.com, September 9, 2024; <https://olympics.com/en/news/paris-2024-paralympics-gold-medal-ottobocks-responsiveness>
* No Limbits, adaptive clothing company, receives a vehicle grant from Progressive Insurance, bizjournals.com, September 10, 2024; <https://www.bizjournals.com/richmond/inno/stories/news/2024/09/10/no-limbits-progressive-insurance-grant-erica-cole.html?utm_term=79AA441B-20EC-422F-BF4B-01C167872D5E&lrh=f96f5d18cebd8d62691f96f5ef6eabc93dd05eec0c9cfafd0bbcba408cf813ac&utm_campaign=7CE7E126-D0FF-4B49-8CBE-174C9A1C35DF&ana=smartbrief&utm_content=719C3480-AD30-4921-BEFC-73C605655132>
* Amputee models celebrate 10 years on runway with dreams, livingwithamplitude.com, September 10, 2024; <https://livingwithamplitude.com/amputee-models-runway-of-dreams-2024/>
* Research team develops the prosthesis of the future, the first in the world with magnetic control, medicalxpress.com, September 11, 2024; <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-09-team-prosthesis-future-world-magnetic.html>
* Legislation funding for sports prosthetics, service dogs and mental health services for veterans is up for approval in Washington, stripes.com, September 11, 2024; <https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2024-09-11/veterans-service-dogs-health-care-prosthetics-15144926.html>
* 14,000 Gaza amputees will get rapid prosthetic limbs with the help of UK companies & technology, arabnews.com, September 17. 2024; <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2571753/middle-east>
* Double amputee Billy Monger is ‘feeling ready’ for the ironman challenge, bbc.com, September 16, 2024; <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwylll00kgno>
* Robot Skeleton helps paralyzed woman walk again, bbcnews, September 18, 2024; <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy9gjl518po>
* The VA is seeking veteran amputees for osseointegration study, news.va.gov, September 18, 2024; <https://news.va.gov/134894/new-way-attach-prosthetic-limb-after-amputation/>

**Research Corner**

* ***The Rehabilitation Biomechanics Lab at the University of Michigan*** is researching hip

strength and balance in individuals with unilateral transfemoral amputations. Researchers

are examining how different sockets impact fall risk.

Participant Requirements:

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

Participants will be asked to visit the lab at the School of Kinesiology for 3 testing sessions,

complete testing to evaluate hip muscle strength, and complete testing to evaluate balance.

The total time commitment will range from 9-12 hours.

Participants will be paid $20 an hour.

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

Kristin Perrin, Study Coordinator

Phone: 734-647-2876

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

* ***University of Illinois PHD student*** is studying how users of prosthetic limbs choose and

adapt to their prostheses.

Participant Requirements:

* Over 18 years of age
* Speak English
* Have used 3+ prosthestic limbs in your lifetime
* Be willing to share photos of prostheses (2 minimum)

Participation involves a 2-hour interview via phone or video chat (ex. Zoom) where we will

discuss the process of choosing and adapting to new prostheses.

Participants will be reimbursed $40 for their time and additional $10 for providing

feedback.

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

Marty Health

Email: [mheath6@uic.edu](mailto:mheath6@uic.edu)

Steven Jones

Email: [sjones@uic.ed](mailto:sjones@uic.ed)

* ***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 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 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, October 12, 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.
* **Adaptive MOGO is back and open till October 26, 2024.** Adaptive MoGo offers cycling options for riders of all abilities, accommodating a wide range of rider needs. With 17 cycles including recumbent tricycles, upright cargo tricycles, hand tricycles, tandem bicycles, tandem tricycles, side-by-side quadricycles, and a box-bike. There are two locations, each with their own hours and inventory of cycles; Detroit Riverwalk and Ferndale. For more information on how to reserve a bike, for hours and cost, please visit the website;

<https://mogodetroit.org/mogo-for-all/adaptive-mogo/>

* **Mary Free Bed has a list of their fall fitness and recreational classes.** To find out more information, please visit their website;

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

Take care and stay safe,

Carla & Brittany