

HANDSMART GROUP

COMMUNICATION AND GLOBAL PEER SUPPORT FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN REHABILITATION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH UPPER LIMB ABSENCE

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BACKGROUND & AIM

Clinical teams in upper limb prosthetics are challenged on a daily basis due to constantly changing environment and poor education. With regard to this, the Handsmart Group was formed in February 2016 to support comprehensive clinical practice, and empower peers by creating an open access and international network.

METHOD

Sixteen international clinicians are members of the Handsmart core group and work on a voluntary basis. The larger group divided into four working groups based on their aims: enhance public awareness for the upper limb prosthetics community, establish a network among peers worldwide, support clinical practice with evidence based rehabilitation resources and acquire sources of consistent funding. Each work group discusses and votes on relevant issues to achieve their goals. The larger group will meet in person once a year to evaluate and discuss the results, methods and organization. Peers are invited to join the Handsmart network to support the group vision: Provide the most holistic rehabilitation approach for every person with upper limb loss or upper limb difference, now and in the future.

RESULTS

Based on the vision, mission and the shared core values of the group, fundamental strategic keys (Figure 1) were identified. The group developed fundamental work plans for the first year. A website (<http://handsmartgroup.org>) was launched in autumn 2016. This online platform supports the group to create and enlarge an international peer network, to share information, access resources and to support clinical practice for international clinicians in upper limb prosthetics.

To better accomplish the Handsmart vision and support clinical practice with evidence-based rehabilitation resources, the group will seek for evidence to support the suggested rehabilitation.



Figure 1. Handsmart Group strategy pyramid

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The Handsmart core members invite external parties involved in upper limb loss/difference rehabilitation to collaborate and support the group. All initiatives will enable successful work in the promotion of its mission and will aim to improve the daily lives of clinical teams in upper limb prosthetics.

The international consortium of expert clinicians would like to thank the companies Ottobock and ProsthetiKa for their financial support and Ottobock for initiating this project. The Handsmart Group is independent and follows the international needs and interests of all people. There is no financial interest in this group. The handsmart group is currently in the process of incorporating as a 501c3, non-profit, in the United States.

DISCLOSURE

This is a work of all Handsmart Group members: Diane Atkins, Birgit Bischof, Liselotte Hermansson, Wendy Hill, Julie Klarich, Debra Latour, Ayala Nota, Sandra Ramdial, Eitan Raveh, Agnes Sturma, Shawn Swanson Johnson, Kristi Turner, Claudia Winkler, Paula Wijdenes and Daniela Wüstefeld.