

STEPS Amputee Conference 2026

Collaboration & Innovation

Programme

Manchester Hall, 36 Bridge Street,
Manchester, M3 3BT

1st October 2026



WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you all to the STEPS Amputee Conference 2026.

This year's theme is Collaboration and Innovation. Successful rehabilitation after amputation depends on a collaborative approach between legal teams, case managers, surgeons, prosthetists and clinicians, all working towards the same outcome: the best possible recovery, function and quality of life for the person at the centre of it.

Today's programme has been designed around that collaborative approach throughout. We open with a round table bringing together a client, her solicitor and case manager, and a defendant solicitor, exploring how early collaboration between legal, clinical and case management professionals can shape recovery from the outset.

We then hear from Ottobock and Össur on the latest advances in microprocessor knee technology, with live demonstrations and first-hand patient perspectives.

Later sessions move beyond mobility and function to explore body image and identity following amputation, alongside innovation in prosthetic liner technology and its impact on comfort and day-to-day use.

We close with a look at emerging surgical approaches to elective amputation, and a detailed case study exploring how early decisions around residential rehabilitation and prosthetic provision can shape long-term outcomes, examined from both clinical and legal perspectives.

Above all, thank you to everyone who has agreed to share their story with us today, and to our exhibitors for their continued support.

Thank you for joining us. We hope you find it a valuable and thought-provoking day.

AGENDA

9:00–9:30	Arrival, Registration and Refreshments
9:30–9:45	Welcome & Introductions
9:45–10:45	A Team Effort: Collaborative Rehabilitation Lisa Challinor, Jennifer Buchanan, Kate Gibbons, Stuart Giddings; Peter Durkin
10:45–11:30	Latest MPK Technology in Action: Expert Insights and Patient Demonstrations Ollie Smith, Scott Kilby
11:30–12:00	Refreshment Break
12:00–12:45	Body Image Following Amputation Piotr Jozwiak, Sophie de Oliveira Barata, Carol Bolton; Peter Durkin
12:45–13:00	Adaptive Prosthetic Liners: A New Approach to Socket Fit, Comfort and Function Dr Ughr Tanriverdi
13:00–14:15	Lunch
14:15–15:00	Surgical Innovations and Rehabilitation: New Approaches to Elective Amputation Alastair Marsh; Deborah Foong
15:00–16:00	Early Rehabilitation: Maximising Recovery Potential David Spencer, David Withers, Dave Goodwin, Lauren McCluskey, Victoria Lishman-Peat; Toria Chan
16:00–16:15	Closing Remarks
16:15–18:00	Drinks & Networking

SPEAKERS – CHAIR

Andrew Axon

Andrew Axon is a Barrister at Parklane Plowden Chambers and a Door Tenant at Outer Temple Chambers, specialising in Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence, representing those who have suffered catastrophic injuries requiring complex rehabilitation, adapted accommodation, Court of Protection involvement and 24-hour care packages.

His current caseload includes catastrophic brain injuries, locked-in syndrome, undiagnosed genetic disorders, cerebral palsy and paralysis, with a combined value exceeding £100 million.

Andrew advises the British and European Societies of Gastroenterology on individualised consent and lectures regularly to national bodies including AvMA, as well as at the Royal Society of Medicine to the British Society of Otolaryngology.

He is ranked in Band 1/Tier 1 in the legal directories and is listed as a “Star Individual” for Clinical Negligence by Chambers & Partners, which describes him as “an extremely high-quality player... top class.” Legal 500 calls him “an excellent barrister, particularly with complex cases.”



SPEAKERS – SESSION 1

A Team Effort: Collaborative Rehabilitation

When Lisa Challinor, a senior NHS manager and dedicated marathon runner, sustained a life-changing amputation in 2024, the speed and quality of the decisions made around her care and rehabilitation were pivotal.

In this round table session, Lisa is joined by her solicitor Jennifer Buchanan (Fieldfisher) and case manager Kate Gibbons (Emma Way Associates), along with defendant solicitor Stuart Giddings (DWF), to discuss how early, joined-up collaboration between legal, clinical and case management professionals can shape a person's recovery.

Lisa Challinor

Lisa was a senior NHS manager and dedicated runner training for the London Marathon before she sustained a life-changing above-knee amputation injury in 2024.

Just 19 days after her accident, Lisa began an intensive residential rehabilitation programme at STEPS, and through remarkable determination alongside expert prosthetic and physiotherapy support, she has since regained walking confidence on uneven terrain, returned to walking her dogs, and is now working towards her goal of running again.



SPEAKERS – SESSION 1

Jennifer Buchanan

Jenny is a fierce advocate for clients facing life-changing injuries following accidents on the roads and in other public places. Her ethos is to understand each client's personal experience and put the right rehabilitation in place, quickly accessing funds from insurers and other parties to provide financial support and build a team of care experts.

Her work with STEPS over the years has given her a unique insight into the challenges facing amputees rebuilding their lives. A keen competitive cyclist, she is well placed to advise on road traffic claims and campaigns regularly to make London's roads safer for all users.



Stuart Giddings

Stuart is a Partner at DWF acting for a number of insurance companies in defence of catastrophic injury claims. Stuart leads DWF's Amputation group advocating best practice as to how to work collaboratively with case managers and claimant solicitors to achieve best outcomes for Claimants and his clients.

With a father who is an above-knee amputee, Stuart has a unique insight into the many challenges faced by injured Claimants and uses his personal experience to supplement his own professional expertise to help navigate claims via rehab and suitable use of experts to a swift conclusion.



Kate Gibbons

Kate qualified as a physiotherapist from the University of Manchester in 2001 and worked across several London teaching hospitals before developing a particular interest in complex neurological and orthopaedic rehabilitation. Since moving into catastrophic case management in 2007, she has supported people following amputation, spinal cord injury and complex multi-trauma.

Now in a senior case management role at Emma Way Associates, Kate takes a holistic, person-centred approach, placing equal importance on emotional wellbeing, independence, family life and the activities that matter to each person alongside their physical needs.



Peter Durkin

Peter is a dual practising prosthetist/orthotist and co-founder of STEPS Prosthetics, with over 10 years' clinical experience in adult and paediatric prosthetic and orthotic rehabilitation across hospital and community clinics. His technical skills enable him to ensure clients are well-informed about the options when considering component choice or product design.



SPEAKERS – SESSION 2

Latest MPK Technology in Action: Expert Insights and Patient Demonstrations

Explore the latest advances in microprocessor knee technology through presentations from Ottobock and Össur Academy prosthetists, featuring the Genium X4 and Navii MPK systems. The session will also include live demonstrations and patient perspectives from two STEPS Prosthetics users, highlighting the real-world impact of these devices on mobility, independence and quality of life.

Ollie Smith

Ollie Smith is a Clinical Specialist Prosthetist with 18 years of experience working for Össur UK. Throughout his career, Ollie has developed extensive expertise in prosthetic rehabilitation, clinical practice and the application of innovative prosthetic technologies.

Passionate about improving patient outcomes, he works closely with clinicians and patients to help translate advances in prosthetic technology into practical, meaningful solutions for people living with limb loss.



Scott Kilby

Scott qualified as a prosthetist/orthotist in 2002 and has many years' experience supporting both upper and lower limb users. He joined Ottobock in 2018 and has held a training and education role for over 10 years.

He is passionate about helping clinicians get the best from Ottobock's products, such as the Kenevo, C-Leg 4 and Genium X4, so that users achieve the best possible outcomes and can live life on their terms.



SPEAKERS – SESSION 3

Body Image Following Amputation

Following his below-knee amputation after a road traffic accident in 2022, Piotr found that regaining his mobility was only part of the journey back to himself.

In this session, Piotr shares his rehabilitation experience and his decision to create a bespoke, artist-designed prosthesis, created in collaboration with Sophie de Oliveira Barata of The Alternative Limb Project, and what that transformation meant for his confidence and sense of identity. Joined by Consultant Clinical Psychologist Carol Bolton the session will look beyond function and mobility to the psychological dimension of limb loss, exploring how body image, self-expression and personalisation can be central to a person's rehabilitation.

SPEAKERS – SESSION 3

Piotr Jozwiak

Piotr led an incredibly active life as a GP practice manager, keen basketball player and runner, before a road traffic accident in April 2022 resulted in a below-knee amputation. Following intensive rehabilitation at STEPS, Piotr regained his mobility, independence and confidence, before embarking on an exciting new chapter: collaborating with Sophie de Oliveira Barata of The Alternative Limb Project to create a striking, bespoke prosthetic design that reflects his personality and love of motorbikes and adventure.



Sophie de Oliveira Barata

Merging the latest technology with traditional crafts, Sophie's creations explore themes of body image, modification, evolution and transhumanism, whilst promoting positive conversations around disability and celebrating body diversity.

Drawing on her own specialist skills in making ultra realistic looking limbs, Sophie collaborates with specialists in fields such as 3D modelling, electronics and cutting edge technology, and works in conjunction with in-house prosthetist Chris Parsons at Design Prosthetics. Clients have included Paralympic athletes, musicians, models, performing artists and video game companies.



Carol Bolton

Carol joined STEPS Rehabilitation at the end of 2019. Carol qualified as a Clinical Psychologist from the University of Hull in 2003. She worked in the NHS for many years specialising in adult mental health and pain management.

She has been working in Neurorehabilitation since 2018 with individuals with a wide range of neurological difficulties, offering individualised treatment packages focusing on the person's strengths and needs.



SPEAKERS – SESSION 4

Adaptive Prosthetic Liners: A New Approach to Socket Fit, Comfort and Function

An introduction to Unhindr's adaptive liner technology and its potential to improve socket fit, comfort and day-to-day prosthetic function.

Dr Ugur Tanriverdi, Co-Founder of Unhindr

Dr Ugur Tanriverdi specialises in the user-centred design of next-generation prosthetic care. With over a decade of experience working closely with clinicians and the limb loss community, he translated his patented research at Imperial College London into Roliner, the world's first dynamically adaptive liner, advancing evidence-based solutions to improve patient outcomes in limb-fitting performance.



SPEAKERS – SESSION 5

Surgical Innovations and Rehabilitation: New Approaches to Elective Amputation

This presentation will explore emerging surgical approaches and elective amputation pathways, and their role in improving outcomes for individuals with complex limb injuries. Through patient case studies, the speakers will demonstrate how combining surgical innovation with timely, structured rehabilitation can enhance function, mobility and quality of life.

Alastair Marsh

Mr Alastair Marsh is a highly experienced consultant orthopaedic surgeon, specialising in both elective (planned) and trauma surgery of the foot and ankle. He has a particular focus on sports injuries to the ankle (such as ligament and tendon injuries), bunions and big toe arthritis (hallux valgus and hallux rigidus) alongside other foot and ankle conditions such as Morton's neuroma, arthritis and tendon problems.

His private practice is based at The Harborne Hospital, part of HCA Healthcare UK, and his NHS base is Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where he is known for his expertise in treating complex foot and ankle trauma and multiply injured patients.



Deborah Foong

Deborah Foong is a Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham and the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust. She specialises in soft tissue reconstruction following cancer treatment and trauma. She is the principal plastic surgical reconstructive surgeon at the Birmingham Sarcoma Unit where she undertakes soft tissue reconstruction following sarcoma resection. At The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, she is part of the Complex Orthoplastic Trauma Team where her main role is in the soft tissue reconstruction for limb salvage surgery. She has an interest in amputee surgery and runs two multidisciplinary amputee clinics.

She regularly performs revision surgery for residual limbs and neuroma surgery including targeted muscle reinnervation (TMR) and regenerative peripheral nerve interphase (RPNI). She is also the lead Plastic Surgeon on the team performing osseointegration surgery for British Veterans at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital Birmingham.



SPEAKERS – SESSION 6

Early Rehabilitation: Maximising Recovery Potential

This session presents a detailed case study following amputation, examined from both the legal and clinical sides of the case. David Spencer and David Withers are joined by Dave Goodwin, STEPS client, alongside his case manager, Lauren McCluskey and Victoria Lishman-Peat (Senior Claims Technician at Zurich), to discuss the decisions made at each stage of the claims and rehabilitation process.

The panel will address how choices made early in the case, around residential rehabilitation and access to advanced prosthetic treatment, have shaped Dave's progress and outcomes.

David Spencer

David is a Partner in DAC Beachcroft's national complex injury team, with over 20 years' experience acting for defendants and their insurers in large loss and catastrophic injury claims arising from motor, employer's and public liability accidents. He is recognised by Legal 500 as a leading partner in his field and is also a partner in the firm's sports law team.

His recent work includes resolving a below-knee amputation claim within eight months of the accident. He worked with the insurer and the claimant's solicitor to arrange rehabilitation, case management and prosthetic provision early in the claim.



David Withers

David is a Partner in Irwin Mitchell's Serious Injury team and one of the UK's leading lawyers for people affected by catastrophic injury, specialising in complex amputation, spinal cord injury and brain injury claims. He became a Partner just seven years after qualifying and now oversees two teams of over 35 specialists.

An APIL Fellow and former Co-ordinator of APIL's Brain Injury Special Interest Group, David has long championed early rehabilitation, working closely with clinicians, therapists and case managers to secure the support, prosthetics, accommodation and care that help clients maximise their independence.



Lauren McCluskey

With over 20 years' experience in healthcare, Lauren is an occupational therapist and rehabilitation case manager passionate about helping people regain independence after catastrophic injury. In 2019, she founded LMC Case Management (now COTA Case Management) to provide independent, evidence-based rehabilitation case management.

Lauren specialises in working with individuals who have experienced traumatic limb amputations, drawing on postgraduate study in prosthetic and amputee rehabilitation to carry out detailed assessments and support meaningful outcomes.



SPEAKERS – SESSION 6

Toria Chan

In 2017, Toria co-founded STEPS Rehabilitation with her sister Jules, with a clear mission: to deliver high-quality, person-centred neurological rehabilitation grounded in expertise, empathy and measurable progress. An experienced physiotherapist with more than thirty years' experience across NHS hospitals, private hospitals, hospices and community rehabilitation, she trained at St Mary's School of Physiotherapy in London and has worked extensively in orthopaedics, neurology, women's health, oncology rehabilitation and palliative care.



As CQC Registered Manager for STEPS Rehabilitation, Toria has built a culture rooted in compassion and excellence, one that continues to shape everything the team does today.

Vicky Lishman-Peat

Vicky is a seasoned Large Loss Injury professional with over a decade of experience. She leads a team of skilled complex injury technicians while managing her own portfolio of high-value third-party injury claims exceeding £750,000.

Vicky has significant expertise in complex losses across motor and casualty, with particular specialism in cases arising under Scottish jurisdiction. She is dedicated to driving improved outcomes in severe losses and to centring the claimant in the process.



Dave Goodwin

Dave was an HSE Offshore Medic and an experienced motorcycle rider when, in 2025, he sustained a life-changing injury resulting in a below-knee amputation.

Within a few weeks of the incident, Dave began an intensive residential rehabilitation programme at STEPS, receiving both residential rehabilitation and prosthetic provision to support his recovery.



VENUE INFORMATION

Manchester Hall, 36 Bridge Street, Manchester, M3 3BT

Travel to the venue

Manchester Victoria is a 5 minute walk from the venue. Manchester Picaddilly is a 23 minute walk away or a 10 minute taxi journey.

There is a NCP car park located on Chepstow Street, just a 3-minute walk from the venue.



Accessibility

The conference is located on the 5th floor and accessible toilets are located on the first floor. All floors are accessible via lift. If you have any requirements, please let us know at:

conferences@stepsrehabilitation.co.uk

Filming and Photography

There will be filming and photography taking place at this event. If you do not wish to be included, please let one of our team know.

Queries

Contact us at:

conferences@stepsrehabilitation.co.uk

Social Media

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#STEPSAmputeeConference2026

VENUE INFORMATION

A massive thank you to all our exhibitors for attending and contributing to the STEPS Amputee Conference 2026. All proceeds of this conference will go to the STEPS Rehabilitation Foundation, which transforms the lives of people living with disabilities caused by injury or illness.

