

WINTER 2025

Amputee-Coalition.org

*in*Motion

LIVING WELL WITH LIMB LOSS AND LIMB DIFFERENCE



ONE GIFT. ONE COMMUNITY.
ONE POWERFUL YEAR AHEAD.



ONE GIFT. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE POWERFUL YEAR AHEAD A PERSONAL YEAR-END-MESSAGE FROM THE AMPUTEE COALITION

As we reach the end of the year, we're taking a moment to look back—at the people we've met, the stories we've heard, and the many ways this community continues to lift one another up. Next year will mark forty years of supporting the limb loss and limb difference community.

In honor of that milestone, there's something simple and powerful we want to share with you:

If everyone in our community gave just \$40, we could fully fund an entire year of programs, services, and support.

It sounds almost unbelievable. But it's true. Your \$40 paired with thousands of others—becomes a year of connection, comfort, and care for our community.

THE STAFF WHO CARRY THIS MISSION FORWARD EVERY DAY

Behind every resource, every call, every connection, there is a person—one of our dedicated staff members—working quietly and tirelessly to make sure people feel supported and understood.

They're the ones who answer the phone and say, "How can I help?"

They're the ones who creatively match a Peer Support volunteer with someone who really needs a friend.

They're the ones preparing youth events, reviewing legislation, updating resources, answering emails, supporting caregivers, and doing the kind of unseen work that changes lives every single day.

Many of our staff members are themselves members of this community. Others have dedicated their entire careers to this community. All of them care deeply about making sure people feel safe, respected, and valued.

Your \$40 helps keep this team going.

It gives them the tools and training they need to continue showing up for people in ways that are real, human, and full of heart.

THE LIVES YOU LIFT UP

When you give, you're not giving to an idea.

You're giving to people.

Such as the person who calls our assistance line after leaving the hospital, unsure of what comes next. They hear a friendly, steady voice on the other end—someone who says, "You're not alone. We'll get through this together." That moment matters more than most people will ever know.

You help the mom who reaches out because her child feels different and doesn't know anyone else who looks like them. When we connect her with our youth programming, suddenly that child has friends, community, and a place where they feel seen.

You support the adult who has been traveling this journey for years and still sometimes needs answers, reassurance, or just someone to talk to.

You make sure they have somewhere to turn.

Your \$40 is not just a number.

It's a lifeline in someone's life on the day they need it most. In fact, did you know that 22% of respondents in our recent survey said **"WITHOUT THE AMPUTEE COALITION, I WOULD BE..."** "dead or not here."

These responses ground and remind us why our work matters so deeply. These responses are why your support truly keeps people going.

WHY \$40 MATTERS SO MUCH THIS YEAR

So, as we begin 2026, the number 40 isn't just an anniversary. It's an invitation.

\$40 for 40 years.

Think about it this way. One small gift that fuels:

- A full year of connecting people to the resources they need.
- A full year of Peer Support and Youth Engagement.
- A full year of advocacy that moves legislation forward.
- A full year of supporting people who have limb loss or limb difference.

For the cost of one dinner out, you can help fund our entire year of services, because when everyone contributes \$40, the impact is massive.

THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US!

You are part of this community.

You help keep us strong.

And whether you've given before or this would be your first time, your gift—your \$40—genuinely makes a difference.

We aren't asking out of urgency.

We're asking out of gratitude.

We're asking because we believe in what this community can do when we come together.

Thank you for reading.

Thank you for caring.

Thank you for being part of something bigger than any one of us.

We wouldn't be here without you—and with your support, we'll be here for everyone who needs us in the years ahead.



Donate Link and QR Code:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=LZH2ZHGKCG93J

CONTENTS | THE ACNC26 EDITION

01	HEALTH & WELLNESS	14	NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER
02	MOBILITY DAYS	15	SUMMER AT CAMP ARANZAZU
03	RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES	18	FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE
04	RESEARCH INTERVIEW	19	CENTER FOR POLICY IMPACT
05	TRYING SOMETHING NEW (EVEN A TINY BIT)	20	TRAVEL SMART, TRAVEL SAFE
08	WHAT TO EXPECT AT ACNC26	22	DONATE: SUPPORT THE AMPUTEE COALITION
11	WHEEL THE WORLD		
12	PLAN YOUR AC ADVENTURE		
13	CPV TRAINING		

AMPUTEE-COALITION.ORG



ALPS®

REINFORCED
FLEX SLEEVE



The strength of reinforcement.
The look of confidence.



WWW.EASYLINER.COM | INFO@EASYLINER.COM | 727.528.8566 | 800.574.5426



HEALTH & WELLNESS

As we head into the busy holiday travel season, and look forward to gathering at the National Conference, we're sharing a few health and wellness reminders to help you stay comfortable on the move. These tips are especially helpful for travelers who use mobility devices while navigating airports, hotels, and transit.

PHYSICAL HEALTH AND MOBILITY

Schedule device maintenance ahead of time to make sure your mobility aids, such as prostheses, wheelchairs, and scooters, are serviced and ready for travel. A quick check now can help prevent unexpected issues on the road.

NUTRITION AND HYDRATION

If you have dietary restrictions, consider carrying small cards that outline your needs. Handing one to a server can make ordering easier, especially when your dietary needs are detailed or when travel situations feel rushed or stressful.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Review your travel insurance and look into the emergency procedures at your airline and hotel. Knowing their protocols for assisting people who have disabilities during an evacuation adds an extra layer of peace of mind.

TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Wearable devices can be helpful tools for tracking vital signs and supporting the management of chronic conditions while you're on the go.



ENVIRONMENTAL WELLNESS

Before heading out, identify quiet zones or low-stimulus spaces at airports, hotels, and conference venues. Having these areas in mind can make travel smoother for those sensitive to noise or sensory overload.

As you prepare for the weeks ahead, a little planning goes a long way. Taking time to think through your needs now can help you enjoy the season, and the Conference, with more comfort and confidence. Safe travels, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

A PUBLICATION OF THE DETAILS

Published four times a year by

Amputee Coalition
25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 650
Washington, DC, 20001

865-524-8772; 888-267-5669
Fax: 865-525-7917; TTY: 865-525-4512
Email: communications@amputee-coalition.org
Website: amputee-coalition.org
AC Connect: community.amputee-coalition.org

Interim President & CEO: William "Bill" Perno
Director of Communications & Partnerships:
Shree Thaker

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair: William "Bill" Passig Perno, MBA, FACHE
Immediate Past Chair: John Register
Treasurer: R. Carter Wood III, C.P.A.
Secretary: David S. Sanders
Vice Chair: Carrie Davis
Dr. Foluso Fakorede
Ron Barabas
Dr. Danielle Melton
Michael Fillauer

JOIN US FOR MOBILITY DAYS 2025 - EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF MOVEMENT

Get ready! So Every BODY Can Move is hosting **Mobility Days** in two cities in 2025—and we want **YOU** to be part of the next one. These free, high-energy, one-day events are all about movement, access, and community for individuals who have limb loss and limb difference—and the volunteers who power the day.

- **Try sport/activity prostheses and orthoses**—run, swim, stretch, and explore new ways to move.
- **Learn your rights under SEBCM laws** and how to get activity-specific devices through insurance.
- **Get expert support** from prosthetists, orthotists, physical therapists, and adaptive coaches.
- **Connect with a vibrant community** of peers, clinicians, and advocates.

In **2025**, we're aiming to reach **100+ participants and volunteers**—and we want YOU on this journey. Whether you're an athlete, a first-time mover, a caregiver, or a clinician, Mobility Days is for you.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Maryland / Mid Atlantic – December 6: [Register Here](#)

SO EVERY BODY CAN MOVE

Impact in Action:

At last year's New Mexico Mobility Day, over 35 individuals experienced the freedom of movement—many for the first time. **Noemi Gallegos** ran for the first time in 40 years. Dow Hohlmayer described it as "freedom." And for 71-year-old **Bill Arroyo**, swimming again after his amputation gave him the confidence to take on "bigger and bigger challenges."

Be part of the movement. Sign up today and take your next step with us.



DISCOVER A RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

Interested in participating in a research study? Visit the Volunteer Research Opportunities web page at [Amputee-Coalition.org/volunteer-research-opportunities](https://amputee-coalition.org/volunteer-research-opportunities) for the most up-to-date listings. Your participation helps drive research forward and includes the limb loss and limb difference experience in scientific exploration- thank you for considering being part of these important studies.

A few current opportunities include:

- Feasibility of Sensory Feedback for Lower Limb Amputees
- Measuring Mobility Outcomes after Lower Extremity Amputation with Smartphone Data
- Upper Limb Prosthesis Use and Performance Survey
- Evaluation of Powered Prosthesis for use with Transfemoral Osseointegration Recipients
- Fatigue, Diabetes, and Falls by People with Below-Knee Amputations
- Understanding How Powered Componentry Impacts Transfemoral Amputee Gait
- Translating Outcomes that Matter Most to Individuals Living with Orthotics and Prosthetics to Shared Decision-Making in the Practice Setting
- Regenerative Peripheral Nerve Interfaces to Treat Painful Digit and Hand Neuromas After Amputation: A Prospective Observational Trial
- Understanding and Analyzing User-Prosthesis Interaction for Designing a Controller for Powered Lower-Limb Prostheses
- Controlling Locomotion over Continuously Varying Activities for Agile Powered Prosthetic Legs
- Analysis of Movement Quality with Transfemoral Osseo-integrated Prostheses
- Evaluating the Impact of Prosthetic Device Features on the Experience of Prosthesis Use
- Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy for Phantom Limb Pain
- Virtual Reality Treatment of Phantom Leg Pain
- Remote tDCS and Somatosensory Training for the Treatment of Phantom Limb Pain

LEARN MORE



BRANDON TODD

SHARES WHY COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE MATTERS IN RESEARCH.

An Interview with Brandon Todd

Follow @the_brandontodd

WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND?

"I'm a content creator and speaker focused on helping individuals with limb loss and disabilities stay inspired through their journey. I recently shared in my own words why I walk as an amputee for research purposes, check out the video!" <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DP1YjOajRqg/?igsh=OTZ3bGxyMGV1OXFi> My background is business management and marketing. After becoming an amputee, I committed to sharing my story and guiding others through speaking, storytelling, and community work."

WHY DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH FOR PROSTHETIC DEVICES?

"I participate in research for prosthetic devices because it feels good to know I'm contributing to the world in a huge way. Even if the difference isn't made instantaneous, I'm proud to know [that] somewhere in the future I helped improve someone's way of living through this research. Also, being an amputee, I can benefit from the research as well, but it's bigger than me."

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO LEARN BY PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH?

"For me, it's more about experiencing everything in real time and giving constructive feedback. However, I'm always excited to learn a little behind the scenes about how things work from a coding and technical standpoint. Although I don't understand some things, I still feel good about what's happening before, during, and after research."

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU CONSIDER WHEN LOOKING INTO RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES?

"Well, I was recommended by my prosthetist for a local research opportunity, and when everything

was explained to me, I was definitely down to begin the process. I don't think I have particular questions, but when research needs to be done and I'm called, I pretty much attend if I'm available."

WHERE WILL THE RESEARCH TAKE PLACE? IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY?

"The research I've participated in takes place in person. Because of the type of research it has been, it actually has to be in-person to collect data."

IS THERE A FEE TO PARTICIPATE?

"There has not been a fee to participate."

WILL THERE BE FINANCIAL COMPENSATION OR ANY OTHER FORM OF COMPENSATION, SUCH AS A GIFT CARD, AVAILABLE?

"Yes, there has been financial compensation for the research I participate in, but it's not a large amount. It was so small that I actually told them to just give me gift cards. I do research so the amputee community can see improvements in their prostheses. They offer \$25 [an] hour, but I'm sure it varies by university or the type of research. I've only worked with one university, so I'm not sure how others work."

WILL THE INVESTIGATORS PROVIDE FOLLOW-UP UPON COMPLETION OF THE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY?

"I've been told that some of the research was already published, but I'm always listed as USER123 or something like that, to deidentify my personal identifiers. They do plan to utilize the research for different things, and I need to get more information on that follow-up process."

WILL ANY ARTICLES, PHOTOS, OR VIDEOS BE PUBLISHED BASED ON THE DATA COLLECTED FROM THE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY?

"They do take photos, videos, etc, but I'm not sure when and where exactly they will be published, as there are many factors out of my control."

TRYING SOMETHING NEW (EVEN A TINY BIT): WHY IT MIGHT BE EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED



Let's be honest: comfort zones get a bad rap. People talk about them like they're something you have to "break out of," but really, they're just the places where we feel steady, familiar, and safe. And you know what? There's nothing wrong with that. Still, every once in a while, something inside nudges us. A little spark of curiosity. A thought like, "Maybe I'm ready for something different." Not huge. Not dramatic. Just... different.

That tiny nudge is where this story begins.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A BIG DEAL TO COUNT

Trying something new doesn't mean doing anything wild or uncomfortable. Sometimes "new" looks like:

- Joining a conversation instead of sitting back.
- Checking out a session that catches your eye.
- Entering a room where you don't know anyone yet.
- Letting yourself be open to ideas, people, or experiences.

These small choices matter. They're gentle ways of learning more about yourself and what supports you now. And honestly? That's enough.

REAL PEOPLE, REAL MOMENTS

One thing I hear all the time from the community is, "I didn't expect much... but I'm glad I gave it a try." Sometimes it's meeting someone who instantly gets your sense of humor. Sometimes

it's hearing a speaker who puts your experience into words you've never had. Sometimes it's just realizing, "Oh wow, I'm not the only one who feels this way."

These aren't big, life-changing moments — but they feel meaningful in a way that sticks with you

WHAT THE CONFERENCE ACTUALLY FEELS LIKE

If you've never been, here's the vibe:

It's warm. It's welcoming. It's a little buzzing with excitement, but still full of places to recharge.

You'll find:

- People chatting in hallways like they've known each other for years.
- Quiet corners for anyone who needs a breather.
- Sessions that speak to real questions and real life.
- Opportunities to connect that don't require being outgoing.



WHEN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND YOUR WORLD, EVERYTHING FEELS EASIER

New spaces feel less intimidating when you're surrounded by people who share similar lived experiences. That's what makes the Amputee Coalition's National Conference feel special.

It's not about pressure. It's not about performing. It's not about pretending to have everything figured out. It's about being in a space where you can breathe a little deeper because you don't have to explain everything. People just get it.

Whether you're a "join in right away" kind of person or a "slowly warm up from the edges" person, you'll find the pace that fits you.

- Staff, volunteers, and peers ready to help if you need it.

And the best part? You get to choose how you experience it.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALL YOU JUST HAVE TO SHOW UP (IF YOU WANT TO)

Trying something new this year doesn't mean going miles outside your comfort zone. It might just mean shifting one inch.

- Showing up for a session.
- Saying hi to one person.
- Letting yourself be curious.
- Letting yourself enjoy it, even if you didn't expect to.
- Attending Our 80's Dance Party!

The conference is a place where small steps feel big in the best way — not because you "overcame" anything, but because you tried something for yourself. And you were met with community, warmth, and understanding.

IF YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHETHER ACNC IS FOR YOU...

Here's your sign that it might be worth trying. Not because you should. Not because anyone expects anything from you. But because you deserve spaces that make you feel supported, connected, and genuinely welcomed.

And who knows? This might be the year something new feels good.

You don't have to have a plan. You don't have to be outgoing. You don't even have to know what you want out of it.

Just show up as you are.

The rest will meet you there.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT ACNC26:

YOUR GUIDE TO CLINICS, SESSIONS, AND ROUNDTABLES



Attending the Amputee Coalition National Conference means being in a community that understands you, celebrates your journey, and grows with you. Whether you're a first-time attendee or a returning friend, ACNC26 offers countless ways to learn, connect, move, and have fun.

If you're wondering how to plan your week or what all these clinics, sessions, and roundtables actually mean, don't worry—we've got you covered. Here's your friendly guide to everything you can expect.

FIRST, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

At ACNC26, you'll see three main types of experiences on the schedule:

Clinics = practice + feedback

- Interactive workshops where you learn by doing alongside expert instructors.

Sessions = presentation + Q&A

- Educational presentations, lessons, and conversations covering advocacy, health, wellness, and more.

Roundtable = open discussion + connection

- Small-group discussions built around shared experiences and open conversation.

ROUNDTABLES: SAFE, SUPPORTIVE SPACES TO CONNECT

Roundtables are meaningful, community-centered conversations. Attend one each day—share if you want, listen if you need, and connect with people who truly get it.

Tuesday Roundtables

Veterans • Spanish Speaking • Caregivers • Wheelchair Users • Bilateral Below-Knee • Upper Limb • Above Knee • Below Knee • Partial Hand /Finger / Foot / Toe • Hemipelvectomy / Hip Disarticulation • Bilateral Above-Knee • Complex Limb Loss/Limb Difference

Wednesday Roundtables

Men • Women • Young Adults (18–30) • BIPOC • Caregivers • Spanish Speaking • LGBTQ

Thursday Roundtables (Medical Experiences)

Trauma • Diabetes / Vascular • Sepsis / Infection • Limb Difference • Caregivers • Cancer • Veterans



CLINICS: EIGHT WAYS TO LEARN, MOVE, CREATE, AND EXPLORE

ACNC26 features eight adaptive clinics this year. Each one is designed to meet you where you are, whether you're looking to build confidence, try something new, or simply have fun.

Fall Safety Clinic

- **Chris Doerger & Katie Bricarell**

Learn safe falling techniques, floor recovery skills, and body awareness to boost everyday confidence.

Improv Clinic

- **Michael Beers**

Enjoy creative, low-pressure activities that spark connection and laughter.

Circuit Training Clinic

- **Mike Lynn Hoggatt, Brittany Jones & Arlene Gillis**

A full-body adaptive workout with accessible modifications and strength-building tips.

Art Clinic

- **Samantha Bennett**

- **Tuesday:** Paint the Las Vegas Skyline
- **Wednesday:** Draw Your Own Elvis Masterpiece
- **Thursday Part 1:** Open Art Studio
- **Thursday Part 2:** Every Body Is Art – inclusive figure drawing featuring community models

Yoga Clinic

- **Michael Fine & Guided by Humanity**

Two adaptive styles:

- Bikram-inspired yoga
- Adaptive yoga with personalized support



Gait Clinic

- **Dr. Carol Miller & Dr. Bethany Nelson**
One-on-one gait analysis using video review to enhance strength, balance, and confidence.

Line Dancing Clinic

- **Cathy Beyer**
Learn classic line dances—perfect prep for the 1980s Bash!

Pickleball Clinic

- **Gina Jenkins**
Learn fundamentals and adaptive techniques for all skill levels.

SESSIONS: LEARNING, GROWING, AND FINDING YOUR VOICE

ACNC26 includes dozens of sessions designed to empower you with research, real-life insight, and practical tools.

Tuesday Sessions: Building Knowledge, Skills & Confidence

Pregnancy & Parenting with Lower Limb Loss / Limb Difference • Starting a Support Group • Mental Health After Amputation • Internalized Ableism • Trauma-Related Fears • Overuse Syndromes • Disability Emergency Preparedness • Getting a Prosthesis Approved Faster • Socket to Me • So Every BODY Can Move Leadership Roundtable (closed)

Wednesday Sessions: Voice, Advocacy & Whole-Person Wellness

Bolder Together • Consent & Devotee Interactions • Let's Talk About It • Accessible Travel • Activity-Specific Prosthetics • Mobilizing So Every BODY Can Move • Speak Up, Stay Safe • Superbugs, Sepsis, Antibiotics • Faces Behind the Emails • Adaptive Sports (two sessions) • Support Services Team Q&A

Thursday Sessions: Rights, Resources & Real-Life Guidance

Advocating During LL / LD Awareness Month • Caring for the Caregiver • Pregnancy / Parenthood with LL / LD • Understanding Insurance • Osseointegration • Policies & Laws • Resources for Bilateral & Quadruple Amputees • STOP THE BLEED®

DANCE PARTY HIGHLIGHT: I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY – SO EVERY BODY CAN MOVE 1980'S BASH!

Move 1980's Bash!

Featuring: Photo Booth, Orange Carpet, and Bingo Drawing

- **Photo Booth:** Capture memories with friends new and old.
- **Orange Carpet:** Show off your 80s look and strike a pose.
- **Bingo Drawing:** Complete activities throughout the week for a chance to win a **\$500 Grand Prize** (must be present to win).

Bring your 80's retro flair and get ready for an incredible night.

ACNC26 IS ABOUT YOU

No matter your place in the journey—new to limb loss or limb difference, decades experienced, a caregiver, clinician, or partner—there's something for you here.

Choose what fits your goals and energy.

We can't wait to see you there!

**THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**

We're grateful for the partners who help strengthen the work of the Amputee Coalition and support our national programs throughout the year. Their commitment helps us share resources, elevate community voices, and expand the reach of inMotion.

Fillauer – Bronze National Sponsor

Fillauer continues to support innovation across the prosthetic field, helping people access tools and technology that fit their goals and daily lives.

<https://fillauer.com/>

AtriCure – Patron National Sponsor

AtriCure champions education and outreach, helping ensure individuals and families have the information they need when navigating healthcare decisions.

<https://www.atricure.com/>

Point Designs – Patron National Sponsor

Point Designs brings forward-thinking solutions to upper-limb prosthetics and supports our mission to provide trusted information and meaningful community connections.

<https://www.pointdesigns.com/en/>

AOPA – Conference Sponsor

AOPA's partnership strengthens our national conference experience, creating space for learning, collaboration, and the exchange of practical knowledge across the O&P profession.

<https://aopanet.org/>



“This technology has changed my life.”
- Kevin

A RESILIENT JOURNEY TO RELIEF

In 1979, Kevin suffered a severe foot injury while serving in the Navy. The injury never healed properly and left him in extreme pain. To find relief, Kevin underwent an amputation of his right leg below the knee. During recovery, he experienced Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) type II —“throbbing, burning pain, like a thousand wasps stinging in a concentrated area.” With neuroma complications, his pain became worse than ever.

“I really needed a treatment that would work,” Kevin said. “This pain was ruining my life and the lives of those around me.”

After consulting his neurosurgeon, Kevin learned he was a candidate for Proclaim™ DRG Therapy, a neurostimulation technology that targets the dorsal root ganglion (DRG) and interrupts pain signals before they reach the spinal cord.

“I felt good about getting the [DRG] system placed, but in recovery I told my wife, It’s not working, Judie.’ Then I heard, ‘Alright, let’s turn this on,’ and the pain was gone.”

Since then, Kevin’s life has become much more active. “Judie and I hike the mountains, bike the trails, work my wood shop, and ski the slopes. I am also part of the local National Ski Patrol team.”

“It was exhausting living with that kind of pain. I think the Proclaim™ DRG neurostimulation system has given me back my life and kept me out of a wheelchair. This technology has changed my life. That’s way cool.”



READY TO LEARN MORE?

SCAN THE QR CODE TO EXPLORE **PROCLAIM™ DRG THERAPY** AND DISCOVER IF IT’S RIGHT FOR YOU.

This testimonial relays an account of an individual’s response to the treatment. This patient’s account is genuine, typical, and documented. However, it does not provide any indication, guide, warranty or guarantee as to the response other persons may have to the treatment. Responses to the treatment discussed can and do vary and are specific to the individual patient.

These materials are not intended to replace your doctor’s advice or information. For any questions or concerns you may have regarding the medical procedures, devices and/or your personal health, please discuss these with your physician.

WHAT IS PROCLAIM™ DRG THERAPY?

Proclaim™ DRG Therapy relieves pain at the source by interrupting pain signals before they reach the spinal cord. Relieving the burden of chronic pain, Proclaim™ DRG Therapy has been clinically proven to provide significant pain relief, improve physical function, and enhance quality of life.^{1*}

Eligible patients can trial the therapy to see if it provides meaningful pain relief and allows for improved ability to perform daily activities.



**PROCLAIM™ DRG THERAPY
REDUCES PAIN AN AVERAGE OF
81.4% AT 12 MONTHS.¹**

*Quality of life observed in other endpoints in the ACCURATE study

1. Deer TR, Levy RM, Kramer J, et al. Dorsal root ganglion stimulation yielded higher treatment success rate for complex regional pain syndrome and causalgia at 3 and 12 months: a randomized comparative trial. Pain. 2017;158(4):669-681. doi:10.1097/j.pain.0000000000000814 These materials are not intended to replace your doctor's advice or information. For any questions or concerns you may have regarding the medical procedures, devices and/or your personal health, please discuss these with your physician.

Risk Information: The placement of a neurostimulation system requires surgery, which exposes patients to certain risks. Complications such as infection, swelling, bruising, and possibly the loss of strength or use in an affected limb or muscle group (e.g., paralysis) are possible. Additional risks such as undesirable changes in stimulation may occur over time. Be sure to talk to your doctor about the possible risks associated with neurostimulation.

Rx Only

Indications for Use: Spinal column stimulation via epidural and intra-spinal lead access to the dorsal root ganglion as an aid in the management of moderate to severe chronic intractable* pain of the lower limbs in adult patients with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) types I and II.**

*Study subjects from the ACCURATE clinical study had failed to achieve adequate pain relief from at least two prior pharmacologic treatments from at least two different drug classes and continued their pharmacologic therapy during the clinical study.

**Please note that in 1994, a consensus group of pain medicine experts gathered by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) reviewed diagnostic criteria and agreed to rename reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD) and causalgia, as complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) types I and II, respectively. CRPS II (causalgia) is defined as a painful condition arising from damage to a nerve. Nerve damage may result from traumatic or surgical nerve injury. Changes secondary to neuropathic pain seen in CRPS I (RSD) may be present, but are not a diagnostic requirement for CRPS II (causalgia).

Contraindications: Patients who are unable to operate the system, who are poor surgical risks. Patients who have failed to receive effective pain relief during trial stimulation.

Warnings/Precautions: Diathermy therapy, implanted cardiac systems or other active implantable devices, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), electrosurgery devices, ultrasonic scanning equipment, therapeutic radiation, explosive and flammable gases, theft detectors and metal screening devices, lead movement, operation of machinery, equipment and vehicles, pediatric use, pregnancy, and case damage.

Adverse Effects: Unpleasant sensations, changes in stimulation, stimulation in unwanted places, lead or implant migration, epidural hemorrhage, hematoma, infection, spinal cord compression, or paralysis from placement of a lead in the epidural space, cerebrospinal fluid leakage, tissue damage or nerve damage, paralysis, weakness, clumsiness, numbness, sensory loss, or pain below the level of the implant, pain where needle was inserted or at the electrode site or at IPG site, seroma at implant site, headache, allergic or rejection response, battery failure and/or leakage. User's Guide must be reviewed for detailed disclosure.

™ Indicates a trademark of the Abbott group of companies.

‡ Indicates a third-party trademark, which is property of its respective owner.

© 2025 Abbott. All Rights Reserved.

MAT-2512619 v1.0 | Item approved for U.S. use only.



TRAVEL MADE EASY WITH **WHEEL THE WORLD**

Book with Confidence. Stay with Community. Experience ACNC26 Without Barriers.

We're proud to announce our expanded partnership with **Wheel the World** to ensure your hotel booking experience for the Amputee Coalition 40th Anniversary National Conference is smooth, accessible, and worry-free.

Wheel the World is a trusted travel company that makes it easy for people who have disabilities to plan trips. Their platform provides verified accessibility details for hotels, so you know exactly what to expect before you arrive.

For **ACNC26**, taking place **January 13–15, 2026**, Wheel the World is managing all hotel reservations—offering exclusive rates, verified rooms, and the convenience of staying right where the action is at the **Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino**.

WHY BOOK THROUGH WHEEL THE WORLD?

Special event pricing just for ACNC26 attendees

Stay where the conference is held—no commuting necessary

Be part of the community—connect and unwind with attendees all under one roof

Accessible rooms are limited, so we encourage booking early!

PLAN YOUR **ACNC26 VEGAS** ADVENTURE TODAY

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!



REGISTER TODAY

cvent.me/xR7Wbm



wheel the world

BOOK YOUR ROOM

Wheeltheworld.com/campaign/amputee-coalition



BECOME A SPONSOR OR EXHIBITOR

40years.amputee-coalition.org/sponsor-and-exhibitor-information

40YEARS.AMPUTEE-COALITION.ORG

JOIN US AS WE MAKE HISTORY IN LAS VEGAS!

WITH OUR LARGEST EVER IN-PERSON CPV TRAINING



This January, before the Amputee Coalition National Conference officially gets started, we're doing something BIG: training **150 new Certified Peer Visitors (CPVs)** all in one place. And we want you there!

WHY CPV TRAINING?

Being a Certified Peer Visitor means being there for others in the limb loss and limb difference community. It's about connection, listening, and sharing lived experience in a way only peers can.

Through this one-day, interactive training, you'll learn the skills and build the confidence to support others—whether that's in a hospital, at a community event, or online.

EVENT DETAILS

Certified Peer Visitor (CPV) Training
Pre-Conference Event | Amputee Coalition National Conference
Las Vegas, NV
Monday, January 12, 2026
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM MST
Breakfast and lunch are included!

WHO CAN JOIN?

People with lived experience of limb loss or limb difference (12+ months post-surgery)
Family members or caregivers supporting someone in the community

WHAT YOU'LL GAIN

- Practical skills for peer-to-peer support.
- Confidence to connect with others in real-life settings.
- Knowledge of Amputee Coalition resources.
- A place in history as one of the largest CPV training groups ever!
- A certificate of successful training completion.

READY TO MAKE HISTORY?

Be part of this record-breaking training in Las Vegas.
150 new CPVs. One unforgettable day. Let's make it happen—together.

Reserve Your Spot Today By:

Complete the CPV Training Application:



NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER WHO MADE AN IMPACT ON YOU!

BEFORE WE GET STARTED... LET'S CELEBRATE THE HEART OF THE AMPUTEE COALITION!



At the Amputee Coalition, our volunteers are the heart of everything we do. They're the ones making calls, showing up for Certified Peer Visitor (CPV) meetings, running support groups, sharing their knowledge, and being alongside others during some of life's biggest transitions. Quite simply—our community is stronger because of them.

That's why each year we honor these incredible individuals through our **Values in Action Awards**. Inspired by the values our Board and staff live by, these awards recognize volunteers who put those values into practice every single day:

- **Compassion** – showing care and empathy.
- **Innovation** – bringing forward fresh ideas.
- **Service** – giving time and energy to help others.
- **Teamwork** – working together to get things done.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARD

Each year at the **Amputee Coalition National Conference**, we take time to celebrate those whose actions reflect these values. It's our way of saying thank you for their dedication to the limb loss and limb difference community.

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?

- Community members who have limb loss or limb difference.
- Caregivers.
- Anyone who provides meaningful support.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Think of someone whose actions truly reflect these values. Then, **complete the nomination form** to share their story and impact. Your nomination helps us spotlight the people who keep our mission moving forward. How to Nominate" as last sentence: Nominations will be accepted through Sunday, November 16th, 11:59pm ET.

RECOGNITION & CELEBRATION

Honorees will be celebrated at the National Conference, and their stories will be shared with our community nationwide.

Submit your nomination today—and help us celebrate the volunteers who are the true heart of the Amputee Coalition.





SUMMER AT CAMP ARANZAZU: CONNECTION, CONFIDENCE, AND COMMUNITY AT THE PADDY ROSSBACH YOUTH CAMP



This summer, the Amputee Coalition's Paddy Rossbach Youth Camp returned to Camp Aranzazu on the Texas Gulf Coast—and it was nothing short of magical. For young people who have limb loss or limb difference, camp became a place where adventure came easily, friendships formed fast, and everyone could simply show up as themselves. With campers ages 10–17, Leaders in Training (18–19), and counselors (20+), the week felt like a classic summer camp—only better, because it was built with accessibility, support, and joy at the heart of every moment.

A WEEK FILLED WITH JOY, LAUGHTER, AND POSSIBILITY

From the first splash in the pool to the last round of kickball, the week was packed with the kind of fun that makes memories last all year. Campers set sail on the bay, laughed around the campfire, showed off their silly talents onstage, and found endless reasons to smile. Every activity was intentionally designed by Camp Aranzazu's professional staff and the Amputee Coalition team so every camper could dive in confidently.



Support was woven into the week in meaningful ways, thanks to an on-site nurse, prosthetist, yoga instructor, and programs created just for this community. Camp favorites like the swim clinic and the "So Every BODY Can Move" sunrise yoga gave campers tools to explore movement, confidence, and self-care in empowering ways. Counselors also completed Certified Peer Visitor training, strengthening their ability to support others with empathy and understanding.

A PLACE TO BELONG AND A PLACE TO GROW

By the end of the week, the impact was felt everywhere. Campers shared how the experience shifted their confidence and helped them feel connected in ways that are often hard to find at home:

"I felt loved and understood."

"I will be more confident in trying new things."

"Knowing I have friends who understand me when friends at home can't really."

"I feel more connected to the amputee community."

This year's camp wasn't just about the activities it was about discovering courage, building friendships, and feeling seen. Campers headed home with full hearts, new skills, and a community they know will be waiting for them next summer.

And speaking of next summer...

If you're already imagining the sunshine, the laughter, the campfires, and the friendships good news. **We can't wait to welcome you to the 2026 Paddy Rossbach Youth Camp.** Stay tuned, start getting excited, and come be part of a week that celebrates who you are and who you're becoming.



A MESSAGE FROM NICOLE, THE AMPUTEE COALITION EVENT SUPPORT MANAGER

If you asked me how I felt about my time at Camp Aranzazu, I'd tell you that camp is the best. It's safety. It's nature. It's joy. It's belonging. It's accessibility, all wrapped into one beautiful experience that everyone deserves to be part of.

But if you asked what I took away from the summer, I'd have much more to say.

This year, I had the honor of helping organize the Amputee Coalition's Paddy Rossbach Youth Camp. It brought together kids and young adults from across the country to build community, try new things, and enjoy a space truly designed for them.

We spent our days sweating through competitive games of kickball, splashing in the party pool, cheering as campers performed their silly skits at the talent show, and soaking in the comfort of being surrounded by others who understand life with limb loss or limb difference.

What stood out most was the impact of visibility. Campers watched their **Leaders in Training**, counselors, and staff, many who have limb loss or limb difference, jump into every activity with enthusiasm. They saw adults who are parents, professionals, athletes, mentors, and leaders. They saw their own potential reflected back at them.

For many people who have limb loss or limb difference, daily life often means navigating spaces that weren't designed with their needs in mind. But at Camp Aranzazu, we created something rare: **a space built for us**. A place where barriers faded away and connection took center stage.

I wish everyone could experience camp firsthand, to drive up the gravel path and be greeted by smiling staff, to feel the buzz of excitement as campers reconnect, to witness the joy, the openness, the learning, and the spark that comes from seeing others who look like you thriving.



JOIN THE 2026 **ADVENTURE!**

PADDY ROSSBACH YEP YOUTH CAMP

Dive into an unforgettable experience at the **Paddy Rossbach YEP Youth Camp** from **July 26 - 31, 2026** at the beautiful **Camp Aranzazu in Rockport, Texas**. This **FREE camp** offers exciting activities like sailing, kayaking, bayfront fishing, archery, ropes course, swimming, SUPs, the SCREAMER, arts and crafts, nature with animals and much more! Here's your chance to make lasting memories, build connections, and be part of a supportive community.

WHAT AWAITS YOU?

- Sailing adventures and bonfire nights.
- Peer-to-peer connections and mentorships.
- Life skills, education, and career development.

Interested in attending?

Save the Date by clicking on the link below:

<https://amputee-coalition.org/empowering-the-next-generation/>

**Are you a youth between
the ages of 10 and 19?**

Scholarships Available:

We offer full scholarships covering **flight, accommodations, meals, and camp activities**. To apply, youth aged 10-17 can submit an **essay or video** showcasing why they're ready for camp. Youth **18-19** can join as Leaders in Training, gaining valuable leadership experience. Adults **20+** are welcome to apply as Camp Counselors and help make the experience incredible for campers.



IMPORTANT AC FUNDING UPDATE:

The federal government shutdown is over, for now, so what does this mean for the Amputee Coalition and the limb loss and limb difference community?

After the longest shutdown on record of 43 days, the federal government reopened on November 13, 2025 with a Continuing Resolution (CR) through January 30, 2026, on November 13, 2025 and here is what we know for now:

- The spending package that Congress voted to reopen the federal government with includes a few main provisions, including the reversal of shutdown reduction in forces (RIFs) since October 1st, and the prevention of RIF through January 30, 2026.
- The Senate will vote on the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace coverage in mid-December, addressing the affordability of health insurance premiums.
- Congress has committed to process the remaining funding bills for the full FY26 fiscal year, not planning for a year-long CR.

As previously shared, this is the best-case scenario for the National Limb Loss Resource Center (NLLRC), since, as of September 10th, both the House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Appropriations



Committee approved their respective spending bills with level-funding included for the NLLRC.

Your voice matters, and this is still the perfect time to take action: Take the National Limb Loss Resource Center survey today and stay tuned to the AC Funding Updates web page for more details, as we will continue to monitor the situation as it progresses.

<https://support.amputee-coalition.org/acton/media/46456/nllrc-story>

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

You are essential to protecting and strengthening services for the limb loss and limb difference community:

- **Share Your Story** – Personal stories drive change; submit yours to the Coalition or tag Congress on social media.
- **Become a CPV** – Volunteer to support individuals through their journey.
- **Join Our Advocacy Network** – Sign up for alerts and be ready to act when your voice is needed.
- **Attend ACNC26** – Celebrate our 40th anniversary in Las Vegas with community, education, and advocacy.

Together, we can ensure vital services remain strong for years to come. Learn more and get started at: www.amputee-coalition.org



THE CENTER FOR POLICY IMPACT: KEEPING YOU INFORMED, CONNECTED, AND HEARD

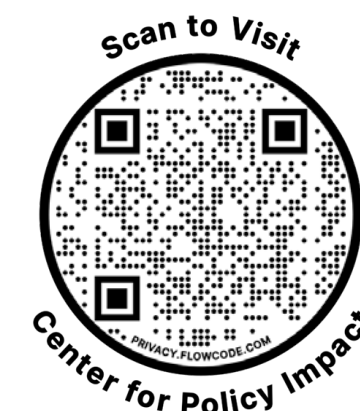
We're excited to share the launch of the new Center for Policy Impact. Policy choices influence access to healthcare, rehabilitation, transportation, and the technologies that support everyday life. The Center brings you timely updates on the policy issues affecting people who have limb loss or limb difference and explains how the Amputee Coalition is involved at both the state and federal levels.

You'll find information on a wide range of topics—from healthcare and public transit to emergency planning—all organized in chronological order to help you follow what's happening and why it matters. These updates offer a clearer look at how policy decisions can shape your options and your future.

Your experiences play a key role in guiding this work. As you explore each topic, you can open individual sections to get the details, and you'll also find a short "Tell Us How This Impacts You" survey. Your feedback helps us understand what's happening in your community, connect you with future policy initiatives, and link you with others in the limb loss and limb difference community who share similar experiences.

Take a look around, learn more about the issues that matter to you, and let us know what you're seeing in your daily life. Your voice helps move this work forward.

<https://amputee-coalition.org/center-for-policy-impact/>



TRAVEL SMART, TRAVEL SAFE: YOUR HOLIDAY GUIDE TO STRESS-FREE ADVENTURES

The holiday season brings sparkling lights, family traditions, and—let’s be honest—a whole lot of travel. Whether you’re hitting the road, catching a flight, or navigating snowy sidewalks to seasonal festivities, preparation makes all the difference. For people who have limb loss or limb difference, thoughtful planning can transform travel from overwhelming to stress-free (well, almost).

This guide brings together practical tips, comfort strategies, and safety reminders to help you enjoy every minute of your holiday journey.

PLAN AHEAD FOR PEACE OF MIND

Know Before You Go

Research your route and destination ahead of time. Look for:

- Accessibility features at airports, train stations, and hotels.
- TSA Cares resources and security screening options.
- Weather alerts, especially if you’re traveling with equipment that can be sensitive to cold.

If flying, call the airline 48–72 hours before departure to confirm mobility assistance, seating needs, and storage requirements for prosthetic devices or durable medical equipment.

Pack Intentionally

Think of your luggage as your toolkit:

- Extra prosthetic supplies (liners, sleeves, socks, chargers, maintenance tools).
- Backup mobility items like crutches or extra cane tips.
- A small repair kit—just in case.

- A dedicated pouch for medication and documentation.

Keep essential items in your carry-on or personal bag so they stay with you at all times.

COMFORT & SAFETY ON THE MOVE

Protect Your Skin

Long travel days can create pressure, rubbing, and swelling. Make time for skin checks—especially during layovers or rest stops. Moisturize before and after your travel day to help keep skin healthy and hydrated.

Dress for Flexibility

Layers are your best friend. They help you adapt to cold terminals, warm cabins, or fluctuating weather. Choose clothing that’s easy to adjust if you need to temporarily remove your prostheses.

Stay Balanced on Winter Surfaces

Snow and ice can make mobility trickier. A few cold-weather tips:

- Wear weather-appropriate shoes with good traction.

- Take shorter, slower steps on icy sidewalks.
- Consider traction aids for mobility devices.
- Ask for curbside or door-to-door assistance when available.

These minor adjustments can make winter travel much safer.

NAVIGATING AIRPORTS & STATIONS WITH CONFIDENCE

Security Screening

The TSA Cares line (1-855-787-2227) can help coordinate support before and during security screening. Travelers who use prosthetic devices or mobility aids can always request:

- A private screening.
- A seated screening.
- Assistance moving through the line or placing items on the belt.

Don’t hesitate to self-advocate—your comfort and safety matter.

Boarding & Deplaning

If you need extra time or assistance:

- Request pre-boarding.
- Let gate agents know if you prefer to board early or last.
- Ask for help retrieving items from overhead bins.

This can make last-minute issues less stressful while traveling.

ROAD TRIPS: SAFE, SMOOTH, AND COMFORTABLE

If you’re traveling by car this season:

- Take breaks every two hours to stretch, check your skin, and adjust your fit.

- Keep prosthetic supplies within reach—not buried in the trunk.
- Ensure your mobility equipment is secured so it won’t shift while driving.

Winter roads can be unpredictable. Build in extra time so you don’t feel rushed.

TAKING CARE OF YOU

Holiday schedules can be packed, and big gatherings can be tiring. Listen to your body and give yourself grace:

- Schedule rest moments.
- Stay hydrated and nourished.
- Communicate your needs clearly with family and friends.

Your comfort is just as important as the destination.

A SEASON OF JOY—WITH CONFIDENCE

Travel is about connection—reuniting with loved ones, revisiting traditions, or experiencing someplace new. With proper preparation and safety strategies, you can head into the holiday season feeling ready, supported, and confident.

And if you’re dreaming about taking your next adventure even further, there are more accessible travel tools available than ever before. Wheel the World (<https://wheeltheworld.com/>), one of the Amputee Coalition’s trusted partners, is helping travelers discover destinations with detailed accessibility information—everything from hotel room measurements to adaptive activity options.

Whether you’re staying close to home or exploring somewhere magical this holiday season, safe travels—and may every journey lead to new memories, new confidence, and new opportunities to see the world your way.

40 YEARS STRONG AND STILL IN MOTION

The Power of Community. **THE STRENGTH OF 40.** The Start of Something Big.

For 40 years, the Amputee Coalition has been fueled by one thing: all of us working together. The people who share their stories, the families who show up for one another, and the supporters who keep this mission moving forward have built a community unlike any other.

To celebrate our 40th anniversary, we're launching something simple, fun, and meaningful:

JOIN THE 40 CHALLENGE

The idea is easy: If everyone gave just \$40, we could fund an entire year of programs, services, and support for our community.

Your \$40 keeps the heart of our work going strong, including:

- National Limb Loss Resource Center®.
- Peer Support & Certified Peer Visitors.
- Youth Programming and Youth Camp.
- AC Connect & community outreach.
- Advocacy for So Every BODY Can Move.
- Education, webinars, guides, and everyday support.

WHY JOIN THE 40 CHALLENGE?

Because your gift:

- Strengthens essential programs used by the 5.6 million people who have Limb Loss or Limb Difference.
- Helps families and individuals feel connected and supported.
- Expands community resources for the year ahead.
- Builds a foundation for the next 40 years.

You're not just giving. You're helping carry this community forward.



WANT TO JOIN BUT CAN'T GIVE \$40? NO PROBLEM!

This challenge is about coming together, and there are many fun ways to be part of it:

- **Spread the Energy**
Share the 40 Challenge with friends, coworkers, and online communities.
- **Volunteer Your Time**
Become a Certified Peer Visitor or help others on AC Connect.
- **Share Your Experience**
Your story may give someone clarity, comfort, or connection.
- **Invite Others to Join**
One invitation can lead to many more people getting involved.

LET'S MOVE THE MISSION FORWARD — TOGETHER

The 40 Challenge is a celebration of four decades of community, connection, and support. When each of us does something small, it creates something big.

JOIN THE 40 CHALLENGE TODAY:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=LZH2ZHKGCG93J



\$40 FOR 40 YEARS — WHEN ALL OF US PITCH IN A LITTLE, WE KEEP EVERYTHING IN MOTION.

25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 650
Washington, DC, 20001

NATIONAL LIMB LOSS RESOURCE CENTER®

Where can you go when you have questions about limb loss or limb difference? Here at the National Limb Loss Resource Center®, we provide comprehensive information and resources free of charge. Information is developed and reviewed by the Resource Development team and the Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee (SciMAC) who are experts in the field of limb loss and limb difference. This ensures accuracy of the information being provided.



Connect with a resource center specialist to request materials or discuss your needs with a Healthcare Navigator. Our knowledgeable team is the place to turn to when you have questions about your journey in limb loss and limb difference. You can reach them by calling toll-free 888/267-5669 or by completing our secure online intake form at [Amputee-coalition.org/service/find-support-services](https://amputee-coalition.org/service/find-support-services)

Call **Toll-Free 888/267-5669, Ext. 1** to speak with an information specialist
8 AM - 5 PM Eastern, Monday-Friday.

