**ISPO 2023**

**19th World Congress of the**

**International Society for**

**Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO)**

**24–27 April 2023**

Brussels / Leipzig, 23 May 2023

**Successful Premiere of the ISPO World Congress in Latin America**

**The 19th World Congress of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) celebrated a successful premiere in Latin America from 24 to 27 April in the Mexican city of Guadalajara. The prestigious World Congress welcomed 1,500 participants from 73 countries who came to gain insights into the latest scientific findings as well as the most current developments in treatment and care. At the exhibition, 110 companies from 28 countries showcased their products and solutions for modern treatments for people with disabilities.**

The 19th ISPO World Congress was attended by 1,500 participants from 73 countries, from low to high income countries. The top countries in attendance included Mexico, the USA, Germany, United Kingdom and Canada. Overall, 40 per cent of the participants came from within Latin America.

Some 300 speakers from all over the world presented an extensive four-day scientific programme revolving around "The Art and the Science" with a total of five keynote lectures, 31 symposia, 18 basic and 8 advanced instructional courses, 41 free paper sessions, 64 scientific posters, seven lunchtime sessions and 13 exhibitor workshops.

“After four years, it was great to reconnect face-to-face with the ISPO community at the ISPO 19th World Congress. Alongside the excellent scientific programme, participants were able to see, in the exhibition, innovations from the major companies and from smaller companies as well as start-ups. During the World Congress, ISPO launched two special interest groups - one for bone-anchored limbs and one for upper limb prosthetics. The World Congress was also successful as one of the strategic objectives was to reinforce the link within the professionals coming from the region. We look forward to seeing you all at the 2025 World Congress which will be held in Stockholm, Sweden."

**Awards for excellence**

At the Spanish-language keynotes during the Opening Ceremony, the two speakers, Rosielena (Rosie) Jované and Ana Paulina Chavira, greatly impressed listeners with their warmth and sincerity.

Rosie is one of the leading representatives of the prosthetics and orthotics sector in Latin America. She held the Knud Jansen Lecture, which was initiated by the ISPO in honour of its founding President.

In the subsequent IC2A Inspirational Lecture, Mexican journalist Ana Paulina Chavira shared her personal life story. She was emotionally devastated by a shattering cancer diagnosis that required her leg to be amputated. It was only when she met Marlo Ortiz and was fitted with a MAS-Socket that she was given hope for a normal life again. She was awarded the IC2A medal for her inspirational life story.

The **Sepp Heim Award** was initiated by ISPO in 2019 in honour of Sepp Heim's significant lifetime contributions to ISPO and acknowledges institutions or individuals who have made a significant contribution to the development and/or provision of appropriate mobility device services in less resourced settings. This year, the award winner was Sandra Sexton from the United Kingdom. She donated her prize to African Vision Malawi.

The **Brian and Joyce Blatchford Team Prize for Innovation** was set up by the Blatchford family and honours a team that has an outstanding record of innovative achievement in the field of prosthetics and/or orthotics. Joan Sanders and her team from the University of Washington in Seattle were awarded this year's prize for their dedicated work on innovative technologies for socket interfaces.

Best Paper and Poster Prizes were presented in the categories:

* **Advancing Clinical Treatment:** Effect of Orthoses on Balance in Children with Cerebral Palsy: Solid AFO versus Ankle-Foot Orthoses Footwear Combination

by Kristie Bjornson, Stefania Fatone, Michael Orendurff, Chuan Zhou and Garth Shippen

* **Advancing Technology:** Defining Paediatric Prosthetic Knee Technical Specifications: An Inverse Dynamics Approach using a Novel OpenSim Model of a Child with Limb-Loss

by Caitlin E Edgar, Richard K Jones and Anthony MJ Bull

* **Advancing Psychosocial / Socio-Economic Science:** Prosthesis Users’ Perceptions of Daily Life – A Phenomenographic Study

by Nerrolyn Ramstrand, Anders Stener and Lina Palmér

* **Advancing Education:** A Novel Approach for Guiding Orthotic and Prosthetic Education Program Transition to Client-Centric Training

by Christopher Hovorka

* **Best Poster:** Days to Prosthetic Fitting After Major Lower Limb Amputations – National Data From Sweden

by Stefan Sanfridsson

**Recordings of the presentations are available online**

Recordings of all keynote lectures, the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Launch of the WHO Wheelchair Provision Guidelines as well as a selection of free papers and posters are now available on the virtual platform at [ispolearn.org](https://ispolearn.org). Content can be accessed by congress participants and ISPO members.

**Location announcement for 2025**

The 20th edition of the World Congress will take place in the Swedish city of Stockholm from 16 to 19 June 2025. The next event will be held in close cooperation between ISPO International and ISPO member associations from Sweden, Norway, the UK and the Netherlands under the theme "Science in Practice, Practice in Science: Collaboration and innovation towards sustainable rehabilitation“.

**New ISPO President**

At the World Congress, ISPO President Claude Tardif announced that David Constantine will be his successor, effective immediately until 2025.

**About the ISPO World Congress**

Every two years, the global prosthetics and orthotics sector meets for the World Congress of the [International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO)](https://www.ispo-congress.com/en/about/organisers/). The ISPO World Congress is a unique event where professionals come together to learn about the latest scientific and clinical advances, products, innovative technologies, designs and materials.

**About ISPO International**

ISPO is a global, multidisciplinary organisation aiming to improve the quality of life for persons who may benefit from the rehabilitation practice of prosthetic, orthotic, mobility and assistive technology by:

* Promoting multidisciplinary practice
* Facilitating professional education to improve quality care
* Promoting research and evidence-based practice
* Facilitating innovative and appropriate technology
* Fostering international collaboration and consensus
* Facilitating knowledge exchange

ISPO membership includes all professionals involved in physical rehabilitation, i.e. prosthetists, orthotists, prosthetic and orthotic technicians, physical and occupational therapists, orthopaedic surgeons, rehabilitation doctors, biomechanical and rehabilitation engineers, community-based rehabilitation workers as well as assistive technology service providers and users. Currently, ISPO is represented by more than 3,300 individual members in over 100 countries all over the world. ISPO International is committed to a world in which all people have equal opportunities to fully participate in society.

**About the Leipziger Messe**

The Leipziger Messe is one of the ten leading German trade fair companies and one of the top 50 worldwide. It organises events in Leipzig and at various locations all over Germany and abroad. With its five subsidiaries and the Congress Center Leipzig (CCL), Leipziger Messe is a comprehensive service provider covering the entire chain of the events business. It is due to this level of professionalism, that customers and visitors in 2022 voted the Leipziger Messe the service champion of the trade fair industry in Germany's largest service ranking for the ninth time in a row. The Leipzig fairgrounds comprise an exhibition area of 111,900 m² and an open-air exhibition area of 70,000 m². Every year, over 270 events take place – from trade fairs, exhibitions and congresses to events. Leipzig was the first German trade fair company to be certified according to the Green Globe standards. Sustainability is a recurring theme in the Leipziger Messe's corporate activities.

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**ISPO 2023 online:**

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