



Ukraine Prosthetic Assistance Project

The ProsthetiKa Ukraine Prosthetic Assistance Project started in November 2015. Based on conversations with the amputee veterans and prosthetists in Ukraine, it became clear that there was a need for help in the area of prosthetics and related rehabilitation. Specifically they needed assistance in fitting upper extremity and highly involved lower extremity amputees.

Ukrainian Canadian Congress Toronto and Canada Ukraine Foundation agreed to lead the project, and Jon Batzdorff of ProsthetiKa agreed to organize the technical aspects and assemble a team of expert prosthetists and therapists. The technical team consisted of:

Jonathan Batzdorff, CPO (President of ProsthetiKa, Lower Extremity specialist)
Chad Nilson, CP (Upper Extremity)
Karina Vogen, CPO (Lower Extremity)
Christopher Fantini, CP (Upper Extremity)
Lynsay Whelan (OT)
Donald McAllister (PT)

Canada Ukraine Foundation, World Rehabilitation Fund and Northland Power, as well as Touch Bionic provided major financial and in-kind donation support to the project.

In addition to numerous project partners in Ukraine, the project was endorsed by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

A select group of candidates were chosen in order to facilitate teaching and to jointly fit the challenging cases. Six candidates (amputees) were selected for fitting. Since hands-on training of local Ukraine prosthetists was a priority, it was decided that no more than 10 specialists from across Ukraine would work alongside American/Canadian colleagues to learn new technologies and techniques for the project to be most effective.

Off-site PT and OT lectures on gait training and upper limb amputee training for allied health professionals from throughout Ukraine was organized.

In addition, time was set aside to evaluate additional amputees who were not among the six selected to be fit during the project. They were seen either at the project site or in the hospital.

Ukrainian specialists came from the cities of: yiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Khmelnytskyi, Dnipropetrovsk

Five selected candidates were:



Kateryna (hemipelvectomy)

Vasyl S (AK, BE)

Vasyl P (AE)

Vlad K (partial hand)

Roman (BE)

Vadym (bilateral AE, BE)

Project Objectives

- Assess and fit all upper extremity amputees with myoelectric prostheses
- Assess and fit all below elbow amputees with body powered back-up prostheses (ITAL)
- Assess and fit short above the knee amputee with functional leg prosthesis
- Assess and fit the hemipelvectomy amputee with functional leg prosthesis
- Train all leg amputees in to properly walk, and to sit, stand, negotiate ramps and stairs.
- Train all upper extremity amputees to use prosthesis and to accomplish basic activities of daily living
- Work with local specialists, passing knowledge of assessment, fabrication, fitting, and training
- Deliver OT and PT lectures to specialists from other areas of Ukraine
- Assess additional patients in hospital
- Assess additional patients who could not be in group to be fitted.
- Meet with disability support network, Pidmoga
- Arrange follow up for adjustments, repairs, and replacements.

Summary:

The Ukraine Prosthetic Assistance project was successful. All objectives were accomplished and future projects are anticipated both to follow up and increase the scope both geographically and technically. The international US, Canadian, and Ukrainian colleagues all worked well together using translators and ended the week as committed friends and colleagues with all intentions of staying in communication and working together in the future.



Maria, Chad and Jon (center) discuss a prosthetic fitting



Jon modifies cast for Vasyl to prepare for making his prosthesis



Vasyl practices walking in his new leg prosthesis

Photos by Valkyrie Tereshkova/ProsthetiKa