

Letter of the handsmart group

Due to an exciting and constantly changing environment in upper limb prosthetics, clinical teams are routinely challenged. Prosthetic devices and control systems, as well as the limb absence individual's requirements and expectations, have changed and developed over the past several years. To meet or exceed these expectations, and to obtain the best outcomes in a coordinated clinical care continuum, clinicians need to have basic and advanced skills and knowledge in upper limb prosthetics. Without standardized education, it is difficult to access information or relevant findings in upper limb loss/difference rehabilitation.

The recently created *handsmart group* – an independent group of international clinicians working on a voluntary basis – is proud to unveil our foundation as well as our strategic goals.

These fundamental work plans map out our strategy to start this initiation:

- Enhance public awareness for the upper limb prosthetics community
- Establish a network to improve the communication among peers worldwide
- Support clinical practice with evidence based rehabilitation resources to improve their approaches in the international context
- Acquire sources of consistent funding

Our vision was reinforced by the mission which is to support and empower clinicians and patients worldwide by creating and updating an open access, easily understandable resource based on evidence, for those engaged in upper limb loss or difference rehabilitation.

The handsmart group has formed 4 working groups to address our objectives:

- Network and Communication
- Rehabilitation Resources for Children
- Rehabilitation Resources for Adults
- Financing and Formation

We thank Ottobock for initiating this project and supporting the first meeting of independent international experts. This initiative and positive response from other clinicians supported our idea to establish the *handsmart group*. We are an independent group of 16 core members and follow international needs and interests of all people. With collaboration and the support of other experts and external parties involved in upper limb loss/difference rehabilitation we hope to improve the quality of upper limb rehabilitation worldwide.

I hope our goals and plans will encourage people's commitment in our project and engagement in our mission and vision. We welcome constructive comments and input and invite stakeholders to follow our journey.

Sincerely,

The handsmart group