

TechLINK

Number 81
February 2001

****Stop Press:** Due to unexpected demand, limited extra places have been made available in both the Upper and Lower Limb Amputee/prosthetics courses. If you are intending to attend either course but have not yet registered please email or telephone our administrator **today** (contacts listed below) to secure your place.

NSW-ALS website

The NSW Artificial Limb Service has launched its website, which can be found at <http://www.alsa.org.au/nsw/>

This is an excellent site containing a lot of information for users of the service including:

- all the amputee clinics in the State, their addresses and contact details
- a list of all prosthetic service providers
- every amputee support organisation in NSW
- glossary of terms, lists of components and links to other resources

The site also has a contact form and an online feedback section so that users can suggest what they would like to see included in the future.

Article reviews:

1. ISO 9000: Straight Talk - Tangible Benefits for O&P Manufacturers,

by Phil Gardiol

(<http://www.oandp.com/busnews/articles/20010101/7.asp>)

Provides a review of the value of ISO 9000 to companies in three key areas; administrative and support activities, permanent solutions to problems and for monitoring the operation as well as the product.

An additional section offering words of caution helps new players with general guidelines for choosing good advice about the ISO 9000 standard.

2. Removing a block on nerve regrowth could lead to treatments for spinal injury

(<http://www.newscientist.com/dailynews/news.jsp?id=ns9999336>)

“The discovery of the receptor for a molecule that controls nerve growth could lead to new treatments for brain and spinal injury.

Researchers at Yale University have identified the nerve cell receptor for a protein called Nogo, which stops nerves sprouting new connections. They hope to develop new drugs to block the interaction of Nogo and its receptor, dubbed NgR. This should allow damaged nerve cells to regrow, restoring limited standing and walking and combat muscle wasting and joint problems in patients.”

Please address correspondence to: The Editor- **Tech LINK**
c/o REHAB Tech, 260-294 Kooyong Road, Caulfield Vic 3162, Australia.
Telephone: +61 3 9528 1960, Facsimile: + 61 3 9528 1077, e-mail: REHAB.Tech@eng.monash.edu.au
INTERNET - <http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech/>

MONASH
UNIVERSITY

P&O education survey

Nerrolyn Ford of the prosthetics and orthotics program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) has asked REHABTech to circulate this message. The address for the survey web site can be found below. If you need to email Nerrolyn the email address is:

Nerrolyn_Ford@bcit.ca

"Over the past couple of years BCIT has been undertaking quite a comprehensive review of prosthetics and orthotics education. Over this time staff and consultants have been holding focus groups with various stakeholders to try and determine the most appropriate direction for prosthetics and orthotics education.

In an attempt to gain input from the international community we have posted a web based survey relating to the future of the profession and the perceived educational needs.

As you have a particular interest in prosthetics and orthotics it is hoped that you might be able to spare half an hour to complete this survey for us. The address is:

<http://www.health.bcit.ca/P&O/whatsnew.htm>

We welcome any comments and/or criticism. Results will be analysed over the next couple of months and a report from the entire process will be available by May or June this year.

Many thanks "

Nerrolyn Ford PhD, BP&O (Hons) Australia

Job Watch

Prosthetist/Orthotist

(submitted 19 January 2001)

Phillip Francis and Company Pty Ltd is seeking the services of an experienced and enthusiastic Prosthetist/Orthotist to fill a vacancy from 12/2/01.

We are a contracted provider of P&O services to Barwon Health and are located at Grace McKellar Centre in North Geelong *, Victoria, Australia. We provide both P&O services to inpatients and outpatients and we are a contracted provider under the VALP (Victorian Artificial Limb Program) for definitive prostheses for the Barwon region.

Ideally applicants should possess good clinical, technical and communication skills and be organised and focussed. We function very much as part of a multidisciplinary team and encourage continuing education and quality management.

Salary and conditions will be in accordance with the relevant award however there is some scope for individual negotiation depending on qualifications and experience.

Applicants should hold qualifications making them eligible for admission to the Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association.

All inquiries should be directed to Phillip Francis by phoning (61) 3 52792251 and written applications should be addressed to PO Box 1165, Geelong, 3220, AUSTRALIA.

Alternatively they can be emailed to philf@BarwonHealth.org.au

COMING EVENTS

19 th - 23 rd February 2001	Lower Limb Prosthetics & Amputee Rehabilitation Course **
26 th February - 2 nd March 2001	<i>Clinical Management of Upper Limb Amputees Course**</i>
1 st - 6 th July 2001	10 th World Congress of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, Glasgow, Scotland ispo@meetingmakers.co.uk

Please address correspondence to: The Editor- **Tech LINK**
c/o REHAB Tech, 260-294 Kooyong Road, Caulfield Vic 3162, Australia.
Telephone: +61 3 9528 1960, Facsimile: + 61 3 9528 1077, e-mail: REHAB.Tech@eng.monash.edu.au
INTERNET - <http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech/>

MONASH
UNIVERSITY