

PedorthicNEWS

FOOT CARE THROUGH PROPER FOOTWEAR

Regulation of Personalised Medical Devices

We would like to draw your attention to further refinements that have been made to the regulation of personalised medical devices with the introduction of the Therapeutic Goods Legislation Amendment Regulations 2021.

The Amendment:

- Extends the deadline for stakeholders to register a patient-matched medical device for transition to inclusion in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods by 12 months to **25 August 2022**.
- Introduces an exemption for patient-matched medical devices that are supplied in very low volumes, allowing the supply of up to five (5) devices a year without an inclusion in the ARTG.

These refinements seek to address stakeholder concerns over their ability to meet their regulatory obligations and continue supplying personalised medical devices.



President Update

What a conference! While it was the second virtual one for PAA, it was the first we were able to host on our own website platform. If you have missed it, you are still able to purchase the videos on demand. We received a lot of positive feedback to the speakers and content.

A big Thank-You to you, my dear members. After weeks of hard work with writing standards, guidelines, and policies it was a relief for the AGM finally to come. When the vote showed full support of the membership to the direction the Board has envisioned for the profession, it was quite an emotional moment, you may have noticed 😊. Thank you!

With travelling still being a challenge, the pandemic has opened new ways in collaborating on an international level. In November the PAA and the Pedorthic Association of Canada (PAC) have launched the first combined online webinar. The plan is to offer 2 events per year with one being organised by PAC and one by PAA. With 143 live participants we count the first event a success. Dr Whitehead's presentation about Total Ankle Replacement was informative and engaging, evident on the number of questions after the presentation.

Katrin Wegener
PAA President

2021 Pedorthic Virtual Conference - Improving Foot Health Through Collaborative Practice

Returning in an online format, the second PAA Pedorthic Virtual Conference was held on 22 October with 58 attendees and a comprehensive and appealing program.

There was something for everyone with seven expert presentations from speakers in Australia, the Netherlands and the USA. Morning sessions explored polio, pedorthic service delivery and emerging technologies, and the afternoon focussed on diabetes-related foot disease. The program also included a 1-hour interactive lunchtime session with conference sponsors.



PAA President Katrin Wegener opened the conference, and long-standing PAA supporters Gadean Footwear, 89-years-young Leffler Leather Merchants, and David Sutton from Advanced Pressure Mapping provided business improvement updates and introduced new products.

The conference commenced with a presentation from Michael Jackson of Polio Australia. He explained that effective management of polio survivors involves a multimodal approach with an individualised approach to care. Recent surveys conducted by Polio Australia showed

more than 6/10 polio survivors need specialist mobility consultations and assistive technology; however, only 6% utilised pedorthic services. Michael explained that "finding, funding and fit" are the main barriers. These include having access to a Pedorthist who understands the condition, affordability, and acquiring a suitable well-fitting device.

The second session with Dr Von Homer explored the concept of deep technology, which uses human data to accelerate the innovation cycle of products. Deep technology involves collecting information using sensor-based software to characterise movement patterns in human populations. The data is then applied to improve the production, supply, fit and function of footwear.

Pedorthist, researcher, entrepreneur and PAA member Sayed Ahmed examined digital technology tools and their capacity to enhance pedorthic practice. Digital foot scanners are effective, but there are challenges for allied health clinicians using scanners to obtain data for last and footwear design. Sayed described the features of a new scanning prototype for use as an adjunct clinical tool. It aims to achieve maximum scaling accuracy in the design stage, and Sayed provided two case studies to illustrate the scanner's potential to improve accuracy, safety and efficiency.

The final morning session was presented by Dr Susan Nancarrow and Peter Bell from HealthWork Solutions. HealthWork Solutions is an online geospatial workforce modelling tool that uses population-level data to predict population service need and demand for different health professions. Susan and Peter mapped demand, need and supply for pedorthic services across Australia and further drilled down by providing examples in Sydney and Perth.

The collaborative lunchtime session kicked off with Howard Smith and Thomas O'Connor from Gadean Footwear, outlining their new online ordering system available early next year. Paul Guyett and Leon Smolski from Leffler took us through a popular new range of shoe products called "Shoe Doctor." David Sutton with Advanced Pressure Mapping presented the benefits of measuring barefoot plantar pressure using the Tekscan mobile mat. Dale Steedman from DBS Medical provided an overview of products to suit pedorthists, such as the Schein range of children and youth footwear. Lastly, DOLA Orthotics presented a video about their foot orthoses and componentry.

The conference sessions continued in the afternoon with Dr Peter Lazzarini from Diabetes Feet Australia. He introduced the new 2021 Australian Evidence-Based Guidelines for Diabetes-Related Foot Disease. The current guidelines apply the 2019 IWGDF guidelines to an Australian context. Peter explained that implementing guideline-based DFD care is cost-effective, and regions that have implemented evidence-based guidelines have more feet (fewer amputations) and better feet.

Sayed Ahmed returned to speak about evidence-based practices in offloading the neuropathic foot. He presented findings from a systematic review evaluating the evidence for footwear and insole features that reduce plantar

pressures and plantar forefoot ulceration in people with diabetic neuropathy. The review found that stable footwear with rocker soles, foot orthoses with a well-positioned met dome/bar of optimal height, and cushioning socks reduced plantar pressures. Sayed also presented three interesting offloading case studies for consideration.

The final session of the 2021 conference was presented by Dr Jaap van Netten and Chantal Hulshof from Amsterdam UMC. Jaap revisited his 2020 presentation by reviewing the concept of cumulative plantar tissue stress that arises from a combination of foot and footwear biomechanics, physical activity and low footwear adherence. Chantal presented results from a study on plantar pressure patterns in people with diabetes in various conditions that reflect real-life activities. By specifying plantar pressure during different walking speeds and activities, a better representation of the everyday load on the foot can be obtained.

Thank you to all speakers, sponsors, and hosts Katrin and the two Adams (Smith and Jorgensen) for an informative and engaging conference. Congratulations to the organisers, especially for behind-the-scenes wizardry from Katrin Wegener, Khajag Moskofian and Anja Suckert. We look forward to seeing everyone in real life next year in Perth!

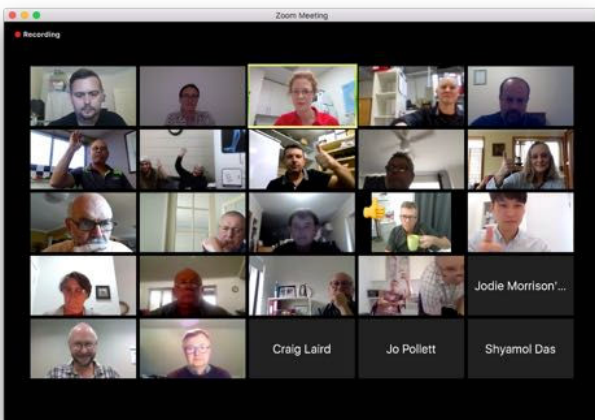
2021 PAA Conference Sponsors - THANK YOU!



The PAA Annual General Meeting 2021

Following the Pedorthic Virtual Conference on 22 October, the Pedorthic Association of Australia held its virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) with fifty members in attendance. The meeting notification, agenda and documents were sent out well in advance, giving PAA members sufficient time to familiarise themselves with all matters to be voted on.

The first three agenda items were dealt with very quickly as there were no questions or issues arising from previous AGM Minutes, the PAA Annual Report or the Financial Report. We swiftly moved on to the election of new PAA Board of Directors.



Three current directors, Katrin Wegener, Adam Jorgensen and Howard Smith, stood for re-election and were re-appointed. Andrew Strobel, Wahid Hesemann and Francisco Barrientos were nominated and elected. Together, they form the new PAA Board alongside existing members Khajag Moskofian, Adam Smith and Sharon Callaghan. We have broad representation with board members from Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, NSW and Victoria.

Paul Reimers, PAA Treasurer and board member, did not stand for re-election. We would like to thank Paul for his commitment, effort and diligence over the past two years. He has been a valuable addition to the Board, contributing many ideas, engaging in robust discussion,

problem-solving, balancing the books and beyond! We shall miss his insight, knowledge, fresh perspective, thoughtful approach and good humour. We wish him well.

We then proceeded to the most important part of the 2021 AGM, which involved voting on:

- changes to PAA voting rights, where only current certified members retain voting rights and only new members who hold a certified pedorthist custom maker qualification (CPedCM Au) will obtain voting rights;
- an amalgamation of the APRB and PAA, with the APRB becoming a PAA sub-committee; and
- approval of new and updated PAA documents.

In preparation for the AGM and to aid decision-making on these topics, a National Member Meeting was held on 31 September to discuss the future direction and progression of the pedorthic profession in Australia.

We have seen increasing regulation and scrutiny of services provided in health and disability settings to protect the public in recent years. Practitioner regulation and accreditation are becoming increasingly important for government agencies and funding bodies to better understand a profession's contribution to healthcare. We see this applying more and more to the pedorthic profession.

Currently, pedorthics is recognised as a profession working closely with allied health. Still, we are yet to attain a clear allied health title that ensures greater recognition and security of our knowledge, expertise, and skill offering to the lower limb health service.

The PAA Board identified two areas that are crucial to the progression and safeguarding of pedorthics in Australia:

- Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) Ordinary Membership.
- National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP) Full Membership.

To fulfil the member application requirements for AHPA and NASRHP, the PAA needs to change its structure and policies to meet benchmarks. The PAA Board and APRB have worked collaboratively to determine the proposed new structure, update existing policies and procedures, and create new policies and procedures required for the membership applications.

We were pleased to receive unanimous support from the PAA members in attendance on all three points; change of voting rights structure, the amalgamation of PAA and APRB, and the new and updated documents.

Implementation of the structural changes will begin soon, and the application process for AHPA Ordinary Membership is due to commence.

The final point on the AGM agenda was the nomination or re-nomination of participants for the following sub-committees:

- APRB
- Government Agency
- Education

All sub-committees have met, or will be meeting shortly, to confirm their chairs and participants and decide on initial steps and action points.

Thank you to all who attended this year's AGM. We appreciate the support of our members and look forward to a promising and productive 2022.

Olav Toornend new IVO President

PAA is a member of the International Pedorthic Association (IVO).



The IVO is the coalition of currently 13 international organisations and associations for pedorthics and seeks to promote international cooperation as well as borderless professional communication. The IVO promotes a universal technical terminology and joint effort for a close cooperation with the medical society, the associations for paramedical professions, as well as with the national and international institutions for prevention and rehabilitation in the orthopaedics field and for the harmonisation of education and examination system and for the standardization of the job profile. The IVO organises international conferences and exhibitions in this area every three years.

At the last board meeting the IVO changed presidency. After 6 years serving in office, Serge Mathis stood down as president. Serge worked as a uniting president and strengthened the IVO through promoting unity and cooperation. Under his presidency Australia hosted the IVO 2012 congress in Sydney.

His successor is Olav Toornend, one of the longest if not the longest serving IVO board members. Original from the Netherlands, Olav represents Portugal in the IVO.

"The aim of my presidency is to get IVO closer to the future trends. The world around us is changing rapidly and our profession will be no exception. So, it's my intention as president to make our profession a sustainable craft in the future. One of my first initiatives will be attracting new members, to make IVO grow in number and importance."

We wish Olav all the best and look forward to his leadership.

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My Story - Angus Brewin - 3rd Year Pedorthic Student

I was introduced to podiatry through my parents Gary and Cathy who started a podiatry practice on the Central Coast in 1980.

I grew up watching my dad make orthotics and in my teenage years I joined him in the orthotic lab milling orthotics and maintaining the equipment.

My father went on to learn boot making, studying at nights at TAFE after work and began offering footwear modifications to the clients of the Podiatry Clinic.

After an initial internal resistance to follow in my parent's footsteps, I decided that I would study Podiatry after completing a Bachelor Medical Science at Sydney University. I studied podiatry at Newcastle University and went on to work in the family practice as well as private clinics in Sydney's Inner West and then onto the Sydney Local Health District and Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern.

It was here that I was first introduced to the Pedorthic profession through the High-Risk foot department at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

After years working part time between the family practice and the SLHD I decided to move back to Central Coast with my family where I now run the Clinic.

Both Mum and Dad still work, and on Wednesdays patients would find it hard to not be seen by a Brewin.

I enjoy all aspects of Podiatry and consider myself a generalist, but my interests always lead me back towards the orthotic shed where I was beginning to understand the benefits of working with footwear for patient outcomes.



Gary and Angus Brewin in their Lab

In 2019 I finally took the plunge to enrol myself in the Pedorthic degree at Southern Cross University. Very quickly I discovered I can now combine my passion for manufacturing and engineering with my clinical skills as a podiatrist.

I'm thoroughly enjoying learning the process of making shoes and gaining a deeper understanding of how footwear can influence the use and fit of orthotics which I have already adapted to my practice.

I attended the recent Virtual Pedorthic Conference where I was excited to see the direction of the profession regarding its importance in the management of the diabetic foot and the technological focus of verification of outcome through pressure mapping systems.

I look forward to continuing to evolve the family business and being part of the Pedorthic profession for many years to come.

by Angus Brewin

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What is the PAA ?

The Pedorthic Association of Australia recognises the need for representing professional practitioners of pedorthics. These people provide services and products to patients who have mobility difficulties due to the medical problems with their lower limb.

Formed over 45 years ago the association has grown so that it now regularly communicates with the key representatives from government and medical health funds. Through its programs, the PAA encourages its members to improve their qualifications and recognition. Programs include CPed, Quality Assurance and Competency Standards.

The names and organisations of the people that earn the Certified Pedorthist and Registration are published on the APRB website. The medical profession is encouraged to recommend CPeds to their patients for the provision of expert advice and products. The other sections of the certification system recognise the specialised Retail and Footwear Modification components of our profession.

The PAA is also guiding the Quality Management of organisations that are represented by its members. The Generic Quality System has been specifically designed for implementation in a Pedorthic Practice. It recognises the special relationship between the provider and the patient and assures the provision of expert advice and quality product by the organisation.

The PAA is for members who want recognition of their competency to provide a comprehensive service in the Pedorthic industry and work in organisations that offer quality advice or products as their key objective. The association advocates for members and who want to support industry development through contact with people and organisations that have the greatest impact on the industry and their business.

Subscribe today, at our website, to keep informed of industry activities.



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