



Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group

for the Promotion of the Prevention of Limb Loss and of the Provision of Prosthetic, Orthotic, Wheelchair/Special Seating, Medical and other vital Rehabilitation Services to persons of all ages suffering Limb Loss and associated Complex Physical Disabilities in the United Kingdom and Internationally

EUROPEAN LIMB LOSS DAY LAUNCHED WITH A PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION

To launch the inaugural European Limb Loss Day on the 3rd December 2011, and maximise the benefits to people of all ages with Limb Loss, caring members of both Houses of Parliament attended a reception at the House of Commons on Tuesday 29th November 2011 with invited guests, which was generously sponsored by Otto Bock Healthcare, Össur and



Steve McCabe MP for Selly Oak and co-chair of the APLLG is pictured on far right above with associate members, colleagues' and patient attendees also at the reception

Boston Scientific, who are of course world renowned for their healthcare and well-being services.



The reception was hosted and opened by **Eric Ollerenshaw MP** (pictured left), who highlighted that the European Limb Loss Day on the 3rd December 2011, was being held within the European Day of People with Disabilities in collaboration with the European Commission, and that the rights of persons who have lost limbs and the barriers that they face for instance in

their personal mobility or dexterity in their access to employment and healthcare would be further embraced within a national launch and associated activities. Eric then who went on to introduce clinical presentations by



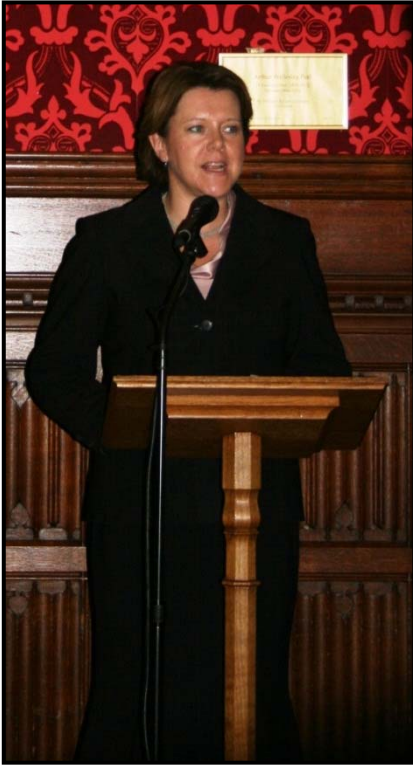
Mr Hisham Rashid (pictured right) entitled **“Major Amputation Prevention: A vascular surgeon’s perspective?”** and **Dr. Keith Blanshard** (pictured left) entitled **“PREVENTION OF LIMB LOSS: The role of Interventional vascular radiology”**. Copies of their power-point presentations are available



on www.apllg.eu/apllgnews.html (note: this link is deliberately not a hyperlink).

Marina Yannakoudakis MEP, who welcomed this day particularly with increasing numbers of people being directly or indirectly affected by limbloss, the opportunities to help, inform, support and promote are there. Before highlighting that some of the benefits of this European Limb Loss Day will be wide ranging including patient or peer support crossing the borders; increasing public awareness of the ‘hidden disability’ that is Limb Loss to patient involvement and the promotion of best practices within the healthcare services, the workplace and society inclusion across the members states and beyond!

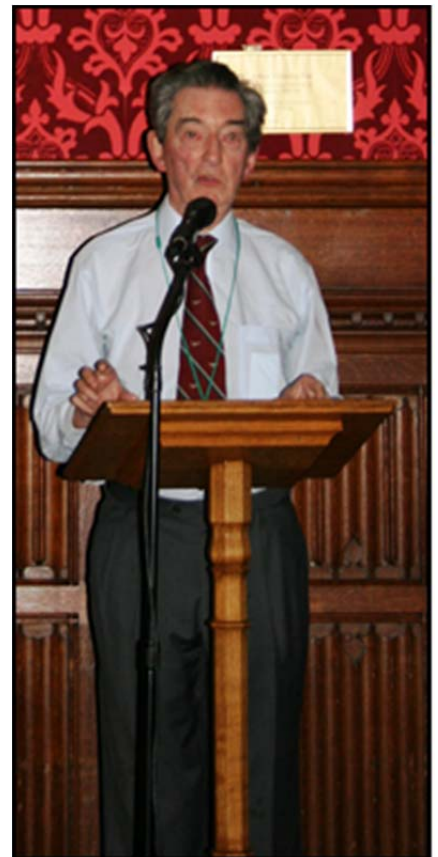




Maria Miller MP, Minister for Disabled People, also welcomed the day, and said: *"the European Limb Loss Day is not only an opportunity to focus on the rights of people who have lost limbs, but also to help inform, support and promote greater awareness and change attitudes. And with the Paralympics fast-approaching and the whole world watching, we have further opportunities to showcase the talents and achievements of disabled people."*

Welcome notes were received and shared from **Richard Howitt** MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup and **Professor Jan HB Geertzen** as the President of the International Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists.

Finally double amputee **Sam Gallop CBE** (pictured right) closed the presentations on behalf of the Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group, thanking not only the on-going support of Ministers, and Members of both the UK and European Parliaments but also for the generosity and vision of the sponsors to support this important initiative through this inaugural reception before allowing all guests to continue to collaborate in the resulting conversatizone (see photographs below).





Parliamentarians attending and supporting this reception include, and in no particular order: Maria Miller MP - Minister for Disabled People; David Amess MP - Southend West; Stuart Andrew MP – Pudsey; Tony Baldry MP – Banbury; Bob Blackman MP - Harrow East; Alun Cairns MP - Vale of Glamorgan; Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP - Cynon Valley; Oliver Colvile MP - Plymouth Sutton and Devonport; Philip Dunne MP – Ludlow; Andrew George MP - St Ives; Justine Greening MP – Putney; Mark Hunter MP – Cheadle; Jessica Lee MP – Erewash; Ian Lucas MP – Wrexham; Steve McCabe MP - Birmingham Selly Oak; Ian Mearns MP – Gateshead; Tessa Munt MP – Wells; Sheryll Murray MP - South East Cornwall; Ian Paisley MP - North Antrim; Dr John Pugh MP – Southport; Alison Seabeck MP - Plymouth Moor View; Angela Watkinson MP - Hornchurch and Upminster; Heather Wheeler MP - South Derbyshire; Baroness Tonge; Lord King of West Bromwich; Baroness Masham of Ilton; Baroness Finlay of Llandaff; Baroness Gardner of Parkes; Lord Brougham and Vaux.

Invited guests and colleagues' in attendance from the following **organisations** included: Boston Scientific; British Association of Chartered Physiotherapists' in Amputee Rehabilitation; British Healthcare Trades Association Prosthetists & Orthotics Special Interest Group; Diabetes UK; British Limbless Ex-Service Men Association; British Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists; Cambodia Trust; Centre for Workforce Intelligence; Department of Health representation from – Diabetes, Independent Living Programme, National Allied Health Professionals Advisory Board, National Allied Health Professionals Patients Forum, NHS Diabetes, Professional Leadership Team, Respiratory and Diabetes Programmes, Violence, Social Exclusion, Military Health & Third Sector; East of England Specialised Commissioning Group; Education and Commissioning NHS North West of England; European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; European League Against Rheumatism; International Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists; Inter-Regional Prosthetic Audit Group; Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust; King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; King's Health Partners; Limb Loss Legal Panel; Limbless Association; London Specialised Commissioning Group; Meningitis Trust; MIST; National Centre Managers Forum; National Wheelchair Managers Forum; Naya Qadam Trust; Össur; Otto Bock Healthcare; PB Political Consulting; PORT-ER; POWER International; REACH; Response International; Specialised Healthcare Alliance; The British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine; The European Institute of Medical and Healthcare Sciences; The Murray Foundation; The Society of Chiropractors

and Podiatrists; The Vascular Society and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.

Welcomed messages of support were received and included:



Richard Howitt MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup sent welcomed support, and said:
“I would like to welcome participants to this meeting of the Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group.

People who have lost limbs throughout the UK face grave challenges in accessing healthcare, employment and services. Often, it is a forgotten and under-represented condition. That’s why I am delighted that 3rd December 2011 will see the inaugural European Limb Loss Day. This is an unparalleled opportunity for organisations like the Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group and other networks in the UK to raise awareness of the problems of limb loss. I remain firmly convinced that such awareness will be vital in ensuring that social and health service providers understand the sometimes complex needs of those who have lost limbs.

2012 too will also be a year of opportunities. The 2012 Paralympic Games in London will showcase to the UK, Europe and the world the spirit and courage of limb loss athletes and put ability rather than disability in the

forefront of people's minds, giving groups like the APLLG the chance to change the public perception of limb loss.

As a long-standing member of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup I know the challenge that we all face in making the public aware of the issues facing those with disabilities. However, it is a challenge that we must overcome and I send my warmest best wishes to you and your colleagues as you continue to surmount it."



Professor Jan HB Geertzen as the President of the International Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists also sent a message of support, which said: ***"I would like to welcome the Inaugural European Limb Loss Day as part of the UK's parliamentary launch in collaboration with the Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group.***

I am fully convinced of the importance, significance and opportunity of such a day given the many networks supporting people living with limb loss in the UK and across Europe.

The purpose of the International Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists is "to enhance the quality of life for everyone who may benefit from prosthetic, orthotic, mobility and assistive devices" and this being further supported by the promotion of Inclusion, Participation and Empowerment of the

individual. So the International Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists has been building on this day; supporting the initiative through our worldwide community of prosthetic and orthotic professionals, as we hope that this day will add visibility to the many challenges of limb loss but also to the many achievements of persons with limb loss.

This day also comes at a time of great uncertainty and austerity measures across Europe, and the World, and so it is important that we embrace this opportunity, recognising and celebrating the skills and services of the many caring healthcare professionals and build on these experiences for the benefit of patients.

I would further encourage all groups to create and maintain contacts across Europe and beyond, which I am sure, will contribute to the proliferation of high quality, uniform, affordable and sustainable service provision within a user and holistic led environment.

It has been my honour and pleasure as President of the International Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists to support the UK parliamentary launch.”

Feedback about this news release or any other item can be provided by visiting the [Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group Website](http://www.apllg.eu) at www.apllg.eu or via email: feedback@apllg.eu

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