Certified Prosthetists invited to participate in an online focus group about vacuum pumps

Development of hybrid electrical-mechanical vacuum pump for suspension of prosthetic sockets

Northwestern University is conducting a study to develop a new hybrid electrical-mechanical vacuum pump for suspension of prosthetic sockets. As part of this research study, we are conducting an online focus group consisting of 8 prosthetists.

The focus group will take place online via Zoom. There will be one session held, which will last no more than 3 hours. Prior to participation we will ask each participant to complete an online survey to collect descriptive information.

During the focus group, study participants will engage in a guided conversation relating to design and use of prosthetic vacuum pumps. The clinical experience and expertise of prosthetists is sought to inform the development of our design. We seek people with a range of experience, from varied institutional settings, to contribute their insights and ideas.

During the focus group, a moderator will ask a series of questions to the group. The conversation will be recorded and transcribed, but individual answers will not be linked to individuals.

Please contact Stefania Fatone (312) 503-5717 or s-fatone@northwestern.edu in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation if you are interested in learning more about the study or potentially participating.

Participants must meet the following criteria:
- Adults aged 18-80 years
- Currently practicing CP/CPOs
- Minimum 5 years clinical experience with lower limb prostheses
- Access to a computer, camera, microphone and internet
- Able to speak, read and comprehend the English language

Participants will receive compensation for taking part in this focus group.

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