‘Improving people’s lives’ is what RSLSteeper is all about.

At our Winter Clinical Conference the emphasis was on proving that we actually do ‘improve people’s lives’. We are now seeing evidence of patients with reducing pain scores and improving quality of life scores, after treatment by our orthotists. In prosthetics we are seeing patients winning Olympic medals and our designers winning International awards for innovation, due to the benefits of the bebionic hand to our patients and International patients.

Within Assistive Technology, through our new and innovative Pererro device, we are allowing every disabled person in the world to interact with an Apple mobile device. Through our every day work in clinics and homes we improve the quality of life of over 250,000 patients and clients a year.

We are also seeing improvements in the lives our employees, through increased training, promotions, a pay rise and being part of a growing business. It is an old truth that ‘the more you do for others the more you invest for the future’.

This month, we celebrated our ‘Employee of the Year Award’. Everyone in RSLSteeper is committed to ‘improving people’s lives’ and this award serves not just as a big thank you to the nominees, but also a big thank you to you all!

Thank you for ‘improving people’s lives’…we don’t just say it…we do it!

Gary

Dr. Gary Sheard
CEO RSLSteeper

RSLSteeper has received another reason to celebrate after its ground-breaking bebionic3 hand was awarded one of the industry’s most coveted accolades at the da Vinci Awards in Michigan.

The bebionic3 myo-electric hand, which enables users to tackle everyday situations from eating meals and carrying bags to tying shoe laces or shaking a hand, was launched in September 2012. In a short time it has become a global sensation, featuring in over 125 separate news items with radio, press and TV coverage throughout the world, and attracting significant export orders in the USA, Europe, Asia and Australasia.

The hand had been selected as one of only 15 worldwide innovations to feature at the da Vinci Awards, which has become a major international forum for the latest developments in adaptive and assistive technology.

The finalists were chosen from entries received from all over the world. These included a wearable robotic device that enables paraplegics to walk again, a drop-in rowing system that can be operated without the use of hands or arms, and a shopping cart that enables disabled children and adults to shop with their families.

After winning the Prosthetics Category, Richard Shapcott, General Manager of SteeperUSA, said he was thrilled:

“I’d like to thank the MS Society and the da Vinci Awards for the important work that they do, and for hosting such a wonderful evening. We are thrilled that bebionic3 has won such a prestigious award. It is always nice to receive recognition, but especially so from our peers. As a company, our mission is simply to ‘improve people’s lives’.

bebionic3 is the culmination of many years of research, innovative design and patient trials. We have strived to make it the best bionic hand on the market. We like to think we have achieved this.”

Richard Shapcott, General Manager of SteeperUSA, accepts the da Vinci award
Goodbye to our very own ‘Robin Reliant’!

At the end of March, Robin Cooper retired after 48 magnificent years with RSL Steeper.

Throughout this time he has been instrumental in the company’s development, providing expertise in both patient care services and product development.

However, such ability could well have been lost to the industry had he accepted an offer from university friends to become the technical manager of their band. The name? Pink Floyd! Undaunted, he began to carefully craft a truly remarkable career and life.

His links with RSL Steeper began in 1965, when he took up an evening role machining and assembling parts for Hugh Steeper. This led to a trainee role under ‘Squire’ Hellman - with day release at Paddington and cadaver dissection at the London Hospital! Later seconded to the ‘Children’s Prosthetic Unit’, working with children affected by Thalidomide, he came to work on numerous projects in many locations.

These included the CO2 powered arm and hand orthotics for post-polio and brachial plexus, a range of ‘off the shelf’ hand orthoses, Canapee post polio breathing devices, the PILOT environmental control/typewriter, and the pressure sore prevention, Co-Ro rockable hospital bed. However, this was just the start for Robin.

As Research Prosthetist at Roehampton, he was responsible for the clinical development of the Systemteknik Myo program for children in the UK, Holland, USA and Canada, and was clinical lead on the myo-electric hand.

In 1983, he was appointed to run the Research and Development programme which, at its peak, employed 30 technicians, technologists and engineers. Here, he was tasked with designing and developing AT systems, orthoses, polymer products and a range of upper limb designs and devices.

In recent times, he has become the “Michael Palin of the Prosthetics Industry” due to his international sales exploits in some of the most unusual places around the world.

Now aged 70, Robin intends to help his wife remodel their Dorking home, and focus more time on a growing army of grandchildren, which will shortly number seven!

Paul Steeper, Managing Director of RSL Steeper’s Products Division and friend of Robin for many years said:

“Robin has become one of the most internationally recognised upper limb specialists and the great number of friendships he has developed over the years is a testament to his friendly nature and willingness to help.”

He has always maintained the highest standards of care, and can be extremely proud of his long list of achievements both in the UK and overseas.

His professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.”

We all wish Robin a very happy and healthy retirement.

bебionic3 offers ‘Vision of the Future’

Last month Microsoft invited the world to take a look at its Envisioning Centre, a facility used to portray its vision of life in five to ten years’ time – and RSL Steeper’s bebionic3 took centre stage.

The facility, which encompasses scenarios at home, at work and places in between, is inspired by the advancing trends that Microsoft thinks have the greatest potential.

Crucially, Jonathan Cluts, director of Microsoft’s strategic prototyping team believed all these scenarios had to be “… based on reality, not science fiction.”

Steve Parker, Technical Director of RSL Steeper, said: “When we launched bebionic3, we said that we’d created the next generation of multi-articulating myo-electric hands. We’re delighted that Microsoft agree.”

In March our Steeper clinic team hosted a very successful clinical seminar at Great Ormond Street Hospital, with the aim of raising awareness of plagiocephaly amongst healthcare professionals.

Over 70 people, including health visitors, physiotherapists, paediatricians, GPs and orthopaedists, signed up to attend the seminar, which featured presentations about the prevention and treatment of plagiocephaly from our Senior Clinical Manager, Mark Smith, along with Clinical Specialist Orthotist, Kate Chauhan, who organised the event.

Clinical Specialist Orthotists Alex Callaghan and Alan Miller also provided a STARScanner demonstration, and in addition to a number of our patient families, who discussed their experiences with plagiocephaly and the treatment offered by Steeper Clinic, a London-based physiotherapist, Paul Wilson, attended and delivered a talk about torticollis.

The seminar ended with a Q&A session which achieved lots of participation from delegates, and resulted in extremely positive feedback.

Kate Chauhan explains: “The seminar proved to be a fantastic way to raise awareness of plagiocephaly amongst healthcare professionals.

We hope that the event will help to support the attendees in offering the right advice at an earlier stage, reducing the need for treatment and the number of babies affected by the condition, and we feel that it was a big success.

We had some exceptional feedback, with delegates describing the seminar as ‘useful’, ‘well presented’ and ‘informative’. RLS Steeper, please call our customer services department on 0113 2070435.

Key Benefits of the Tred-Lite Range:

• High quality, light and supportive construction
• Quality leather as used in Clark’s and Holter shoes
• Moleskin lining and padded collars as standard on most styles
• 9mm insole allowance (3 x 3mm)
• Improved toe shape cosmetics
• Heel width and back curve for extra heel support
• Reduced depth over waist area to improve cosmetics of upper.

Plagiocephaly awareness seminar proves a major success

RSL Steeper launches Tred-Lite footwear range

RSL Steeper has just launched Tred-Lite, a new range of modular footwear, after months of research and preparation.

A carefully assembled in-house development team of orthotists, technicians and designers have worked hard to ensure an exceptional product that covers all the requirements of orthotists and patients.

With 16 designs already launched and an additional 12 to follow by the start of May, the Tred-Lite range will cover men’s and women’s shoes, boots and trainers which will ultimately incorporate around 40 different styles.

Richard Thomas, Orthotic Business Development Director is thrilled with the results:

“The response from patients and orthotists alike has been excellent. I was lucky to see the first batch of footwear directly fitted and the body language and words of praise said it all. It makes me very proud to see what the RSL Steeper Tred-Lite team has achieved.”

“Our commitment is to supply products that are of the highest quality, backed up with reliable delivery and great customer service.”

2013 Employee of the Year

RSL Steeper held its 2013 Employee of the Year Event at Oulton Halls in Leeds. This prestigious Award celebrates staff that have been nominated by their peers as excelling in their performance; going the extra mile for colleagues and clients; demonstrating continuous improvement and contributing to a positive team atmosphere.

This years achievement was won by Joanne McBride, Orthotic Administrator in Leeds.

The runners up were: Keith Hatchard; Karen Martin; Terry Moore; Cameron Hall; Julianne Bowden; Katherine Puchta and Magda Wilczynska. Well done to all nominees & may the excellent work continue.

RSL Steeper’s Paul Steeper, Managing Director, Joanne McBride, 2013 Employee of the Year, and the Tred-Lite range.

To find out more about the New Tred-Lite range contact RSL Steeper on 0113 2070435.

Key Benefits of the Tred-Lite Range:

• Heel width and back curve for extra
• Improved toe shape cosmetics
• Heel width and back curve for extra
• Reduced depth over waist area to improve cosmetics of upper.
pererro helps you; keep in touch, learn, teach, surf, play, organise, realise, engage...

RSLSteeper have developed, designed and brought to the market, pererro, the world’s leading switch input interface for Apple mobile products.

Connecting directly to an iPod touch, iPhone or iPad, the pererro device accepts any switch with a 3.5mm jack, allowing the user to navigate and select the on-screen options simply by scanning the screen, with audio and visual prompts informing the user what is currently highlighted. Choosing either Automatic Scanning or Step Scanning, users can continue to enjoy the scanning method they are used to.

pererro powers directly from the Apple device, meaning that there is no external power supply keeping your mobile device mobile. It also has a charge through facility where you can charge or sync your Apple device without having to disconnect pererro.

pererro does not use Bluetooth, this allows it to be used everywhere, including hospitals and aeroplanes where Bluetooth use is prohibited.

pererro, which is the only switch input interface to carry the ‘made for iPod’ badge and approval from Apple ensuring it’s continued compatibility with future Apple products, was launched at the end of January at ATIA, Orlando and has enjoyed great initial feedback from AT professionals, schools, speech pathologists, OT’s, end users and even professors.

To find out more, please contact +44 (0)113 207 0449, email assist@rslsteeper.com Visit our web site www.assistive-technology.co.uk or scan the QR code

The PCEye was a breakthrough in computer access and has allowed people with severe disabilities regain independence. Tobii have just released the PCEye Go and PCEye Pro. Bringing a new design and loads more features.

The PCEye runs on standard Windows computers, allowing you to work with any application that is normally controlled by a standard computer mouse. Surf the web, connect with friends online, play games, Skype, use environmental controls to turn on the lights or TV and even make spreadsheets and documents by using your eyes.

Incorporating award winning ‘Gaze Selection’ making it possible to control your desktop, or any other application, through an intuitive two-step process that reduces the risk of unwanted clicks. With Gaze Selection you can enjoy:

• More relaxed computer access - there is no floating mouse pointer to distract your eyes.
• Ability to hit smaller targets - A unique zoom functionality that gives a virtually pixel-precise control of where you point, click and drag.
• Integrated keyboard - allowing you to summon a keyboard at will to write shorter texts or to enter a web address.

Why two devices?
The PCEye Go measures just 184 x 28 x 23 mm and is better suited for laptop computers or screens up to 24” in size. For bigger screens, the PCEye Pro, which measures 400 x 28 x 23 mm can easily accommodate screens up to 27” and more.

Both, lightweight devices fasten securely to either the laptop screen or monitor via a smart, seamless magnetic mounting plate and are small enough to be easily transported and used with different computers and in different environments, for example at home, at work or in school.

All processing for the eye tracker is done on the PCEye itself, not on your computer, avoiding additional workload for your computer and ensuring maximum, speedy performance. This also means that you do not need the latest, most expensive desktop or laptop in order to use gaze interaction as a computer access method.

One of the major re-designs is around the portability of the product, Tobii have done away with the external power supply and now the device powers directly from the computer via the single USB cable. This means that you no longer need to be next to a power supply to enjoy access to your computer.