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Almanac
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For more information, visit www.news.wisc.edu/13739. To learn more about volunteering for the study, call (715) 855-5683.

Airports Test Device Designed to Screen Prosthetic Limbs

A new, non-invasive, portable device—CastScope—designed to screen casts, heavy bandages, support braces and prosthetic limbs, may become standard at airports across the country.

CastScope uses backscatter X-ray technology to screen for prohibited items or potential security threats. The backscatter X-ray, which generates a high-contrast image, improves the screener's view of such potential security threats, which were previously difficult to separate from braces or prosthetic devices in traditional X-ray images.

CastScope supplements walk-through and hand-held metal detectors, which can sound an alarm due to metal components in a brace or prosthesis. It can be positioned at many different angles, and requires no clothing to be moved away from the prosthesis or brace during the screening.

It was tested at airports in Tampa, San Jose, Nashville, and Washington, D.C. during May and June. QR Sciences has announced that its associated company, Spectrum San Diego Inc., has entered into contract negotiations with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for the manufacture of its screening system. If CastScope's pilot is successful, the TSA expects to extend its use for at least 36 months. The device could also be used for other venues besides airports, such as prisons and courthouses.

For more information, visit www.CastScope.com.

Amputees in Malaysia Receive Free Prosthetic Limbs

In May, more than 200 amputees received free prosthetic limbs that were provided by the "free prosthesis program" of the Che Hoon Khor Moral Uplifting Society, based in Penang, Malaysia. While the majority of recipients were Malaysians, individuals from Iraq, Myanmar and Indonesia also received donated limbs, notes an article in the Malaysian English-language newspaper The Star.

The free prosthesis program was organized in conjunction with the society's 53rd anniversary, according to the article.

OPAF Launches First Dive™ Adaptive Scuba Program

The Orthotic & Prosthetic Assistance Fund Inc. (OPAF) held its inaugural First Dive™ clinic on June 24 in Buffalo, N.Y. First Dive introduced amputees and others with physical challenges to scuba diving.

Participants said that water activities give them the closest feeling to being sound again, since weight bearing is not an issue. First Dive was led by Tony and Carole Anderson of Lackawanna, N.Y., both certified adaptive scuba instructors.

First Dive joins OPAF's lineup of other "First" adaptive sports programs, including First Volley™ and First Swing.

For more information on other First clinics, visit www.opfund.org.

Few Resources for Iraqi Amputee Soldiers

As more and more of the 120,000 Iraqi troops engage in direct combat, more are getting injured. According to a recent Washington Post article, Iraqi soldiers who become amputees have few resources.

Iraqis fight alongside Americans, but while wounded U.S. soldiers are typically flown within one day to a first-class military hospital in Germany and later receive intense and sophisticated rehabilitative care in the U.S., Iraqis only occasionally receive initial care in a military facility, and are left to recover in ill-equipped public hospitals or at home, according to the Post.