

GEM 2026

Global Educators Meeting

“ From Local Roots to Global Reach: Building Educational Bridges ”

March 23-25, 2026

Bangkok, Thailand



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GEM History and Objectives

The ISPO Global Educators Meeting (GEM) aims at gathering prosthetics and orthotics (P&O) educators and administrators, NGOs involved in education, accrediting bodies and interested industry representatives from all over the world to discuss, coordinate, initiate and share P&O education-related activities. **In particular, the GEM assumes as its main objective the improvement of communication and collaboration between P&O schools across the globe.**

The specific aims of the GEM include:

- Foster discussion about the needs and strategies for the future of P&O education.
- Encourage and facilitate collaboration between training institutions.



Since the first Global Educators Meeting (GEM) in Kobe (Japan, 2014), events have been held in Göttingen (Germany, 2018), virtually (2022), in Houston (USA, 2024), and in Bangkok (Thailand, 2026), each one strengthening global collaboration in P&O education. The journey continues with the sixth GEM taking place in Glasgow (Scotland), bringing educators together to shape the future of the profession.

By supporting the GEM, the ISPO directly facilitates professional education to improve quality care, promotes research and evidence-based practice, fosters international collaboration and consensus, and facilitates knowledge exchange amongst the individuals training the next generation of P&O providers.



**International Society for
Prosthetics and Orthotics**
Learn. Exchange. Support. Innovate.

Executive Summary

The fifth Global Educators Meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from March 23 to 25, 2026. This meeting takes place every two years and is the only international meeting devoted to bringing together orthotics and prosthetics educators. The theme of this year's meeting was "From Local Roots to Global Reach: Building Educational Bridges". Day 1 focused on global perspectives and curricular innovation. Day 2 featured technology and teaching through innovation. Day 3 highlighted collaboration and community, emphasizing shared initiatives.

There were 154 registrants for this year's meeting with 126 in attendance in Bangkok. Registrants represented 34 countries and a variety of P&O programs and organizations. The future of collaboration looks bright for teaching faculty.

For the second time, members of ISPO's Education Core Committee conducted the Educators Auditor Training on the day following the GEM. The timing of this training session continues to serve the educator community well and offers new partners for ISPO accreditation activities.

Program Highlights

This year's meeting started with a beautiful opening ceremony recognizing the support of ISPO President Sandra Ramdial and Chair of the Education Core Committee, Helen Cochrane, as well as the members of the local organizing committee and the GEM Subcommittee. Keynote speakers on each day of the event offered perspective and insight based upon their contributions to education in a variety of settings. On the third day of the conference, Dr. Nisarat Opartkiattiku provided a heartfelt reflection on the development and international success of P&O education in Thailand.

Submissions to the GEM continue to increase, and this year's call for presentations resulted in 80 free paper and symposium submissions. Ultimately, 52 free paper sessions and eight symposia were accepted into this year's program. While international events prohibited some presenters from being able to present at the meeting, we were grateful for the contributions of educators and researchers from so many P&O training programs.

There were impactful sponsor-led discussions and presentations directly connecting industry to education.



Keynote Speakers



APICHAT ASAVAMONGKOLKUL
Dean of Faculty, Mahidol University

Dr. Apichat Asavamongkolkul – Dr. Apichat Asavamongkolkul is Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University. He graduated his Doctor of Medicine from Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital in 1987. He specialized in musculoskeletal oncology after his fellowship at UCLA in 1996. He co-founded the Siriraj Musculoskeletal Tumor Board and pioneered limb salvage surgery in Thailand, advancing reconstruction with both biologic and prosthetic techniques. Recognized nationally and internationally, he has served as president of the Thai Musculoskeletal Tumor Oncology group and actively contributes to Asian oncology societies. His leadership has been honored with the Siriraj Honor Award, RCOST Excellent Academic Award, Alumni Achievement Award, and Quality Person of the Year Award.

Dr. Cherdsak Iramaneerat – Cherdsak Iramaneerat is a Thai colorectal surgeon and medical educator. Besides his surgical training, he earned a Master of Health Professions Education and PhD in Educational Psychology from University of Illinois at Chicago. He currently works as an associate professor at Mahidol University and a director of Siriraj Health science Education Excellence Center. He established a master of science in health science education program at Mahidol University. He is a director of Master of Science in Surgical research program at Mahidol University. He received several awards in education, including clinical teacher award, education research award, alumni award from Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, and Mahidol award for teaching excellence from Mahidol University. His work focuses on learning psychology, assessment of learners, non-technical skills training, and faculty development.



CHERDSAK IRAMANEERAT
M.D., M.H.P.E., PH.D. Educational Psychology

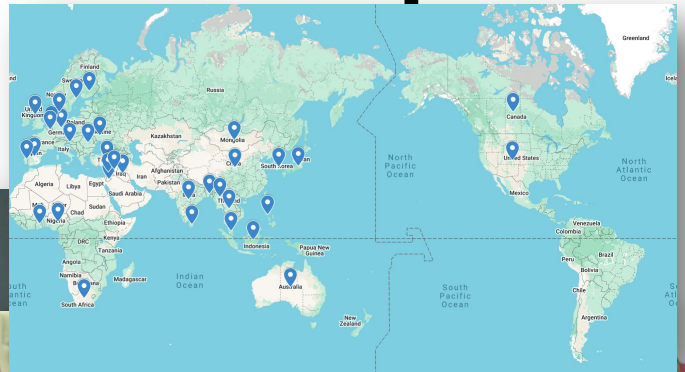


CHRISTIAN SCHLIERF
Human Study, Founder and CEO

Christian Schlierf – Mr. Schlierf is the founder and CEO of Human Study. Inspired by his work training Prosthetist/Orthotists in Iran after the 2004 earthquake and in the Balkans post-conflict, he established Human Study in 2005 to make high-quality prosthetics and orthotics education accessible worldwide. An experienced Prosthetist/Orthotist (Orthopädie Techniker Meister), Chris holds a Master's in Non-Profit Management and specializes in education design. He is a long-standing member of the ISPO Education Committee and the ISPO GEM Sub-Committee, and has contributed to the development of ISPO and WHO standards for prosthetic and orthotic education. In recognition of his outstanding work, Mr. Schlierf received the Sepp Heim Award at the 2025 ISPO World Congress in Stockholm.

Registrants and Participants

Registrations for this year's GEM included individuals from 34 countries.



Individuals engaged with sponsors and connected with colleagues in an open-air forum and in a spacious auditorium.



Universities and Institutions

Faculty members from a variety of colleges, universities, and training institutions or organizations registered and participated in this year's GEM. The following employers were listed on registration forms:

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Brother Tarsisius Prosthetics and Orthotics Training College
- Center for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed
- Chungnam National University
- Danylo Halytskyi Lviv National Medical University
- Durban University of Technology
- Erbil Polytechnic University
- Federal University of Technology – Owerri
- Fontys University of Applied Science
- Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Human Study
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- Jönköping University
- Kennesaw State University
- Kobe College of Medical Welfare
- Latrobe University
- Mahidol University
- Mobility India Rehabilitation Research and Training Centre
- Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences
- Niigata University of Health and Welfare
- Northwestern University
- Poltekkes Kemenkes Jakarta I
- Sunway University
- Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
- University of Derby
- University of Jordan
- University of Ljubljana
- University of Malaysia
- University of Strathclyde
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Wisconsin – Madison

Local Organizing Committee and GEM Subcommittee

The GEM is conducted through a collaboration of the GEM Subcommittee of Education Core Committee and a Local Organizing Committee (LOC). This partnership ensure for continuation of GEM initiatives in context with the features of the host site and institution. A tremendous amount of volunteer effort makes the GEM a success, and we thank all involved in GEM 2026, especially the LOC for their incredible hospitality, professionalism, and coordination.

Local Organizing Committee

- Associate Professor Dr. Gulapar Srisawasdi, Chair
- Assistant Professor. Dr. Sasithon Sukthomya
- Dr. Jutamat Pinitlertsakun
- Dr. Sirintip Kaewtip
- Ms. Yuparat Premprasopchock
- Assistant Professor Dr. Manunchaya Samala
- Mr. Thanatat Charatrungolan
- Ms. Sirirat Seng-iad
- Mr. Tullathorn Tullatharn
- Ms. Paporn Chokpitiboon
- Ms. Chonthicha Chaemkhuntod
- Mr. Ittipol Pongphanruam

GEM Subcommittee

- Associate Professor Dr. Ashley Mullen, Chair
- Associate Professor Dr. David Rusaw
- Dr. Mary Scott
- Mr. Daniel Blocka
- Mr. Christian Schlierf

ISPO Administrative Support

The GEM would not have been possible without the tremendous administrative support of Charlemagne Geron. We are very grateful for all of her hard work.



Sponsors

We are incredibly thankful for the financial support of our wonderful sponsors. These individuals and organizations understand the value of high-quality P&O education and training; we value their connections with educators and their commitment to training the next generation of P&O providers. Support was also provided by the Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau.

Diamond Sponsors

Proteor and OPED

Gold Sponsors

Ottobock, Regal, Fillauer, and Instalimb

Bronze Sponsors

National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE)

American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics (ABC)

Boundless Biomechanical Bracing



GEM 2026
Global Educators Meeting
MARCH 23-25



"From Local Roots to Global Reach:
Building Educational Bridges"



OUR VALUED PARTNERS:

DIAMOND:



GOLD:



BRONZE:



Accreditation Sessions and Auditor Training

Accreditation Sessions

As part of the GEM 2026 program, for the first time ISPO provided 1-day of information presentations for programmes/pathways on ISPO Education Accreditation. These sessions were attended (entirely or partially) by 25 individuals from programmes which already hold accreditation or others with an interest to move forward for accreditation.

Presentations included:

- Overview of ISPO Accreditation
- ISPO Standards
- Self-Study
- Terminal Competency Assessment
- Preparation for and Audit Visit
- Audit Report and Additional Information
- Outcome Based Education

To increase the benefits (improved recall and understanding); after the sessions, all the presentations were made available to the participants, Due to the interest shown in this training it is planned to offer such information sessions again at GEM 2028, and perhaps at the ISPO World Congress in Bangkok, March 2027.

Auditor Training

Eleven experienced educators were invited to participate in an auditor training program on March 26 following the GEM. These efforts facilitate the development of qualified volunteers to support the ISPO education programme accreditation processes.

Facilitators representing the **Auditor Recruitment and Training Subcommittee** of ISPO's Education Committee contributed to the success and planning of this training, including:

- Helen Cochrane* (USA, Canada)
- Charlemagne Geron (Philippines)
- Nicolas "Nico" Munoz (Spain)
- Mary Scott* (United Kingdom)
- Joshua Utay (USA)

* Indicates primary presenter.



Participants:

- Dan Blocka (Canada)
- Rowan English (Australia)
- Mamta Agarwal (India)
- Kamaraj Varadhan (India)
- Anil Kumar Singh (India)
- Christine McMonagle (UK)
- David Rusaw (Sweden)
- Louise Puli (Australia)
- Mindy Thorpe (USA)
- MS Wong (Hong Kong, PRC)

Education Research Fund

Following the Global Educators Meeting (GEM) in 2018, a group of dedicated individuals serving as the Ongoing Activities Subcommittee of the GEM Subcommittee sought to create a space for collaborative educational activities to occur between GEM meetings. A series of focus groups and surveys were conducted across GEM 2022 and at the 2023 ISPO World Congress. One of the findings of these efforts was the clear need for financial support for discipline-based education research in P&O.

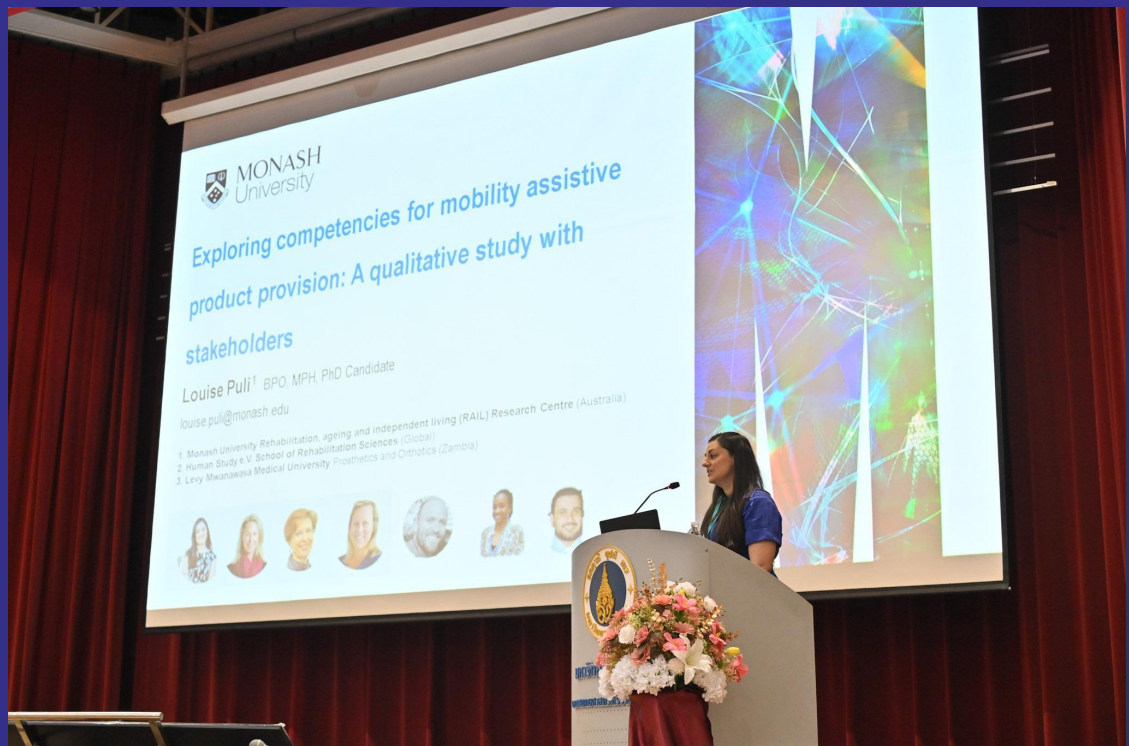
Mission of the Fund

The mission of the ISPO Education Research Fund is to support P&O program faculty in conducting collaborative education research, which will support evidence-based approaches to P&O education and training.

Ahead of GEM 2024, donations from the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education, the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics, and the School of Health Professions at Baylor College of Medicine supported the first call for proposals for the Education Research Fund. After a review of competitive applications, the award was provided to Ms. Louise Puli who lead a team of investigators on her study titled, "Exploring Mobility Assistive Product Competencies." Ms. Puli presented her findings at GEM 2026.

With support from GEM 2024 and donations from the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics and Dan Blocka (with support of his company Boundless Biomedical Bracing), there will be a second call for proposals for the Education Research Fund in 2026. We look forward to the submissions!

Ms. Louise Puli presents her work supported by the 2024 GEM Education Research Fund.



Post-GEM Survey

Following each GEM, participants are offered an opportunity to provide their feedback on the event. The following information summarizes the responses in the GEM, followed by direct quotes from participants.

Satisfaction

(N=21; 1 to 5 scale of satisfaction, with 5 representing highest satisfaction)	Avg. Score
GEM 2026 overall	4.76
GEM 2026 programme/content	4.81
GEM 2026 speakers	4.81
GEM 2026 interactions/connections	5
GEM 2026 venue	4.71
GEM 2026 price	4.29
GEM 2026 event organization	4.86
GEM 2026 partner and sponsor exhibition	4.67

Value

(N=21; 1 to 5 scale of agreement, with 5 representing strongest agreement) To what extent do you agree with the following:	Avg. Score
"I gained new insights"	4.81
"I plan to implement some of the things I learned at the GEM"	4.62
"An in person meeting is important for the GEM"	4.9
"I was able to network and connect with P&O education colleagues"	4.86
"I plan to join the next GEM meeting"	4.19
"Having access to materials online is very valuable"	4.81

"Getting to know the different perspectives of P&O educators on current technology and challenges in the education field."

"... the opportunity to engage with a diverse community of professionals and innovators in prosthetics and orthotics. The exchange of ideas, exposure to emerging technologies, and discussions on improving access to care in low resource settings were particularly insightful and inspiring."

"Very well done as always. The LOC and Subcommittee did a great job with a well-balanced program and well-run meeting..."

"Highly valuable training for the accreditation process, along with excellent networking opportunities."

"From the scheduling, to the content, to the location, to the networking and opportunities to tour it was fantastic!"

Programme Details

The full programme and abstract book can be found at the following link: <https://gem2026.my.canva.site/gem-2026/>

Symposia

- S#01** Master's and PhD structure, potential impact & vision from MSc educator-students in P&O - by *Jutamane Poonsiri*
S#02 Developing a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum for orthotic management of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis: A 3D approach - by *Sun Hae (Sunny) Jang*
S#03 Bridging education and practice: Strategies to support students and clinical instructors in prosthetics and orthotics training - by *Prawina Sakulkosol*
S#04 Hands-on calibration: Building a shared blueprint for technical skills in O&P education - by *Jeremy Sherman*
S#05 Blended distance learning in prosthetics and orthotics: Lessons from the SSPO-Human Study collaboration - by *Sirintip Kaewtip*
S#06 Human Study's bridge-building model for P&O education - by *Luai Alhallaak*
S#07 Future-ready: AI in P&O education and clinical practice - by *Mindy Thorpe*
S#08 What makes a great P&O practical class? Exploring best practices in managing people and resources - by *Mintra Suphab*

Free Papers

- FP #08** Building sustainable orthotics and prosthetics education in Kenya, innovations from Kenya Medical Training College - by *Doreen Gatwiri*
FP #09 Teaching the same digital skills from innovative hubs to rural clinics: How teaching digital workflows can democratise O&P care - by *Kobe Bleukx*
FP #14 Shaping the future of P&O education: A global curriculum blueprint - by *Zekra Aziz*
FP #15 Breaking the employment glass ceiling for P&O technicians: Explaining a new education route for P&O technicians to qualify as a prosthetist/orthotist while remaining in employment - by *Ian Adam*
FP #16 Spider web assessment: POs Vs COs analysis for the undergraduate program - by *Nasrul Anuar Abd Razak*
FP #18 From local roots in Syria to a regional education network: Human study's bridge-building model - by *Luai Alhallaak*
FP #19 Structured internships in prosthetics and orthotics education: Clinical, industrial, and global perspectives from Universiti Malaya - by *Nur Afiqah Hashim*
FP #20 Clinical placement challenges faced by prosthetics and orthotics students at BHPI: A qualitative study - by *MD Amin Ahmed*
FP #21 Challenges affecting provision of appropriate prosthetic technology for low-income countries: A review of the literature - by *Goodness Ajaero*
FP #24 Piloting a clinical reasoning and reflection tool for P&O education - by *Ashley Mullen*
FP #27 Leveraging online interactive platforms to foster collaborative learning across disciplines, institutions, and regions - by *Man Sang Wong*
FP #28 Report on the Japan prosthetist and orthotist educators meeting 2025 - by *Kyoko Kamada*
FP #29 Mapping EPAs in O&P education: A path to competency based assessment - by *Amy Lawrence*
FP #30 Interactive oral assessments for authenticity and integrity in P&O education - by *Adam Holden*
FP #31 A structured tool for developing client-centred clinical justification skills in undergraduate P&O students - by *Adam Holden*
FP #35 Characteristics of mobility assistive product interventions associated with positive outcomes: a scoping review of randomized controlled trials - by *Louise Puli*
FP #36 Investigating biases among O&P educators toward people with disabilities - by *Gloria Lee*
FP #39 Assessing clinical competence in the age of genAI: Innovations in OSCE design for prosthetics & orthotics - by *Timothy Burke*
FP #43 Core concepts and principles in prosthetics and orthotics practice - by *David Rusaw*
FP #50 Transition from student to independent practitioner: A survey of student experiences on prosthetic and orthotic practice placements - by *Christine McMonagle*
FP #51 From recall to reasoning: Advancing Bloom's taxonomy through oral communication - by *Jeremy Sherman*
FP #52 Utility of an adjustable rigid ankle foot orthosis-footwear combination simulator for teaching clinical skills to optimize leg rollover during gait - by *Christopher Hovorka*
FP #53 Student-led benchmarking of prosthetic and orthotic services: A global case study approach - by *Beth Sheehan*
FP #54 Bridging global standards and local contexts: Aligning the BTPOTC curriculum with ISPO educational standards - by *Nana Agyei*
FP #08 Building sustainable orthotics and prosthetics education in Kenya, innovations from Kenya Medical Training College - by *Doreen Gatwiri*
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FP #57 Enhancing bench alignment learning through web-based gamification: A pilot study among prosthetics and orthotics students - by *Fika Trifani*
FP #59 Reforming the education of prosthetists and orthotists in accordance with ISPO educational standards in Ukraine - by *Olha Kovalchuk*
FP #60 'I'd never thought about it before': An evaluation of the design of disability awareness curriculum and the impact on P&O student perceptions of disability - by *Anthony Francis*
FP #62 Student collaborations with industry through an embedded honours program at La Trobe University - by *Aileen Wong*
FP #63 Digital twins as a framework for learning and teaching digital workflows: Building constructively aligned training pathways in prosthetic and orthotic education - by *Anthony Francis*
FP #67 Effectiveness of intensive clinical & practical learning module in BPO education at CMC Vellore - by *Malini B*
FP #72 Improving the impact of short-term hands-on skills training - by *Subhash Kumar Sinha*
FP #73 Training the trainers: Global collaboration in prosthetics and orthotics education for Ukraine - by *Mindy Thorpe*
FP #74 Mentoring Through Feedback: Building Educational Bridges in Modern P&O Practice - by *Josh Utay*

Thank you!

Thank you to the sponsors, exhibitors, local organizing committee, participants, and presenters, and ISPO leadership who supported GEM 2026. We look forward to seeing you at GEM 2028 in Glasgow, Scotland.

