Treating individuals with amputation in physical therapy does not end with level-ground gait. Prosthetic users seek to fully engage in life’s meaningful activities and require devices that can reliably function on uneven terrain, slopes, and stairs. This community talk will expand the clinician’s understanding and appreciation of the biomechanics, technology, and patient factors that drive state-of-the-art prosthesis development. The biomechanical data, discussion, and video examples are directly applicable for all physical therapists who evaluate and treat patients with mobility impairment, regardless of whether or not they have a lower extremity amputation. Please join us for a high-level and engaging talk with Dr. Wilken.

Jason Wilken, PT, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Iowa. Prior to the University of Iowa, he was the founding Director of the Military Performance Laboratory at the Center for the Intrepid, Brooke Army Medical Center, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Senior Scientist for the Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence and adjunct faculty for the US Army-Baylor University Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy. While at Brooke Army Medical Center, he developed a well-funded and patient-centric research program focused on maximizing physical function in individuals who have been injured during military service. His efforts and publications focus primarily on the development and evaluation of advanced prosthetic and orthotic technologies, virtual reality based interventions, clinically relevant outcomes assessments, and development of novel approaches to enhance walking stability.