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 and Director of Collaborative Research and Development in the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science at the University of Iowa. Dr. Wilken received his master’s degree in Physical Therapy and PhD in Physical Rehabilitation Science from the University of Iowa. He then served as the founding Director of the Military Performance Laboratory at the Center for the Intrepid, Brooke Army Medical Center, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, Texas and Senior Scientist for the Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence. He returned to the University of Iowa in 2017 where he has continued his research focusing on maximizing physical function and emotional health in service members and civilians who have experienced traumatic limb injury. His efforts and nearly 100 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.