

My TIPS 2022 experience

By Nienke Kerver – PhD student



I am Nienke. Currently, in the last few months of my PhD. My project focuses on the (cost-)effectiveness of upper limb prosthesis. One of the parts of my PhD—one of my personal favourites—was the development of a patient decision aid regarding terminal devices to facilitate the prosthesis selection process in clinics, which I presented at TIPS! This summer I will start with the medical specialization to become a rehabilitation doctor. The clinical focus of TIPS, therefore, suits my interests very well. I was asked to write a blog about my TIPS experiences, and am happy to do so.

Day 1

The first day of the conference, was a busy one for me. The day started with an [inspiring talk from Caroline Coster](#) – a quadruple amputee – who provided insights in how she adopted her life to this new situation. This was followed by [an interactive workshop](#) from my colleagues of the University Medical Center Groningen, who challenged the audience to come up with prosthetic solutions for people with finger/partial hand defects. During the morning, I was getting a bit nervous for the next part of the program: [my own free paper presentation](#). I really like to present, one of my strong points as well I guess, but that also causes some pressure since I want to do well. However, as expected, I really enjoyed talking about my research. The attendees asked some interesting questions, and I got some nice reactions afterwards, so I guess that went pretty well! But no time to recover, it's time to chair! The session included four very interesting free paper presentations about [virtual reality prosthesis training](#), [an innovative test-prosthesis usable for clinic](#), [eeriness responses regarding prosthetic hands](#), and [the treatment of short upper arm stumps](#). The audience asked many questions, which resulted in interesting discussions. Now it's time to relax, drink a cappuccino, and enjoy the other—also very interesting—sessions of the afternoon.



Day 2

Today, a very interesting free paper session was scheduled that included presentations about experiences with the [multi-grip myoelectric hands](#), [sensory feedback](#), and the [prosthesis selection process](#). The session turned out to be very interesting indeed and also provided me some new ideas for my thesis. After the lunch, I attended a session regarding the [multidisciplinary treatment of neuropathic pain](#), such a complex problem! The day ended with a meeting to discuss the development of a special interest group in upper-limb prosthetics and the potential accompanying facilitators/barriers. I think this meeting took a good first step for a successful development and implementation of such a group.

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Day 3

Already the last day of the TIPS, time flies! Today my PhD colleague Bart Maas presented about his efforts to [move measurements regarding prosthesis use and control from the lab to the home setting](#), a good effort. I would also like to highlight Susannah Engdahl's presentation about [ultrasound to control upper limb prosthesis](#), which was very interesting and renewing. A deserved winner of the free paper presentation prize! Last, there was a session in which multiple teams of conference attendees came up with [prosthetic solutions for Samantha](#), whose case was explained on day 1 of the conference. The teams came up with very creative solutions, especially considering the short time they had. To conclude, I really enjoyed this conference with many interesting talks and workshops, a good and easy-going atmosphere, and although online I made new interactions as well! Hopefully, we can see each other in real life at the next conference!

