Let’s Work Together to Tear Down Emotional Barriers for Kids with Limb Disabilities

Let’s Meet the Team!

My name is Ravi Patel and I am a Research and Development Engineer at DePuy Synthes and currently the Project Lead for the ALTSO Prosthetic Limb Cover Project being supported by Engineers from the Medical Devices Research & Development Leadership Development Program at Johnson & Johnson. It is my life aspiration to use Engineering to provide innovative solutions and true value to not only the ones who can afford it, but to the ones who have an absolute need for it. I started this project to ensure that no child has to go through the emotional trauma of feeling that he or she does not belong because of a limb disability. At Johnson & Johnson, we feel strongly about the communities in which we live. We believe we all have the capability to become true citizens of humanity. Time for us all to make an everlasting impact in this world.

Ravi Patel – Project Lead

My name is Tori Sudjian and I am a Supply Chain Project Manager at DePuy Synthes. I am the project manager for the ALTSO Prosthetic Limb Cover Project being supported by Engineers from the Medical Devices Research & Development Leadership Development Program at Johnson & Johnson. Having experience in product development, project management, and supply chain, I have been able to leverage my various professional experiences to support this charity initiative. This project presents us the opportunity to give back to our community and has allowed me to evolve my mindset and behaviors to live out our company’s mission.

Tori Sudjian – Project Manager
My name is Austin Bridges and I am a Mechanical Engineer living in the Boston area. I am a member of the Design Team helping with computer-aided design and drafting as well as design considerations for plastics injection molding. I have worked with both the Sports Medicine and Spine divisions of DePuy Synthes. I love working for Johnson & Johnson because of their commitment to improving lives around the world and I’m excited for this project because it perfectly echoes the company credo and brings a new meaning to charitable giving.

Austin Bridges – Design Engineer

My name is Berto Isaza and I am a Project Engineer working for DePuy Synthes, Joint Reconstruction. I am a member of the ATLSO Design Team in which I plan to leverage my experience with development of medical devices in order to provide a viable and economical prosthetic sleeve. This project is important to me because I see the need for these kids to have not only the function of a prosthesis but also the self-confidence to fulfill their dreams. At Johnson & Johnson we are encouraged by our Credo to serve our community, a value that was instilled in me from an early age. This collaboration between ALTSO and Johnson & Johnson perfectly embodies the meaning of global impact, something we are responsible to not only as Johnson & Johnson employees but as citizens of the world.

Humberto Isaza – Design Engineer

My name is Wes McDowell and I am on the ALTSO Prosthetic Limb Cover Design Team. One reason I joined Johnson & Johnson was to be a part of an organization that is dedicated to helping others not only with the products they produce, but with how they engage and support their community outside of the workplace. The best thing about Johnson & Johnson is that its neighborhood is global; fostering personal growth of its employees by connecting those who otherwise wouldn’t be able to interact with the international population. It’s extremely motivating to know that someone like me from the Philadelphia area can make a positive impact thousands

Wes McDowell – Design Engineer
My name is Diana Castillo and I am from San Antonio TX. I received my Master’s and Bachelor’s in biomedical engineering from USTA. Currently, I am currently an Engineer in DePuy Synthes Trauma. Being exposed to a manufacturing role through my past roles have led me to volunteer for the ALTSO materials/manufacturing group where we investigate the best materials and manufacturing methodologies that are appropriate to use for the project. I want to give back in any way that I can to help make a difference and I am excited to join my colleagues in using engineering for good.

Diana Castillo – Materials & Manufacturing Engineer

My name is Tim Moses and I am on the Materials and Manufacturing team for the ALTSO Prosthetic Limb Cover project. I support this project by way of connecting with internal and external Johnson & Johnson resources to determine the appropriate material requirements, manufacturing techniques, and supplier options which will help the ALTSO team deliver a prosthetic limb cover design that can be feasibly produced with conventional manufacturing methods. One reason I support this charity initiative is because I can only imagine the daily perils and hardships children face just by taking a mere walk to school. This project gives me the opportunity to take action and help improve the lives of young children by simply applying my engineering skills which I use on a day to day basis.

Tim Moses – Materials & Manufacturing Engineer

My name is Michael Reinsvold from southwest Missouri. I received both my master’s and bachelor’s degrees from Duke University in biomedical engineering. I currently work with Johnson & Johnson as an engineer in the Medical Devices Research & Development Leadership Development Program, striving to advance health for humanity. I joined the ALTSO materials and manufacturing team to help bring the vision closer to reality and in the hands of patients. I am thrilled to be a part of this exciting team as we leverage our collective knowledge to make a difference.

Michael Reinsvold – Materials & Manufacturing Engineer
My name is Wayne Jaeschke. I’m a dad, a grandpa, and also an attorney in the Johnson and Johnson law department. I came to J&J to work with one of our companies that focused on improving the lives of children, by address their specific healthcare needs, and stayed because Johnson & Johnson shares my belief that there is no more fundamental mission for our company than children’s healthcare. Since that time, I’ve also been an avid supporter of programs through which Johnson & Johnson serves communities throughout the world. Those programs provide greater access to healthcare and education to children and young women through our internal efforts and external partnerships with organizations such as Children With Diabetes, WISER International, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. I see this project as another great opportunity for us to help children lead their lives on their own terms, not the terms dictated to them by a healthcare challenge.

Rajit Kamal – Executive Sponsor

My name is Rajit Kamal and I am a Vice President and Global Franchise Leader for Knee Replacement business at DePuy Synthes. I am motivated by making a positive difference in lives of others. There is no better way to make a positive difference in the society than helping children. I am drawn to the mission of ALTSO Prosthetic Limb Cover Project for the role it plays in getting kids back to doing the activities that want to do without any emotional trauma. J&J’s credo starts with “Our first obligation is to the patients” and there is no better way to fulfill that obligation than helping the youngest in our society.
My name is Gabriella Mueller Evrard, and I’m the Executive Director of A Leg To Stand On (ALTSO). I believe that opportunity changes everything, and ALTSO’s mission and impact embody this important premise: in addition to self-esteem, mobility provides access to education, future employment, and the chance to live self-sufficiently. Over the past 17 years, ALTSO has grown its reach from 100 children treated annually, to over 1,000 children treated annually last year; in my 13 years at ALTSO, we have seen several thousands of CoolKids who had physically been unable to walk to school prior to treatment, are now nearing high school or even college graduation. Our collaboration with JNJ will allow us to fulfill our commitment of providing the highest quality of holistic orthopedic care to children with limb disabilities whose families, earning ~$2.50/day, cannot afford even the most basic care. The finished product will be the first of its kind, bridging the gap between health care standards in the developed and developing world, and empowering our next generation of influencers.

Gabriella Mueller Evrard – Executive Director

Hi, my name is A.J. Warco and I am the Director of Programs for A Leg To Stand On (ALTSO). My primary role in this project is to oversee that the overall design and manufacturing process meets international standards of prosthetic devices provided in low to middle income countries. This project is very important to me because it serves to directly combat the lack of self-esteem and self-worth in children and adolescents with limb disabilities in the developing world.

A.J. Warco – Director of Programs

Hi my name is Beth Ann and I have been working with ALTSO for nearly 7 years and I have a passion for helping those who are underserved and underrepresented. I currently work as the Director of Operations remotely from my home in California. Having grown up with a sister with disabilities, I feel an emotional connection to ALTSO’s work and patients and know firsthand the difference that quality care can make in the life of a patient, family and community.

Beth Ann Hemming – Director of Operations