

# The Human Gait Institute

Supporting the Development and Use of Innovative Human Leg Bracing

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The mission of the Human Gait Institute is to assist people in reaping the benefits of lower extremity orthotic technologies by supporting and/or conducting research, by fostering education and training for orthotists in these technologies, and by providing resources to support people who are considering or using these technologies.

## Discussion Groups Meet

Since its inception in 2008 HGI has facilitated discussion groups twice a year along the Front Range of Colorado and in the San Francisco Bay Area. The groups have an agenda usually led by HGI Board members.

The discussion groups have provided an opportunity for potential, new and veteran DBS wearers to meet together. The groups have discussed their good experiences, their not so good experiences, strategies for working with DBS, suggestions for dealing with health insurance, and their tips for success. They have learned more about living with a DBS brace, problem-solved and brain-stormed solutions to challenges, listened to experts and enjoyed meals together. Potential wearers have been given the opportunity to gather information that will help them in making a decision about going forward. The contacts with others have developed into friendships as well as provided mentorship possibilities.

Those who are interested in starting a discussion group for DBS



or other braces in other locations can contact HGI through our web site [www.humangaitinstitute.org](http://www.humangaitinstitute.org) to contact a board member and to get hints on how to proceed.

▲ March 7, 2015 meeting in the San Francisco Bay Area.

## Our mission emphasis

**has changed** beginning in 2015 from one focusing on “innovative” lower extremity orthotic technologies to encompassing a broader range of lower extremity orthotic technologies. HGI will still continue its activities related to the DBS orthosis but will begin to seek information about other braces and attempt to generate a user friendly reference instrument that will allow brace wearers and potential brace wearers to have comparative information to help them have access to the best bracing for their specific needs.

We welcome any information or “leads” about bracing technologies that our readers can provide us.

## ▶ An HGI Success Story—the 2014 DBS Users Camp



◀ 18 DBS wearers and their significant others from around the country met for a weekend in August at the Easter Seals Rocky Mountain Village camp in Empire, Colorado to have their braces evaluated and tweaked, to evaluate their gait, to meet and get to know other wearers and to enjoy the mountain environment.



◀ The campers' braces were evaluated by three orthotists, Marmaduke Loke, John Callan and David Hardcastle. These orthotists also made minor modifications of the braces as needed. Wearers learned that time and use can change how the braces fit and how to care for their braces. ▶





▲ ► Physical Therapists, Maggie Hanlon-Hopkins, Mary Christiansen and DeeAnn Vink, as well as a



doctoral student from the Regis University Physical Therapy Graduate School, helped wearers work on their posture and their gait when using the DBS. This was the first time that some of the participants had the experience with physical therapy since getting their braces. For some, this experience renewed their commitment to continue to use their braces. For others, it reinforced their understanding of the need to continue to work on their gait and posture for the rest of their lives.



◀ Karla Stromberger, a DBS wearer, led others on advanced training exercises including stair climbing, and slope navigation. Marmaduke Loke talked about the brace from the inventor's perspective and assured wearers that Dynamic Bracing Solutions is planning to be available for many more years. A PowerPoint lecture explained how to buy shoes, and how to measure for SACH heights.

When not working, campers toured the campus, the swimming pool, the trails, the fishing pond, enjoyed good meals, and spent time talking and sharing their experiences in a relaxed and informal manner.



**The camp was so successful that HGI will offer another in the future.**





## Gifts and Donations

The Human Gait Institute is run by a group of dedicated volunteers who donate their time and money to accomplish their mission statement. Funding for the activities and programs comes from assessing costs for the activities, and from donations from generous supporters of our mission.

### Your tax-deductible donations will help:

- Research other orthotic devices that are in the market place at this time
- Keep our web site functioning
- Allow us to continue to offer our discussion groups
- Continue to publish the HGI-DBS Wearers Handbook
- Publish the results of current research on the benefits of the DBS orthosis to influence insurance companies to better fund the purchase of a DBS and other high end braces
- Provide grant money to supplement the ability of qualified users to acquire a new brace

**We welcome your gifts, either as direct donations or in memoriam.** We also appreciate any information on resources that might help fund our activities and programs.

### Please send any donations to:

**Human Gait Institute**  
**c/o Dr. Marny Eulberg**  
**9461 W 37th Place**  
**Wheat Ridge, CO 80033**

*Disclaimer:* The Human Gait Institute is an independent 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, and not affiliated with or in the employ of Dynamic Bracing Solutions, the inventor and manufacturer of the DBS orthosis.

For more information, see our website:

<http://www.humangaitinstitute.org/>

or our Facebook page:

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