

# Leading The Global Charge In Diabetic Foot Education: The American Limb Preservation Society (ALPS)

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**Abstract:** This paper outlines the position and educational initiatives currently being undertaken by the American Limb Preservation Society, a partner member, along with Wounds Canada, of the Limb Preservations Alliance. It highlights global outreach programs and collaborations in 2025.

**Key words:** *Limb preservation, diabetic foot, Toe and Flow, education, global partnerships*

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The American Limb Preservation Society (ALPS) has established itself as a global leader in diabetic foot education and multidisciplinary limb preservation initiatives. At the forefront of these efforts is *DFCon*, ALPS' flagship conference, which serves as the premier educational platform for advancing research, innovation and collaboration in diabetic foot care. Additionally, ALPS recently launched *DFU – Diabetic Foot Update*, a conference co-chaired by Dr. Lawrence Lavery and Dr. Lee Rogers, further reinforcing its commitment to evidence-based education and cutting-edge clinical advancements.

Building on the pioneering work of Dr. David Armstrong and Dr. Joe Mills and their “Toe and Flow” model, ALPS is reshaping care paradigms for diabetic foot complications. These efforts have led to reduced amputation rates and improved healing outcomes for patients with diabetic foot ulcers. As stated in the literature, “A single-center county hospital in the U.S. reduced major amputations by 72% after implementing a care process centered on podiatry and vascular services,”<sup>1</sup> highlighting the impact of multidisciplinary collaboration on patient outcomes.

## The Toe and Flow Model

Diabetic foot complications remain one of the leading causes of non-traumatic amputations globally, placing a significant burden on health-care systems and patient well-being. The Toe and Flow model, pioneered by Dr. David Armstrong, Dr. Joe Mills and Dr. Lee Rogers, highlights the critical collaboration between podiatric (Toe) and vascular (Flow) specialists. This multidisciplinary approach has been instrumental in lowering amputation rates, accelerating wound healing and improving overall patient health outcomes.

The Toe and Flow philosophy is a cornerstone of ALPS mission, fostering collaboration among podiatrists, vascular surgeons, endocrinologists and wound care specialists. ALPS is driving advancements in patient-centred limb preservation strategies, directly leading to improved mobility, reduced health-care costs and better long-term survival rates.

## Educational Partnerships

Recognizing the worldwide impact of diabetic foot disease, ALPS is expanding its reach through key international partnerships, while simultaneously integrating *DFCon*'s educational platform into

these collaborations. These alliances amplify the reach of the Toe and Flow model and advance best practices in limb preservation, yielding tangible health benefits for diverse populations.

In March of 2025 ALPS will collaborate with the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) at their conference in Barcelona, Spain. EWMA is a global leader in evidence-based wound care. This collaboration will help to share insights and facilitate cross-disciplinary cooperation with European experts. Through the integration of DFCon, this partnership enhances global diabetic foot education, leading to better clinical practices and improved patient outcomes across Europe.

In May this year, ALPS will partner with PODOCON 2025, in Bangalore, India. With India facing a significant burden of diabetes-related complications, ALPS leverages PODOCON to engage with South Asian health-care professionals. By incorporating DFCon's educational sessions, practitioners gain access to advanced training and panel discussions, equipping them with critical tools to manage diabetic foot complications, reduce amputation rates and improve patient care.

ALPS will also partner with the Asian Society for Vascular Surgery (ASVS) in Singapore in August 2025. ALPS integrates DFCon's cutting-edge diabetic foot and limb preservation education into the conference, ensuring that vascular specialists across Asia have access to the latest research, techniques and best practices in limb salvage.

Through these strategic initiatives, ALPS ensures that DFCon remains the cornerstone of multidisciplinary global diabetic foot education, driving innovation, collaboration and transformative solutions that improve patient outcomes worldwide.

### The Limb Preservation Alliance

In 2023, ALPS, Wounds Canada, the Canadian Podiatric Medical Association and D-Foot International formed the Limb Preservation Alliance, a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening multidisciplinary collaboration in limb preservation. This initiative unites expertise, research and clinical best practices to

enhance patient outcomes and reduce preventable amputations. By leveraging the strengths of all organizations, the Alliance promotes a comprehensive approach to limb salvage through education, advocacy and innovation.

A key milestone of this partnership was ALPS' participation in the 2024 Wounds Canada National Conference, where ALPS leaders contributed to critical discussions on limb preservation strategies. Dr. Lee Rogers and Dr. David Alper led a Toe and Flow session, emphasizing the necessity of coordinated podiatric and vascular interventions for limb salvage. Additionally, ALPS CEO Georgia Krehbiel participated in a working group and panel discussion focused on prioritizing recommendations from international guidelines, reinforcing the Alliance's commitment to evidence-based solutions in limb preservation.

Since its inception, the Limb Preservation Alliance has facilitated greater knowledge-sharing and collaboration among health-care professionals across North America. By continuing to expand its initiatives in clinical excellence, education and policy development, the Alliance aims to set new standards in limb preservation and amputation prevention.

#### For Further Information:

- ALPS: <https://limbpreservationsociety.org/>
- DFCon: <https://limbpreservationsociety.org/dfcon/>

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### References

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