

ottobock.

Quality for life

Meridium

Reclaim your way.

*“Hi!*

We’re Hans and Judd. One of us lives in Eindhoven in Holland, the other lives in Minnesota, USA. But although we live on different continents, we have quite a lot in common. Both of us work with people, and neither of us can imagine life without physical recreation, despite the fact that both of us have undergone lower leg amputations.”



## Hans

...has many talents. But only now is he able to fully exercise his abilities for the first time. Whether playing an instrument, drawing or helping to decorate his new home, Hans – who is manager of a therapy centre for disabled persons – always has a thirst for action.



## Judd

... has matured inwardly since his accident. As a working dad with three teenage children, he also coaches a basketball team in his spare time. Athletic development and solidarity within the team are far more important to him than merely winning matches on points.

# Amputation as a chance to start again successfully

My name is Hans. I'm 61 years old and physically very fit. My character would be hard to describe in a just a few words; I'm not someone who can be pigeon-holed. My life story really does have a "before" and "after". Before my work-related accident, I worked as a toolmaker for an international electronics company – basically just to earn a wage to support my family. After the accident, having had my lower leg amputated, I suddenly had to face a completely different professional future. Very quickly I realised that the change in circumstances was also a chance to finally make long-cherished dreams come true.

Looking back today, I can hardly believe how much I've managed to achieve over the past years together with my wife and daughter, despite the lower leg amputation.

Today, I'm director of my own therapy centre for mentally handicapped people – and the land on which the centre is built also belongs to me.

I employ trained professionals for the therapy sessions and am personally actively involved in the day care. Being personally affected by a disability not only brings me closer to my day visitors but also creates a very authentic nursing care atmosphere in the centre. Over the years, my family and I have modified and renovated the building several times – and both I myself and other people rarely notice that I wear the Meridium. I have virtually no restrictions.

In our free time, my family and I love to be out in the countryside. Thanks to my adaptable prosthetic foot, I don't need to worry about traversing different types of terrain.



*“Whenever I get the opportunity, I like to put on my hiking boots and disappear off into the great outdoors. At work I like to wear these traditional Dutch clogs. I don’t like restrictions, and thanks to my Meridium, I don’t experience any.”*

Hans



### **Positive change**

Strange as it may sound, it was not until after my accident that I actually began to live my dream and work towards achieving my life goals.



### **Relaxing in my personal idyll**

The house, garden and therapy centre place many demands on me and my family. So I enjoy any free time all the more.

**Never give up!**

If someone had said to me straight after my accident that within six years I would have achieved all my goals, I probably wouldn't have believed them.



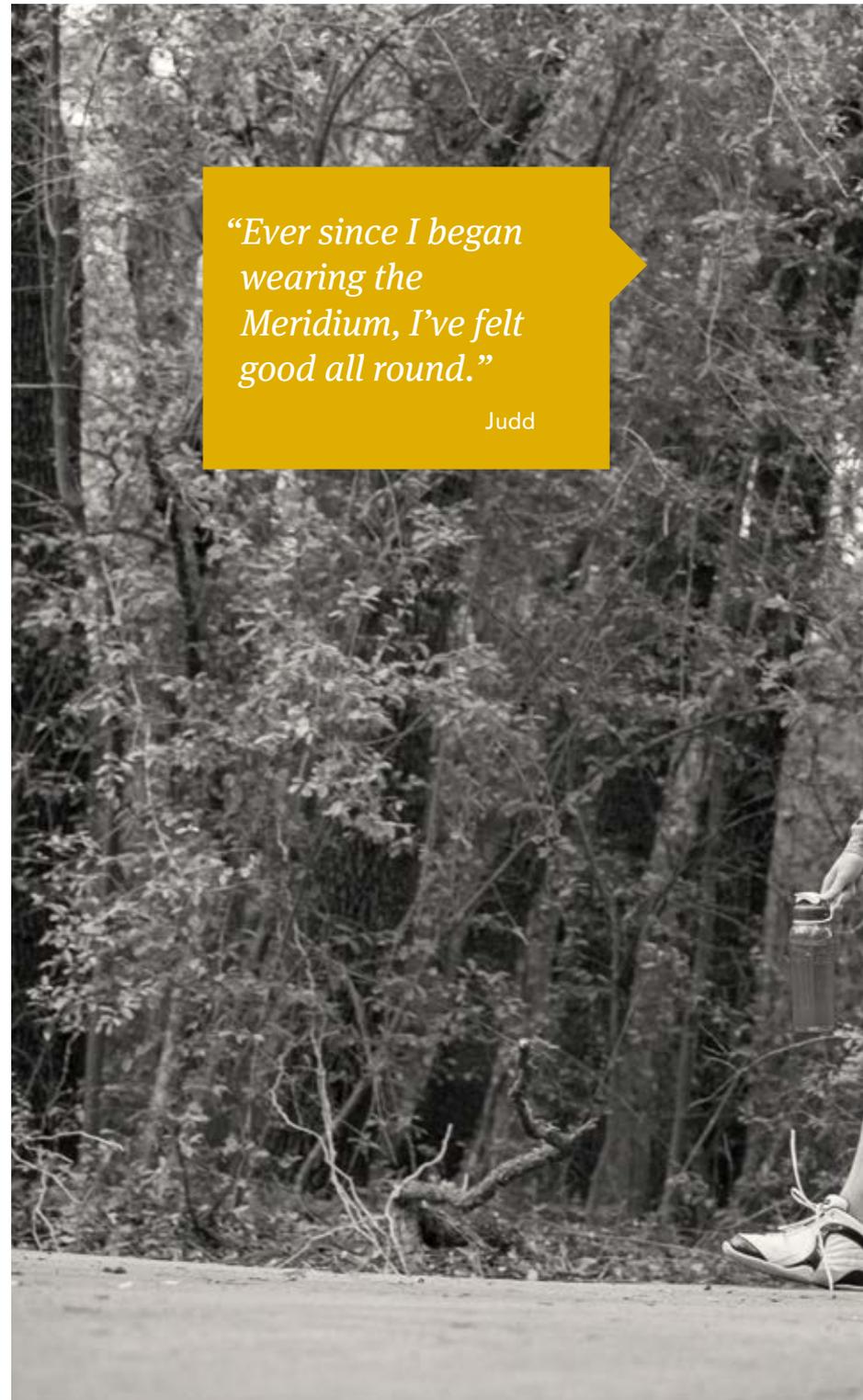
**Team spirit is crucial**

You could say that team spirit is the foundation of my being. No matter whether it is my network of friends that carried me through the crisis back then, my family or my current basketball team – we all know that sticking together and mutual support are fundamental.



*“Ever since I began wearing the Meridium, I’ve felt good all round.”*

Judd





## Only the here and now counts

About six years ago, I had a head-on crash on the motorway, as a result of which my lower left leg was amputated. One thought that kept going through my head was “Fate has dealt me this rubbish hand of cards, so now I need to make the most of it.”

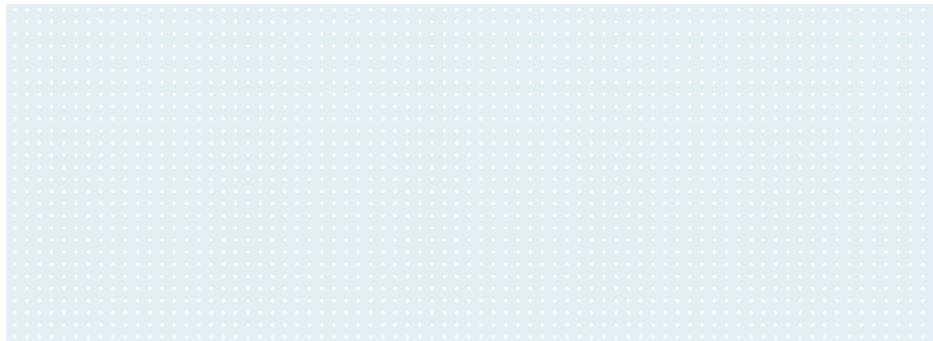
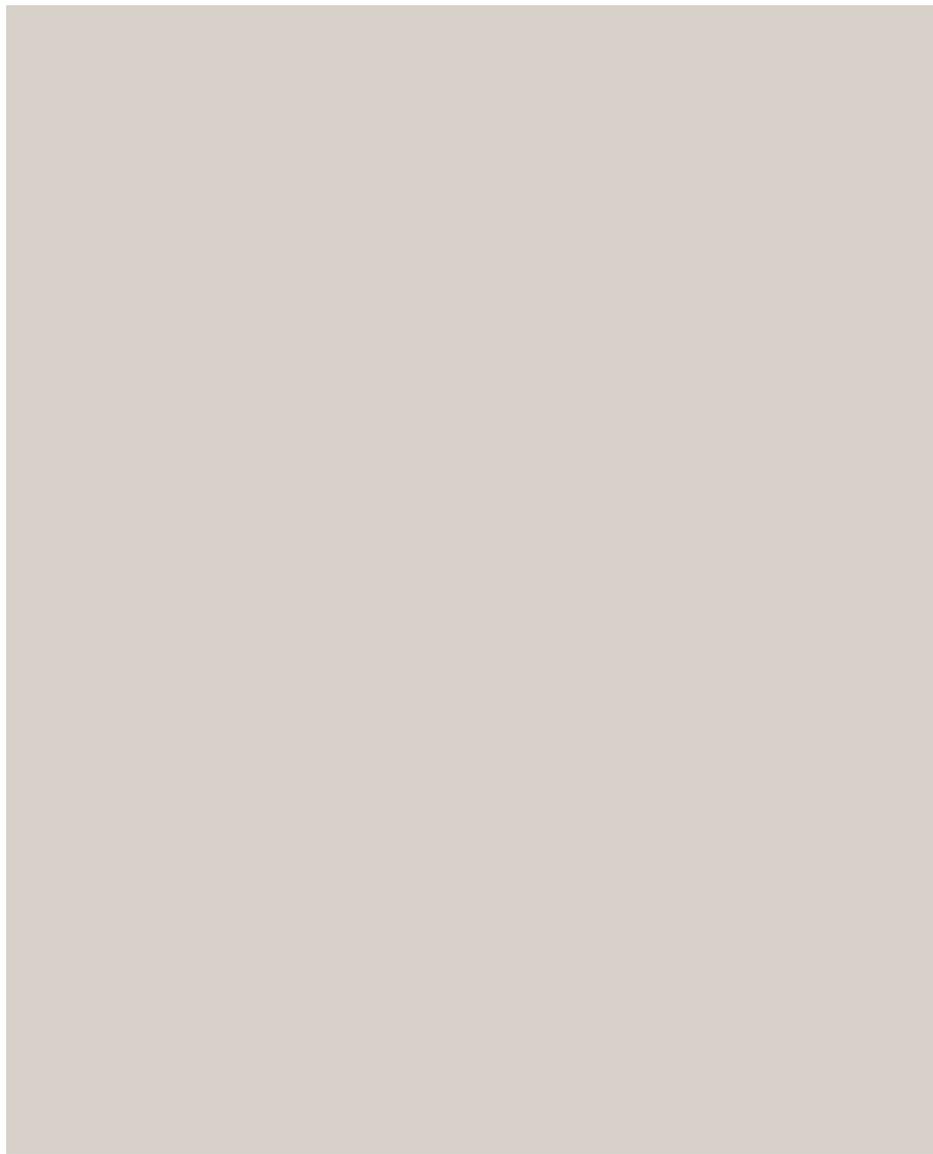
For ten whole weeks, I was pretty off track, but then I decided to look forwards again and be successful in the here and now. My extensive network of friends, which was largely what helped me get through the crisis, taught me once again how important it is to stick together and offer each other mutual support in life. I felt an increasing desire to coach a sports team again. I’ve always been passionate about basketball, and particularly about engaging closely with young people.

Today I lead a busy life as a husband, father of three, field rep for suppliers in the food industry and basketball coach in my spare time.

With the Meridium, I’ve found a prosthetic foot that offers ideal support for all these activities. In my job, I no longer need to fear the ramps, metal ladders and often slippery corridors in the meat processing industry in which I work.

I also push my limits in my spare time – after all, I want to be able to keep up with my kids! To date there has not been a single activity – either at work or at home – where I’ve felt unable to cope. I’m deeply grateful for the achievements of modern prosthetics technology.

And I really wouldn’t want to be without the handy heel height adjustment. Despite the fact that I’m a man, I frequently change my footwear three or four times a day – coming from basketball to change into fishing wellies or hiking boots, and then again in the evening to go to a school performance with my wife.



# Meridium means natural

Thanks to the fact that the foot adapts immediately to different situations and terrain, the Meridium is able to support users reliably in everyday life. Due to real-time control and a high level of mobility in the ankle, midfoot and toe areas, the mechatronic prosthetic foot offers a successful approximation of natural foot movement – on level paths too, of course. So it's no wonder that test users rated this functionality with the highest grades in their experience reports! Would you like to give it a try? Meridium could change your life as well!



## Hans and Judd ...

... can't be stopped! Whether at work or at home – the multi-talented Dutchman and the born motivator from the USA like to notch it up.



## A shoe for every occasion

Your Meridium adjusts for you

Even if you prefer to wear trainers, it's good to know that Meridium can do a whole lot more. No matter whether you walk around barefoot at home, wear lace-up shoes in the office or hefty hiking boots on holiday – with the automatic heel height adjustment from 0 to 50 mm, the prosthetic foot fits various shoes without a problem.



## Up and down without a care

Master slopes and uneven ground with ease

For Judd, the fact that Meridium recognises the current gradient of the terrain and adapts itself to the new situation in real time – right from the first step – is an invaluable benefit. Under no circumstances would he want to lose the feeling of security that he gets from full floor contact when his foot touches the ground. Even when he is yet again in a rush to get to team training with his son, he hardly notices any difference to the harmonious and natural gait pattern of his young one.



## Always one step ahead

Descending stairs safely and with natural motion

The Meridium prosthetic foot masters complex patterns of movement, such as walking down stairs. While conventional prosthetic feet often only enable half of the foot length to be placed on the respective step, Meridium makes it possible for you to place the whole surface of your foot on the step securely. The intelligent foot immediately recognises that you're using stairs and adapts in real time.



## Based on the natural model

Relax as you sit or stand

The intuitive stance function keeps the lower leg in an upright position and prevents you from tipping forwards. This enables you to stand naturally upright, regardless of whether the ground is flat or sloping.

The fact that the foot automatically lowers to the floor, particularly when sitting, can help prevent pressure points on the residual limb – so it not only looks natural, but is also more comfortable to wear. This is due to the relief function, a worthwhile addition to the wide range of functions offered by Meridium.



