

**Speaker:** Dr. Lars Oddsson, College of Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota

**Title:** A Wearable Sensory Prosthesis Improves Balance and Gait Function in Patients with Peripheral Neuropathy

**Abstract:**

Dr. Oddsson will present work from his team on developing a novel medical device to improve gait and balance function in individuals with peripheral neuropathy and high risk of falls. The device, "Walkasins", was initially conceived and demonstrated in the academic setting and is now available by prescription on the US market

**Bio:**

Lars Oddsson, PhD, is an experienced biomedical scientist, an inventor and entrepreneur. He is currently Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder of RxFunction, a medical device start-up commercializing Walkasins, a wearable sensory prosthesis to improve balance in patients with peripheral neuropathy co-invented by Dr. Oddsson and his graduate student during his tenure at Boston University. Dr. Oddsson teaches in the Medical Device Innovation program at the Technological Leadership Institute, College of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota where he also holds a position as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Medical School. He is Visiting Professor at the Recanati School of Health Professions at Ben-Gurion University in Israel. Previously, Dr. Oddsson initiated and led the Injury Analysis and Prevention Lab at Boston University's Neuromuscular Research Center, where he was a faculty research professor. In Boston he held temporary adjunct appointments at Harvard Medical School and at MIT. Previously, Oddsson was the founding Director of Research at the Courage Kenny Research Center at Allina Health. He is a co-investigator and consultant to NASA's Johnson Space Center on projects related to development of sensorimotor countermeasures to long-term spaceflight. Dr. Oddsson received his PhD from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.