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## Paraplegics Stand and Walk Using Life-Changing Assistive Device at MossRehab



*Philadelphia (June 30, 2009)* - MossRehab, one of the nation's leading rehabilitation hospitals and part of the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, announced today that it is the exclusive site in the United States for clinical trials of ReWalk™, the first commercially viable upright device that enables wheelchair users to stand, walk, and climb stairs.



Today at MossRehab in Elkins Park, Pa., two individuals with spinal cord injuries demonstrated the use of ReWalk, moving independently from a wheelchair to standing and walking: a 49-year-old woman paralyzed for the last five years, from Wyncote, Pa., who is a MossRehab patient and the first in the U.S. clinical trials; and an experienced male user and paraplegic soldier from Israel, who is an original patient from the trials held by the Israeli company who developed the device.

MossRehab was selected as the site for U.S. clinical trails because of its international reputation for comprehensive clinical rehabilitation and research programs, with a special focus on medical and cognitive rehabilitation and problems with movement. The MossRehab clinical and research staff consist of some of the world's foremost experts in rehabilitation medicine, including Alberto Esquenazi, MD, who is chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at MossRehab and was instrumental in the development of ReWalk.

"MossRehab is thrilled to be the only hospital in the nation to conduct trials of ReWalk," said Dr. Esquenazi. "Our leadership in cutting-edge research combined with our renowned clinical staff makes MossRehab uniquely qualified to lead these trials and work with the various types of patients who will truly benefit from a development like ReWalk."

Until now, there has not been a significant development for mobility-impaired people since the invention of the first molded plastic leg braces here at MossRehab in the 1970s. The ReWalk is a motorized quasi robotic suit that consists of a lightweight wearable brace support suit, motorized joints, rechargeable batteries, an array of sensors and a computer-based patient control system. Working with users, rather than for them, the ReWalk suit is worn around the legs and back and fits closely to the body on top of everyday clothing.

The concurrent use of crutches stabilizes the upright patient, who is able to initiate and control movements through simple body language to control the legs. Lightweight and ergonomic, ReWalk can be used by people with spinal cord injury-related disabilities and eventually by others with brain injury, stroke and other conditions that produce severe walking impairments.

The study, to be conducted under the direction of Dr. Esquenazi, will be a single-center, open, noncomparative, non-randomized study of the safety and performance of the ReWalk. The overall objective of the U.S. clinical trials is to establish the safety and performance of the ReWalk suit and demonstrate initial efficacy and user satisfaction. A preliminary trial has been conducted in Israel to demonstrate safety, and availability of the device for clinical use is dependent upon FDA approval. The ReWalk was designed by Argo Medical Technologies, Ltd., located in Haifa, Israel.

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Persons who show interest in participating in the clinical trials should periodically check the MossRehab website ([www.mossrehab.com](http://www.mossrehab.com)) for information regarding participation possibilities and application procedures.

#### About MossRehab

A division of Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, MossRehab has a worldwide reputation for excellence in physical rehabilitation and has repeatedly been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best" rehabilitation hospitals. MossRehab treats patients with complex physical needs for brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke and musculoskeletal disorders and also provides comprehensive treatment for orthopaedic and sports-related injuries or conditions; hand trauma, amputation and neurological diseases. MossRehab offers unparalleled experience, caring and compassionate staff, and a clinical and research staff that includes some of the world's foremost experts in rehabilitation medicine. Visit <http://www.mossrehab.com/> for more information.

#### About Albert Einstein Healthcare Network

Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, is a 1,200 bed integrated delivery network serving the communities of North Philadelphia and Montgomery County, PA. A founding member of the Jefferson Health System, Einstein combines the best of academic medicine and community service, employing nearly 7,000 people, and offering training programs for physician residents and fellows, nurses and other health professionals. The Network provides healthcare services through the Albert Einstein Medical Center and Einstein at Elkins Park hospitals, its MossRehab and Belmont Behavioral Health divisions, Germantown Community Health Services, Willow Terrace (a nursing home), Willowcrest (a center for subacute care), outpatient facilities such as Center One and Einstein Neighborhood Healthcare, network of primary care and specialist practices throughout the community. For more information, visit <http://www.einstein.edu/> or call  1-800-EINSTEIN .

#### About Argo Medical Technologies Ltd.

Argo Medical Technologies Ltd. develops and markets walk restoration devices for people with lower limb disabilities; the company's flagship product is ReWalk. Located in Haifa, Israel, with decades of combined experience in R&D, engineering and manufacturing of multidisciplinary systems, Argo also boasts staff with extensive experience in worldwide marketing, sales and business development. The company is assisted by an Advisory Board of renowned international experts in the fields of medicine, biomedical engineering, robotics and marketing.

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