

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

Innovative Therapeutic Device Maker Health Discovery Labs Secures NIH Funding



Grant Targets ICU Acquired Weakness that Impacts Over 6 Million US Patients Annually

AUSTIN, Texas; November 20, 2024 — Austin-based medical device maker Health Discovery Labs (www.healthdiscoverylabs.com) today announced it has secured a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to advance testing of its innovative muscle stimulation system. Its device is designed to prevent ICU Acquired Weakness (ICUAW), a debilitating condition that affects over 6 million patients annually in the U.S., contributing to an estimated \$41 billion in additional healthcare costs.

"We struggle on a daily basis in our ICUs to mobilize our patients safely and as early as possible. The challenges are still great in spite of the well established professional society guidelines and the resources our hospitals dedicate to this." notes Dr. Harford, Pulmonary and Critical Care physician and the study Principal Investigator at Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas.

Funding will accelerate the company's efforts to bring this vital solution to market, improve patient outcomes and reduce healthcare burdens will be conducted in partnership with the Mayo Clinic, Ascension Healthcare, and UT Medical School.

"Millions of U.S. patients are at risk of developing ICUAW each year, leading to prolonged hospital stays, decreased quality of life, impaired neuromuscular function, and increased mortality," said Dr. Oussama Hassan, Co-Founder of Health Discovery Labs. "This funding is a critical first step in reducing the common complications and harmful consequences faced by critically ill ICU patients."

"It holds the potential to significantly improve care for ICU patients at high risk of neuromuscular dysfunction."

Mayo Clinic is internationally recognized for its quality of care and outcomes for patients with serious and complex health conditions, including those who are critically ill.

"We are excited to collaborate with Health Discovery Labs on this groundbreaking initiative", said Linda Chlan, Ph.D. RN, the grant's site investigator and Associate Dean for Nursing Research at Mayo Clinic. "It holds the potential to significantly improve care for ICU patients at high risk of neuromuscular dysfunction."

About ICUAW

Up to 80 percent of patients admitted to Intensive Care Units (ICUs) develop some form of neuromuscular dysfunction, which often leads to a much more serious complication known as ICU Acquired Weakness (ICUAW). ICUAW is a

global muscle weakness that can develop in as little as a few hours after admission to the ICU and results in prolonged hospital stays (both in the ICU and afterwards in the ward), increased healthcare costs and reductions in health-related quality of life and expectancy.

In support of these efforts, Health Discovery Labs is working with Austin-based healthcare consultants Green Room Technologies (www.greenroomtx.com) and Obelix Biotech Solutions.

“As Health Discovery Labs’ commercialization partner, we saw early on their potential to address a persistent challenge facing ICU patients,” said Kristin Norton, PhD, CEO of Green Room Technologies. “Connections made through this grant will help form the basis of a go-to-market strategy that will serve millions of ICU patients worldwide.”

Disclaimer

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About Health Discovery Labs

Privately held Health Discovery Labs is the developer of a muscle stimulation system designed to prevent and cure ICU Acquired Weakness in patients. The company's system offers a non-volitional exercise strategy through electrical muscle stimulation for mechanically ventilated patients, enabling patients to get relief from muscle weakness and pain as well as prolonged hospital stays and increased healthcare costs