

Press Release



Date: 2/25/2025

For Immediate Release

Health Discovery Labs Secures IRB Approval for a Clinical Trial to Mitigate ICU Acquired Weakness



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

AUSTIN, Texas; February 26, 2025 — Health Discovery Labs, an Austin-based medical device company, has received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval to initiate a clinical trial for its innovative muscle stimulation system designed to combat ICU Acquired Weakness (ICUAW). This approval paves the way for patient recruitment, marking a significant step toward addressing a condition that impacts over six million patients annually in the U.S., adding an estimated \$41 billion in healthcare costs.

"Our mission is to provide ICU patients with a novel, non-invasive solution to prevent muscle deterioration, reduce recovery times, and improve overall outcomes," said Dr. Oussama Hassan, Co-Founder of Health Discovery Labs. "Securing IRB approval is an important next step to deliver a much-needed intervention for a condition afflicting millions of ICU patients each year. The launch of our clinical trial will enable Health Discovery Labs to move one step closer to collecting critical research data necessary to bring this vital solution to market."

Health Discovery Labs is working in partnership with the Mayo Clinic, Ascension Seton Healthcare, and University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School. Its IRB approval builds on Health Discovery Lab's success in securing a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2024.

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The study's submission for IRB approval was made by Dr. Paul Harford, Pulmonary and Critical Care physician and the study Principal Investigator at Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas. Dr. Harford is an advisor to Health Discovery Labs.

"We wish to acknowledge the University of Texas at Austin Office of Research Support & Compliance for its thorough review of our study," said Dr. Harford. "Its determination will help Health Discovery Labs with its research to significantly improve care for ICU patients at high risk of neuromuscular dysfunction."

The clinical trial is projected to start in Q4 of 2025. Patients will be recruited at 3 sites, including Dell Seton Medical Center, Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin, and the Mayo Clinic.

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.

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. The company's system offers a non-volitional exercise strategy through electrical muscle stimulation.

Disclaimer

Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging And Bioengineering of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R44EB033725. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.