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ABILITECH™ MEDICAL IS WINNINGEST STARTUP IN MINNESOTA, THE MED DEVICE EPICENTER

***According to Minnesota High Tech Association,
Abilitech is Top in MedTech***

DECEMBER 3, 2019 (MINNEAPOLIS) – [Abilitech Medical](#) has earned historic back-to-back wins in Minnesota – named top among the state’s med tech companies by the [Minnesota High Tech Association](#) at the 2019 TEKNE awards and 2019 Grand prizewinner and top woman-led business by the University of Minnesota’s business school at its 2019 [Minnesota Cup](#) competition. The recognitions cap off a robust year of fundraising and other advancements in research and development for the company, as CEO and founder Angie Conley looks toward 2020. Next year, the company will begin clinical studies and seek FDA clearance for its device that is designed to restore function to the arms of those living with Muscular Dystrophy and Multiple Sclerosis.

The [Abilitech™ Assist](#), the company’s premier product, helps restore independence to people with neuromuscular conditions by offering one-of-a-kind wearable assistive devices allowing users to perform activities of daily living such as eating, drinking, and using a computer. The Assist fits to the arm and, like a vehicle’s power steering, requires a small percentage of its power to be provided by the user to enable range of motion. The device is designed to be lightweight, easy to use, and comfortable.

“It is exciting that so many people are recognizing the potential of this innovation,” said Conley. “And, during this tight labor market, the impact we can make to the economy is large. The device would address the challenge of the decreasing pool of personal care assistants, while allowing people who couldn’t work before to work again because they can use their arms, with the Assist. It addresses two workforce issues at once.”

Conley and her team continue to build on the launch momentum as they prepare for clinical trials to support the use of the device in patients with Multiple Sclerosis, rehabilitating from stroke, or other conditions that prevent the patients from acting as independently as they wish. Their first clinical 75-patient clinical study is being developed in conjunction with the University of Minnesota and Gillette Children’s Hospital. The study will recruit people who live with Muscular Dystrophy and upper-arm weakness.



“We’ve met so many people whose lives will be changed with this innovation,” said Conley. “Through the Texas Medical Center accelerator, we met Dr. Hany Samir who championed our upcoming stroke study.” Samir is a cardiac anesthesiologist and critical care intensivist with specialization in transplant and mechanical circulatory support who lost his ability to work and perform simple daily functions after a stroke debilitated his left arm.

“I’m unable to practice the medicine I love. I want to hold my wife again with two hands and enjoy dinner with her, without having her cut my food. I want to have a cup of coffee without asking for help,” said Samir. “Regaining function in my arm will restore my life.”

About Abilitech Medical

[Abilitech Medical](#) brings innovative solutions to market that allow people living with upper-limb neuromuscular conditions to function independently. The company’s first product, the Abilitech Assist, will be a one-of-a-kind powered orthotic device providing functional assistance and support to both the elbow and the shoulder, to improve the lives of people in the U.S. affected by neuromuscular weakness.

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