One Armed Dove Hunt

DENVER (September 7, 2005): When the 34th Annual One Arm Dove Hunt gets underway on September 9, Denver-based PhysioNetics™ will debut its first product before a highly critical audience.

PhysioNetics™ develops and manufactures high-performance, affordable prosthetic and orthotic appliances for upper extremity amputees. Nearly 100 arm amputees from around the country are expected to attend the One Arm Dove Hunt, which is held in Olney, Texas, a small farming community 50 miles south of Wichita Falls.

The Low Energy Sequential Action Prehensor, affectionately known as “LESA,” is PhysioNetics’ first product on the market. LESA is the only available body-powered terminal device (TD) with voluntary closing and opening capabilities in one unit. Body-powered TDs currently on the market (commonly known as “hooks”) are either in an open or closed mode, making it necessary for most arm/hand amputees to have two different TDs, manually changing from one unit to another depending on specific activities.

Many arm/hand amputees also find it difficult to pickup and hold onto objects with the currently available devices. LESA’s patented design includes an extraordinary gripping and holding system that reduces accidental drops and enables users to pick up objects as small as a coin.

(Note: A terminal device attaches to a prosthesis and is operated through a simple harness and cable system. By tensing and relaxing shoulder and back muscles, users are able to manipulate the cable, which causes the TD to open or close.)
LESA is being tested by several individuals throughout the country, including Mark Hancock, MD, a Denver oncologist; Eric Westover, of New Hope, MN; and Sean McHugh, of Catasauqua, PA. Both Westover and McHugh will bring LESA to this week’s One Arm Dove Hunt.

“We’re anxious for this group of active amputees to have the opportunity to see LESA in use,” said Brad Veatch, PhysioNetics president and chief technology officer. “All of our field testers have provided us with incredibly valuable feedback, allowing us to make needed adjustments to the unit. Now we’re ready to make our market debut.”

In addition to his private medical practice, Hancock is a sports enthusiast with a very active lifestyle. He has tested LESA while kayaking, canoeing and fishing, as well as during routine activities.

Westover also leads an active life, participating in soccer, hockey, baseball, fishing, and diving, as well as being drummer and lead singer in a rock and roll band. Commenting on LESA, Westover said, “I love the concept of voluntary closing and voluntary opening in one unit. No one else has tried to do something like that.”

A pediatric version of LESA should be ready for testing by the end of the year. Other PhysioNetics products under development include a prosthetic shoulder joint, a power-augmented orthotic brace to enhance arm strength in individuals who have had strokes or other neurological problems, and a prosthetic muscle that works on the same principle as human muscle tissue.

All PhysioNetics devices are an improvement over what is already in the market, with a focus on comfort, function, and affordability.

PhysioNetics™ is an ADA Technologies company. Littleton, Colorado-based ADA Technologies, Inc. specializes in the creation and conversion of innovative technologies to commercial successes. For more information on LESA visit www.lesatd.com. For information on PhysioNetics and ADA Technologies, visit www.adatech.com or call 303-792-5615.

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Brad Veatch: Brad is the President and Chief Technology Officer for PhysioNetics™. Trained as a mechanical engineer, Brad invented the PhysioNetics Low Energy Sequential Action (LESA) Prehensor – an energy efficient terminal device that restores grasp to individuals who have lost a hand to trauma, disease, or a congenital defect. He also developed an artificial muscle system that provides realistic movement and power to prosthetic limbs, a power-augmentation orthotic brace system for neurologically impaired individuals, and a user-controlled prosthetic shoulder joint.

Eric Westover: Eric is an avid golfer – just three weeks after his amputation he was on the golf course perfecting a one-arm drive. He scuba dives, fishes, and is a member of the U.S. National Amputee Soccer Team. He also plays soccer with an able-bodied team in Minnesota, and coaches hockey, soccer and baseball. In addition, he volunteers with WeCanRide, an organization that provides therapeutic horseback riding for physically and/or mentally challenged kids and adults. A drummer and lead singer with a rock and roll band in Minnesota, Eric put together a one-arm band for the One Arm Dove Hunt.

Mark Hancock, MD: Dr. Hancock is an oncologist in private practice in Denver, Colorado. He enjoys an active lifestyle that includes kayaking, canoeing, and fishing.