

Next Health LLC Receives Federal Grant Funding

Norwalk, September 23, 2015 – Next Health LLC is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant by the National Institutes of Health in the amount of \$980K. NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

In support of that mission, Next Health LLC has developed the AgileLife Patient Transfer System (PTS) that allows for the transfer of patients to and from a wheelchair to a hospital bed without a lifting device. The PTS includes a hospital bed, an integrated wheelchair/commode chair, a docking system, and a transfer sheet that provides a "Zero-Lift" patient transfer and movement system.

The SBIR grant allows small businesses that have a strong potential for commercialization to engage in federal research and development. It will facilitate Next Health LLC and their partner, the Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL), to design and test a bariatric width wheelchair and tilt-in-space wheelchair which will be integrated into the PTS.

Dr. Rory Cooper, Director of HERL, believes the combination of Next Health's AgileLife PTS in conjunction with his strong research team will provide the technical resources and cross function support to meet the project objectives. HERL is a research laboratory jointly funded by the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and the University of Pittsburgh.

"We are extremely excited to have received this grant from NIH and the opportunity it will provide to meet the clinical and physical needs of individuals and our ability to expand our partnership with the HERL at the University of Pittsburgh" – Raymond Curatolo: President of Next Health, LLC

Research reported in this publication was supported by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R44HD085702. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.