



For immediate release

November 15, 2017

Courage to Come Back Hero Michael Coss Joins Forces with Neuromotion in Search of Lokomat Donors

Project Lokomat to raise \$500,000 for state-of-the-art Lokomat robot-assisted physiological gait rehabilitation therapy for Fraser Valley individuals with neurological injuries

Surrey, BC – Courage to Come Back Award recipient **Michael Coss** has partnered with **Neuromotion Physiotherapy Surrey**, located within the **Health and Technology District** across from Surrey Memorial Hospital, to collaborate in their search for donors to help fund a Lokomat® so Fraser Valley patients can have access to this therapy. Project Lokomat's goal is to bring a state-of-the-art Lokomat® robot-assisted physiological gait rehabilitation therapy to the Neuromotion's Surrey location to help individuals, particularly in the Fraser Valley who have sustained neurological injuries, get access to this ground breaking therapy.

This will benefit the lives of persons with traumatic and acquired neurologic disorders, spinal injuries and particularly, individuals recovering from stroke, offering them the opportunity to optimize their recovery and experience the ability to walk again. Currently, there are more than 1.6 million residents that the Fraser Health Authority services.

Michael Coss is an inspirational traumatic brain injury (TBI) survivor and dedicates his life to helping other TBI survivors as a motivational speaker, fundraiser and supporter. In 2006, Michael suffered a traumatic brain injury from a near fatal and debilitating car accident. Originally, doctors and medical professionals told Michael his condition was so severe, he would remain at a reduced mental and functional capacity forever, and that chances of recovery were remote.

Despite his diagnosis, Michael and his family researched ways to help him recover and one of the therapies he used is the Lokomat® robot-assisted physiological gait rehabilitation therapy. He used Neuromotion's Lokomat® in Vancouver under Pauline Martin's guidance as part of his rehabilitation and immediate progress was noticed from week to week. His recovery was so extraordinary that Michael went from a power wheelchair to a manual wheelchair, and is now walking with a single cane, and will soon without a cane.

"The Lokomat® gait therapy at Neuromotion was instrumental in my physical rehabilitation and it helped me recover from being in my wheelchair to now walking with a cane within months," says Michael Coss. "Now I want to pay it back by helping to fundraise for a Lokomat® machine for their Surrey location so that others, especially in the Fraser Valley who suffer from traumatic brain injuries and other neurological injuries, can have access to this ground breaking therapy."

Currently, Neuromotion's Vancouver and Victoria locations are the only clinics in British Columbia where patients can have access to a Lokomat® machine outside of a research environment. Both Lokomats® were purchased and donated by individual families to help improve mobility in individuals following stroke, spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis as well as other neurological diseases and injuries.

"There is an overwhelming need and demand, especially in the Fraser Valley, for access to the Lokomat® gait therapy and currently, our Vancouver and Victoria clinics are the only ones accessible



to patients in BC other than the one at UBC which is only available to researchers,” says Pauline Martin, Registered Physiotherapist and owner of Neuromotion Physiotherapy Surrey.

“The minimum cost to obtain a Lokomat® machine is \$500,000 including the modules to support children. We have seen the progress this therapy has made to patients’ recoveries and through the donations, want to extend this therapy to patients in the Fraser Valley as well.”

With over 325 peer-reviewed publications, Lokomat® is the first automated gait therapy robot and is the most scientifically and therapeutically reviewed robotic device in the world. Developed by Hocoma, a spinoff medical technology company of the Balgrist University Hospital in Switzerland, the Lokomat® is a highly intensive physiological gait rehabilitation for severely impaired neurological patients. It automates or assists walking movements on a treadmill, allowing greater efficiency of treadmill training and reducing physical demand on therapists. It takes advantage of ground-breaking technology to uniquely stimulate brain regions that may have been affected by brain injury.

Michael Coss is the winner of the 2012 Courage to Come Back Award for Physical Rehabilitation and is also the author of *The Courage to Come Back: Triumph over TBI – A Story of Hope*.

For more information on how to support Project Lokomat, please visit www.ProjectLokomat.com.

About Neuromotion Physiotherapy + Rehabilitation Clinics:

Neuromotion Physiotherapy is a pioneering physiotherapy team specializing in treating people with neurological impairments. In 2008, it acquired a Lokomat® physiological gait rehabilitation technology for their Vancouver clinic, and added a second Lokomat® in their newly opened Victoria location in 2011. In 2016, Neuromotion expanded to Surrey to participate in a clinical trial investigating the Helius PoNS™ device in individuals with mild traumatic brain injury. www.neuromotionphysio.com

About the Health and Technology District:

The Health and Technology District is one of BC’s most rapidly growing and dynamic new health tech sector located in Surrey’s emerging innovation ecosystem. The District includes a series of high-tech buildings, developed by Canadian-based Lark Group, located and under expansion, immediately adjacent to Surrey Memorial Hospital. It is a unique collaborative cluster of multinational and start-up companies, international partners, clinical and research facilities, scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs, working in partnership to accelerate the implementation of technologies and solutions towards health care impacts and improvements. www.HealthandTechnologyDistrict.com

Available to media:

- Lokomat® Backgrounder
- Full Michael Coss Biography, b-roll footage of Michael in a Lokomat®
- Lokomat® photos and videos
- On-site demos of the Lokomat® at Neuromotion Physiotherapy Vancouver
- Interviews with Michael Coss, Pauline Martin (Neuromotion), Rowena Rizzotti (Health & Technology District)

-30-

Media contact:

Yvonne Chiang, 604-880-5090, yvonne@chiangpr.ca