

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RIC and Otto Bock Advance Prosthetic & Orthotic Research to Increase Patient Independence and Ability

Minneapolis (June 4, 2009) – Otto Bock HealthCare, the leading manufacturer of innovative products in prosthetic and orthotic devices worldwide, and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC), the nation's #1 rehabilitation hospital¹, together announce establishment of the Max Näder Laboratory to advance the development and performance outcomes of prosthetic and orthotic devices allowing amputees to regain optimum mobility and flourish in life.

Located in RIC's Searle Rehabilitation Research Center, the Max Näder Laboratory is focused on advanced clinical outcome research related to assistive devices that restore mobility for the more than 1.7 million people living with limb loss in the United States alone². The Laboratory is centered on advanced rehabilitation systems, to provide outcomes data on assistive products driving optimal, cost-effective care -- particularly in the areas of limb loss, stroke recovery and muscular and neurological disorders.

"RIC will be conducting unprecedented clinical trials and outcome studies that will establish rational, evidence based standards of care for amputees worldwide," said W. Zev Rymer, M.D., Ph.D., vice president of research at RIC. "Through scientific discovery and innovation we will translate laboratory findings directly into patient care providing the most advanced clinical care available and advancing human ability for our patients."

Otto Bock's five-year commitment of \$1.5 million is dedicated to advancing the fields of orthotics and prosthetics. RIC is actively recruiting a director for the Max Näder Laboratory to lead this critical initiative that will help the clinical community understand the measurable benefits new technology can bring to people with amputations.

"Partnering with this highly respected organization shows our commitment to bringing highly innovative products to the service of those with limb loss," stated Professor Hans Georg Näder, President and CEO of Otto Bock HealthCare. "Our vision for this lab is to confirm the incredible benefits technology can offer, from tangibly expanding physical abilities through the emotional benefits of confidently moving through your daily life. With this long term cooperation we will strengthen our tight relationship towards the state-of-the-art scientific community in North America as well. "

The lab is named after Dr. Mäx Nader who led Otto Bock HealthCare until 1990, when his son Professor Hans Georg Näder took leadership responsibility. Dr. Näder steered the company from 1946 to 1990. Launching Otto Bock USA in 1958, he entered the global arena at a time when the "Made in Germany" export boom had not yet been embraced as a viable reality.

¹ Ranked "#1 Rehabilitation Hospital in America" by *U.S. News & World Report* every year since 1991

² Patricia F. Adams, et al, "Current Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 1996," *Vital and Health Statistics* 10:200 (1999)

“In today’s healthcare climate,” said Bert Harman, President and CEO, Otto Bock North America, “it is imperative that we deliver proof of positive patient outcomes utilizing the highest scientific standards. With RIC, we are confident that we will deliver what care providers need.”

The Max Näder Laboratory will be part of RIC's Center for Clinical Research. RIC's capacity to combine clinical care and advanced science to drive rehabilitation advancement makes the facility an excellent site for such a clinical research initiative. By implementing clinical trials and focusing on repair, renewal and recovery, RIC's outcomes are changing progressively.

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About Otto Bock HealthCare

Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH is based in Duderstadt, Germany. Otto Bock HealthCare has more than 3,800 employees worldwide and produces over 30,000 types of prosthetic and orthotic components, mobility and rehabilitation products. Nine research and development centers of excellence worldwide help support a North American business that is the leader in upper and lower extremity prosthetic products as well as continuous passive motion (CPM) services and related therapies. (www.ottobockus.com)

About The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) is making a difference in the world for people with disabilities. RIC provides world-class care to patients from around the globe for a range of conditions from acute brain and spinal cord injury to chronic arthritis, pain and sports injuries.

RIC, founded in 1954, has been designated the “#1 Rehabilitation Hospital in America” by U.S. News & World Report every year since 1991 and attributes its leading standard of care in part to its innovative research and discovery, particularly in the areas of bionic medicine, robotics, neural regeneration, pain care and better outcomes. RIC operates its 165-bed, Flagship hospital in downtown Chicago, as well as a network of 30 sites of care located throughout the city and surrounding suburbs that provide additional inpatient care, day rehabilitation and outpatient services. RIC also maintains strategic alliances with leading healthcare providers throughout the state of Illinois and Indiana. For more information, visit www.ric.org.