Amputee surf group rides the waves in California

May 6, 2009
San Clemente, CA – This Saturday May 9th, 10 to 15 amputees from ages 13 to 60+ will ride the waves as part of a new surf group for amputees called “Amp’d.”

Amp’d was inspired by 13-year-old amputee Robert Ram of Las Flores, CA. Ram lost his leg above-the-knee to cancer (Ewing’s Sarcoma) last year (March 2008). Determined to lead an active life like the other kids at his junior high school, Ram decided to try surfing, despite never having done so before his amputation.

His prosthetic practitioner, Amy Ginsburg of Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics in Laguna Hills, CA had been surfing for five years and offered to help him. She introduced Ram to another amputee patient of hers, retired 55-year-old bone cancer survivor Wayne Tanamine who has been successfully surfing, standing on one leg, for years. A mentoring friendship instantly formed.

As Ginsburg talked with others, she found a number of her amputee patients had been avid surfers before their amputations and never thought they could do it again. Inspired by Ram’s determination and Tanamine’s successes, a surfing group of 10 to 15 amputees (of varying levels – arm and leg) began to meet and surf together every few weeks. Collectively called “Amp’d”, they each have their own personal stories of overcoming a devastating illness / loss but returning to surfing because of a passion for the sport.

This Saturday, 10 to 15 amputee athletes of the “Amp’d” surf group will ride the waves:

Saturday, May 9, 2009
8:30am – Noon PT
San Onofre State Beach in San Clemente, at the “Dog Patch” break

This Saturday, there will also be a new member to Amp’d who will surf for the first time since loosing his leg last year. 17-year-old Shane Lincoln was struck by a drunk driver when he was helping push his friend’s broken down car. An avid surfer before he lost his leg, Shane is excited to get back into the water.

Media Note – Press are invited to meet and interview the Amp’d surfers this Saturday. High resolution photographs are available here. Additional photographs to be added.

Contacts:
Amy Ginsburg, aginsburg@hanger.com, 310-413-0485
Jennifer Bittner, jbittner@hanger.com, 904-249-4210