Pittsburgh Receives New 3D Laser-Scanning Technology

February 23, 2004

Media Invited to Experience Laser, Meet Area Patients,
Meet Local Practitioner Certified in the Technology

Thanks to a newly developed motion-tracking laser scanner and 3D software called Insignia, Pittsburgh residents needing prosthetic and orthotic care can experience a medical advancement that is revolutionizing patient treatment.

On Friday, February 27, media are invited to experience the new technology firsthand, see live demonstrations, meet one of the area's first recipient of the technology, 63 year old below the knee amputee and Monessen resident Norman Madison, and meet with Pittsburgh's first Insignia-certified practitioners.

Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics
33 South 19th Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15203
9:00 AM-1:00 PM

**MEDIA NOTE -- High resolution photographs and b-roll footage available upon request. Digital press kit available at http://www.hanger.com/insignia

How does it work? The compact, portable laser scanner works by casting a fan of laser light over the patient's limb, head, or body, while the camera on the wand views the laser to record a cross-sectional profile of the object. The embedded motion-tracking device determines the position and orientation of the scanner's wand, enabling the computer to reconstruct the full three- dimensional surface of the object within Hanger's proprietary CAD/CAM software.

What does it do? When an amputee needs a prosthetic device to replace an arm or leg, or when a patient needs an orthotic brace such as a spinal jacket or cranial helmet, a practitioner must obtain a representation of the patient's body part in order to develop a custom-fitting prosthetic or orthotic device. In the past, this has largely been done using a messy, invasive, and often inconsistent method of plaster casting. Insignia offers a faster, cleaner, and less invasive alternative. Using the laser scanner, a highly accurate three-dimensional replica can be captured within seconds. Traditional casting methods can take up to thirty minutes and require the patient to be wrapped in wet, messy plaster.

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SOURCE Hanger Orthopedic Group
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