



Winter Innovations Secures \$1 Million NSF Grant to Advance Innovative Orthopedic Suturing Device

Date: November 15, 2023
For Immediate Release

Knoxville, Tennessee – Winter Innovations Inc. is thrilled to announce that the company has been awarded a \$1,000,000 Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This grant represents a significant milestone in the development of Winter Innovations' novel two-part suturing device for orthopedic ligament and tendon surgical procedures.

Orthopedic soft tissue surgery relies on precise stitching techniques for successful outcomes, but it faces challenges, with 7.5% of surgeries requiring revision due to graft or stitching issues. Winter Innovations' innovative two-part needle device has shown strong results during bench testing on cadaveric ACL grafts from the company's successful \$256,000 Phase I NSF SBIR project in 2022. Results included reducing failures from tissue damage by 65% and procedure stitching time by 30% when compared to conventional needles and stitch methods.

Led by co-founders Lia Winter and Preston Dishner, the Winter Innovations team will utilize the Phase II grant to build upon achievements of the Phase I project. Their goals are to optimize the existing two-part needle, demonstrate its superiority in various anatomies and procedures, and develop new embodiments to enable wider adoption.

Lia Winter, CEO of Winter Innovations, commented: "We are honored to secure the highly competitive Phase II grant. This grant represents an incredible opportunity for our upcoming research and development efforts and the enduring success of our company. The National Science Foundation has provided us with a remarkable opportunity to effect positive change within the orthopedics industry through research, development, and commercialization of our technology. We are committed to leveraging this grant to drive meaningful progress in orthopedic surgery."

About the National Science Foundation's Small Business Programs: *America's Seed Fund powered by NSF awards \$200 million annually to startups and small businesses, transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact. Startups working across almost all areas of science and technology can receive up to \$2 million to support research and development (R&D), helping de-risk technology for commercial success. America's Seed Fund is congressionally mandated through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The NSF is an independent federal agency with a budget of about \$9.5 billion that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. For more information, visit seedfund.nsf.gov.*



About Winter Innovations: *Winter Innovations is a medical device company dedicated to the commercialization of its patented two-part needle technology and innovative stitching methods. Founded in 2019, the company's mission is to develop simple tools for overlooked areas in surgery. Winter Innovation has garnered recognition is an award-winning startup, securing prizes in numerous pitch competitions, winning grant funding through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, and successfully completing national accelerator programs including Creative Destruction Labs – Wisconsin Health & Wellness Stream, Tampa Bay Wave, Springboard Enterprises Health Innovation Hub, and ZeroTo510.*



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