



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Life-Changing Brace Technology Could Aid Millions Suffering from Foot Drop Paralysis**

*TeamUP, the only national team led by people with foot drop, on a mission to highlight a serious disconnect in the healthcare system*

**Rockaway, NJ** – What do a Paralympian, a Teacher, a Veteran and a Homemaker have in common? They all have foot drop paralysis, and they are all committed to highlighting a disconnect in the healthcare system that prevents others with foot drop from receiving dynamic response brace technology that can restore mobility.

Foot Drop is a form of paralysis affecting the foot and ankle, making walking difficult if not impossible. While it is not known exactly how many people in the world have foot drop, it is potentially in the millions, as the condition is caused by a variety of underlying and serious conditions such as spinal cord injury, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT), Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis and Stroke. As challenging as these conditions are, it is the associated onset of foot drop paralysis that ultimately robs people of their mobility.

After battling back from a rare form of cancer which left her with foot drop, Jamie Whitmore of CA is now a world-class Paracyclist on Team USA. Middle school teacher Barbie Barnett from Chicago developed foot drop after routine back surgery. Craig Vogtsberger of CO was left with foot drop after being crushed between two Humvees during a National Guard training exercise. And Virginia Mamone, a wife and mother of three from Las Vegas, has foot drop as a result of Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) disease. They represent just a few of the diverse members of TeamUP, the only national team led by people with foot drop.

TeamUP was founded by Beth Deloria of NC, an accomplished marathoner who developed foot drop as a result of a spinal cord injury that left her unable to walk properly, much less run. Like most members of TeamUP, Beth was given a hard, plastic “boot,” cumbersome and ineffective technology that did little to help her walk. She was determined to find a way to walk and run again, and after years of searching was finally fitted with the Allard USA ToeOFF® dynamic response brace. She was devastated to learn this dynamic response brace had been on the market for nine years, but neither her physician nor her orthotist provided access to this technology due to a serious disconnect in the healthcare industry. Finally able to reclaim her life, Beth made it her mission to increase public awareness about the advanced solutions available to people with foot drop paralysis. With the help of Allard USA, Deloria went on to found the Get Back UP Today movement to show others living with mobility issues that it is possible to regain control of your life. To help achieve her mission, she assembled this national team of athletes, veterans, runners and everyday heroes who were also sidelined by foot drop before finding a real solution.

Through athletic events, public speaking, social media platforms and participating in brace trials to ensure technological research continues to advance, TeamUP works to educate so that others don’t waste years searching for something to help them walk, run and cycle again, when the technology exists that can give them their lives back now. Their goal is to reach potentially millions who are still needlessly suffering from immobility due to foot drop paralysis. Sharing their experiences of immobility, loss of quality of life, depression, refusing to give up and being able to connect the dots for others is the mission of this team.

For more information, please visit:

[www.GetBackUpToday.com](http://www.GetBackUpToday.com)

[www.facebook.com/getbackuptoday](https://www.facebook.com/getbackuptoday)

[www.allardusa.com](http://www.allardusa.com)

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### **About Allard USA**

Allard USA is a subsidiary of Allard International, recognized worldwide as a leader of innovative orthotic devices, privately owned by Peter Allard and based in Helsingborg, Sweden. Allard USA is committed to working together with Orthotic and Prosthetic facilities and medical professionals throughout North America to offer innovative orthotic solutions that will help improve function and quality of life for individuals with physical challenges.