NovoPedics Receives Subaward through Rutgers University's U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) Award to Advance MeniscoFix™

The U.S. Department of Defense through the USAMRAA recently awarded $4.42 million to Rutgers University (Michael G. Dunn, Ph.D., Principal Investigator) to support preclinical development of **MeniscoFix™, NovoPedics**' novel device for total meniscus reconstruction. **MeniscoFix™** is an implantable medical device that is designed to restore mobility to patients suffering from severe knee meniscal injuries. This was a very highly competitive award as only 6 applications nationwide in this grant category were funded by the DoD: https://cdmrp.army.mil/jwmrp/awards/19mrdawards.aspx

MeniscoFix™ provides an innovative way to replace damaged meniscal tissue with a patented fiber-reinforced design similar to the native meniscus and can be attached to both soft tissue and bone, allowing it to be used in total meniscus replacement surgery. **MeniscoFix™** gradually resorbs and promotes neo-meniscus formation, potentially restoring mobility and preventing the onset of degenerative post-traumatic osteoarthritis (PTOA) associated with meniscus injuries.

This research grant will enable NovoPedics to gain valuable insight into the manufacturing, safety and efficacy of **MeniscoFix™**. Findings have the potential to advance the FDA approval and commercialization of **MeniscoFix™**, making available the first mechanically functional, tissue engineered total meniscus replacement.

There is a critical need for this technology due to the vast number of meniscectomies performed every year. In the U.S., approximately 800,000 meniscectomies are performed annually in the civilian population, and about 20,000 are done on military personnel. Meniscal tears occur approximately 10 times more frequently in the military than in the civilian population, and the rate increases significantly with age. Commercialization of **MeniscoFix™** has the potential to accelerate return to duty of active military members with severe meniscus injuries in the short-term. Long-term, it is anticipated to prevent the development of PTOA, provide significant health cost savings, and improve quality of life

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