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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are Portal and The Legend of Zelda: Phantom Hourglass.

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Award no substitute for research success—Stein

DA VINCI • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Despite the benefit that WalkAide has given, lack of funding almost ended the project. Initially, individual investors funded the product's development and production.

"Venture capitalists want a high return and a return pretty quickly," Stein explained. "They didn't see millions of dollars coming in. When they used up their money, they pulled the plug. That was pretty disappointing, and I was about ready to give up. But I'm stubborn and decided to go back one more time."

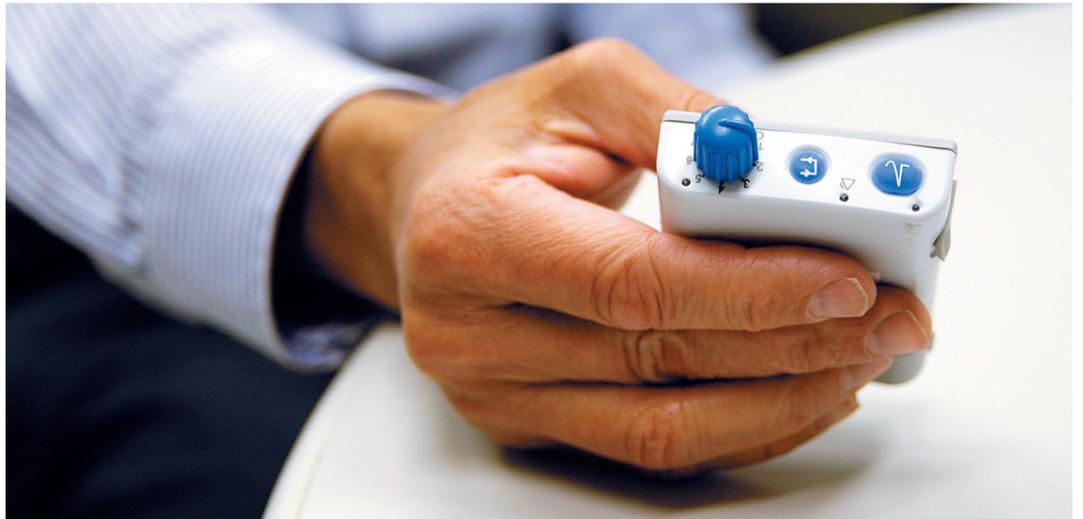
Stein's persistence paid off. With the help of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, an American company was found to invest in production and marketing of the WalkAide.

Corporate investment allowed useful application of the promising research. However, monetary limitations still present themselves.

Though it has been over six months since Health Canada approved WalkAide for sale, it takes time and money to train people to fit and maintain the machine for patients.

The technology contained is sophisticated and expensive. Each machine has its own microprocessor that allows it to be configured specifically for each individual—an important factor when considering widespread use.

Stein hopes that financial disadvantage won't exclude those who could really benefit from the technology.



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

WALK BOX This palm-sized device developed at the University of Alberta is allowing people with foot drop to walk again.

"We need to get Medicare to cover the costs in the States," he said. "Obviously, to spend several thousand dollars to get a device is an impediment to some. [WalkAide], we hope, will be covered by the provincial healthcare bodies in Canada."

In regards to the Da Vinci award that WalkAide garnered, Stein explained that it was simply a bonus that came after the major payoff of his work.

"That was just the icing on the cake," he said. "The main reward is seeing people that were having difficulty with a smile on their face and getting a better quality of life. Tens of thousands of people benefit from an idea that started as just that—as an idea."

Even with its success, reliability stimulating precisely the right nerve has been an issue for the machine. Therefore, Stein said there's room for improvement.

"One of the projects that is ongoing is a small implanted stimulator [...] . It has a coil so that you send a signal in as a radio wave that tells it when to stimulate and when not to."

The advancements don't stop there. Dr Stein's lab is in the early stages of a system that could perhaps restore mobility for paraplegics.

"We do have a couple [paraplegics] now that are walking," he said. "It's still limited, still slow, and still takes energy, and we are trying to figure out how to do it more efficiently to

make it practical."

That too is an exciting prospect for the research professor who is now semi-retired. Yet in the meantime, beneficiaries of the WalkAide have nothing but praise for the man behind the machine as well.

"Dr Stein is a gem of a fellow. I have the utmost respect and regard for him and for the work he has done. He's very understanding, careful, and thorough," Gordey said.

"There is going to come a day when I will want to walk my daughters down the aisle; he has made that possible," Jackson said. "He had an idea and brought it to fruition. It's incredible the vision that this gentleman has."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Krystina Sulatycki

As you may be aware, scientists have recently synthesized the first ever man-made life form.
If you could create a life form, what would it be?



Taryn Donald
Arts I



Kevin Meleskie
Business IV



Brennan Lafleur
Science IV



Melissa Pearce
Nursing III

"I'd make a person who could fly because you could get places more easily. It would be cooler and more fun. It would have wings—bat wings."

"You know that tiny hippo on those 'you shouldn't believe everything you see on TV' ads? I'd create that guy."

"The Ninja Turtles had a giant mosquito they'd ride around on. I can't remember its name, but that's what I'd create."

"I'd create an animal to write my nursing papers for me. It would have the ability to write perfect A+ papers, every time."

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