FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

The host institution for this study, Hanger Clinics, is the largest provider of O&P services in the world. We are very confident that we will be able to match the goals of this proposal to clinic sites with large populations from which to recruit and a staffing structure robust enough to handle the commitment to a research project. There are three other factors that improve the chances that the resources of Hanger will be brought to bear on this project. One, Hanger Clinic recruits a large number of residents each year. Given that the residents are already prepared to complete a residency project, we believe we can obtain their commitment to assist with this study. Two, the clinicians who practice in the Hanger Clinics are very aware that the field of Orthotics and Prosthetics lacks evidence in the literature to support their standards of care. There is strong interest in finding ways to more objectively record outcomes. We believe that their interest will translate to commitment to this project. And finally, the leadership of Hanger has committed to improving our infrastructure for measurement and tracking of outcomes and we believe we see of the benefit of having their support and leadership behind this project. We currently have 4 GaitRite pressure mats available for measures within the clinic. Finally, of extreme value is our large intranet/infrastructure which will allow us to immediately disseminate and implement our findings into routine practice, resulting in immediate improvement in care without typical dissemination lag.