Adaptive Ankle-Foot Prostheses for Improved Stability on Uneven Terrain

Minneapolis VA Health Care System, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Why this research is important:
Current ankle-foot prostheses do not adapt their alignment on every step of walking. This makes it difficult for prosthesis users to walk on uneven terrain.

Summary:
The VA MADE Program has developed a prosthetic ankle-foot system that can automatically adapt its alignment to uneven terrain on every step of walking. This system works without motors or batteries. The VA MADE Program is collaborating with a United States company to commercialize this technology.

How the research will improve Veterans’ lives:
This slope-adaptive prosthesis will improve the balance confidence of Veterans who walk on uneven terrain, leading to increased participation in outdoor activities and improved quality of life.