

# Improving Footwear Options for Women and Men Veterans with Amputations

## Minneapolis VA Health Care System

### Why this research is important:

Footwear options for women and men Veterans with amputations are severely limited by current ankle-foot prostheses. Most Veterans with lower-limb amputations must use only shoes of a specific heel height or their prosthesis becomes unstable.

### Summary:

The VA MADE Program is developing a new ankle-foot system that includes a high performance ankle that can quickly attach to inexpensive feet. The system will include one ankle that can be easily coupled to numerous feet designed to fit several types of shoes.

### How the research will improve Veterans' lives:

This new ankle-foot system will allow women and men Veterans to wear shoes with different heel heights. This system will improve body image and balance confidence, which have been shown in a recent study at the Minneapolis VA to predict levels of community participation and reintegration after an amputation.



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