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Last year was a good one for Winter Innovations, 2021 has important key milestones

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Last year was a good year for <u>Winter Innovations Inc.</u>, and Co-Founder Lia Winter is optimistic that 2021 will feature even more significant milestones.

The inventor of the EasyWhipTM stitching needle for orthopedic procedures issued a recent highlights email where she said, "We couldn't have done it without your help and continued support." Readers can click <u>here</u> for a video of the medical device.

Among the 2020 highlights that Winter cited were: (1) completing the first production build of EasyWhipTM needles; (2) receiving the start-up's first issued patent on October 6, ironically her birthday; (3) closing its first funding round that was led by <u>The Angel Roundtable</u>; (4) winning first place at the Dassault Systemes 3D Experience World Conference; (5) completing and passing all tests required by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for medical products to be cleared for human use; and (6) having the Team Physician for the Pittsburgh Steelers demo the device.

What's on the calendar for 2021? Winter says they include:

- Closing a bridge round of investment funding that will provide capital to operate through 2021;
- Submitting the application to the FDA for EasyWhip™ to be cleared for human use;
- Securing the required FDA clearance;
- Using EasyWhip™ for the first time in a patient; and
- Performing a research study to further validate the performance of EasyWhip™ compared to competing products.

Winter came to the region to enroll at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where she subsequently earned two graduate degrees – an MBA and a Master's in Biomedical Engineering. Along the way, Winter Innovations won more than \$150,000 in prize money during a number of student competitions.

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