

MEDIA ADVISORY-VIDEO & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

MOUNTAIN ACTION SPORTS ATHLETES SPIT FOR SCIENCE

Athletes with life altering injuries to join Nevada genetic study to discover keys to better treatment and success in survivorship

WHAT:

Renown Health is proud to announce that we will support, for free, the genetic testing of 250 [High Fives](#) athletes around the country to improve the emergent, acute, rehabilitative and survivorship of people with spinal cord and head injuries. Local High Fives athletes will have the first chance to be a part of this next step to better understand the relationships between genetic data in improving health and healthcare in our community at the High Fives Spit for Science Event. High Fives athletes who participate will also become part of the [Healthy Nevada Project—one of the first community-based population health studies](#) in the U.S. that combines health, population and genetic information with environmental data, announced by Renown and the Desert Research Institute in collaboration with 23andMe in September 2016.

WHEN:

Thursday, July 20

2:30 p.m. Media Preview with two High Fives Athletes, [Steve Wallace](#) and [Jason Abraham](#); Roy Tuscany, co-founder, executive director, High Fives Foundation; and Michele Henderson, administrative director, office of research and education, Renown Institute for Health Innovation.

4:00 p.m. High Fives Spit for Science Event with several High Fives athletes taking the 23andMe tests, and remarks from Roy Tuscany, co-founder, executive director, High Fives Foundation; Dr. Tony Slonim, president and CEO, Renown Health; and Joe Grzyski, Ph.D., co-director of the Renown Health Institute for Health Innovation and principal investigator on the Healthy Nevada Project.

WHERE:

Bundox Bocce
Renaissance Reno Downtown Hotel
One South Lake Street, Reno, NV 89501

WHY:

Each High Five's athlete is a warrior in their own right and at Renown, we want to contribute to and better understand what helps drive that warrior mentality and resilience among the High Fives athletes and at the same time unlock some of the keys to better treatment and success in survivorship for those who experience devastating injuries. Renown is privileged to work together with High Fives to serve those with spinal cord and head injury in our community and across the nation.

###

About Renown Health

Renown Health is a locally governed and locally owned, not-for-profit integrated healthcare network serving Nevada, Lake Tahoe and northeast California. Renown is one of the region's largest private employers with a workforce of more than 6,700. It comprises three acute care hospitals, a rehabilitation hospital, skilled nursing, the area's most comprehensive medical group and urgent care network, and the region's largest and only locally owned not-for-profit insurance company, Hometown Health. Renown has a long tradition of being the first in the region to successfully perform leading-edge medical procedures. For more information, visit renown.org.

About High Fives Foundation

High Fives Foundation is a Tahoe-based, national 501.c.3 nonprofit organization. The High Fives Foundation supports the dreams of mountain action sports athletes by raising injury prevention awareness while providing resources and inspiration to those who suffer life-altering injuries. Formed to "pay it forward" by the founder from his own recovery to help injured athletes, the Foundation has helped 159 athletes from 31 states to date since its inception in 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.highfivesfoundation.org>.



Contact: Stacey Sunday
M: 775-691-7308
E: news@renown.org
Web: news.renown.org

About the Healthy Nevada Project

The Healthy Nevada Project is a collaboration between Renown Health, the Desert Research Institute, the Nevada Governor's Office and personal genetics company 23andMe and one of the first community-based population health studies in the U.S. that integrates genetics, environmental data and individual health information. With this health information, researchers hope to illuminate genetic patterns and health trends that provide answers to critical medical questions. For more information, visit <https://healthynv.org/>.

About The Renown Institute for Health Innovation (IHI)

The IHI is a not-for-profit partnership between Renown Health, the Desert Research Institute, and the DRI Foundation, working to integrate environmental data, population health outcomes, genetic information, and socio-economic determinants to help Nevada address some of its most complex environmental health problems.