



June 27, 2024

The Honorable Mike Bost
Chair
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
364 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20003

Re: Neuralink Statement for the Record for House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing: "A Call to Action: Meeting the Needs of the Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders (SCI/D) Veteran Community"

Dear Chairman Bost, Ranking Member Takano, and members of the committee:

On behalf of Neuralink, I am honored to submit this statement for the record in connection with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing: "A Call to Action: Meeting the Needs of the Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders (SCI/D) Veteran Community." We commend the Committee for its dedication to improving the lives of veterans living with spinal cord injuries and disorders.

Challenges Faced by Veterans with SCI/D

Veterans with SCI/D face significant obstacles in their daily lives, including compromised mobility, chronic pain, and a host of secondary health issues, adversely impacting their independence and quality of life. Despite the progress made in medical science and rehabilitative care, existing interventions fall short of fully addressing these multifaceted challenges. It is crucial that we explore and invest in innovative technologies that offer new possibilities for restoring autonomy to our nation's veterans.

Neuralink's Role and Mission

Neuralink's mission is to restore autonomy to those with unmet medical needs. We aim to do this by developing brain-computer interface (BCI) technology that enables a direct interface between the brain and external devices. The first indication we are addressing with BCI technology is the restoration of digital autonomy to people living with tetraplegia due to spinal cord injury or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Neuralink's intracortical BCI implant – the Link – is designed to record, process, and wirelessly transmit neural activity to external devices, such as a computer. The neural data is then translated into actions, such as movements of a cursor on a computer screen.

Earlier this year, our first clinical trial participant, Noland Arbaugh, received his Link. Since then, Noland has used the Link to control his laptop using his mind: browsing the internet, playing chess, and livestreaming to audiences worldwide. He has also pushed the boundaries of BCI performance, repeatedly setting new world records for BCI cursor control.

“[The Link] has helped me **reconnect with the world**, my friends, and my family. It’s given me the ability to **do things on my own again** without needing my family at all hours of the day and night.”

– Noland Arbaugh

Enabling the control and use of a laptop represents an important but early step towards our mission. We are currently seeking approval to explore how the Link can offer people with tetraplegia greater autonomy by interfacing with smart home devices, wheelchairs, and prosthetic limbs.

Neuralink’s mission is aligned with the objectives of this Committee: to enhance the autonomy, mobility, and quality of life of our nation’s veterans with SCI/D. We are committed to conducting rigorous clinical trials to ensure the safety and efficacy of our technology and dedicated to delivering our transformative BCI technology to those in need, including our veterans, as urgently as possible.

Commitment to Collaboration

Neuralink is committed to developing our technology in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), our clinical partners, and patient advocacy groups. Public-private partnerships can play a crucial role in accelerating progress and increasing access to treatments. Neuralink welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure our technology is developed with the specific needs of veterans with SCI/D in mind.

Conclusion

Neuralink’s BCI technology has the potential to profoundly improve the lives of veterans with SCI/D. We appreciate the opportunity to share our vision with this Committee. If you have any questions or we can provide any assistance to the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dongjin Seo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dongjin" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Seo".

Dongjin (DJ) Seo
President & COO
Neuralink Corp.