

**After a spinal cord injury left him unable to move from the chest down,
Keith Thomas continues to gain strength and make incredible progress**
In the past year, Keith Thomas has gained the ability to grasp, lift and drink from a cup on his own

SOUNDBITES

CG: Chad Bouton
Principal Investigator & Professor
and VP of Advanced Engineering
at the Feinstein Institutes for
Medical Research at Northwell
Health

Bouton says Keith reports that he can feel things when he's not in the laboratory:

"Over this past year, Keith will feel sensations in his arm and hand in the laboratory, but when he leaves and goes home he's reporting that he can feel other sensations like when someone touches his wrist or his arm. Or, say, if he reaches down and pets his dog, he can actually feel the fur of his dog in those new areas where he has regained sensation."

Bouton says Keith has strengthened his arm and hand and can now pick things up:

"We've been working with Keith in the lab to strengthen his arm and his abilities to move and pick things up every week. And he's now able to pick up even a cup by himself, feel the cup and know how hard he wants to squeeze so he doesn't over crush it or have it slip out of his hand, but he can do it just in a perfect grasp and bring it up to his mouth and take a drink all by himself. And that's been incredible to watch."

Bouton say Keith is able to interact with and help other study participants as he continues to improve:

"Keith is going to continue to work on finer movements and dexterity, along with more dynamic arm movements. And he's also able to interact with some of our other study participants. And we have two active studies, and one of the things we're looking at is how participants living with disability could interact and even help each other in their recovery and rehabilitation."

CG: Keith Thomas
Clinical Trial Participant

Keith describes how his recovery has progressed in the past year:

"I'm actually feeling great now, more recovered than last year. I can actually do a lot more. I'm working on my wheelchair movements and lifting my arms and drinking and eating myself and brushing my teeth and all that stuff. So it's been a journey."

Keith says he's able to feel things that are put in his hand:

"When I feel something, it depends what you put in my hand, usually I feel everything, like a cup or an egg or something like that, I feel it. For example, my dog I feel."

Keith describes how he can now pet his dog:

"So it's kind of cool when my sister brings my dog over to

CG: Keith Thomas
Clinical Trial Participant

me and I pet the dog, or like, I can feel the dog's hair."
Keith says Chad and his team are the heroes:
"But I don't think I'm a hero whatsoever. If anybody's a hero it's Chad and his team."

For viewer information on this story contact:

Matthew Libassi, Northwell Health: (631)793-5325, mllibassi@northwell.edu

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1800 West 5th Ave.

Columbus, Ohio 43212

Phone: (614) 905-8318

www.mediasourcetv.com

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Department: (631)793-5325

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