



EDMOND J. SAFRA
PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION

Information to the Media - For Immediate Release; June 11, 2014

- **Neuroscience Breakthrough Featured June 12 at 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil™ Kick-Off; Paralyzed Person Using New Technology to Launch the First Ball at Global Event**
- **Brazil's ELS-IINN at center of research effort and is new model for science as an agent of social transformation through community outreach**

On June 12, billions of TV views around the world will be stunned as they watch a paralyzed person kick off the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ in Brazil. The person will be wearing the 'Walk Again' brain-controlled robotic exoskeleton developed by an international team and based on years of innovative research at the Edmond and Lily Safra International Institute of Neuroscience in Natal, Brazil (ELS-IINN).

That astonishing kick off symbolizes not only Brazil's remarkable accomplishment in the field of neuroscience, but also ELS-IINN as a unique model of a research center using science as an agent of social transformation.

Mrs. Lily Safra, President of the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation stated:

"The Walk Again kick off demonstrates the remarkable progress made in our understanding of the brain and in our ability to overcome the obstacles of illness. But there is still a lot to be done; neuroscience research around the world should be able to count on continued support, both private and public, so that cures for neurodegenerative diseases can be found quickly. I salute our long-time partner, Professor Miguel Nicolelis, who, through his passionate hard work, created a new model for social transformation through science at the Edmond and Lily Safra International Institute of Neuroscience."

For more information on the Edmond and Lily Safra International Institute of Neuroscience please visit:

<http://www.natalneuro.org.br/>

<http://www.edmondjsafra.org/science-and-medicine/neuroscience-in-natal>

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