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**Contact:**

Emlyn Swartzberg  
Marketing and Communications Specialist  
ABI Wellness  
Toll-Free: 1-833-414-8958 Ext. 1  
[eswartzberg@abiwellness.com](mailto:eswartzberg@abiwellness.com)

## **IRG Physical & Hand Therapy Launches Innovative Cognitive Program**

*Research-Based, Highly Effective Cognitive Enhancement Program Now Offered in Washington*

MILL CREEK, WASHINGTON, January 17, 2021 — Addressing the need for cognitive services to help people transform their brain health, either post injury or illness or for prevention, IRG Physical and Hand Therapy is partnering with ABI Wellness to launch its BEARS program at select locations in Lacey, Olympia, Seattle, Everett, and Mill Creek. IRG will be the first certified BEARS provider in the state of Washington.

“We are very excited to be collaborating with ABI Wellness,” says IRG President and CEO, Shannon O’Kelley, MPT. “This collaboration will allow IRG to fill a significant need to provide quality rehabilitation to patients experiencing traumatic brain injuries, concussions, and cognitive challenges. We are particularly excited by the comprehensive platform that ABI Wellness has provided, allowing our clinicians to treat and assess progress in this patient population. Our team here at IRG has been extremely impressed with the ABI Wellness team's professionalism and knowledge. We look forward to a great future together, and more importantly to providing care to a patient population with these needs.”

Acquired brain injury, from stroke, concussion, drug abuse, or other physical trauma, is a leading cause of disability globally and options for recovery are currently limited. Brain fog from COVID-19 and cognitive decline relating to aging or illness can also inhibit an individual’s personal independence and ability to accomplish everyday tasks. IRG and ABI Wellness offer a better cognitive recovery solution as they team up to provide the residents of Washington with a program that focuses on capacity building and neuroplasticity programming rather than traditional compensatory strategies.

While typical compensatory training recovery programs globally currently show only a 40% return-to-work rate, the BEARS platform has a 77% return-to-work rate. By helping more clients return to work faster, the BEARS platform can save an individual returning to full-time work between \$300k to \$1.2 million dollars in loss of lifelong earnings. Apart from the financial possibilities, clients on the BEARS platform have shown remarkable improvements in their

overall quality of life. Increased processing speeds, improved communication abilities, better concentration and decision-making, and enhanced memory are some of the many capabilities that BEARS clients have been able to regain after using the platform.

"Our mission with the Brain Enhance and Recovery System is to make cognitive health programs more accessible and more effective," says ABI Wellness CEO Mark Watson. "For that reason, we are excited that IRG will be offering BEARS at their clinics in Washington State. The team at IRG is dedicated to providing their clients with a wide range of services to help them live to their fullest potential, delivering exceptional results in the process. Having access to the BEARS platform provides significant differentiation for IRG clinics as it is an innovative platform aimed at helping individuals to enhance their attention, memory and planning capacities. ABI Wellness is proud to assist IRG in expanding its services to include more options for cognitive recovery and enhancement. We are confident they will be able to change many lives using BEARS."

**IRG Physical & Hand Therapy is the Northwest's premier** physical and hand therapy group. Locations throughout the Puget Sound offer exceptional service with dedication to providing superior care for individuals and families. For more information, please visit <https://www.irgpt.com/>.

**ABI Wellness offers a transformative, evidence-based solution** for improving cognitive functions through both on-site and virtual care. Headquartered in Vancouver, BC, Canada, the company licenses its Brain Enhance and Recovery System (BEARS) to partnering clinics and hospitals across North America that treat patients of concussion, stroke, traumatic brain injury and cognitive decline. For more information please visit <https://www.abiwellness.com/>.

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