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Pro snowboarder Sean Busby and his nonprofit, Riding On Insulin, Partner with Type Zero Technologies and The Barbara Davis Center on Groundbreaking Clinical Trial

BRECKENRIDGE, Colorado — MARCH 9, 2016 - For pro backcountry snowboarder Sean Busby, riding at Breckenridge for five days with a group of kids living with Type 1 diabetes (T1D) represents two things: fun and freedom. Fun with others who are just like him… and constantly deal with insulin delivery and blood glucose management, through no fault of their own. And Freedom from daily life with T1D — a chronic autoimmune disease for which there is no cure… yet.

But this five-day program in April isn’t a normal camp. Rather, camp attendees ages 10-17 will help researchers advance toward a cure for T1D with a one-of-a-kind outpatient clinical trial at Breckenridge Resort. This event is organized by Riding On Insulin, Busby’s international nonprofit that teaches kids with T1D how to ski and snowboard.

On April 3, 16 kids, ages 10 to 17, will test an Artificial Pancreas (AP) at Breckenridge in partnership with The Barbara Davis Center and Type Zero Technologies.

University of Virginia (UVA) researchers have developed an AP system that automatically monitors and controls blood-sugar levels in those with T1D, which affects 1.25 million Americans, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Barbara Davis Center works in collaboration with UVA to further test this system.
The software links an insulin pump with a Dexcom continuous glucose monitor to automate insulin delivery and prevent dangerous blood sugar highs and lows those with T1D.

Kids will ski and snowboard wearing the AP as part of this clinical trial — which is made possible by generous contributions from the Children's Diabetes Foundation, and Katherine T. and Alan F. Fox.

“We are so honored to provide on-snow programming for this groundbreaking study,” said Mollie Busby, Sean’s wife and executive director of Riding On Insulin. “What an incredible opportunity for kids to be free of T1D for a week,” Busby added. “Combined with winter sports, it makes for the ultimate experience!”

Sean Busby and a team of eight coaches living with T1D will attend the week-long event and snowboard along with the young trial participants. Busby is the first person with T1D to backcountry snowboard all seven continents. He and wife, Mollie live in an off-the-grid yurt in Northwest Montana.

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Riding On Insulin is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2004 and based in Whitefish, Montana. With ski and snowboard programs across the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, ROI empowers, activates, and connects the global diabetes community through shared experiences and action sports. For more information, visit http://RidingOnInsulin.org.