



Saving lives through safer surgery

MEDIA ADVISORY: For immediate release 8th November, 2017

Lifebox's innovative new technology has life-saving potential for young children at risk of pneumonia.

WHAT: A new pulse oximetry probe design for use in low-resource settings, developed in collaboration with healthcare workers in Bangladesh and Malawi, could play a critical role in saving young children from pneumonia - a leading killer of under-5s worldwide.

Visit www.lifebox.org/pneumonia for more information.

WHO: Dr Eric McCollum, pediatric pulmonologist at Johns Hopkins University, and a senior member of the Lifebox project team led by Drs. Isabeau Walker and Iain Wilson, presents results from the research project developed with support through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

WHEN: November 8th, 2017; 10:15am - 12:00pm; ASTMH 66th Annual Meeting, Maryland.

WHERE: Symposium #139 - 'Improving the Triage and Management of Children with Acute Febrile Illnesses through Point-Of-Care Technologies'

WHY: Pulse oximetry plays a critical role in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric pneumonia, which kills nearly a million children under the age of five each year. But challenges of design, cost and distribution have limited spread of the technology in countries where it can make a life-saving difference.

"To date there are few pulse oximeters in resource-poor settings that are suitable for use in children of all ages," said Dr McCollum. "As a result, pulse oximetry is poorly implemented and the lives of thousands of children suffering from pneumonia are needlessly at risk. The new Lifebox probe is potentially a game changer - it can effectively be used on all children, including newborns; it will be durable, reusable, and low cost; and we hope it will be part of the solution in settings with the greatest burden of hypoxemia."

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For interviews with experts, please contact Sarah Kessler, +1 (617) 515 1155, sarah@lifebox.org.

About Lifebox

Lifebox is a global nonprofit working to make surgery and anesthesia safer, and a leader in oxygen monitoring technology for low-resource settings. Chaired by Atul Gawande, MD, FACS, and co-founded by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, the Brigham and Women's Hospital, the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health and the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists, Lifebox partners with colleagues in more than 100 countries. For more information, visit www.lifebox.org or follow @SaferSurgery on Twitter.