



GE Foundation

**CAMTech**  
Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL  

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GLOBAL HEALTH

### **GE Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital To Host Diverse Group of Problem Solvers for Three Day Hack-a-Thon to Find Innovative Solutions to Opioid Epidemic**

- Clinicians, engineers, entrepreneurs, designers, students and others to develop new technologies and solutions that address prevention, treatment and recovery for opioid use disorders
- Challenge Summit and Hack-a-Thon to take place September 9-11, 2016 at District Hall in Boston
- Director of National Drug Control Policy Michael Botticelli, U.S. Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith, Governor Charlie Baker and 250 leaders across public health, engineering, business, and design to drive disruptive innovations to address the opioid epidemic

**BOSTON, Mass -- September 8, 2016--** The opioid epidemic across the country continues to pose an ongoing and systemic problem in need of immediate attention and action. In an effort to bring a diversity of expertise and ideas together to seek solutions, GE Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) are hosting a community gathering of concerned parties to “hack” this current public health crisis. The event will be held at District Hall in Boston on September 9, 10 and 11.

Joining GE and MGH to launch the event on Friday, September 9 are Michael Botticelli, Director of National Drug Control Policy, United States Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, among other dignitaries. Each has worked to promote evidence-based prevention efforts and expand access to treatment to help people with substance use disorders enter into long-term recovery. Also speaking will be former NBA and Boston College player Chris Herren, whose personal story of addiction and recovery led him to found The Herren Project to help others struggling with addiction.

(A full agenda can be found at [www.opioidhackathon.com](http://www.opioidhackathon.com). Media is welcome to attend at any time.)

“This is a multi-sector partnership across public, private, academia and non-profits with additional insights from those who suffer from addiction and their families,” said Dr. David Barash, executive director of Global Health Programs at GE Foundation. “We had success finding new and different solutions at similar events throughout the country on topics such as Zika and safe surgery and we expect to do the same here.”

On **Friday September 9** a robust line up of dignitaries, thought leaders, policy makers, clinical experts, patients, families and law enforcement will give context to the issue of opioid use disorders and identify the greatest unmet needs in promoting evidence-based prevention strategies and expanding access to treatment.

On **Saturday, September 10**, cross-disciplinary teams will rally around these challenges to create disruptive innovations in opioid misuse prevention, treatment and recovery.

On **Sunday, September 11**, teams will make their final presentations to an expert panel of judges, who will give monetary awards to the five most promising innovations. Teams will be supported with mentoring for 90 days after the event, and, at the conclusion of that mentorship period, the single most promising innovation will receive a grand prize to accelerate implementation.

“At its core, Mass General Hospital seeks to improve patient care, teaching and medical innovation,” said Dr. Kristian Olson, clinician educator at MGH’s Department of Medicine and the medial director at MGH’s Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech). “We seek to make sustainable improvements to some of the toughest health problems in the communities we work with, and the crisis posed by opiate addiction demands that we work collaboratively to innovate solutions for this epidemic.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 78 people in the U.S. die from an opioid overdose every day, and the rate of opioid overdose deaths nationwide has increased by 200% since 2000.

The opioid epidemic has hit particularly hard in the state of Massachusetts, where 1,379 deaths in 2015 were attributable to a fatal dose of heroin or prescription opioid misuse. That amounts to nearly four people per day statewide.

This event is part of GE Foundation’s five-year, \$50 million philanthropic commitment to the Greater Boston community, \$15 million of which will be dedicated to health efforts such as the hack-a-thon, increasing access to health for the underserved, particularly those patients requiring care for addictions and behavioral health, and increasing training for specialty care.

MGH – through CAMTech and Global Medicine – brings important domain and innovation process expertise to the opioid addiction space. CAMTech is known for its open innovation programs, including the past partnership with GE Foundation on a [Zika hack-a-thon](#) focused on finding quick and actionable solutions to address that pressing public health crisis and related outbreaks.

Applications are now open to participate in the opioid hack-a-thon. To learn more, please visit: [www.opioidhackathon.com](http://www.opioidhackathon.com).

#### **About MGH CAMTech and Global Medicine:**

The [Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies \(CAMTech\)](#) has a mission to build entrepreneurial capacity and accelerate medical technology innovation to improve health outcomes. CAMTech's approach enables co-creation, where innovators across public health, engineering, and business engage with end-users to develop disruptive medical technologies to achieve widespread public health impact. CAMTech’s initiatives, including its CAMTech Innovation Platform and CAMTech Accelerator Program, help connect and support a global community of health innovators.

[The Global Medicine Program at Massachusetts General Hospital](#) is an initiative of the Department of Medicine and MGH Global Health that integrates the principles and practice of global health and care for vulnerable populations in order to develop future leaders to advance health equity and strengthen health systems in the United States and around the world. Global Medicine invests in innovative curricula and mutually rewarding partnerships in urban Boston and rural Uganda to create a continuum

of service, teaching and research opportunities with a specific focus on underserved populations around the world.

**About GE Foundation:**

The GE Foundation, the philanthropic organization of GE (NYSE:GE), is committed to building a world that works better. We empower people by helping them build the skills they need to succeed in a global economy. We equip communities with the technology and capacity to improve access to better health and education. We elevate ideas that are tackling the world's toughest challenges to advance economic development and improve lives. The GE Foundation is powered by the generosity and talent of our employees, who have a strong commitment to their communities. We are at work making the world work better. Follow the GE Foundation at [www.gefoundation.com](http://www.gefoundation.com) and on Twitter at @GE\_Foundation.

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