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**CAMTech**  
Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL  
GLOBAL HEALTH

## Medical safety supply box wins \$10k progress prize from Opioid Epidemic Hack-a-thon

**BOSTON, Mass – January 26, 2017**— The [Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies \(CAMTech\)](#) at Massachusetts General Hospital Global Health (MGH) and the [GE Foundation](#) awarded \$10k to the team behind GEMs Boxes, a life-saving supply kiosk for people suffering opioid overdoses during the Opioid Epidemic Post Hack-a-thon Award Presentations.

The event, held January 24<sup>th</sup> at MGH, invited participants from last September’s [Opioid Epidemic Challenge Summit and Hack-a-thon](#) to showcase the progress they have made on their solutions addressing prevention, treatment and recovery for opioid use disorders. The award includes funding to help move the innovation further to market as well as six-months of acceleration support from the [CAMTech Accelerator Program](#).

GEMs Boxes are remotely unlocked boxes placed throughout metropolitan areas that contain life-saving supplies like naloxone for people who suffer opioid overdoses. Emergency response dispatchers can unlock the supplies and guide callers through their use, turning bystanders into first responders. Since the Hack-a-thon, the team has built and tested their proof-of-concept by demonstrating a prototype to (and receiving support from) the Cambridge Police and Fire Department. They are also moving forward with business development, adding key personnel to their team and identifying important suppliers and customer partnerships.

“The GEMS Team is so grateful for the catalyzing support that CAMTech and the GE Foundation have provided,” said Jeffrey Lipton, Chief Technology Officer of GEMs Boxes and a Post-doctoral Associate at MIT’s Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab. “Receiving this award has imbued us with a great sense of responsibility to continue working on our technology and to help ensure that lifesaving supplies are always available when tragedy strikes.”

Eight teams showcased their progress to a panel of expert judges on Tuesday night, including those working on a wearable device for those struggling with opioid use disorder, and a team creating mobile on-demand treatment services throughout Boston and the surrounding suburbs. Another team, We Are Allies, had previously received a Planning Grant from the GE Foundation and reported on their progress.

The event also included a keynote address from Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders and comments from the GE Foundation about this initiative’s impact on the company and the city.

“The passion and support of these teams, as well everyone who supported the Hack-a-thon and works to fight this epidemic every day, is inspiring,” said Dr. David Barash, GE Foundation Chief Medical Officer. “This fight requires new thinking and we’re excited to continue to help drive the progress of these innovative solutions.”

“The progress demonstrated by all of these teams over the past four months was inspirational,” said Dr. Kris Olson, Director at CAMTech. “Their hard work shows how the initial spark generated in September is turning into a real fire to help combat the opioid crisis.”

The hack-a-thon, which brought together over 220 global health innovators and experts to develop new approaches to address the opioid crisis, was part of GE Foundation's five-year, \$50 million philanthropic commitment to the Greater Boston community; a portion of this is dedicated to community health in Boston and greater MA, helping to expand care in behavioral health and addiction medicine with an initial focus on the opioid crisis.

MGH – through [CAMTech](#) and [Global Medicine](#) – brought 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.

To learn more, 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 health innovation to improve outcomes. CAMTech's open-innovation platform 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 <http://www.gefoundation.com> and on Twitter at @GE\_Foundation.

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**Media Contacts:**

**MGH**

Michael Morrison  
Media Relations Manager  
617-724-6425  
[mdmorrison@mg.harvard.edu](mailto:mdmorrison@mg.harvard.edu)

Amy Wachler  
Marketing and Communications Manager  
CAMTech

617-643-8753

[awachler@partners.org](mailto:awachler@partners.org)

**GE Foundation**

Susan Bishop

Director, Communications

O: 617-443-2991

M: 203-253-2735

[susan.bishop@ge.com](mailto:susan.bishop@ge.com)