

# TECHNOLOGIES FOR CLINICALLY RELEVANT PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



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# **Focus Areas**

✓ Bottlenecks in Developing counties

#### ✓ Factors for successful implementation of Health care Technologies

- Capital cost
- Spare parts
- Consumables
- Embedded Service Contracts
- Brain Drain Syndrome
- Myths and Misconceptions

✓ Role of CURE (Competition for Underserved, Resources-Poor Economies) as a blueprint for Success. "A not-for-profit business plan competition that develops new medical devices that specifically target unique needs of people in developing countries."



### **Comparison of Bottlenecks**



Statistical Data (WB 2001)

- Of 5 Billion people in LDC's - 1 Bn illiterate
  - 1 Bn Lack Safe water access
  - 2.5 Bn poor sanitation
- Avr. Life Expectancy in LDC is 38 yrs compared to greater than 75 yrs in Developed Countries
- GDP per Capita spent on Health is < \$100 compared to \$4000 in USA and \$2000 in Europe
- Increased Excellent private Clinics / Hospitals in LDC's since 1991.

"BUT WHY IS LIFE EXPECTANCY SO LOW?"



### Barriers to Health Care Technology based on EWH Survey

- **High Capital Cost** e.g. Single MRI machine can cost US\$10 000 000, or about 0.5 % GDP of Sierra Leone (compared to 0.0001% of US GDP), reliable power and electricity
  - Solution: Donation of Used Machinery, Foreign Govt Funding, Govt Expend.
  - Problems?????
- **Embedded Service Contracts and Spare Parts** e.g. Need regular maintenance due to frequent use (Flow Cytometers), Lack of replacement parts (12.3%), expensive, Experts to repair, No manuals, no specialized Equipment training
- **Consumables** e.g. No potential for reuse, LDC's have low budget (\$0.30 per patient), Equipment specific items, non- functional/idle equipments, transportation costs
- Brain drain Syndrome: Skilled staff move to developed countries
  QUES: How do we tackle this issue? What measures do we need to take?



## **Blueprint for Success**

- **Physiological Measurements-** important tool for diagnosis and treatment
- Alternate Designs should avoid consumables, require little specialization, no extensive infrastructure, require infrequent service
- Development Initiative by **Duke-EWH CURE ( One of the largest in the country)**
- WINNER receives \$100 000 for a year of incubation in Pratt School of Eng.
- Process Involves:
  - Needs Assessment through on the ground market research in Developing Countries ( Customer)
  - Non- profit business development with national panel of experts ( Business Plan)
  - Develop **prototype** through formal design class.

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