

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Hemex Health announces breakthrough measurement capability for Gazelle Diagnostic Device for clinicians monitoring SCD therapy**

*Solution offers an advance in disease management; allows clinicians to monitor hydroxyurea therapy at point of care*

**PORTLAND, Ore., Mumbai, India – May 8, 2022** – [Hemex Health](#), a Portland, Oregon-based health-tech startup, announced a significant enhancement to their [Gazelle™](#) Hb Variant test, which allows for more precise measurements of Hb F, also known as fetal hemoglobin. The increased accuracy could be useful for monitoring hydroxyurea therapy in point-of-care settings.

The software upgrade comes just months after the company released an enhancement that allows its Hb Variant test to detect beta thalassemia disease and trait in addition to sickle cell disease (SCD) and trait.

“We are excited to make this announcement on World Thalassemia Day to help raise awareness for severe blood disorders,” said **Patti White, CEO, Hemex Health**. “Gazelle continues to deliver unprecedented capability to populations with a high prevalence of sickle cell and beta thalassemia. In addition to this Hb F measurement improvement, additional features are planned for Gazelle that will improve healthcare for sickle cell and beta thalassemia patients who have not had access to this level of testing.”

In a clinical study conducted at the pediatric SCD Clinic of Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana, Gazelle’s Hb F quantification results were within 4.5% of HPLC Hb F results (the gold standard) with a 95% confidence range. The results of this study will be presented at an international conference this June and will also be published in a peer-reviewed journal later this year.

Hydroxyurea has been used to treat adult sickle cell patients since the 1980s and was recently approved for children by the US FDA. According to the [NIH’s National Library of Medicine journal](#), the drug has been shown to increase Hb F production in patients with the effect of fewer pain crises and hospital stays. Hydroxyurea usage is also starting in India, Africa, and the Middle East.

"Part of the monitoring protocol for patients on hydroxyurea involves tracking changes in Hb F levels over time," said **Dr. Catherine Segbefia, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra, Ghana**. "Having this capability at the point of care with Gazelle's Hb Variant test will allow greater access to this therapy, especially for those living in remote areas."

Unlike lab tests, which require expensive equipment and carry a high cost per test, the Gazelle Reader costs about the same as an iPhone, testing costs only a few dollars and results are available in eight minutes. The Hb Variant test is currently available in India as well as countries in Africa and the Middle East.

For existing customers, Hemex will provide “over the air” updates with the Hb F enhancement that can be downloaded directly to their Gazelle Reader. The improvement will ship with new systems.

### **About Gazelle**

Gazelle is a compact, rugged, battery-operated *in vitro* diagnostic device. It is used inexpensively, with no cold chain requirements, by entry level healthcare workers in areas with limited access, resources, or electricity. Patient information and results are captured digitally for storage, printing, or later transmission. Gazelle is approved for detecting sickle cell disease and beta thalassemia in a growing list of countries and integrates miniaturized versions of trusted technologies, innovative optics, and artificial intelligence. This versatile approach allows the company to continually add diseases to its menu of tests and expand to new users. Gazelle is an accurate and rapid digital platform that can work about anywhere in the world – from remote, low resource settings to drive-through testing, border crossings, or nursing homes. More information about Gazelle is available at <https://hemexhealth.com/products>.

### **About Hemex Health**

Hemex Health breaks traditional barriers with its innovative diagnostic system that expands the potential of diagnostics for emerging diseases, making accurate tests accessible to new locations and new populations. Hemex Health designs diagnostic technologies for the real world by listening to the needs of healthcare providers including those in some of the most remote and challenging settings. The Gazelle technology was developed in collaboration with Case Western Reserve University. Hemex Health is in Portland, Oregon, USA. HemexDx, a subsidiary of Hemex Health, is in Mumbai, India. More information can be found by going to [www.hemexhealth.com](http://www.hemexhealth.com).

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