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Hemex Health Creates Affordable Disease Detection Unit for Developing Regions

Program Used: Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Matching Grants and Enhanced Innovation Grant

\$ Amount: \$250,000 SBIR Matching Grant; \$5,000 SBIR application; \$50,000 Enhanced Innovation Grant

Location: Portland, Oregon

Hemex Health develops revolutionary point-of-care diagnostics to assist in the early detection of Malaria and Sickle Cell Disease in Africa, India, and other developing regions to reduce the mortality rates of these treatable illnesses. When Hemex began their work, there was no accurate, affordable testing for Sickle Cell Disease that could be completed outside of a premier laboratory. Hemex created the technology (a product called Gazelle) to meet this critical need and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of children every year through early disease detection. The Gazelle not only detects Sickle Cell Disease, but a variety of other life-threatening illnesses, as it acts as a broad, yet specialized host testing site. The Gazelle was designed to be portable and durable to sustain long unsteady journeys in varying remote landscapes and extreme environments. It can also run for a full day without accessing a power source. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gazelle was updated to include the testing ability to accurately detect COVID-19 in patients. Hemex received multiple SBIR Matching Grants and an Enhanced Innovation grant from Business Oregon. These funding sources have allowed Hemex to expand their staff, advance their innovative technologies, and continue accelerating their critical work on early disease detection in developing regions.

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