



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CENTER FOR
GLOBAL HEALTH

We are pleased to announce "[*CommCare: Improving Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health with a Phone-based Tool for Community Health Workers*](#)" as the recipient of the inaugural 2012 Translational Grant from the Massachusetts General Hospital [Center for Global Health](#).

This proposal is led by **Scott Lee, MPA, MPhil**, an MD-PhD Candidate at [Harvard Medical School](#) and [Harvard Business School](#), and **Neal Lesh, PhD, MPH**, Chief Strategy Officer at [Dimagi, Inc.](#), in collaboration with implementation partners Dimagi, Inc. (USA), Catholic Relief Service (India) and Ugunja Community Resource Center (Kenya). The recipients will receive \$100,000 to further their research to improve the lives of mothers and children in resource-limited settings. Content experts in business, public health, and engineering selected CommCare among a pool of highly competitive proposals that had collaborations with over twenty different institutions.

About CommCare: Community Health Workers (CHW) are essential for providing much needed care to their communities; however, CHW programs have been hampered by inadequate training, supervision, and job support. CommCare seeks to overcome these challenges through [an innovative, cost-effective, scalable mobile health platform](#). At two program sites in India and Kenya, this project will rigorously evaluate several innovations embedded in CommCare. These will include client-side innovations in service delivery—such as videos that CHWs will be able to show to new mothers to sensitize and educate them on positive newborn care practices—and provider-side innovations in supervision and mentoring—such as performance reports that provide CHWs with real-time feedback on their activities. The impact of these interventions will be measured against key CHW performance metrics, such as the quantity and quality of home visits. This project will not only guide the further development of CommCare, but it will also generate fundamental insights into how community health workers can be empowered to provide maternal, newborn, and child health services more effectively, especially in areas of greatest need.

About the Center for Affordable Technologies (CAMTech): The mission of CAMTech is to co-create, test and deploy innovative, high-quality and affordable health technologies to improve health outcomes in the poorest regions of the world. This initiative brings together academic leaders in biomedical innovation, clinical medicine and public health across a range of institutions in the Boston area, as well as long-standing research and care delivery relationships with leading institutions in Uganda and India. CAMTech plans to provide these grants to further research in global health and technology on an annual basis. For questions about CAMTech, please contact Aya Caldwell, Program Manager (acaldwell1@partners.org).



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