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The Lifebox Challenge: To save the lives of thousands of people undergoing surgery in under-resourced countries through the use of a pulse oximeter.

There are about 234 million operations performed globally. Imagine having to administer anesthesia to your patient without the use of a pulse oximeter. In more than 70,000 operating rooms across the developing world, your anesthesia colleagues have no other choice. Pulse oximeters are missing. They are just too expensive. Access is the most significant barrier to widespread oximetry use and millions of lives are placed at unnecessary risk.

Lifebox is a not-for-profit organization that grew out of a global initiative, the WHO Safe Surgery Saves Lives Initiative, to make surgery safer worldwide. Use of a simple surgical checklist has been shown worldwide to improve the safety and quality of surgical care by significantly reducing surgical complications and death by more than one third. Item #4 on the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist is, “a pulse oximeter is on the patient and functioning.”

Lifebox has developed the world’s foremost low-cost, high quality pulse oximeter that is compliant with

international standards. A \$250 tax-deductible donation in support of this project will put a pulse oximeter into the hands of colleagues who need it most. A key part of this project is that each oximeter is supplied with educational materials including videos, tutorials, and a manual.

Lifebox is working to make sure that no person dies during surgery simply because a pulse oximeter was not available and basic safety checks were not done.

Lifebox is a joint project by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland and the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists under the leadership of Professor Atul Gawande at Harvard School of Public Health and Brigham and Women’s Hospital. It is also supported by the American Society of Anesthesiology, the Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society, the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists.

[Click here](#) to view the Lifebox video.

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