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## **IBCRF ADDS A NEW ULTRASOUND MACHINE TO ITS BANGLADESH CLINIC**

**MADISON, WI—Dr. James Woods, a member of the International Breast Cancer Research Foundation (IBCRF) Board of Directors, hand delivered a new ultrasound machine to the IBCRF center in Bangladesh this month.** Dr. Woods makes frequent trips to Khulna, Bangladesh to bring his skills as a surgeon and comprehensive breast care specialist to women in need of care.

In Bangladesh, the majority of women who develop breast cancer die of it. First, access to care is limited, and second, the care provided is very poor by most standards. In a series of 238 new cases of breast cancer seen at the Khulna Medical College in rural Bangladesh in the last two years, 208 women had very advanced breast masses. In a series of 1560 women we have seen in the same period in the Multidisciplinary Center, half had objective evidence of a breast problem, and 179 had breast cancer.

One of the major barriers to getting such problems sorted out promptly is the availability of "one stop" care where a new breast problem can be definitively characterized with imaging and pathology studies done right there, without referring a patient for these to other facilities which leads to "drop out".

IBCRF's scientific director, Dr. Richard Love, has established such a Multidisciplinary Breast Specialty Care Center in Khulna, where, with this new ultrasound machine and ability to take tissue samples on site will facilitate prompt diagnosis and management and thereby change the usual bad outcomes for women.

The ultrasound machine allows immediate distinction of likely malignant and likely benign abnormalities and helps guide tissue diagnosis sampling. In the Khulna Medical College series, fully 25% of women had had a previous breast mass attended to but not diagnosed and treated.

IBCRF hopes with this new system, facilities and equipment to lower that figure substantially in the entire division of Khulna and impact favorably on outcomes for 3,000 women there each year who develop breast cancer.

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While the total cost of this ultrasound equipment can be over \$45,000, Epic Systems ([www.epicsystems.com](http://www.epicsystems.com)) employees' in Verona, WI donated \$18,500 to IBCRF to get the ball rolling.

Another long-time friend of IBCRF contributed another \$15,000 toward the purchase and other donors to IBCRF contributed as well. GE Healthcare then discounted the machine substantially to make the purchase possible.

Dr. Woods joins IBCRF Scientific Director, Dr. Richard Love in the work of investigating new “public health” (i.e. easily replicable, practical, limited toxicity and low cost) treatments for breast cancer in Bangladesh. The clinical trials are being conducted in conjunction with the Amader Gram initiative <http://www.amadergram.org/>

Amader Gram provides the oversight and administration of this trial at partnering Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Under the direction of Dr. Love, the Amader Gram multidisciplinary breast specialty center continues to grow – the first, free walk-in breast problem clinic for women in the country. Many women in Bangladesh either never seek treatment, or arrive at hospitals with late-stage cancer, which is often untreatable. Numerous social, economic, health-system related and political issues factor into these circumstances

For his ongoing efforts, Dr. Love has been named a 2009 ambassador of global health research by Research!America's Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research.

In 1992 Dr. Love founded the International Breast Cancer Research Foundation (IBCRF) with a number of other cancer physicians. Currently at Ohio State University, Dr. Love directs IBCRF research projects all over the world. These projects in 22 countries provide opportunities to conduct research on the significance of genetic, dietary, lifestyle and hazardous exposure differences.

In its 17<sup>th</sup> year, IBCRF is committed to practical, cost-effective, breakthrough research that takes advantage of the most promising opportunities and ideas everywhere in the world. This research – especially clinical research – holds the key to understanding, preventing and curing breast cancer.

IBCRF is located at 660 John Nolen Drive in Madison, Wisconsin. For more information, visit [www.ibcrf.org](http://www.ibcrf.org)

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