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Xenex Announces New 2-Minute Run-Time for OR Disinfection with LightStrike Germ-Zapping Robots™ at AORN Surgical Conference & Expo

San Antonio, April 3, 2017 — Operating rooms are supposed to be sterile environments, but studies show that they remain contaminated with microscopic pathogens that can cause Surgical Site Infections (SSI) even after they have been cleaned. SSIs, which are some of the most commonly occurring infections, can be devastating to patients and cost the hospital tens of thousands of dollars in additional patient care.

Xenex Disinfection Services' LightStrike™ pulsed xenon Full Spectrum™ ultraviolet (UV) disinfection technology has been proven to quickly destroy the germs and bacteria in Operating Rooms (OR) that cause SSIs. Hundreds of hospitals use LightStrike Germ-Zapping Robots™ during the terminal cleaning process in the OR after the day's procedures are complete. Xenex recommends running the robot for two 8- or 10-minute positions (depending on robot model) during the terminal clean. Multiple positions greatly reduces the impact of shadows on UV disinfection efficacy.

Studies show, however, that bioburden increases in the OR during the day. A leading U.S. medical institution recently studied the effectiveness of the Xenex LightStrike robot in its ORs and found that the LightStrike robot can effectively disinfect high touch surfaces in an OR in 2 minutes. This short cycle time may make between-case cleaning in the OR a viable option and something hospitals should consider operationalizing within their protocol.

"Running a quick cycle in between cases can be very effective at bringing down the vegetative bacteria bioburden in the OR," said Dr. Sarah Simmons, Science Director, Xenex. "The LightStrike robot turns on instantly (no warm-up or cool down time) so it can be brought into the OR to quickly disinfect the area around the surgical table in between procedures."

Hospitals using the Xenex LightStrike system as part of their infection prevention protocol have published numerous studies reporting dramatic reductions in hospital infection rates, even *C.diff*, which is particularly hard to destroy. Two hospitals experienced significant reductions in their SSI rates after they began using LightStrike to disinfect their ORs and published their results in peer-reviewed journals, crediting the Xenex disinfection robot for the role it played in those reductions.

Xenex is demonstrating its patented pulsed xenon UV technology at the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) Surgical Conference & Expo in Boston, MA, April 2-6, 2017. In addition, Xenex is hosting a Continuing Nurse Education (CNE) activity sponsored by Pfiedler Enterprises and recognized by AORN in the Xenex booth (2912) during exhibit hours. The CNE activity "Exploring the Future of Operating Room Disinfection Standards" will discuss the role of the environment in the risk and transmission of SSIs and what you can expect in the future of OR disinfection standards.

“Hospitals considering UV disinfection technology need to carefully evaluate the clinical evidence that the technology is effective in the hospital setting – which means peer-reviewed studies that show how a hospital has experienced a decrease in infection rates after using a UV disinfection system,” said Dr. Mark Stibich, Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder of Xenex. “Numerous facilities have reported dramatic reductions in their infection rates, including SSI rates, after using our pulsed xenon UV disinfection system to destroy pathogens in their facilities. Our robots work quickly and efficiently, which enables hospital EVS to run them consistently – and enhance patient safety by destroying the microorganisms that could cause infections.”

The Xenex system is the only UV light disinfection technology shown, in multiple peer-reviewed published studies, to help hospitals reduce infection rates. Xenex Germ-Zapping Robots™ have been credited for helping healthcare facilities in the U.S. decrease their Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *C.diff* and Surgical Site infection rates by more than 50, 70 and 100 percent respectively.

Uniquely designed for ease of use and portability, a hospital’s environmental services staff can operate the Xenex robot without disrupting hospital operations and damaging materials or equipment in the OR. With a five-minute disinfection cycle, the robot has helped disinfect 30-62 hospital rooms per day (according to Xenex customer reports), including patient rooms, operating rooms, equipment rooms, emergency rooms, intensive care units and public areas. More than 400 hospitals, Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense facilities in the U.S. are using Xenex robots, which are also in use in skilled nursing facilities, ambulatory surgery centers and long term acute care facilities.

About Xenex

Xenex’s patented pulsed xenon UV room disinfection system is used for the advanced disinfection of healthcare facilities. Due to its speed and ease of use, the Xenex system has proven to integrate smoothly into hospital cleaning operations. Xenex’s mission is to save lives and reduce suffering by destroying the deadly microorganisms that cause hospital acquired infections (HAIs). The company is backed by well-known investors that include Essex Woodlands, Piper Jaffray Merchant Banking, Malin Corporation, Battery Ventures, Targeted Technology Fund II, Tectonic Ventures and RK Ventures. For more information, visit Xenex.com.

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