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Dear Zoey

As the year ends we would like to offer our huge thanks for your efforts in getting the UCL Ventura CPAP devices out to hospitals in double-quick time earlier this year – from idea to 10,000 devices in less than a month. The story was recently published in Lancet Respiratory Medicine (enclosed). Unfortunately, the word count was limited so we couldn't name-check the entire team, but your contribution was vital and this letter is an acknowledgment of our gratitude to yourself and your colleagues.

To date, devices have been delivered across 120+ NHS hospitals. Crucially, we have been able to support the international COVID-19 response, particularly to low-middle income countries. We released the designs and manufacturing instructions through a zero-cost license, with a web-based platform of training materials, clinical and technical support. Around 20 teams are manufacturing their own devices, completing regulatory approvals, clinical testing and rolling out to patients in countries including Australia, Canada, Ecuador, India, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines and South Africa. Charitable donations have supplied CPAP sets at cost to Bangladesh, Palestine, Uganda, and South Africa.

Have they made a difference? Invasive ventilators (and the trained staff to operate them) have been in very short supply so CPAP has enabled many patients to survive their COVID-19 illness without needing this limited resource. Although not definitive proof – and other factors may be contributory – mortality rates in UK intensive care unit patients fell by 21% over the course of the first COVID-19 surge, coinciding with a 26% reduction in ventilator use despite equivalent severity of illness.

We hope to have a face-to-face celebration in better times but, in the meantime, a big thank you!

With kind regards



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