

LifeThreads Introduces Antimicrobial Medical Apparel in Fight Against Healthcare-associated Infections

Durability, Contemporary Styling and Comfort Surpass Higher-priced Medical Apparel; Garments are Designed for Use by Healthcare Professionals and Patients

NEW YORK, Jan. 13, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- LifeThreads™ LLC (www.life-threads.com), a life sciences company, is introducing a "first of its kind" medical apparel product line treated with an EPA-registered antimicrobial active ingredient that protects the fabric from harmful pathogens found within institutional medical environments.

The new LifeThreads garments have been shown to reduce harmful bacteria concentrations by 99.99-percent in extensive tests undertaken by ResInnova Laboratories (www.resinnovalabs.com), a nationally-recognized, scientific research laboratory. The garments, when worn by doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals and patients, are designed to prevent the spread of harmful bacteria in healthcare settings where patients are most vulnerable.

Founded in 2014 with headquarters in New York City, LifeThreads is focused on infection control and management in clinical healthcare settings with the mission of positively impacting healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

"Our goal is to provide the healthcare industry with the finest textile products offering maximum protection against harmful bacteria," said Karan Jhunjunwala, founder and CEO of LifeThreads. "We believe our new product line achieves this goal with the added benefits of being extremely stylish and highly cost-effective. This combination is introducing a new era in medical apparel providing benefits to the medical community and patients alike."

The LifeThreads product line (<http://life-threads.com/products>) includes lab coats, scrubs, scrub warm-up jackets and patient gowns; the company plans to include bed linens and privacy curtains later this year. LifeThreads' products are currently being rolled out in the Northeastern United States and Florida with plans for national distribution underway. Institutional sales are being handled directly; retail distribution includes specialty retail stores as well as LifeThreads' online store.

LifeThreads has also partnered with PureTex Solutions (www.puretexsolutions.com), an Orlando-based commercial laundry and linen company serving the healthcare industry. PureTex Solutions provides the full range of LifeThreads products, on a rental basis, to healthcare institutions throughout Florida.

"Unlike many of the competitive products on the market which incorporate silver nitrate as a protective additive, LifeThreads' choice and use of an EPA-registered antimicrobial additive compares quite favorably in cost in contrast to others," said Mr. Jhunjunwala.

LifeThreads Technology

LifeThreads' technology incorporates zinc pyrithione into the textile during the manufacturing process. Zinc pyrithione is a fungistatic and bacteriostatic substance used in the manufacture of common dandruff shampoos and in the treatment of psoriasis, eczema and dry skin.

The antimicrobial additive is homogeneously distributed throughout the polymer matrix with an efficacy that lasts for the life of the product including multiple industrial launderings.

Active ingredients attack bacteria's ability to reproduce and absorb nutrients, which eventually leads to elimination of the bacteria.

"Our lab conducted a Splatter Fabric Challenge test to validate the efficacy of antimicrobial textiles in a more 'real world' simulation, mimicking the splattering of blood, urine and vomit," said Matthew Hardwick, PhD, president and CEO, ResInnova Laboratories. "Test results show conclusively that LifeThreads antimicrobial textiles are extremely effective at reducing the concentrations of important pathogens such as staphylococcus – including MRSA – and E coli. These results suggest that antimicrobial textiles, especially those including fluid barrier chemistries, may be effective strategies at combating healthcare-associated infections."

All LifeThreads products are fluid repellant, and the treatment works 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and protects the entire surface of the product. There is no special handling, new protocols nor training required with LifeThreads products and they can be laundered in a normal fashion.

"LifeThreads gives me the assurance and confidence that we are using the best products available in the market today," said Evelyn "Ebbie" VandenBrink, R.N., Infection Control Coordinator for the Tampa Bay Surgery Center. "We love the fluid repellency and stain resistance these products offer."

Dr. Elena J. Holak, M.D., Pharm.D., M.P.H., a well-known and respected medical professional specializing in anesthesiology, pharmacology and public health, serves as medical director for LifeThreads.

"Secondary infections in clinical healthcare settings are a significant industry issue. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has released estimates indicating significant loss of life – 75,000 in 2011 – and nearly three-quarters of a million secondary infections in patients as a result of surgery or visiting a hospital, doctor, dentist or healthcare facility," said Dr. Holak. "Our organization is committed to improving patient outcomes by decreasing the likelihood of secondary infections."

LifeThreads products have a suggested retail price of between \$8 and \$25 each. For more information, visit www.life-threads.com. For institutional inquiries, contact info@life-threads.com or call 1-800-406-1220.

About LifeThreads

LifeThreads™ LLC (www.life-threads.com) is a life sciences company focused on infection control and management in clinical healthcare settings by targeting soft surface contact points. The company manufactures and distributes professional medical apparel, patient garments and related items treated with an EPA-registered antimicrobial active ingredient that protects the surface of the fabric from harmful pathogens found within the medical environment. LifeThreads products have been tested and comply with American Association of Textile Chemist and Colorists guidelines. Lab results indicate that LifeThreads antimicrobial textiles reduce bacterial concentrations by more than 99.9 percent. Life Threads was founded in 2014 and is headquartered in New York.

Disclaimer: Studies to evaluate reduction in infection have not been performed on LifeThreads products. The EPA has not reviewed these results for healthcare claims.

LifeThreads is a trademark of LifeThreads LLC. All other trade names are the property of their respective owners

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