



San Antonio's Xenex could see more growth as result of antibiotic crisis

There are growing concerns about the threat of an antibiotic crisis caused by the spread of drug-resistant superbugs. Those concerns could result in expanded revenue opportunities for at least one San Antonio company — [Xenex Disinfection Services](#).

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) now estimates that more than two million people in the U.S. become ill each year from antibiotic-resistant infections. At least 23,000 of those individuals die annually from those infections. Individuals can get the infections in a variety of places — including hospitals and other health care facilities.

The CDC issued a report in September warning that there could be “catastrophic consequences of inaction” with regard to antibiotic resistance threats in the U.S.

[Mark Stibich](#), Xenex's co-founder and chief scientific officer, says healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and antibiotic resistant superbugs have “created a global health crisis.”

He adds, “... People are becoming increasingly aware of and concerned about the risks they face of contracting HAIs in hospitals. Proper room disinfection that eliminates the pathogens that cause HAIs is what can and should be done (to address the concerns).”

Xenex has a patented pulsed xenon UV room disinfection device, which it is actively marketing to a number of health care clients, including a growing number of hospitals. In November, [I reported](#) that Xenex has secured \$11.3 million in new investor funding that will allow the company to manufacture and market more of the devices.

That cash infusion could be timely.

“The increasing threat posed by the spread of antibiotic-resistant superbugs affects not only the lives of patients, but also a facility's reputation and its financial health,” says [George Clarke](#), CEO of UMF Corp., an Illinois-based research and development company which works in the infection-prevention arena.

“There is tremendous opportunity for us in 2014 because we are the only UV room disinfection company whose customers have published peer-reviewed outcome studies showing a reduction in infection rates after using our system to disinfect rooms,” Stibich explains. “We are confident that increased awareness of HAIs will compel hospitals to invest in patient safety and utilize our room disinfection system.”