Gupta-Klinsky India Institute at Johns Hopkins University

Annual Report
2022-23
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Message from the GKII Leadership

"In 2022 and 2023, the Gupta-Klinsky India Institute made incredible progress toward its mission of catalyzing partnerships between JHU and India partners. With the support and guidance of our faculty steering committee, advisory board and alumni, GKII launched specialized research grants, incredibly meaningful student travel grants, and formed a number of lasting partnerships that will continue our goals of developing bilateral solutions to global issues."

——
Dr Amita Gupta
GKII Faculty Co-Chair

"Each time I visit India, I’m struck by the dynamism and rapid progress. It’s exciting to see GKII and Johns Hopkins University’s growing engagement with India, and we are immensely grateful for the support and sage advice of our Advisory Board and Steering Committee in guiding us towards greater engagement and impact."

——
Dr Sara Bennett
GKII Faculty Co-Chair

From the Executive Director’s Desk

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the inaugural Executive Director of GKII, it has been a profound honor to lead our collective journey. Established in 2020, GKII is dedicated to fostering collaborations between Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and India’s leaders across government, academia, civil society, and the private sector. We have built a strong foundation for advancing human knowledge and developing solutions to global challenges.

Reflecting on this past year, I am proud of how our institute has refined its strategic focus, expanded our Advisory Board and team, grown our networks, and built a community, both in person and digitally. We have expanded our collaborations and generated broader interest in India throughout the university.

The dedication of our teams in Baltimore and New Delhi has been the backbone of our achievements. Their passion and commitment will continue to drive the institute toward its ambitious goals. None of our work would be possible without the tremendous support of our two co-chairs, Amita Gupta, MD, MHS and Sara Bennett, PhD who tirelessly nurture the institute, champion the team, and share a vision for what this collaboration can achieve.

Similarly, the guidance from our distinguished Advisory Board and our experienced faculty-driven Steering Committee has been instrumental in shaping our efforts and essential in funding our work. Their contributions ensure that our initiatives effectively address the evolving challenges and opportunities in global health and international partnerships.

Our core activities were restructured around five essential pillars: Convening, Coordinating, Communicating, Creating Community, and Catalyzing change. These “5Cs” are instrumental in our efforts to create synergies across all JHU divisions working with India, building a ‘Superhighway’ of activity that enriches our communities and amplifies our collective efforts.

A major development was the establishment of the Sunil Kumar and Sumati Murli Education Endowment, honoring our founding Provost. This will be an ongoing commitment to fostering educational exchange between JHU and India. We have successfully distributed nearly $355,000 across pivotal areas such as non-communicable diseases and digital health—with notable co-funding from IIT Bombay and Ashoka University.

As GKII moves forward, it remains poised to lower barriers for collaboration, amplify the JHU strengths in research, interdisciplinary scholarship, policy and practice and shape the future. Our institute proudly asserts that JHU is “India strong,” characterized by a vibrant community of students, faculty, and alumni, robust collaborations, and a depth of work, exploration, and exchange in cutting-edge research.

In this inaugural report, we primarily reflect on our goals and accomplishments from last year while also showcasing key highlights of GKII since its inception. The path we have carved together ensures that the institute will continue to be a cornerstone for innovation and impactful global engagement.

I am deeply grateful for your support, which has been instrumental in our success. The journey we have embarked upon together will undoubtedly continue to inspire and make a lasting impact.

Warm regards,

Melody McCoy
Executive Director
Gupta-Klinsky India Institute
Who We Are

GKII Advisory Board

Raj and Kamla Gupta
Co-chair of Board of Advisors

Ashok Agarwal
BSPH ’84, Trustee and Founder, Indian Institute of Health Management Research; Trustee of Johns Hopkins India Foundation

Ritu Chhabria
Co-Founder and Managing Trustee, Mukul Madhav Foundation

Who We Are

GKII Alumni Ambassadors

Maureen Sherry
Novelist & Screenwriter

Deepak Raj
Chairman, Pratham USA and Indian Philanthropy Alliance

Sunil Wadhwani
Founder, Wadhwani Institute for Sustainable Healthcare (WISH) and the Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence (WIIAI)

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Co-chair of Board of Advisors

Gitanji Arora
JHU’98 BSPH’99, Asst. Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine, University of South California

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Nilanjan Chatterjee
PhD, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health

Ellen Chow
Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Johns Hopkins University

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Sunil Solomon
MBBS, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, JHU School of Medicine

Pravin Krishna
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Joshua White
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PhD, Vice Chair for Research and Administration, Department of Epidemiology, Professor, Bloomberg School of Public Health

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Nagpurnanand Prabhala
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Nancy Reynolds
PhD, Professor and Associate Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

Sridevi Sarma
PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Vice Dean for Graduate Education, Whiting School of Engineering

Melody McCoy
Executive Director

Neetisha Borra
Deputy Director

Colter Billings
Communications Specialist

Molly Bowen
Senior Communications Manager

Ira Pundeer
Communications & Outreach Specialist

Beth Romanski
Program Manager

Meghashish Sharma
Program Manager

Hugh Sullivan
Director of International Development

Hunter Toreyia
Budget Analyst

April Wilson
Administrative Coordinator

GKII Core Team
Johns Hopkins University and India have a century long partnership, resulting in critical breakthroughs in research and training which have not only contributed to India’s public health landscape but also influenced global health practices.

In 1932, the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health was inaugurated in Calcutta, marking the establishment of the first and foremost public health school in Asia, fashioned after Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (BSPH). JHU, in partnering with Kolkata (Calcutta) hospital saved an estimated fifty million lives by developing oral rehydration therapy that became the global standard to manage childhood diarrhea. JHU assisted India in introducing the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) in its routine immunization schedule, protecting twenty-seven million children annually.

A notable joint initiative was the Narangwal Study, orchestrated by Carl E Taylor with the support of an extensive Indian team, which demonstrated the superior cost-effectiveness and impact of unified nutrition, healthcare, and family planning services over separate services, resulting in a remarkable reduction of child mortality rates by nearly 45%. This approach of integrated services was later embraced by key international health bodies, including USAID, WHO, and the World Bank. The leadership of India’s Family Planning Department within the Ministry of Health, steered from 1962 to 1967 by BSPH alumna Sushila Nayar, saw significant advancements under her tenure. Collaborating with Taylor, Nayar was instrumental in enhancing family planning services, anchoring them within a holistic health care delivery model. Over 1000+ Indian alumni have been influential in developing public health initiatives, shaping national policies, and driving the country’s health advancements.

Established in 2020, the Gupta-Klinsky India Institute at Johns Hopkins builds upon a rich history of high-impact collaborations with Indian partners that is nearly a century old.

- **1930s**
  - Commenced direct advisory and training
  - Started direct work as an advisor for the WHO malaria control campaign, built human capacity by training engineers on India’s water and sewer systems

- **1940s**
  - Saved -50M lives through breakthrough innovations
  - Partnered with a Calcutta hospital to develop oral rehydration therapy that became the global standard for management of childhood diarrhea, and was credited with saving 50M lives

- **1960s**
  - Developed low-cost intervention for village health
  - Demonstrated effectiveness of community health workers and combined family planning, nutrition, and primary health services

- **1970s**
  - Built clinical protocols to tackle HIV epidemic
  - Demonstrated high risk of HIV transmission for key populations, conducted clinical trials to prevent transmission, provided first genetic sequences of HIV virus in India

- **1990s**
  - Protected ~27M lives
  - Helped prepare for introduction of PCV in India’s routine immunization schedule; protected ~27M children born each year from serious pneumococcal infections
  - Built evidence for strengthening Informal Healthcare Providers (IHPS)
  - Surfaced inappropriate use of drugs in diagnosis and treatment practices of IHPS and recommended training and monitoring in basic healthcare
  - Led advocacy campaign for HiB vaccine
  - Catalyzed 5-year campaign to promote vaccine in partnership with medical professionals, policymakers, NGOs

- **2000s**
  - Improved provider performance for antenatal care
  - Created safe childbirth checklist to help health workers adhere to safe care practices during childbirth, resulting in 12% reduction in first two days of prenatal mortality

- **2010s**
  - Established two new centers
  - Center for Maternal and Child Health in India, Kolkata
  - Center for Infectious Diseases in India, Pune

- **2020s**
  - JHU alumni played leadership roles
  - Founded and led eminent health institutions in India since before independence (e.g., All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health)
GKII Mission Statement

GKII was established in 2020 to actively foster collaborations between JHU and India’s leaders across government, academia, civil society, and the private sector. Our mission is to harness the collective expertise and resources from both entities to advance human knowledge and cultivate innovative solutions that benefit the global community.

GKII accomplishes its mission through 5Cs – Convening, Coordinating, Communicating, Creating Community, and Catalyzing efforts to create tangible impact in society. GKII works to create synergies across all divisions of the university that are working in partnership with India – creating a “Superhighway” of activity to enrich all communities. We build a sense of community across all audiences by raising awareness about our extensive activities and developments. We also coordinate events to maximize outcomes and convene stakeholders to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and build connections among the various individuals and groups at JHU who are interested in India. These efforts aim to generate results that benefit JHU, its partners in India, and the global community.

The GKII team is guided by both a distinguished Advisory Board and a faculty-driven Steering Committee that represents JHU schools. The team is based in both Baltimore at JHU and in New Delhi.

OUR APPROACH

Create Community
Convene
Coordinate
Catalyse
Communicate

We pursue our mission in three strategic directions:

1. Creating opportunities & lowering barriers for collaborative research, education, training, policy, and practice for social good
2. Amplifying current strengths of JHU work in India through targeted research initiatives that convene and stimulate innovation, partnerships, and knowledge sharing
3. Shaping the future through interdisciplinary scholarship and investment in new areas of knowledge and application to practice in emerging or neglected fields of potential impact.

GKII Activity Highlights

In its brief existence, GKII has built a strong foundation of its operations at JHU and in India. It has raised $113.25 Million, offered 8 research grants and sponsored 15 student travel grants. GKII has built a prolific advisory board, a core team of 10 members, established a strong representation of JHU schools through its Faculty Steering Committee. In 2023, GKII refined and focused into 3 key pillars, namely Tuberculosis & Respiratory Infections, Artificial Intelligence & Digital Technologies, and Education & Training. GKII is orchestrating new projects in these areas through working groups constituted by JHU and India experts. GKII's key programs until 2023 include:

Johns Hopkins Center for Infectious Diseases in India

A new infectious disease research and education center of excellence building with advanced laboratory facilities in Pune, India. GKII has contributed $4 Mn to the center. This is a collaboration between JHU School of Medicine and its Indian partners such as YRG Care and BJ Medical College (BJGMC).

Breakthrough Research Grants

GKII offers catalytic funding to JHU faculty for research collaborations with Indian partners through a competitive process. Currently, GKII has awarded 3 grants of $50,000 each in non-communicable diseases, 4 grants in digital health, with co-funding from Indian partners IIT Bombay ($60,000) and Ashoka University ($50,000) and 1 grant ($45,000) for Climate and Health.

Girish and Himangi Rishi Student Travel Award

GKII supports students traveling to India to promote global experiential learning. JHU students across any school, division, department, or center, can apply for the purpose of research and field practicums. In year 1, GKII supported 6 students from JHU traveling to India and 2 students from Indian partners for summer research. In 2024, GKII would be supporting 6 students to travel to India for Global Health Established Field Placement (GHEFP) projects.

Sunil Kumar and Sumati Murali Student Training and Mentorship Fund

An endowment fund to support PhD students at Johns Hopkins University to do India-related research and field work. GKII has currently raised over $400,000 as contributions towards this gift.

“Teeka Lagwaya Naa” Campaign

GKII sponsored a nationwide campaign to strengthen COVID-19 vaccine confidence among Indian citizens, thereby supporting and supplementing the ongoing efforts of the Government of India and local organizations. JHU collaborated with 50+ organizations in this effort and reached 25 Mn+ viewers for the video campaign.
GKII helped fundraise $2.2 Mn for COVID-19 relief work in India

GKII led a fundraiser to donate $2.2 Mn towards pandemic relief efforts in India, which included supplying medical kits, oxygen concentrators, vaccines, lab equipment and mobile health clinics. It worked with 30+ on ground partners in India and directly impacted 250,000+ individuals.

Provost Tour of India

In April of 2022, a delegation led by then Provost Sunil Kumar and GKII Co-Chair Raj Gupta visited India for a formal one-week launch of the Gupta Klinsky India Institute. The delegation engaged with 40+ dignitaries from government, academia and private sector to build awareness about GKII, to explore collaborations and to recruit board members. The delegation met with JHU alumni, visited JHU project sites and partners. GKII organized multi-city events, meetings and media engagements.

Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India’s former ambassador to the U.S., with then JHU Provost Sunil Kumar

From left to right: Balram Bhargava, Former Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR); Amita Gupta, GKII Faculty Co-Chair; Naghma Sahar, News Anchor, NDTV, Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director, Medanta, Gagandeep Kang, Director-Enterics, Diagnostics, Genomics and Epidemiology, Global Health, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and K. Srinath Reddy, Former President and Founding Member, Public Health Foundation of India

Program Highlights

Students Travel Grants and Internships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>08 STUDENTS</th>
<th>Girish &amp; Himangi Rishi Student Travel Grant</th>
</tr>
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</table>

Research Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>07 STUDENTS</th>
<th>CBID Summer Immersion Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>GKII Interns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$305,000 Worth of research grants announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>proposals received; 08 research projects sponsored; 06 JHU faculty sponsored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>New research collaborations between JHU and India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Engaged

| 150+ Students | 1100+ Alumni | 300+ JHU faculty | 100+ Partners | 03 Mous Signed |

Social Media and Newsletter

| 3000+ Followers | INSTAGRAM Launched | 3100+ Newsletter sign-ups | >40% Open rate |

2 Training Workshops Organized

- Public Health Workshop - October 2023: Trained 140+ IAS OFFICERS at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration
- Grant Writing Workshop - October 2023: Trained 15 RESEARCH SCIENTISTS working with government on improving grant proposals

5 Conferences Organized

- April 2022, New Delhi: Applying Lessons Learned from COVID for a Stronger Health System
- April 2022, Mumbai: Tech for Good: India Inc’s Commitment to Research and Innovation
- October 2023, Washington DC: Bridging the Gap: Exploring the role of AI in the Climate and Health Intersection
- January 2024, New Delhi: Primary Healthcare Symposium
- September 2022 (Virtual): Climate, Health and Society: India’s Challenges and Opportunities

*As of March 2024
1. TB Free Schools Initiative

GKII has prioritized its research efforts in tuberculosis (TB) and respiratory illness for the next three years. This focus aligns with the World Health Organization’s Sustainable Development Goals to eliminate TB by 2030 and the more ambitious goals of the Indian government to eliminate TB by 2025.

In 2024, GKII is planning to launch the TB Free Schools Initiative. Globally active TB is #1 infectious diseases killer and India accounts for 27% of the 10.6 million cases that occur each year. Furthermore, 1 in 4 (2 billion) people are estimated to be latently infected with TB and would benefit from preventive treatment.

20% of Indian children are infected with latent TB by age 18 years and currently school-based children are not routinely screened for TB disease or infection. Opportunity for prevention is clear.

Impact Pyramid

For every 10,000 school-going children screened

- **33** Deaths averted
- **2,130** Life years gained
- **296** Post-TB DALYs averted
- **$511,000** in averted productivity costs
- **$9,700** Worth of Out-of-Pocket Expenditure Averted

Through the TB Free Schools Initiative, GKII proposes to scale up school-based TB screening in 5 states (Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat) in partnership with Indian national and state governments, NGOs, and local communities.

**Engage key stakeholders** (CTD, NTEP, State TB officers, schools, Community, NGOs, private sector)

**Implement a Mobile Testing Laboratory in line with NTEP Protocols**

**5-10 schools will be selected at each site**

**Scale up with the national, state government, District TB programs, NGOs to impact policy**

**We expect to screen 10,000 schoolgoing children through this initiative across our four sites**

**A clinical team will visit the schools to conduct active screening**

*The above MAP depicts only pictorial representation of India and the States of India and does not purport to be the political map of India or its states.*
2. Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health

Guided by the advisory board’s vision, the institute has recognized the role of AI and digital solutions in transforming healthcare. As a first step, the GKII team has conducted a landscaping exercise to identify key stakeholders across India and JHU.

The landscaping exercise identified 28 key organizations across government, private, academic research, and social impact sectors. Additionally, over 120 faculty members across 23 centers under the Data Science and AI center at JHU were identified along with their key areas of expertise. Concurrently, multiple rounds of iterations were undertaken across JHU schools such as Whiting School of Engineering, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, School of Medicine, and the Bloomberg School of Public Health to develop a strategy to drive the AI efforts of the Institute. The two pillars of this strategy were, firstly, to drive the effort through Hopkins’ domain expertise in global public health and healthcare research and secondly, to focus on training and capacity building of stakeholders in the research and academic sector.

Currently, the institute is developing a masterclass webinar series on AI and Public Health, featuring experts from JHU and India. The series will be rooted in the practical experience of experts within JHU and Indian partners and aims to share technical knowledge and stimulate thought leadership through real-world use cases of leveraging AI-based solutions.

3. Education and Training of Health and Research Cadre

In the realm of education, GKII fosters impactful partnerships with Indian institutions like IITs and IISc, invigorating faculty research through workshops and laying groundwork for potential research collaborations between JHU and Indian entities. Concurrently, multiple rounds of iterations were undertaken across JHU schools such as Whiting School of Engineering, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, School of Medicine, and the Bloomberg School of Public Health to develop a strategy to drive the AI efforts of the Institute. The two pillars of this strategy were, firstly, to drive the effort through Hopkins’ domain expertise in global public health and healthcare research and secondly, to focus on training and capacity building of stakeholders in the research and academic sector.

The institute is planning to launch virtual and online training programs on Public Health & Medicine Research to meet the growing demand for expertise in these fields. Long-term goals include collaborative degrees and Centers of Excellence, aligning with JHU’s global education mission to foster innovation and academic excellence. Central to this strategy is cultivating a sustainable cohort of skilled researchers. By leveraging these efforts, GKII aims to disseminate the fruits of discovery globally, contributing to societal progress and advancement.

As JHU’s India liaison, GKII strengthens educational initiatives across India, adopting a ‘One JHU’ approach to support a cohesive India education strategy, enhancing brand visibility, and influence in the Indian educational landscape.

8

Research

Breakthrough Grants

Breakthrough research grants are a flagship program of GKII to support early stage JHU faculty members to collaborate with an Indian partner offering potential co-funding to pilot projects in multidisciplinary and urgent areas of research.

The Gupta-Klinsky India Institute has launched three Breakthrough Research Grant challenges in the fields of Noncommunicable Diseases, Climate and Health, and Health Data Research. The Breakthrough Research Grants Program provided funding for six different pilot projects led by faculty members from Johns Hopkins University and applicable partner institutions that involved interdisciplinary collaborations.

Noncommunicable Diseases

**Project:** AI and machine learning to predict cardiovascular and metabolic outcomes in South Asian urbanized population with Type 2 diabetes mellitus

**JHU Principal Investigator**

Prasanna Santhanam
MBBS, MD. Associate Director, Communications, Division of Endocrinology and Associate Professor, JHSOM

**India Partner**

Anoop Misra
Chairman, Fortis-C-DOC Centre of Excellence for Diabetes, Metabolic Diseases and Endocrinology, Chairman, National Diabetes, Obesity and Cholesterol Foundation (N-DOC)

"Using AI techniques, this research hopes to identify factors like environmental pollution and socioeconomic status that might contribute to cardiometabolic disease in partnership with Indian clinical researchers based in New Delhi”

- Prasanna Santhanam
Sara Benjamin-Neelon
PhD, JD, MPH, Director of the Lerner Center, Helaine and Sidney Lerner Professor of International Health, BSPH

Debarati Mukherjee
PhD, Additional Professor, Indian Institute for Public Health, Bengaluru

Christopher Kemp
Assistant Scientist
BSPH

Nishi Suryavanshi
Deputy Director for the BJGMC-JHU Pune Clinical Research Site

Arjun Kakrani
D.Y. Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre

Climate and Health

Project: Policy actions for India-U.S. collaborations on climate and health

JHU Principal Investigator
Gigi Gronvall
Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Health and Engineering, BSPH

India Partner
Regional Centre for Biotechnology
Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India

“Our team will work to identify projects already underway which could use more support, or areas where the US and India are working separately but would benefit from a joint approach.”

- Gigi Gronvall

Health Data Research with Ashoka University

Project: Machine learning methods for enhanced forecasting of antiretroviral therapy demand in India

JHU Principal Investigator
Steven Clipman
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, JHUSOM

India Partner
Debayan Gupta
Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Ashoka University

“We plan to attack one particularly impactful use case: forecasting demand for HIV medication in India. The careful and consistent balancing of stock required to do this is a complicated task; we aim to create a powerful model which can generalize and scale to other such systems across the world.”

- Debayan Gupta

“There are many barriers to effective mental health care in India, and most people who need care and treatment never receive it. The grant program has provided us with the opportunity to partner with people with lived experience of both tuberculosis and mental health conditions to co-design a peer-led mental health integration model for use in India’s tuberculosis treatment centers.”

- Christopher Kemp

Project: Maternal metabolites in pregnancy and child growth in India

JHU Principal Investigator
India Partners

Sara Benjamin-Neelon
Giridhara Babu
Debarati Mukherjee

Christopher Kemp
Nishi Suryavanshi
Arjun Kakrani

Project: Formative assessment for peer-led mental health and TB services integration in India

JHU Principal Investigator
India Partners

Christopher Kemp
Nishi Suryavanshi
Arjun Kakrani

Sara Benjamin-Neelon
Giridhara Babu
Debarati Mukherjee

“"I have collaborated with my colleagues at the PHFI for the past few years. I served as a mentor and collaborator to establish the birth cohort in Bengaluru examining diabetes risk in pregnancy and offspring health outcomes.”

- Sara Benjamin-Neelon

“"There are many barriers to effective mental health care in India, and most people who need care and treatment never receive it. The grant program has provided us with the opportunity to partner with people with lived experience of both tuberculosis and mental health conditions to co-design a peer-led mental health integration model for use in India's tuberculosis treatment centers.”

- Christopher Kemp
Annual Report - 2022-23

Project: Leveraging language models and a common data model to unlock real world evidence from unstructured electronic health record data in India

JHU Principal Investigator
Matthew Robinson
Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, JHUSOM

India Partner
Rintu Kutum
Faculty Fellow of Computer Science, Ashoka University

“We will apply modern natural language processing and large language model techniques to understand how clinicians in India and the US prescribe antibiotics with hope that these findings will inform efforts to use antibiotics more judiciously and effectively.”
- Matthew Robinson

“This grant will foster the collective exchange of expertise in the field of AI and Health Informatics leading towards the understanding of the landscape of antibiotics (prescriptions and usages) in a specific condition as a pilot observational study.”
- Rintu Kutum

IN NEWS

Changing the Paradigm in TB Treatment - Research

JHU and BJ Medical College jointly launched a revolutionary new study to assess the acceptability of an ultra-short tuberculosis preventative therapy in people living with HIV in Pune. The “One to Three HP” study compares the treatment completion of daily dose Rifapentine and Isoniazid for a month (1HP), to the weekly dose of Rifapentine and Isoniazid for three months (3HP) in people living with HIV in Pune. Drs. Amita Gupta and Vidya Mave lead the study.

NEW COLLABORATION

Collaboration Agreement signed with IIT Bombay

Johns Hopkins University, through GKII, finalized a collaboration agreement with the Indian Institute of Bombay (IIT-B) in February 2023 with the goals of conducting joint research in digital health and provide training opportunities that build capacity in interdisciplinary health science research. This was announced during a panel discussion with IIT-B discussing future ways in which to empower health in the new digital landscape. This agreement has since led to the development of a Breakthrough Research Grant with IIT-B’s Koita Centre for Digital Health.

CASE STUDY

Building clinical protocols and state capacity over three decades to tackle the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India

JHU’s Role: Since the 1990s, JHU has partnered with local institutions to tackle India’s HIV/AIDS challenge. Collaborations like the Six-Week Extended-Dose Nevirapine (SWEN) trial with BJ Medical College drastically reduced mother-to-infant HIV transmission. Additionally, collaborations with YRG Care improved testing rates through integrated care centers. JHU’s research highlighted HIV transmission risks among key populations and developed prevention strategies, culminating in India’s first genetic sequencing of HIV strains.

Impact: The collaboration between JHU and its Indian counterparts has significantly impacted HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. The SWEN trial influenced WHO guidelines on breastfeeding for HIV-positive mothers. The integrated care center model, developed through this partnership, outperformed traditional care sites, offering a scalable template. These initiatives bolstered HIV testing and treatment infrastructure, training over 2,000 Indian scientists, and enhancing flagship Indian institutions’ capacity. Following the success of these programs, the Government of India is scaling up the integrated approach to other states, with JHU providing ongoing technical support.

Issue: India has one of the largest burdens of HIV/AIDS globally, with the epidemic’s first cases reported in 1986. Key populations, including infants born to HIV-positive mothers, commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, and injecting drug users, bear the brunt of this public health challenge. Traditional strategies and global protocols, such as restricting breastfeeding for HIV-positive mothers, have inadvertently contributed to increased infant mortality rates. Furthermore, the country’s HIV testing, prevention, and treatment services are often non-integrated, failing to meet the specific needs of these key populations.

Impact: The collaboration between JHU and its Indian counterparts has significantly impacted HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. The SWEN trial influenced WHO guidelines on breastfeeding for HIV-positive mothers. The integrated care center model, developed through this partnership, outperformed traditional care sites, offering a scalable template. These initiatives bolstered HIV testing and treatment infrastructure, training over 2,000 Indian scientists, and enhancing flagship Indian institutions’ capacity. Following the success of these programs, the Government of India is scaling up the integrated approach to other states, with JHU providing ongoing technical support.
### Education and Training

#### Girish and Himangi Rishi Student Travel Grant

The Girish and Himangi Rishi Student Travel Grant aims to build the next generation of thought leaders and researchers in India. Supported by the generous contributions of Mr. Girish Rishi, an alumnus of the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and his wife, Himangi Rishi, the grant facilitates Johns Hopkins students in conducting research and immersive field studies at JHU sites under the Center for Global Health.

In 2023, eight Hopkins students benefited from this grant. Projects spanned diverse areas, including addressing holistic needs for youths affected by HIV, exploring perceptions of young Indians towards security, and examining social security’s intersection with identities in Mumbai. Other initiatives aimed to improve primary healthcare coverage, evaluate the impact of interventions on HIV viral suppression, and enhance tuberculosis treatment programs by integrating mental health services.

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#### Babu Seenappa

**JHU Faculty**: Anita Shet  
**Theme**: Children living with HIV  
**Project**: The Positive Running Program

Babu Seenappa, Consultant, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, worked with Johns Hopkins students to interview people in India to understand their social and economic views on security to provide foundational insights, aiding in hypothesis building. The diverse population of identities in Mumbai offered valuable data for his ongoing research.

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#### Rishabh Kumar

**JHU Faculty**: Rina Agarwala  
**Theme**: Vulnerable populations  
**Project**: Social Insecurity Project

Rishabh’s portion of the Social Insecurity Project interviewed people in India to understand their social and economic views on security to provide the foundation of a larger research project. He hypothesized that older groups prioritized social security, while younger ones would focus on individualistic terms, guiding future research into these demographics.

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#### Sherina Poyyail

**JHU Faculty**: Rina Agarwala  
**Theme**: Vulnerable populations  
**Project**: Social Insecurity Project

For the social insecurity project, Sherina interviewed young individuals in Mumbai, including students and working youth, to understand their perceptions of social security across caste, class, and gender. The interviews provided foundational insights, aiding in hypothesis building. The diverse population of identities in Mumbai offered valuable data for her ongoing research.

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#### Sonal Sharma

**JHU Faculty**: Rina Agarwala  
**Theme**: Vulnerable populations  
**Project**: Social Insecurity Project

Sonal investigated social insecurity among Indian youth aged 17-25 in New Delhi and Mumbai, examining gender and class differences. His qualitative research project aimed to create a new measure for social insecurity to affect change in policy and explore India’s post-pandemic challenges, including safety, vulnerability, and aspirations.

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#### Manvi Poddar

**JHU Faculty**: Christopher Kemp  
**Theme**: Social Behavioral Interventions  
**Project**: Formative Assessment for Peer-Led Mental Health and TB Services Integration in India

Manvi’s project worked to expand mental health services to India, guided by individuals with firsthand experience of TB and mental health conditions. Her goal was to identify the characteristics of a peer-led tuberculosis-mental health integration model that would demonstrate effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, acceptability, feasibility, and sustainability that could be used by India’s TB programs.

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#### Austin Schmidt

**JHU Faculty**: Krishna Rao  
**Theme**: Health systems  
**Project**: India Primary Health Care Support Initiative

Austin’s project worked to enhance primary healthcare coverage and performance in selected Indian states in support of the India Primary Health Care Support Initiative. She refined partner workplans, established milestones, and visited sites for context. The project also developed study designs and tools and contributed to manuscripts.

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#### Siddhaparna Sannigrahi

**JHU Faculty**: Anita Shet  
**Theme**: Children living with HIV  
**Project**: The Positive Running Program

Siddhaparna Sannigrahi, Master of Science in Public Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Social and Behavioral Interventions), interviewed people in India to understand their social and economic views on security to provide foundational insights, aiding in hypothesis building. The diverse population of identities in Mumbai offered valuable data for his ongoing research.

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#### Rina Agarwala

**JHU Faculty**: Rina Agarwala  
**Theme**: Vulnerable populations  
**Project**: Social Insecurity Project

Rina Agarwala, Master of Science in International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, worked with Johns Hopkins students to interview people in India to understand their social and economic views on security to provide foundational insights, aiding in hypothesis building. The diverse population of identities in Mumbai offered valuable data for her ongoing research.

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#### Rose Pollard Kaptchuk

**JHU Faculty**: Shruti Mehta  
**Theme**: Social Behavioral Interventions  
**Project**: People Who Inject Drugs- Opportunities to Improve, Treat & Retain (POINTER)

The POINTER trial assessed same-day antiretroviral therapy (ART) and community-based ART effects on HIV viral suppression in people who inject drugs to better support this vulnerable population. Rose worked with an in-country team to conduct site visits, recruited respondents, monitored data collection, and analyzed interview data to identify barriers and facilitators for the trial.

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#### Christopher Kemp

**JHU Faculty**: Christopher Kemp  
**Theme**: Social Behavioral Interventions  
**Project**: Formative Assessment for Peer-Led Mental Health and TB Services Integration in India

Christopher Kemp, Master of Science in Public Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, worked with Johns Hopkins students to interview people in India to understand their social and economic views on security to provide foundational insights, aiding in hypothesis building. The diverse population of identities in Mumbai offered valuable data for his ongoing research.
CBID Immersion Program and GKII

The Johns Hopkins Center for Bioengineering Innovation & Design (CBID) and GKII share a vision to develop impactful healthcare solutions that enhance the lives of patients, particularly in the context of India. Both organizations prioritize gaining a comprehensive understanding of patient and stakeholder needs, fostering iterative co-development of solutions to ensure their relevance and viability within the Indian healthcare ecosystem.

Partnering to Explore Unmet Needs in Glaucoma Care Pathway

The Hopkins team, comprising Amina Ishrat, Lhotse Thompson, Sorush Rokui, and Luke Boyce, poses with a staff member at Aravind Eye Hospital. Photo: Lhotse Thompson

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This year, GKII and CBID partnered with the Aravind Eye Care System, focusing on identifying unmet needs and crafting, testing, and validating a solution to prevent vision loss from glaucoma. In August 2023, GKII sponsored a team of CBID engineers to participate in a summer immersion program, engaging with the project on-site to deepen their insights. This initiative leverages CBID’s ongoing work in telemedicine and artificial intelligence to enable accessible eye screening and referral services in India.

Enhancing the Development of AI Tools to Assist Frontline Health Workers

Another team partnered with Intelehealth, a tech-for-impact organization with a mission to drive quality healthcare where there is no doctor through Ayu, an AI-based tool, empowering frontline health workers to enhance patient safety and outcomes. The JHU team is helping to develop a needs assessment that will inform the development and implementation of the AI tool to provide region-specific diagnoses and higher quality differential diagnoses.

"CBID Design Teams seek to design and develop better solutions for important healthcare challenges around the world. Support from the GKII has allowed our students to connect to the incredible energy and creativity in India. Thank you so much to the Institute and your supporters for enabling an experience which will inspire and inform their professional lives, and help to create impactful healthcare solutions."

- Youseph Yazdi, Executive Director, CBID

Training Programs for Professionals

Through faculty and alumni-led workshops and training, GKII aims to nurture leadership excellence, enhance skills, and foster collaboration among professionals in various fields, contributing to their personal and career development.

Nurturing Leadership Excellence at LBSNAA

On October 30, 2023, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), GKII conducted a Friday Night at the Emergency Room (FNER) session as part of a public health training program for mid-career civil servants from 14 All-India services. Hosted at LBSNAA, the engaging simulation board game, “Friday Night at the Emergency Room,” facilitated by JHU alumni and IAS officers Dr. Rakesh Gupta (IAS ‘97) and Dr. Rajendra Shukla (IAS ‘86), served as a valuable tool for systems thinking in public administration. Attended by over 140 mid-career professionals civil servants from diverse services, the session aimed to enhance leadership capacities, foster collaboration, and ensure the delivery of citizen-centric services at the highest standard.

Civil servants from nine different services attended the training from IAS, IPS, IRS, IPOS, IFS, IRAS, IDAS, IPTAFS, IAAS cadre.

Johns Hopkins team which conducted training at LBSNAA. JHU alumni and IAS officers Dr Rajendra Shukla and Dr Rakesh Gupta participated as trainers. Photo: LBSNAA
GKII Workshop Prepares Scientists for Grant Writing Success

On October 13, 2023, GKII addressed the critical gap in formal education on effective grant writing through the “Grant Writing Workshop: Building Effective Specific Aims Pages.” This workshop, attended by 15 senior scientists and researchers from top Indian institutes such as ICMR and AIIMS, focused on the essential skill of crafting impactful Specific Aims pages.

The workshop was facilitated by Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering faculty. The session aimed to empower researchers to articulate their vision, showcase potential impact, and secure crucial funding for innovative projects. This strategic initiative recognizes the pivotal role grant writing plays in advancing high-impact research.

**FACILITATORS:**

- **Sri Sarma**
  PhD Vice Dean for Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning (GELL) in the Whiting School of Engineering
- **Dr Chuck Montague**
  Director of Business Development, Biomedical Engineering, Johns Hopkins University
- **Dr Patrick Myers**
  Director of Product Development, Biomedical Engineering, Johns Hopkins University

“Effective grant writing goes beyond securing funding; it fosters collaboration, enhances planning, promotes innovation, and amplifies voices advocating for crucial research and development work. These initiatives align with the Institute’s mission to lower research barriers in India through collaborations with local partners and sharing expertise.”

Dr. Sara Bennett, GKII Faculty Steering Committee Co-Chair

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**EDUCATION INITIATIVES BY JHU SCHOOLS IN INDIA**

**The Whiting School of Engineering: Home-to-Hopkins Program**

The Home-to-Hopkins is a master’s degree program that gives students the opportunity to start their degree in one of five engineering disciplines remotely from their home country for the first year, then shift to on-campus study in Baltimore, Maryland in year two.

**Engagements and Partnerships Through the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing**

The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing (JHSON) maintains active engagement with several projects in India. In partnership with Christian Medical College Vellore, College of Nursing, JHSON obtained new funding for co-development of a novel virtual mental health and wellness center in Vellore, India. The project is currently under development with involvement from several graduate students, staff, and faculty.

JHSON also partnered with the India Ministry of Health, National Institute for Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), and the JHU School of Public Health to develop and lead a first of its kind Train-the-Trainer Course for development of Nurse Leaders in Infection Prevention and Control in Delhi, India. This is a nationwide initiative focused on developing a strong group of master trainers. Several live iterations of the course have been completed and will be rolled out at the grassroots level to 70,000 nurses in India.

**Carey School of Business Focusing on Outreach and Connection in India**

The Carey School of Business (CSB) has formed a special faculty task force to evaluate potential opportunities in India including creation of executive education programs. The faculty Task Force includes Rick Smith, Professor of Practice and Executive Advisor to the Dean; Nagpurnanand Prabha, Francis J. Carey, Jr. (Endowed) Professor; Ritu Aggarwal, Wm. Polk Carey Distinguished Professor; Sudip Gupta, Associate Professor of Practice; and Supriya Munshaw, Associate Professor of Practice and Associate Dean for Academic Programs. The task force has conducted a series of meetings to discuss current academic and professional connections in India and has begun to evaluate potential opportunities for academic collaborations.

**School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Cohort Explores AI Governance in India**

The IDEV Practicum at JHU SAIS allows students to work directly with public, private, and non-governmental organizations as a capstone to their graduate studies. In 2023, the India practicum featured two groups focusing on AI governance and US-India bilateral space collaboration. From January 3 to 12, the cohort visited New Delhi and Bengaluru, engaging with stakeholders, researchers, and entrepreneurs in the AI and space industries. The students were hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs’ New and Emerging Strategic Technologies division and the U.S. Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in Delhi. In Bengaluru, they interacted with students and researchers at the National Institute of Advanced Studies and held discussions at the Takshashila Institution, also connecting with innovative startups.
Sunil Kumar and Sumati Murli Student Training and Mentorship Fund Established

In March 2023, GKII established the Sunil Kumar and Sumati Murli Student Training and Mentorship Fund to honor Sunil Kumar, the first JHU Provost of Indian origin and also a founding member of the Gupta-Klinsky India Institute. This fund will support two graduate-level degree students each year at Johns Hopkins University conducting studies related to India. This fellowship allows GKII to honor the vision of Dr. Kumar towards creating equitable and quality educational opportunities and facilitating interaction between Johns Hopkins and Indian partners.

Amita Gupta nominated as a member to the AAU US-India Task Force

Johns Hopkins University, a founding member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) since 1900, has been actively involved in enhancing U.S.-India educational relations. In April 2023, the AAU formed a Task Force to focus on expanding research and higher education partnerships between the two countries. Amita Gupta, GKII Faculty Co-Chair, joined this task force, contributing her expertise to the initiative.

CASE STUDY
Impact of the Fogarty Training Program on Trainee and Institutional Research Capacity Building at a Government Medical College in India

Dr. Bollinger led a scientific writing workshop for Fogarty scholars, BJGMC faculties, and students.

Announcements

Dr. Amita Gupta, GKII Faculty Co-Chair, with US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti and delegates from the Association of American Universities (AAU) in New Delhi.

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Policy and Practice

PHC Symposium

JHU faculty and India-based project teams gathered in Delhi on January 18th and 19th, 2024, for the PHC Symposium, featuring engaging panel discussions and a series of interactive sessions on emerging issues in primary health care in India and potential research and collaboration opportunities to address them.

Its purpose was to tackle challenges, foster collaboration, and identify future research areas and partnerships for Primary Health Care (PHC) initiatives in India, thereby shaping the future of healthcare in the country. Organized by GKII and the Health Systems Program – Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, this symposium served as a pivotal platform for faculty and researchers dedicated to PHC research projects in India.

The themes included finance and governance, meeting the needs of vulnerable populations, community engagement, integrated primary and secondary healthcare models in LMICs, and leadership training initiatives, and health information systems. The discussions addressed emerging issues and challenges while exploring deeper insights into potential research areas and collaborations for future PHC initiatives in India.

**Panels and Sessions**

1. **Community Engagement**
   - Panelists: Shalini Singh, Aditya Singh, Raghukul Ratan Pandey
   - The session shed light on projects and research endeavors aimed at fostering deeper connections between healthcare providers and the communities they serve.

2. **Developing Inclusive PHC Systems for Vulnerable Populations**
   - Panelists: Dr. Soram Kayo, Mini Malhotra, and others
   - This session delved into the exploration of integrated primary-secondary healthcare models in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) and leadership training initiatives within the Indian healthcare system.

3. **Exploring More about PHC – Health information systems, evidence and evidence use**
   - Panelists: Smisha Agarwal, Swati Srivastava, and others
   - The session focused on unraveling the intricacies of Primary Health Care (PHC) in India, specifically delving into Health Information Systems (HIS), evidence, and its practical application.

**Speakers**

- **Dr Atul Kotwal**, Executive Director, National Health Systems Resource Centre, New Delhi
- **Dr Rajani Ved**, Director Health, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation New Delhi
- **Dr Aarushi Bhatnagar**, Senior Economist Health, World Bank, India
- **Shalini Singh**, Senior Researcher, Johns Hopkins India (JHPIEGO Community Engagement Project)
- **Aditya Singh**, Executive Director and Deputy Chief of Party ACCELERATE
- **Raghukul Ratan Pandey**, Senior Research Officer UP Project
- **Subhash Ghosh**, Project Lead (YRG CARE, ACCELERATE)
- **Akriti Mehta**, Senior Public Health Specialist, India Primary Healthcare Support Initiative
- **Smisha Agarwal**, Associate Professor, Director, Center for Global Digital Health Innovation, BSP
- **Swati Srivastava**, Senior Program Officer, UP Project

To read the summary of the PHC Symposium [click here](#) or scan the QR code:
Bridging the Gap: Exploring the role of AI in the Climate and Health Intersection

Our event, Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Role of AI in the Climate and Health Intersection, facilitated collaboratively by Dasra’s ClimateRISE Alliance, Indiaspora, and GKI at Johns Hopkins University, explored how AI can be used as a tool to address up-stream and down-stream interventions.

Moderator Neera Nundy, Founder, Dasra

Speakers:

- Sanjay Purohit, Ex-Infosys and Chief Curator, Societal Thinking
- Smisha Agarwal, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Global Digital Health Innovation, JHU
- Kate Schneider, DCS Co-Faculty Lead, School of Advanced International Studies, JHU
- Shefali V Mehta, Founder and Principal, Open Rivers Consulting Associates
- Abhirup Datta, Associate Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Bloomberg School of Public Health, JHU

Health Beyond the Headlines with Barkha Dutt

Award-winning Indian broadcast journalist and author Barkha Dutt explored learnings for the Indian healthcare system from COVID-19 and beyond, gender equity, community building, healthcare in the digital era in India, and the power of storytelling from her journalism perspective.

CASE STUDY
Improving provider performance during childbirth

Jhpiego’s Role: Jhpiego, with Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) funding, collaborated with the Government of Rajasthan in 2012 to implement the Safe Childbirth Checklist (SCC) program. The SCC, adapted from a safe surgery checklist by Dr. Atul Gawande, supports health workers in adhering to vital childbirth safety practices. Jhpiego’s responsibilities included developing the SCC resources, ensuring the availability of essential drugs, supplies, and equipment, designing a training package for health workers, providing post-training support, and facilitating effective data collection and program monitoring. Their efforts were instrumental in translating learned skills into practice through structured mentorship and in developing ‘Dakshata,’ a significant initiative by the Government of India, adopted in over 1,200 facilities across various states.

Impact: The direct impact of implementing the SCC was a significant 12% reduction in prenatal mortality in the first two days. The systemic impact was even broader; based on the success of ‘Dakshata’, the initiative has been scaled up to additional states across India, with Jhpiego continuing to offer crucial technical support.

Issue: India accounted for 20% of global under-five deaths as of 2015. Despite doubling the rate of institutional deliveries between 2005-15, neonatal mortality rates (NMR) in India only saw a modest decline of 12 percentage points. This indicated that the quantity of healthcare has increased, but the quality remains a crucial factor that requires significant improvement to affect outcomes positively.

Jhpiego’s Role: Jhpiego, with Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) funding, collaborated with the Government of Rajasthan in 2012 to implement the Safe Childbirth Checklist (SCC) program. The SCC, adapted from a safe surgery checklist by Dr. Atul Gawande, supports health workers in adhering to vital childbirth safety practices. Jhpiego’s responsibilities included developing the SCC resources, ensuring the availability of essential drugs, supplies, and equipment, designing a training package for health workers, providing post-training support, and facilitating effective data collection and program monitoring. Their efforts were instrumental in translating learned skills into practice through structured mentorship and in developing ‘Dakshata,’ a significant initiative by the Government of India, adopted in over 1,200 facilities across various states.

Impact: The direct impact of implementing the SCC was a significant 12% reduction in prenatal mortality in the first two days. The systemic impact was even broader; based on the success of ‘Dakshata’, the initiative has been scaled up to additional states across India, with Jhpiego continuing to offer crucial technical support.

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Community Engagement

Students

Student-Alumni Admissions Fair – New Delhi, India

On January 21, 2023, the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF), in collaboration with the American Center – the U.S. Embassy’s Cultural Hub - conducted the 14th edition of the EducationUSA-USIEF Alumni Fair. GKII along with several alumni represented JHU at the event to share experiences, provide first-hand information and insights to prospective students on academic and campus life, as well as the socio-cultural environment in the U S.

Hopkins Engineering Exploratory Program (HEEP) Showcases Global Engagement and Talent Development

On March 11, 2023, Sridevi Sarma, Vice Dean for Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning, and Hong Lan, Director of Special Projects, hosted the inaugural Hopkins Engineering Exploratory Program (HEEP) for prospective graduate students. The seven-day event brought together 23 students, including 13 from India, to view 16 curated lectures by Whiting School of Engineering (WSE) faculty. HEEP offers exceptional junior undergraduates worldwide a brief, immersive experience at Johns Hopkins University’s Whiting School of Engineering. It’s a non-degree, non-credentialing program held on the Homewood Campus, combining engineering and STEM workshops/short courses with campus tours, lab visits, day trips, and panels about graduate school and engineering careers.

“Ione of the most effective ways to showcase our faculty and research is to get prospective students on campus. Meeting faculty and attending lectures are key for understanding our atmosphere.”

- Sridevi Sarma

Early outcomes show that among the 23 HEEP participants, eight seniors received offers from WSE Master of Science in Engineering programs. After attending, four students accepted offers to the Mechanical Engineering MS program, and one accepted an offer to the Electrical and Computer Engineering MS program. The other 15 participants were college juniors.

Welcoming Students for Inaugural School Year Gathering

In September 2023 to mark the beginning of the new school year, GKII hosted a gathering of 50 students from India, the Indian diaspora, and any students with an interest in India. Brief remarks by GKII Executive Director Melody McCoy and co-chairs Amrita Gupta and Sara Bennett covered the history of GKII and its mission, as well as current projects and efforts led by Johns Hopkins University in India.

Celebrating Shared Experiences with Parents

During her December 2023 visit to India, Executive Director Melody McCoy met with parents of current students, along with alumni, in Delhi to celebrate shared experiences and aspirations. Notable attendees included Anshu and Deepak Azad, Hitesh and Rimy Oberoi, Dr. Indu Bhushan, and Damini Agarwal. In Mumbai, GKII convened a dinner with parents of current JHU students and listened to their thoughts and insights on their students’ experience. These gatherings reaffirmed the profound impact of JHU’s initiatives on students and their families, inspiring continued collaboration, and connection within the JHU community.

Student Spotlight Series

Ishir Sharma
WSE, ‘25

“Being an international student is a huge part of my identity.”

Aarna Sanghai
WSE, ‘27

“By being an inclusive and equitable home for all, JHU has fostered the perfect environment for cross-cultural interactions.”

GKII Interns

Sangeeta Koilada
WSE, GKII Data Analyst

Vibha Sathesh Kumar
KSAS, GKII Communications Intern
Faculty

- **Stewardship by the Steering Committee:**
The Gupta-Klinsky India Institute provides 20 spaces for JHU faculty members to sit on the GKII Faculty Steering Committee, providing opportunities for collaborative leadership and guidance on strategic and programmatic planning for GKII and its activities. The faculty body is a core pillar of GKII’s framework and was established to promote and enhance collaborations with India related to research, education, policy, and practice to unite the JHU community with India to address global challenges.

- **Linking Faculty with Grant Opportunities:**
The Breakthrough Research Grants Program is a core pillar of support GKII provides JHU faculty. By providing funding in priority areas for pilot projects with India-based research institutes, we create important frameworks for continued collaboration. These cross-disciplinary objectives work to advance innovative solutions and promote equitable research partnerships among faculty.

- **Thought Leadership in Action:**
GKII hosted four webinars and panel discussions with JHU faculty members, pulling from many schools within the university. We aim to showcase the important work that these faculty members are doing, while also ensuring that education opportunities remain accessible and relevant to everyone.

### Highlighting the Work of Our Faculty

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<th>Spotlight</th>
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| **Kunal Parikh**  
PhD, Assistant Professor  
JHU School of Medicine |
| “My mission is to create a world where no person is limited by the circumstances of their birth.” |

| **Parul Christian**  
DrPH, Director of Program in Human Nutrition,  
Professor, BSPH |
| “I’m passionate about the work that I do, and I speak up about maternal nutrition to push the agenda forward. Everything being done right now is limited and we need to double down.” |

| **Richard Chaisson**  
MD, Director, Center for Tuberculosis Research,  
Professor of Medicine,  
JHU SOM, BSPH |
| “There are literally billions of people in the world who are infected with TB already and are at risk of getting sick with it in the future. It’s a problem that will stick around for a long time to come, even if we developed the most perfect tools imaginable.” |

Alumni

### Alumni Meet GKII Executive Director

In December 2023, GKII Executive Director Melody McCoy visited India and had the privilege of meeting esteemed JHU alumni in Delhi and Mumbai. They shared their remarkable achievements and experiences, further highlighting the significant impact of our JHU community in the region. We look forward to teaming more with this tremendous resource as we grow our footprint within India.

### Building a stronger community of JHU India Alumni

GKII launched a first-of-its-kind effort to consolidate a community of JHU alumni from India, those currently working or based in the country, as well as those who are part of the Indian diaspora. The goal is to mobilize a community of thousands of Johns Hopkins alumni with multidisciplinary backgrounds and a collective vision to deepen the relationship between Johns Hopkins and India. If you’re an India-affiliated JHU alumni, stay connected with us by filling out our short online survey.

### Alumni Spotlights

- **Indu Bhushan**, Ex-IAS Officer ’83, JHU alumnus, and Former CEO-Ayushman Bharat, Government of India

  “It helped me develop an interest in public health and changed my life forever.”

  Originally an electrical engineer, Indu Bhushan has carved a career path that exemplifies openness to following one’s interest and pursuing life’s opportunities with excellence. From his early days as a student at Johns Hopkins University, to his role as the Director General of the Asian Development Bank, and the founding CEO of India’s flagship public health insurance program, Ayushman Bharat, Bhushan’s trajectory is one of innovation and public health.

- **Ankita Kakkar**, SAIS ’23 Graduate

  “As a professional focused on Indo-Pacific affairs, witnessing the ceremony was a profound experience, as it was symbolic of the strengthening ties between the world’s oldest and largest democracies, from diplomacy to defense cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.”

GKII also launched “GKII Alumni Insights” - a biweekly Q&A series featuring India-affiliated Johns Hopkins alumni, as they share their experiences, reflections, and insights that shaped their journeys at Hopkins and beyond.
Panel Discussions

Empowering Health for All- Exploring Digital Innovations for Health Equity: This special hybrid event marking a new collaboration between Johns Hopkins University and the Koita Centre for Digital Health at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. Hosted at JHU’s Whiting School of Engineering. Prof. Ramakrishnan, Drs. Ritu Agarwal, William Polk Carey Distinguished Professor, Rama Chellappa, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, Kunal Parikh, Research Associate, and Sridevi Sarma, Associate Professor, Vice Dean for Graduate Education were panelists while Dr. Brian Hasselfeld, Senior Medical Director of Digital Health and Innovation acted as Moderator.

Pictured, from left to right: Nitish Thakor (Professor of Biomedical Engineering), Brian Hasselfeld, Kunal Parikh, Sridevi Sarma, Ritu Agarwal, Ganesh Ramakrishnan, and Melody McCoy.

Webinars and Workshops

Diabetes and CVD Risk Among South Asians: Dr. Sheela Magge, Chief of Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Lawson Wilkins Endowed Chair of Pediatric Endocrinology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, discussed her NIH-funded research on ancestry-related differences in body composition and the impact on cardiometabolic risk.

Pride & Beyond: Addressing Health Equity for LGBTQIA+ People in India: The Center for Infectious Diseases in India celebrated Pride Month at the event “Pride & Beyond: Addressing Health Equity for LGBTQIA+ People in India” Simran Bharucha, Director of Transgender Health for Project ACCELERATE, led discussion about India’s first comprehensive clinic for the Transgender Community and screened the documentary “Mitr Clinic - Pride and Beyond.” Honored presenters included Dr. Sunil Solomon, Dr. Shruti Mehta, Dr. Helene Hedian, and Dr. Stephen Gange.

Opportunities for One Health Research in India: The Gupta-Klinsky India Institute and the Center for Infectious Diseases in India co-hosted this webinar presented by Ramanan Laxminarayan, President and Founder of One Health Trust, and Senior Associate, Bloomberg School of Public Health. The discussion focused on the rural/urban divide in healthcare access, the future of antimicrobial resistance, and the importance of community participation in health research.

Felicitation Events

Farewell Dinner for the Provost: In March 2023, GKII hosted a gathering of Johns Hopkins University Deans, faculty, staff, and students to celebrate the outstanding leadership and contributions of JHU Provost Dr. Sunil Kumar as he transitioned to become the 14th president of Tufts University. The occasion was a tribute to Dr. Kumar’s strategic guidance and support during the founding years of GKII, and his tireless dedication to the JHU community. The event was also the launch point of the announcement of the Sunil Kumar and Sumati Murli Endowment Fund.

Amita Gupta Named to Florence Sabin Professorship: GKII co-chair Dr. Amita Gupta was installed as the recipient of the Dr. Florence Sabin Professorship in Infectious Diseases by Theodore L. DeWeese, Dean of the Medical Faculty, CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine, and Nadia Hansel, Interim Director; Department of Medicine Professor of Medicine, Interim Physician-in-Chief, The Johns Hopkins Hospital. This permanent endowment established an endowed Chair of Infectious Diseases in the Division of Infectious Disease in the Department of Medicine.

Rama Chellappa Elected to National Academy of Engineering: Rama Chellappa, a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor in electrical and computer engineering and biomedical engineering was among 106 new members and 18 international members elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in February. This highly distinguished membership is awarded to those who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice, or education and advise the U.S. government on matters pertaining to engineering and technology. He was formally inducted during the NAE’s annual meeting on Oct. 1.
Key JHU Projects in India

1. Center for Infectious Diseases in India (CIDI)
   Established in 2022 with support from GKI, the Center for Infectious Diseases in India works to improve health outcomes and ensure access to healthcare among people who have or are at risk for infectious diseases through research, education, and community-based outreach.
   - CIDI focused on HIV, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis and COVID-19 and studies conditions and comorbidities that undermine or complicate infectious diseases treatment like AMR, heart diseases, diabetes, substance abuse and poor nutrition.
   - CIDI focused on disease treatment among understudied populations like neonates, children and postpartum women.
   - CIDI develops inclusive care strategies for marginalized and vulnerable populations and finds solutions for factors that inhibit patients to seek care, like social stigma and gender-based violence.

2. Program ACCELERATE
   Program ACCELERATE focuses on increasing access to HIV prevention and treatment services for vulnerable populations, including key populations (KPs) and People Living with HIV (PLHIV). The program provides technical assistance to HIV/AIDS programs in India, implementing innovative approaches like PrEP, HIV self-testing, and Mir clinics for transgender communities. It aims to improve HIV service uptake, adherence to antiretroviral therapy, and the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children through community-led initiatives and integration with public health systems.

3. Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Strengthening Project (HSSP)
   The Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Strengthening Project supports the enhancement of health systems in Uttar Pradesh, India, focusing on human resources for health, public health capacity strengthening, and the SEWARTH collaboration with AIIMS Gorakhpur. The project employs various methodologies to assess health workforce issues, strengthen public health training, and support health research and education. It aims to provide evidence-based recommendations for health systems interventions, improving health outcomes and service quality through local ownership and sustainability.

4. India Primary Healthcare Support Initiative (IPSI)
   The India Primary Healthcare Support Initiative, in collaboration with AIIMS Delhi and NHSCR, supports Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) delivery in India. It focuses on developing a performance measurement index for primary healthcare systems, providing implementation support for health service improvement at HWCs, and recognizing district performance. The initiative’s multi-faceted approach aims to strengthen primary healthcare through measurement, demonstration, and recognition strategies.

5. Arogya Sangama - 3 Way Partnership of People Providers and Panchayat
   Arogya Sangama is a pilot project in Karnataka aiming to improve primary health systems in rural Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) through the establishment of a “3-way partnership platform” comprising community ownership, grassroots convergence, and collaborative governance. It focuses on leveraging the capacities of Gram Panchayat Task Forces (GPTFs) to enhance community engagement, service utilization, and the quality of responsive care, particularly for pregnant and lactating women and persons with non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

6. Digital Health Exemplars (Exemplars in Global Health)
   This project explores the transformation of primary healthcare systems through digital technologies in India, Ghana, Rwanda, Finland, and Brazil. It aims to understand the digital health ecosystem, capture evidence on effective digital health solutions, and build a supportive ecosystem for digital health innovation. The project identifies successful strategies for digital health implementation, focusing on government commitment, digital infrastructure, and stakeholder engagement to improve healthcare service delivery and outcomes.

7. Improving Community Partnership for Comprehensive Primary Health Care
   Focused on Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, this project develops a community engagement strategy for Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs). Utilizing participatory research methods, it aims to enhance community participation in primary healthcare by understanding current engagement methods, identifying facilitators and challenges, and creating a toolkit for effective community engagement. The strategy is developed through formative research, design thinking workshops, and expert consultations, prioritizing socio-cultural and economic contexts.

8. India’s Aspirational District Program
   This project conducts an ethnographic study of India’s Aspirational District program, aiming to improve health, wellbeing, and productivity in disadvantaged districts. It seeks to understand the policy processes of multisectoral collaboration, the adaptation and implementation of public health guidance across levels of governance, and the program’s impact on health inequality. The research includes ethnography across national, state, and district levels, focusing on the complex interactions among individuals, governance structures, and international agencies.

9. International Vaccine Access Centre (IVAC)
   The IVAC center focuses on immunization coverage and equity, disease epidemiology, technical advocacy and policy, in addition to capacity strengthening in select states of India. The important research studies done by IVAC includes impact of Measles-Rubella vaccination campaign on population immunity in India and Impact of routine infant vaccination with PCV.

10. Maternal and Child Health Center India
   The Johns Hopkins Maternal and Child Health Center in India works to strengthen public health education and accelerate research in maternal and child health. It prioritizes participatory and design thinking approaches in research and implementation of public health interventions to amplify people’s voices and community ownership to improve health outcomes for women and children from vulnerable sections and enable equitable progress towards achieving SDGs.

11. Center for Bioengineering Innovation and Design (CBID)
   CBID offers one of the best medical device design programs globally. In India, CBID works with Arvind Eye Hospital (AEH) in Tamil Nadu to understand the unmet eye care needs and develop solutions uniquely tailored to the patients, providers and context of care in low and middle income countries.

12. RISE program for Epidemic Control
   Jhpiego worked in 28 states and 1000+ facilities in India under the Reaching Impact, Saturation and Epidemic Control (RISE) program, which is a global project to drive health system preparedness for respiratory emergencies aimed at building sustainable, self-reliant, and resilient health systems. Jhpiego delivers end-to-end impact across 5 keys areas improving critical care delivery capacity, vaccine coverage, strengthening oxygen ecosystem, lab services and biomedical waste management.
### Indian Partner Organizations

#### Companies
- Abbott India Ltd
  - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Accenture
  - Multiple Locations
- BBC Media Action
  - New Delhi
- Bharat Biotech
  - Hyderabad, Telangana
- DAP E-nnovative Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
  - Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Medgenome
  - Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Oxford Policy Management (OPM) India
  - New Delhi
- PepsiCo
  - Dubai, UAE
- Persistent
  - Pune, Maharashtra
- Serum Institute of India
  - Pune, Maharashtra
- Strand Life Sciences
  - Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Sun Pharma
  - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- TetraTech
  - New Delhi

#### Consortia
- American Institute of Indian Studies
  - New Delhi
- Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce
  - Pune, Maharashtra
- South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SACWaters)
  - Hyderabad, Telangana

#### Government Entities
- Government of Andhra Pradesh
  - Andhra Pradesh
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
  - New Delhi
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
  - New Delhi
- National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)
  - New Delhi
- National TB Elimination Program
- Uttar Pradesh Government
  - Uttar Pradesh
- NITI Aayog
  - New Delhi
- National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Disease (ICMR)
  - Kolkata, West Bengal
- National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Disease (ICMR)
  - Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh
- National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS)
  - Bengaluru, Karnataka
- National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS)
  - Hyderabad, Telangana
- National Institute of Public Health (IIPH)
  - Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- National Institute of Public Health (IIPH)
  - Hyderabad, Telangana
- National Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay
  - Mumbai, Maharashtra
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  - Hyderabad, Telangana
- National Institute of Technology (IIT)
  - Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- National Institute of Technology (IIT)
  - Kolkata, West Bengal

#### International Agencies
- World Bank
  - New Delhi
- World Health Organization (WHO)
  - New Delhi
- KEM Hospital
  - Pune, Maharashtra
- Medanta, The Medicity
  - Gurugram, Haryana
- MVM Hospital for Diabetes
  - Chennai, Tamil Nadu
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Bal Uman Drishya Sanstha
New Delhi
Centre for Policy Research
New Delhi
Child in Need Institute
Kolkata
Clinton Foundation
New York, New York
Dasra
Mumbai, Maharashtra
EQUIP
Jupiter, Florida
India Health Action Trust
Uttar Pradesh
Institute for Road Traffic Education
Faridabad, Haryana

Intelehealth
Thane, Maharashtra
Infosys Science Foundation
Bengaluru, Karnataka
LEPRA Society/Blue Peter Public Health and Research Centre (BPHRC)
Telangana
MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child
New Delhi
Narmada Kidney Foundation
Mumbai, Maharashtra
Operation Smile India
New Delhi
Pathfinder India

Population Foundation of India
New Delhi
Public Health Foundation of India
New Delhi
Sneha Charitable Trust
Bengaluru
Wadhwani AI
Mumbai, Maharashtra
WRI India
Mumbai, Maharashtra
YRG CARE
Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Mumbai, Maharashtra
CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology
New Delhi
IDFC Institute
Mumbai, Maharashtra
Indian Institute of Science
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Indian Statistical Institute
Kolkata, West Bengal
International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research)
Bengaluru, Karnataka
Madras Institute of Development Studies
Madras, Tamil Nadu
National Brain Research Centre
Gurugram, Haryana
National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
New Delhi
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Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Translational Health Science and Technology Institute
Faridabad, Haryana
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