

# **Gupta-Klinsky India Institute (GKII)** at Johns Hopkins University

## **Girish & Himangi Rishi Student Travel Awards (GHRSTA)** *Scholar Presentations*

# Event Agenda

Topic	Presenter	Time
<b>Welcome Remarks</b> GKII Overview	Kunal Pal	3 min.
<b>GKII GHRSTA Program Highlights</b>	Beth Romanski	4 min.
<b>GKII GHRSTA/GHEFP Faculty Mentor Remarks</b>	Dr. Anita Shet	6 min.
<b>GHRSTA India Presentations</b>		
• Scholar Presentation 1	Siddhaparna Sannigrahi	10 min.
• Scholar Presentation 2	Manvi Poddar	10 min.
• Scholar Presentation 3	Divya Rao	10 min.
• Scholar Presentation 4	JaeLynn Taylor	10 min.
<b>Q&amp;A</b>	Attendees	5 min.
<b>Closing</b>	Beth Romanski	2 min.

# Event Participation Tips

The **event will be recorded**, and **materials will be sent** to all attendees and registrants. The event information will also be posted on GKII's website.

**Accessibility settings** for closed captions and languages can be [enabled in Zoom](#) and [YouTube](#).

Participants are requested to **mute microphones** during all presentations.

**Post questions or comments in the chat** to be discussed during the event.

**We'll open conversation for live Q&A** after all presentations are completed.

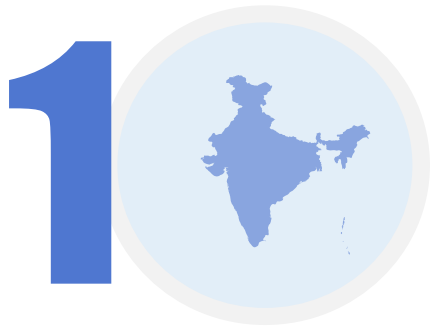
**Viewing the Recording? Email GKII Team at [jhii@jh.edu](mailto:jhii@jh.edu)** with your questions or insights!



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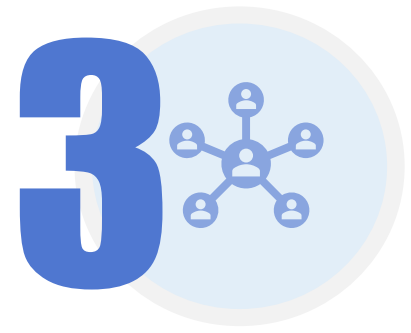
# GKII Introduction



**India's relevance in Global  
Health and Economic growth**



**JHU's strong assets in  
India**



**Increased impact through  
better coordination**

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**Gupta-Klinsky India Institute  
at Johns Hopkins University was established in 2020**

***Creating a "Super-Highway" of collaboration, activity and exchange  
between the best of Hopkins and partners in India to solve complex  
problems and benefit the world***



# To solve complex challenges and improve society GKII has four major goals

## RESEARCH

GKII advances research between JHU and Indian collaborators through funding, strategy, education & training, partnerships, and programmatic support.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

GKII facilitates educational opportunities for students and faculty, promotes reciprocal learning between JHU and Indian universities, enhances knowledge sharing, and improves skills and leadership for scholars and professionals in the U.S. and India.

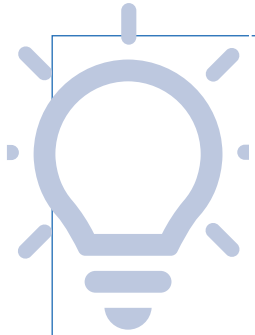
## POLICY AND PRACTICE

GKII collaborates with Indian partners to identify policies and practices that require transformation to enhance health and other social determinants by providing technical experts, data, knowledge, partners, and funding in partnership with the U.S. and Indian government, industry, academics, and other key stakeholders.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

GKII strives to enhance its and JHU's visibility within its community and India through effective communication and marketing strategies while creating meaningful engagement opportunities for JHU students, faculty, and alumni.

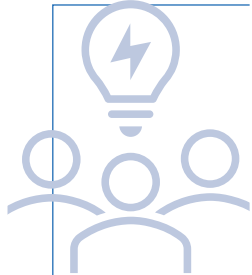
# GKII GIRISH & HIMANGI RISHI STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS



**Purpose:** Empower JHU master's students to conduct **impactful research** and **experiential learning projects in India**.



**Grant Funding:** Covers **student travel expenses** (accommodation, transportation, food, vaccines, visas, etc.) for India projects.



## **Who Benefits:**

**JHU Students**

**JHU Faculty**

**India Partners & Community**



## **Program Impact:**

- **Transformative:** **Projects address critical issues in India**, driving positive change.
- **Global Reach:** Students gain invaluable experience with Faculty Mentors, **fostering international collaboration with India partners**.
- **Sustainable Solutions:** Projects focus on **long-term impact** and **community empowerment**.



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## With Appreciation to Our Donors & Program Partner

**Girish Rishi**, an alumnus of Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), is an accomplished tech executive, now CEO of the industrial software company Cognite, with a passion for business and technology and with a zeal for solving challenges of urban hunger, sustainable diets, and health inequity.

**Himangi Rishi** is specifically interested in improving maternal and child health through better access to quality food and nutrition.

GKII has partnered with the **Center for Global Health (CGH)** [Global Health Established Field Placements \(GHEFP\) program](#) to support the placement of JHU students traveling to India.





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# GHRSTA Highlights

# GKII GIRISH & HIMANGI RISHI AWARDS (GHRSTA)

Award to develop next generation of leaders, supports students traveling from or to Johns Hopkins University across any school, division, department, or center, for the purpose of research, field practicums, capstone research, and student exchange

Grant  
Funding

3  
Years

22  
Students,  
Faculty,  
Indian  
Partners

Gupta-Klinsky India  
Institute (GKII)



Global Health  
Established Field  
Placements (GHEFP)



Projects

**8 Impactful Projects:**  
Primary Healthcare Support  
Health Systems Capacity Building  
Infectious Diseases – TB/HIV  
Maternal & Child Health  
Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

**Year 1: 2022-23**

**8** students **working**  
**with 5** JHU faculty **and**  
**5** Indian partners

**Year 2: 2023-24**

**6** students **working**  
**with 6** JHU faculty **and**  
**6** Indian partners

**Year 3\*: 2024-25**

**8** students **working**  
**with 8** JHU faculty  
**and 8** Indian partners

*\*Note: 10 India GHEFP Placement Sites were available, however, as of April 2025, 2 sites were terminated due to federal funding cuts.*

# Student Learning Objectives

Assess the effectiveness of public health interventions and policies in diverse cultural settings.

Utilize data collected during field experiences to draw meaningful conclusions and make evidence-based recommendations.

Apply research methodologies to design and implement a global health research project in collaboration with local partners in India.

Reflect on personal and professional growth based on the experience in India, including insights gained, skills acquired, and challenges overcome.

Analyze how the fellowship experience has influenced perspectives on global health issues and cultural competence, and how these insights will inform future academic and professional pursuits.

Evaluate the significance of the co-curricular learning experience in shaping career aspirations, research interests, and commitments to global health equity.

Create a plan for integrating lessons learned from the experience into future academic and professional endeavors, demonstrating a commitment to lifelong learning and ethical global engagement.

# GIRISH & HIMANGI RISHI STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD: Student Feedback

Participants gained critical skills applicable to their global health careers, such as research methodologies, data analysis, and community engagement.

Skills and Professional Development



The program helped participants refine their academic and professional aspirations, inspiring long-term commitments to global health and equity.

Clarity in Career Goals



Students highlighted the importance of working within diverse teams and learning from experts across disciplines.

Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Insight



Participants consistently emphasized how the program fostered their personal development, self-awareness, and resilience.

Personal Growth and Self-Discovery

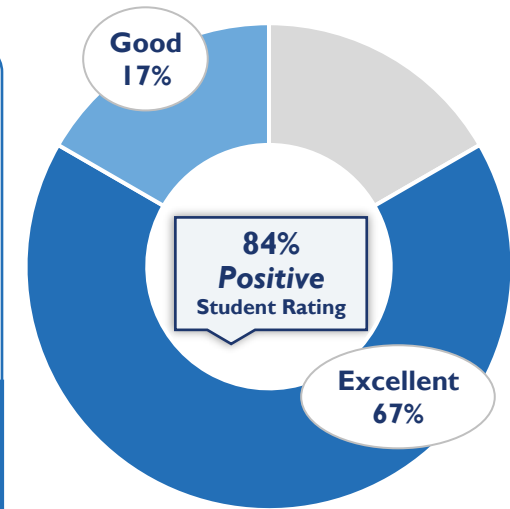


Immersive experiences in India allowed participants to develop deeper cultural sensitivity and understanding.

Expanded Cultural Competence



**Key Insight:** Students significantly developed their research skills in collaboration with local India partners through this program.



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## Impact & Personal Growth Themes from Student Evaluations

adaptability. global health  
resilience  
cultural sensitivity traditions  
self-awareness qualitative data systems thinking  
equity PhD interdisciplinary stakeholders  
mentorship ethical engagement  
humility collaboration community





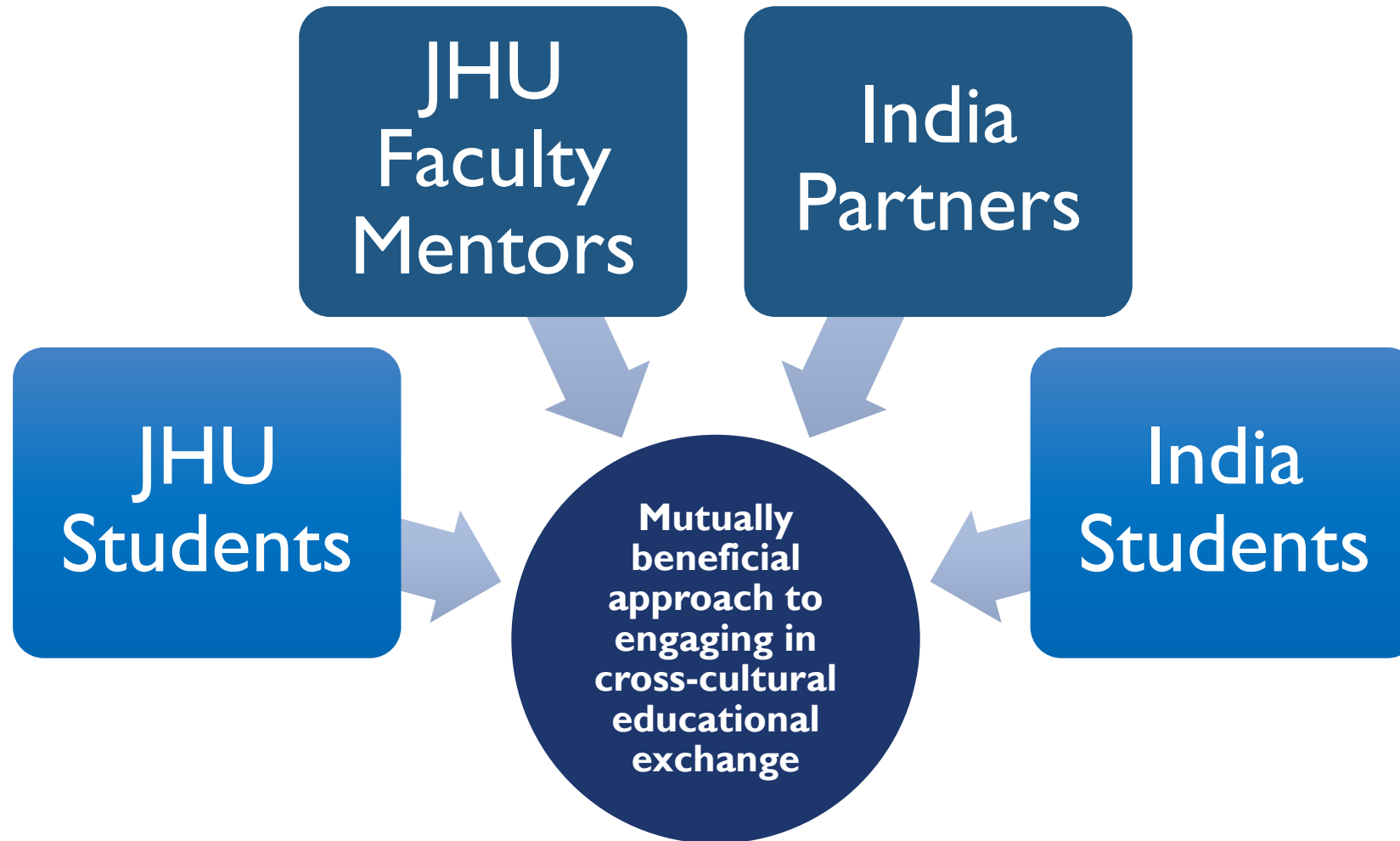
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**GHRSTA Faculty Mentor**



## Faculty Mentor Role – *Facilitating Global Education Partnerships*



## Dr. Anita Shet – GHRSTA JHU Faculty Mentor



***“For ten years, I’ve had the honor of mentoring JHU students through the GHEFP program. These students do more than fulfill academic requirements—they bring energy, compassion, and innovation to our project sites. Their presence inspires underserved youth in India to dream bigger and uplifts entire communities, leaving a lasting impact that extends far beyond their time on the ground.”***

Anita Shet is a pediatrician and a public health specialist and director of the Johns Hopkins Maternal and Child Health India program that focuses on addressing health issues among women, infants and children, and strengthening public health capacity in India. Her interests span maternal and child nutrition, pediatric and adolescent HIV, dengue infections, social determinants of health, childhood immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases. Her practice areas include addressing pandemic-related disruptions of routine childhood vaccination and essential health services, and advocacy efforts to expand vaccine access in India and globally. At present, she also focuses on empowering disadvantaged children and youth to live with good health and dignity.

# Faculty Mentor Perspective – Program Community Impact

**Transformative**

**Community-rooted**

**Sustainable**





# Transforming student-led and community-led public health research in India

## Transformative

- Departs from traditional, top-down, prescriptive models of health intervention
- **Embraces decolonized, equity-driven approaches**

## Community-Centered

- Community-based participatory research
- Students are not mere observers; they are collaborators in the daily rhythms of the community
- **Emphasis on trust, co-design and contextual solutions**

## Sustainable

- **Encourages long-term impact from within to identify locally-driven solutions**
- Students explore resilient models from within communities; leverage community-based financing



- Sannigrahi S, Seenappa B, et al. Partnering for progress: lessons learned from mental health assessment for youth living with HIV in India. *Journal of Participatory Research Methods*, 2024; 5(3)b
- Sannigrahi S, et al. "I can be a source of motivation": Perspectives from stakeholders of the I'mPossible fellowship. *PLoS Global Health*, 2025
- Sharma AA, et al. Mental health challenges among adolescents and young adults with perinatally acquired HIV. *PLoS Mental health* (in press)
- Seenappa et al. Impact of a community-led physical activity intervention on resilience and mental health among Indian adolescents with HIV. *International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science*, 13-16 July 2025
- Sathyamoorthy H, et al. Empowering adolescents with perinatally acquired HIV: Exploring Self-Efficacy for Exercise (SEE) and its impact on physical activity engagement. *IAS Conference, Rwanda*, 13-16 July 2025
- Tangney A. A peer-driven, demand-side Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) model to enhance care and support for adolescents and young adults, *IAS Conference, Rwanda*, 13-16 July 2025
- Filian, K. Overcoming intersectional barriers: a gender-transformative physical activity intervention for adolescents and young adults with perinatally acquired HIV in India, *IAS Conference, Rwanda*, 13-16 July 2025



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# Scholar Presentations



# GHRSTA Scholar Presenters

**Siddha Sannigrahi** Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, MSPH in Social and Behavioral Interventions | The I'mPossible Project: Addressing global health challenges for vulnerable populations in India, particularly empowering young people living with HIV.

**Manvi Poddar** MSPH in International Health | Social Behavioral Interventions Project: Peer-Led Mental Health and TB Services Integration in India to enhance tuberculosis treatment programs by integrating mental health services, informed and led by individuals with lived experience of both conditions.

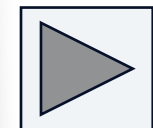
**Divya Rao** ScM, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health | Project: Zero TB Kids & Family, a collaborative initiative leveraging innovative technology to combat tuberculosis, engaging in community focus group discussions and developing surveys to understand TB screening and therapy factors.

**JaeLynn Taylor** CHES® MSPH in Health Education and Health Communications, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health | Project: Supporting Equitable Wellness through Advanced Research and Training in Health (SEWARTH) offering training modules to improve communication for efficient data collection under the SEWARTH-Health and Demographic Surveillance System.



## Student Testimonial Video ~ *Babu Seenappa*

Explore more  
**GHRSTA**  
Scholar  
Testimonials  
& Impact  
Stories on our  
[GHRSTA](#)  
[Program](#)  
[Website!](#)



Watch on [YouTube](#).



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## QUESTIONS + INSIGHTS





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**Thank You!**

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Travel  
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Funding

3  
Years

Year I: 2022-23

8 students working with  
5 JHU faculty and 5  
Indian partners

01

## Siddhaparna Sannigrahi

Master of Science in Public Health,  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School  
of Public Health (Social and  
Behavioral Interventions)



**JHU Faculty:** Anita Shet

**Theme:** Children living with HIV

**Project:** I'mPossible Fellowship

The I'mPossible Fellowship is an initiative that offers support to children, adolescents, and youths affected by HIV by addressing their educational, health, skills development, self-efficacy, and psychosocial needs. The project empowered young people in India and helped them enact positive social and healthcare related changes through their own lived experiences.

02

## Babu Seenappa

Consultant,  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School  
of Public Health



**JHU Faculty:** Anita Shet

**Theme:** Children living with HIV

**Project:** The Positive Running Program

The Positive Running Program incorporates nutrition, daily running, endurance training, psychological support, and confidence-building to empower vulnerable children and youth to pursue a healthy holistic lifestyle. These overlooked activities are particularly important for children from disadvantaged backgrounds such as orphans and those living with HIV.

03

## Rishabh Kumar

Bachelor of Arts in International  
Studies, Krieger, School of Arts  
and Sciences at JHU  
(International Development and South Asia)



**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.

04

## Sherina Poyyail

Master of Public Policy,  
St. Xavier's College, Mumbai



**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.

05

## Sonal Sharma

Ph.D. Candidate, Department  
of Sociology, Johns Hopkins  
University



**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.

06

## Austin Schmidt

Master of Science in Public Health  
(Health Studies), Johns Hopkins  
Bloomberg School of Public Health



**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.

07

## Rose Pollard Kaptchuk

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of  
International Health, Johns Hopkins  
Bloomberg School of Public Health



**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.

08

## Manvi Poddar

MSPH in International Health, Johns  
Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public  
Health



**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 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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## Year 2: 2023-24

**6** students working  
with **6** JHU faculty  
with **6** Indian partners

01

### Sahana Shekhar

Master of Science in Public Health,  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School  
of Public Health

**JHU Faculty:** Svea Closser

**Theme:** Maternal and Child Health

**Project:** Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT)

Under the mentorship of Professor Svea Closser, Sahana supported KHPT on implementation research to build institutional capacity and scale up the coverage and quality of Kangaroo Mother Care across selected districts of Karnataka through advocacy and technical support.



02

### Katherine Lim

MSPH in Health Systems, Johns  
Hopkins Bloomberg School of  
Public Health

**JHU Faculty:** Krishna Rao

**Theme:** Health Systems

**Project:** India Primary Health Care Support Initiative (IPSI)

Katherine worked under the mentorship of Professor Rao on the India Primary Health Care Support Initiative (IPSI). The initiative, spearheaded by JHU, in collaboration with AIIMS New Delhi and supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, works under the guidance of the National Health Systems Resource Centre to strengthen delivery and performance assessments of primary healthcare systems across selected Indian states.



03

### Hrishikesh Sathyamoorthy

Master of Science (ScM)  
Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins  
Bloomberg School of Public Health

**JHU Faculty:** Anita Shet

**Theme:** Children Living with HIV

**Project:** Positive Running Program

Hrishikesh worked on the Positive Running program, a peer-led physical fitness initiative to improve outcomes among adolescents and youth living with HIV. He assisted in the recruitment of new participants, developed nutrition-related guidance, and provided insights for scaling up the program.



04

### Divya Rao

Master of Science (ScM)  
Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins  
Bloomberg School of Public Health

**JHU Faculty:** Kunchok Dorjee

**Theme:** TB Impact on Children & Families

**Project:** Zero TB Kids & Family

Divya Rao worked on the "Zero TB Kids & Family" project, a collaborative initiative between Johns Hopkins, India, and Nepal. The project leverages innovative technology, including AI-enabled x-rays, molecular diagnostics, and short-course preventive treatments to combat tuberculosis. Divya had the opportunity to engage in focus group discussions with the community, develop dedicated surveys, and help understand the factors that influence TB screening and therapy.



05

### JaeLynn Taylor

MSPH in Health Education and  
Health Communications, Johns  
Hopkins Bloomberg School of  
Public Health

**JHU Faculty:** Brian Wahl

**Theme:** Primary Healthcare, NCDs

**Project:** Supporting Equitable Wellness through Advanced Research and Training in Health (SEWARTH)

JaeLynn worked on the SEWARTH project, a collaboration between the Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare (Government of Uttar Pradesh), JHU and AIIMS Gorakhpur to partner in public health research and training. She supported the development of training modules to improve communication for efficient data collection under the SEWARTH-Health and Demographic Surveillance System.



06

### Autumn Tangney

MSPH in Health Systems, Johns  
Hopkins Bloomberg School of  
Public Health

**JHU Faculty:** Anita Shet

**Theme:** Children Living with HIV

**Project:** I'mPossible Fellowship

Autumn worked on the "I'mPossible Fellowship" project, that supports children, adolescents, and youths affected by HIV, addressing their educational, health, skills development, self-efficacy, and psychosocial needs.



## Student Testimonial:

*"Living and working at Snehagram showed me the power of resilience and community. The students' unwavering determination and optimism have inspired me to pursue a career that integrates public health research with hands-on community engagement. I leave this experience with lifelong friendships and a renewed commitment to empowering vulnerable communities."*

**2025 GHRSTA  
Student Awardees to be  
Announced Soon!**



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