



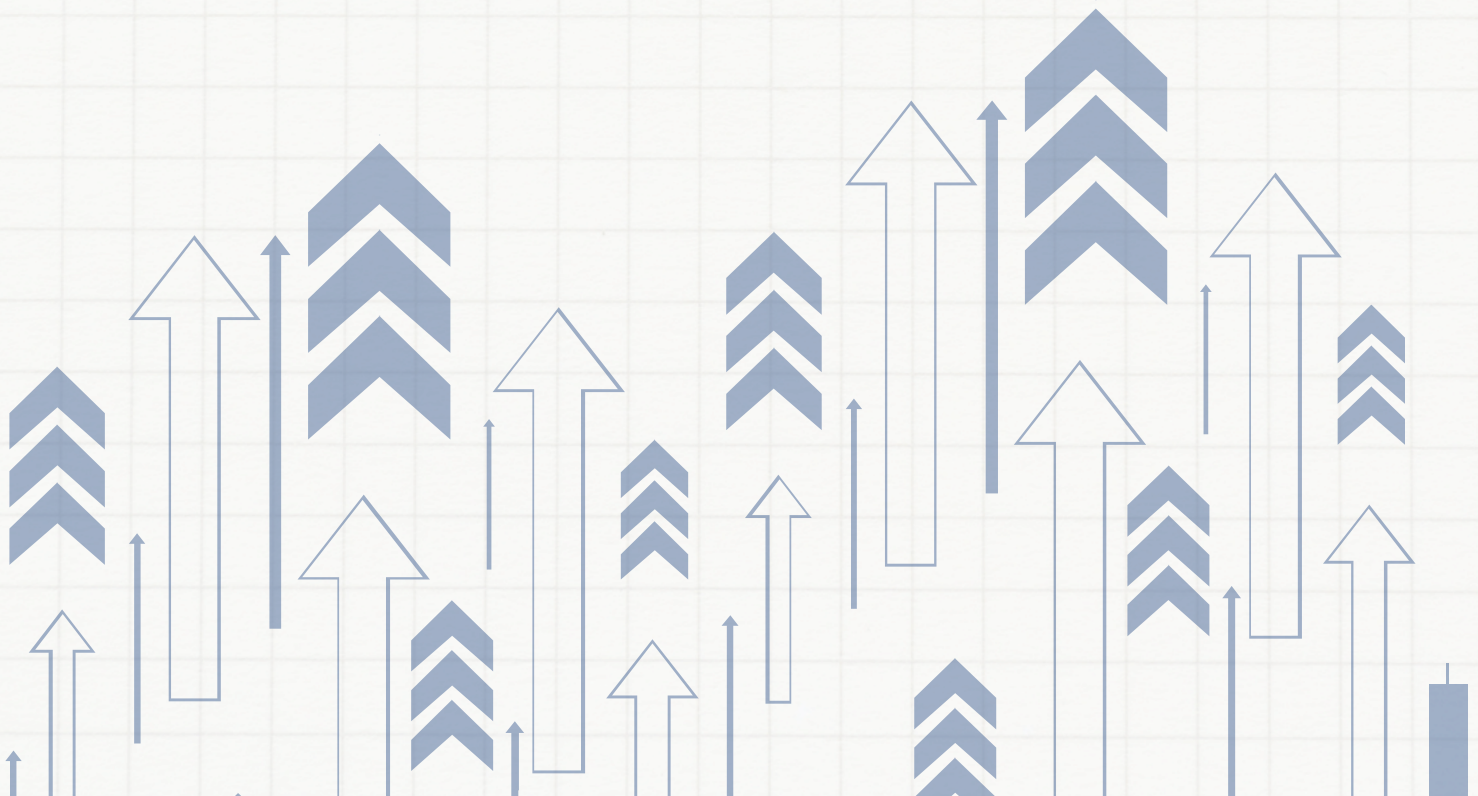
JOHNS HOPKINS  
GUPTA-KLINSKY  
INDIA INSTITUTE



# Girish and Himangi Rishi Student Travel Award

## IMPACT REPORT

**2023-25**





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Girish and Himangi Rishi Student Travel Award (GHRSTA)** at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) has grown over three years into a model of equity-centered, experiential global health learning. What began as a modest travel grant now supports graduate students from JHU and partner institutions in India to engage in collaborative, community-based public health research.

GHRSTA employs a “twinning” approach—pairing students with faculty mentors and institutions in both countries—to promote co-learning, shared leadership, and long-term impact. As the program matured, it introduced standard operating procedures, peer mentorship, reflective tools, and structured reporting, enhancing both student experience and project effectiveness.

Over three years, the program has supported **22 students** engaged in **13 faculty-led projects** in India, spanning themes such as tuberculosis prevention, adolescent health, HIV care, mental health integration, primary healthcare, and digital innovation. Evaluation data show strong outcomes: students report improved research skills, deeper cultural competence, and greater career clarity. Their work has contributed to peer-reviewed publications, field-level impact, and sustainable academic-community partnerships.

As we explore expanding this model across JHU, we hope this report offers insights and sparks dialogue on building global learning programs that center equity, reciprocity, and real-world relevance—even within decentralized institutions.





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Award	3
Program Design	4
Overview	5
Impact	6
Key Themes	8
Placement Sites in India	9
Meet our Scholars	12
Looking Ahead	26



# ABOUT THE AWARD

The **Girish and Himangi Rishi Student Travel Award** is a student travel grant program by the **Gupta-Klinsky India Institute (GKII)** at JHU, providing students with the opportunity to conduct research and immersive field studies at established JHU public health sites in India.

Through field placements at leading institutions and community health organizations, awardees work alongside local experts in India, engage directly with communities, and apply their training in diverse healthcare settings. By bridging academic learning with real-world experience, the program allows students to translate academic knowledge into practical solutions, deepen their understanding of India's public health systems, and contribute to sustainable, community-driven impact.

The program is supported by the generous contribution of **Girish Rishi**, an alumnus of the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and **CEO of the industrial software company Cognite**. He and his wife, **Himangi Rishi**, supported the establishment of student travel grant program to connect their passion for business and technology with the challenges of **urban hunger, sustainable diets, and health inequity**.





# PROGRAM DESIGN

The GHRSTA is designed to provide a well-supported, meaningful global health experience for each awardee. Each student receives a travel grant to cover airfare, housing, meals, local transport, and vaccinations—eliminating financial barriers that often limit access to international opportunities.

Students are paired with a JHU faculty mentor and an on-site supervisor at their India-based placement to provide both academic guidance and field-level support.

Students participate in extensive pre-departure preparation that includes **cultural sensitivity training, fieldwork ethics, travel logistics, and safety**. GKII has further enhanced this support through a **dedicated student resource guide, a comprehensive website, and tools for structured reflection** throughout the experience.

**In Year 3, GKII introduced personalized orientation sessions to help students prepare for their placements and foster a sense of community. A peer mentor program was also launched to connect current awardees with past participants, providing valuable insight and support from those with on-the-ground experience.**





# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since its inception in 2023, the GHRSTA has enabled **22 students** to tackle issues ranging from infectious diseases to health policy reform.

## YEAR 1: 2023-24

The inaugural cohort supported 8 students working on foundational projects across TB care cascade, primary healthcare, mental health, and social security.

**8**

Students

**5**

JHU Faculty

**5**

Indian Partners

## YEAR 2: 2024-25

GKII supported 6 students in person-centered projects spanning AI diagnostics, adolescent health, peer mentorship, mental health, and health systems research.

**6**

Students

**6**

JHU Faculty

**6**

Indian Partners

## YEAR 3: 2025-26

(ongoing)

The program's most interdisciplinary cohort of 8 students is addressing urgent public health priorities, including alcohol use in co-infected populations, health equity in primary care, and gender-sensitive evaluation models.

**8**

Students

**8**

JHU Faculty

**8**

Indian Partners



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



# PROGRAM IMPACT

## TRANSFORMATIVE



- Immerses students in real-world public health settings, bridging theory and practice
- Fosters personal and professional growth through cross-cultural collaboration and field experience

## COMMUNITY CENTERED



- Prioritizes partnerships with local organizations, providers, and communities
- Encourages students to listen, learn, and co-create solutions rooted in local context

## SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



- Aligns with long-term public health initiatives and local priorities
- Builds relationships and skills that extend beyond the placement







## Student Outcomes

### **01 SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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

### **02 CLARITY IN CAREER GOALS**

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

### **03 COLLABORATIVE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY INSIGHT**

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

### **04 PERSONAL GROWN AND SELF DISCOVERY**

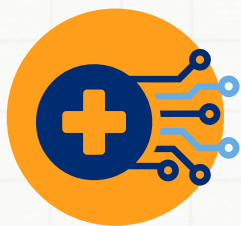
Participants consistently emphasized how the program fostered their personal development, self-awareness, and resilience.

### **05 EXPANDED CULTURAL COMPETENCE**

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



# KEY THEMES



Health Systems  
Strengthening



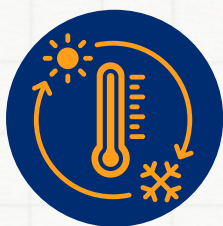
Primary  
Healthcare



Infectious Diseases



Maternal &  
Child Health



Climate x Health



Digital Health



Behavioral Health  
& Substance Use



Social Security



# PLACEMENT SITES IN INDIA

01

Health Systems  
Strengthening

## INDIA PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SUPPORT INITIATIVE (IPSI)

This 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.

Location: New Delhi

02

Primary  
Healthcare, NCDs

## SEWARTH

Supporting Equitable Wellness through Advanced Research and Training in Health (SEWARTH) is a collaboration between the **Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh**, India, JHU and **AIIMS Gorakhpur** to partner in public health research and training.

Location: Uttar Pradesh

03

Maternal and  
Child Health

## KARNATAKA HEALTH PROMOTION TRUST (KHPT)

The project aims to improve the adoption of Kangaroo Mother Care—a proven intervention for small and sick newborns focused on skin-to-skin contact and exclusive breastfeeding—in a district of 1.6 million people in Karnataka. Through collaboration with KHPT, the project team is building institutional readiness, demonstrating scalable models, and supporting adoption at the state level.

Location: Karnataka

04

Children Living  
with HIV

## I'MPOSSIBLE FELLOWSHIP

The I'mPossible Fellowship supports children and youth affected by HIV through a comprehensive model that addresses their health, education, skills, and psychosocial needs—empowering them to grow with confidence and resilience.

Locations: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu

05

Children Living  
with HIV

## POSITIVE RUNNING PROGRAM

The Positive Running Program at Snehagram (Karnataka) supports adolescents living with HIV through a peer-led model that combines fitness, nutrition, and mental well-being. The project aims to build healthy, holistic lifestyles and is now being evaluated for impact and potential scale-up.

Locations: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu



06

**TB Impact on  
Children**

## **ZERO TB KIDS & FAMILY**

This project is a collaboration between JHU and partners in India and Nepal. It delivers tuberculosis education, screening, treatment, and preventive therapy through mobile service models, using advanced tools such as AI-enabled chest X-ray analysis, molecular diagnostics, and short-course preventive treatment regimens.

**Location:** Himachal Pradesh

07

**Vulnerable  
Populations**

## **SOCIAL INSECURITY PROJECT**

The project examines how individuals experience and define social insecurity across gender, class, and national contexts. It focuses on India's aspiring youth (ages 17–25) in New Delhi and Mumbai, exploring how their perceptions of the future vary by gender and class. Findings will inform a new analytical framework to measure social insecurity and guide future research and policy.

**Locations:** Delhi, Maharashtra

08

**Social Behavioral  
Interventions**

## **PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS-OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE, TREAT & RETAIN (POINTER)**

The POINTER trial assessed same-day antiretroviral therapy (ART) vs. standard ART and community-based ART vs. government ART on HIV viral suppression in people who inject drugs to better support this vulnerable population.

**Locations:** Tamil Nadu, Delhi

09

**Social Behavioral  
Interventions**

## **FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT FOR PEER-LED MENTAL HEALTH AND TB SERVICES INTEGRATION IN INDIA**

This project explores how peer-led models can integrate mental health services into TB care cascade by engaging individuals with lived experience of both TB and mental health conditions to identify key features of an effective, acceptable, and sustainable integration model. The goal is to inform a people-centered approach that strengthens India's TB programs through expanded mental health support.

**Location:** Maharashtra

10

**Social Behavioral  
Interventions**

## **THE HATHI STUDY**

The Hybrid trial for Alcohol reduction among people with TB and HIV in India (HATHI) study is a clinical trial in Pune, India, testing an intervention to reduce alcohol use and improve health outcomes for people with TB and HIV/TB. The study looks at how the intervention affects drinking habits, treatment success, and patient care, while also identifying ways to make the program easier to implement and scale.

**Location:** Maharashtra

11

Infectious  
Diseases

## THE PHOENIX MDR-TB study

The PHOENIX MDR-TB study is evaluating whether Delamanid can better prevent active TB in high-risk household contacts of people with MDR-TB, compared to Isoniazid. In India, the study focuses on children and people with HIV, with follow-up over 96 weeks to assess safety and effectiveness.

**Location:** Maharashtra

12

Infectious  
Diseases

## EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF AI-BASED CHEST X-RAY INTERPRETATION TOOL IN DETECTING TB

This study evaluates the accuracy of an AI-based chest X-ray interpretation tool (qXR) in detecting tuberculosis by comparing it with radiological, microbiological, and clinical diagnoses. The research aims to assess the tool's sensitivity, specificity, and potential for supporting TB detection efforts in India.

**Location:** Maharashtra

13

Health Systems

## TB-SPIRIT FORMATIVE RESEARCH

The TB-SPIRIT Formative Research project aims to design person-centered TB care by integrating support for non-TB conditions. It maps services, referral pathways, and community resources to inform more holistic care across several Indian states.

**Locations:** Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka



# MEET OUR SCHOLARS





## 2023 Cohort

### Siddhaparna Sannigrahi

MSPH, Social and Behavioral Interventions, Johns Hopkins  
Bloomberg School of Public Health '23

**Faculty mentor:** Anita Shet

**Theme:** Social and Behavioral Interventions

**Project:** The I'mPossible Program



Siddhaparna Sannigrahi supported the evaluation of the I'mPossible Fellowship, a peer-led initiative empowering youth living with or affected by HIV in India. Her work focused on assessing the program's impact on mental health, education, and self-efficacy, while also strengthening participatory approaches in youth-centered research. Through field engagement and collaboration with community partners, she helped document effective strategies for supporting adolescent resilience.

She also co-authored a publication based on her research, "Partnering for Progress: Lessons Learned from Mental Health Assessment for Youth Living with HIV in India through Community-Based Participatory Research," which highlights the importance of integrating youth voices in the design and implementation of mental health interventions.

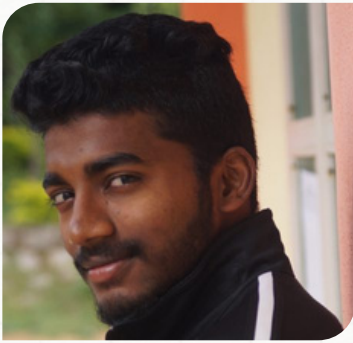
**Scan the QR code to read the full article!**



Photo: Siddha Sannigrahi







## Babu Seenappa

Consultant, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**Faculty mentor:** Anita Shet

**Theme:** Children Living with HIV

**Project:** Positive Running Program



*Watch this video to  
know more about  
Babu's work!*

Babu led the evaluation of the Positive Running Program, which promotes physical and mental wellness among children and youth living with or affected by HIV through structured running, nutrition education, and psychosocial support. He helped assess program outcomes and guide plans for scaling this holistic health initiative across similar communities in India. In 2024, building on this work, Babu was awarded the Youth Hub Seed Grant by the International AIDS Society. The grant will support the program's expansion into four districts in Tamil Nadu.

## Rose Pollard Kaptchuk

Ph.D., Department of International Health  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '26



**Faculty mentor:** 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.

## Austin Schmidt

Master of Science in Public Health (Health Studies), Johns  
Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '23



**Faculty mentor:** Krishna Rao

**Theme:** Health Systems

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

Working with IPSI, Austin contributed to enhancing primary healthcare coverage and performance in selected Indian states. She refined partner workplans, established milestones, and visited sites for context. She also supported in developing study designs and tools and contributed to manuscripts.





**My in-person experience working at the IPSI office in New Delhi, allowed me to collaborate closely with in-country program officers, technical consultants, and policy experts while assisting in the project's approval process by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India."**



### **Manvi Poddar**

MSPH in International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '24

**Faculty mentor:** 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.



**During my time in Pune, India, I had the opportunity to interact with field investigators, study coordinators, mental health providers, tuberculosis experts, and TB survivors. It was exciting to immerse myself in an ongoing research study, learning from field investigators and engaging in meaningful conversations with both patients and providers."**



*Left: Inside a TB Unit in Pune, India. Right: Manvi outside the Dr. D. Y. Patil-JHU Research Centre in Pune.  
Photo: Manvi Poddar*



## Sonal Sharma

Ph.D., Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University '24

**Faculty mentor:** 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.

## Sherina Poyyail

Master of Public Policy, St. Xavier's College '24 (Mumbai)

**Faculty mentor:** 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.



## Rishabh Kumar

BA in International Studies (International Development and South Asia), Krieger School of Arts and Sciences '23

**Faculty mentor:** 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.



## 2024 Cohort

### Katherine Lim

MSPH in Health Systems, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '23

**Faculty mentor:** Krishna Rao

**Theme:** Health Systems

**Project:** 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.

### Sahana Shekhar

Master of Science in Public Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '25

**Faculty mentor:** Svea Closer

**Theme:** Maternal and Child Health

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



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. She contributed to evaluating MNCH interventions aimed at reducing stillbirths and neonatal mortality, while gaining insight into public-private partnerships and grassroots capacity building in India.



**Through this opportunity, I have been able to closely observe private-public sector relationships focused on knowledge empowerment and capacity building at the grass-roots level. I work with qualitative researchers to evaluate MNCH interventions that aim to reduce stillbirth rates and neonatal mortality rates, which will further inform the conception of programs and policies scaled-up to the state and national levels.**



## JaeLynn Taylor

MSPH in Health Education and Health Communications, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '25

**Faculty mentor:** Brian Wahl

**Theme:** Primary Healthcare, NCDs

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



Working on the SEWARTH project, a collaboration between the Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare (Government of Uttar Pradesh), JHU and AIIMS Gorakhpur, JaeLynn contributed to building a Health and Demographic Surveillance System in Uttar Pradesh—a comprehensive public health database designed to guide interventions and policies for local communities. She also provided insights for developing training materials for data enumerators, the frontline workers collecting crucial health data.



**The most unexpected aspect of my experience was the politics and hierarchy within public health and government work in India. It shifted my perspective, showing me the power of forming meaningful relationships with people working toward different goals—relationships that can lead to important conversations and, hopefully, future actions that move the needle on critical health issues.**



*In July 2024, JaeLynn was part of a JHU team that conducted a FNER simulation training at LBSNAA, a premier training institution for the civil services in India. Photo: JaeLynn Taylor*



## Hrishikesh Sathyamoorthy

Master of Science (ScM) Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '25

**Faculty mentor:** 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 was actively involved in



launching the second phase of the program, which entailed its expansion beyond Karnataka to Snehagram, a leading rehabilitation center in Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu. His research contributions included baseline data collection, using diverse tools to assess participants' health, fitness, and psychological resilience, followed by a quantitative analysis of survey results from the program's first phase in Karnataka.



*Hrishikesh visited multiple care homes, facilitated partnerships, and assisted in recruiting 30 new participants. Photo: Hrishikesh*



**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.**

Hrishikesh also took on the role of an educator, volunteering as a high school teacher for students transitioning to higher education. He taught Environmental Science, English, Psychology, Mathematics, and Computer Science while incorporating soft skills training, leadership development, and gender-sensitive education. The experience reinforced the importance of holistic health approaches in public health—bridging physical fitness, education, mental health, and community engagement to create sustainable impact.





## Autumn Tangney

MSPH in Health Systems, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '25

**Faculty mentor:** Anita Shet

**Theme:** Children Living with HIV

**Project:** The I'mPossible Program



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.

Her role focused on evaluating the program’s impact, particularly how fellows and their peers accessed HIV care, mental health support, and educational resources. She played an active role in the research project, demonstrating advanced skills by developing and improving the mapping procedure, conducting focus group discussions, and leading key informant interviews. **“I learned about the importance of organizational partnerships in creating successful community-based initiatives. This experience increased my cultural competency because I worked directly to create connections with local community members,”** she shares.



***Autumn's work on this project was featured in USA Today. Scan to read!***

**“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 uplift entire communities, leaving a lasting impact that extends far beyond their time on the ground.”**

Dr Anita Shet, GHRSTA JHU Faculty member and Autumn’s mentor







## Divya Rao

Master of Science (ScM) Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins  
Bloomberg School of Public Health '25

**Faculty mentor:** 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.

Traveling to rural monasteries and local schools, Divya conducted TB screenings for children, delivered medications, and managed project data. She analyzed gaps in data collection and uncovered patterns of inequality that shaped access to TB care.



*Divya traveled to rural monasteries near Kathmandu, Nepal to conduct TB screenings and collect data. Photo: Divya Rao*

Divya played a key role in strengthening data collection. Drawing from her observations and interactions with healthcare professionals, she identified disparities—ethnic, occupational, age-related—that screenings and monitoring efforts could better capture. Based on discussions with the clinical team, she proposed recommendations to improve data accuracy and transparency. **“The report was informed by my own observations of screenings and interactions with the clinical staff and community,”** she explains. **“While I also contributed to other tasks, I felt the impact of this report to be the most important and tangible.”**

Her experience also exposed her to the deep-rooted challenges of TB prevention in South Asia. Conversations with her mentor, Dr. Nyima, and local communities revealed a widespread lack of



awareness about latent TB, alongside cultural and systemic barriers to treatment. Many families didn't fully understand the gravity of a TB diagnosis, and institutions often prioritized reactive care over prevention.

**"Community-level behavioral responses to public health interventions contrasted with the collective approach across industries that I had studied in my classroom experience," she reflects. "Seeing the situation firsthand in Nepal defy these expectations changed my perspective on global health research. It made me think critically about the unique complexities of Nepal's ethnic and religious diversity that shape this crisis. I am both frustrated and compelled to pursue solutions—ones that require multidisciplinary approaches and cross-collaboration between health and social science experts."**

Divya's contributions have enhanced her host organization Himalayan Trust Nepal's ability to measure the true burden of TB within Kathmandu's communities. Her recommendations have the potential to improve TB prevention strategies and better address mental health co-morbidities, thereby shaping how TB prevention is approached in similar contexts globally.

**“This experience has fortified my interest in pursuing a global health focused career. Getting an understanding of the challenges and joys of working in an international setting, with experts in different industries has helped me envision my dreams of working at the WHO or UNHCR. Understanding patterns of violence, climate change and migration, visualizing the impacts of these large, intertwined crises on the health and safety of communities across the globe and continuing to do fieldwork alongside the communities I am studying is the future that this opportunity has helped me believe I can pursue.**





## 2025 Cohort

### Janhvi Parsai

MSPH in Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins  
Bloomberg School of Public Health '26

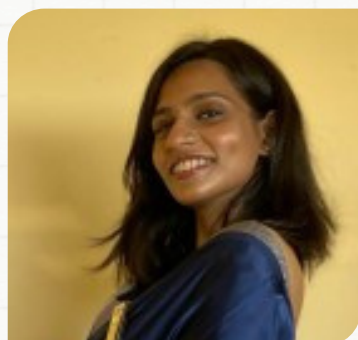
**Faculty mentor:** Amita Gupta

**Theme:** Infectious/Communicable Diseases

**Project:** Protecting Households on Exposure to Newly Diagnosed  
Index Multidrug-Resistant TB patients (PHEONix MDR-TB)



Jahnvi will support the PHOENix MDR-TB Study, a Phase 3 clinical trial comparing Delamanid and Isoniazid for preventing MDR-TB in high-risk household contacts. She will be analyzing concordance between manual pill counts and electronic monitoring to assess treatment adherence. She will calculate agreement metrics, explore non-concordance patterns with site teams, and contribute to a report and manuscript to inform adherence strategies.



### Anupama John

MSPH in Health Systems, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of  
Public Health '26

**Faculty mentor:** Anita Shet

**Theme:** Children Living with HIV

**Project:** The I'mPossible Program

Anupama will contribute to the evaluation of the I'mPossible Fellowship, by developing survey and interview tools, collecting and analyzing data, and facilitating research capacity-building workshops for peer fellows. Her work will support efforts to measure the program's impact on education, health, livelihoods, and psychosocial well-being.

### Isha (Ishita) Mohan

MSPH in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control, Johns  
Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '26

**Faculty mentor:** Anita Shet

**Theme:** Children Living with HIV

**Project:** The Positive Running Program



Isha Mohan will support the Positive Running Program by documenting the program's implementation, help organize fitness camps, and assist in developing tools to evaluate its impact—particularly on gender equity, resilience, and health outcomes. Her work will inform ongoing efforts to strengthen holistic, community-based interventions for youth affected by HIV.



## Prachi Singh

MSPH in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '26

**Faculty mentor:** Jonathan Golub

**Theme:** Infectious/Communicable Diseases, NCDs

**Project:** TB-SPIRIT Formative Research



Prachi Singh will support the TB-SPIRIT study, which aims to improve care for people with TB by addressing non-TB health conditions and promoting recovery. She will map existing services and rehabilitation resources, and conduct interviews with clinicians, outreach workers, and trained TB survivors to inform person-centered care strategies across multiple sites in India.



## Yifeng Zhao

MSPH in Health Systems, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '26

**Faculty mentor:** Krishna Rao

**Theme:** Health Systems

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

Yifeng will support the India Primary Health Care Support Initiative (IPSI), focusing on technical assistance for implementing the Health and Wellness Centre program in Odisha under the Demonstrate pillar. He will contribute to data use training for district managers, develop tools for SARA metrics, and analyze national health surveys to support data-driven primary care planning.

## Yash Shroff

MSPH in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '26

**Faculty mentor:** Nikhil Gupte

**Theme:** Infectious/Communicable Diseases

**Project:** Protecting Households On Exposure to Newly Diagnosed Index Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis Patients (PHOENix MDR-TB)



Yash will support the PHOENix study in Pune by conducting geospatial analysis and heat mapping of TB case data to identify transmission clusters. He will work with local teams to clean and visualize surveillance data, helping inform targeted, evidence-based interventions to interrupt TB transmission.



## Harsimrat Kaur

MSPH in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '26

**Faculty mentor:** Vidya Mave

**Theme:** Infectious/Communicable Diseases

**Project:** Evaluating the Performance of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Chest X-ray Interpretation Tool vs. Radiological, Microbiological, and Clinical Diagnoses in Detecting Tuberculosis



Simrat will support a retrospective study evaluating the accuracy of the qXR AI tool in detecting radiological signs of tuberculosis from chest X-rays. She will assess sensitivity, specificity, and agreement levels against radiological, microbiological, and clinical diagnoses, and contribute to manuscript development based on the study's findings.



## Vaishnavi Mathur

MSPH in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health '26

**Faculty mentor:** Nishi Suryavanshi

**Theme:** Social Behavioral Interventions

**Project:** Hybrid trial for Alcohol reduction among people with TB and HIV in India (HATHI)

Vaishnavi will support the HATHI study in Pune, a randomized controlled trial evaluating an intervention to reduce alcohol use and improve TB and HIV/TB care outcomes. She will assist with qualitative data analysis, data cleaning, transcription, and literature reviews. Her work will contribute to manuscript preparation and inform future interventions for patients with co-occurring HIV, TB, and substance use challenges.



# LOOKING AHEAD

GKII is committed to growing the reach and depth of this program. Key priorities include:

- **Expanding Placement Sites:** Exploring opportunities to extend the program across other Johns Hopkins divisions and engage a broader network of India-based partners
- **Digital Orientation Modules:** Creating accessible, student-friendly guides on ethics, logistics, and local context
- **Alumni Network:** Connecting past and future awardees for mentorship and community
- **Increased Funding:** Securing additional resources to cover full costs for awardees, including living stipends and research support





## With Appreciation to Our Donors and Program Partners

**Girish Rishi**, an alumnus of Johns Hopkins 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 placements of JHU students traveling to India.



*Stay connected with the latest updates, announcements, and scholar stories from the GHRSTA program by visiting the program website. Scan to know more!*

### For inquiries, contact us.

**Kunal Pal, Executive Director, GKII**  
kpal3@jh.edu

**Beth Romanski, Program Manager, GKII**  
bromans2@jh.edu

---

The **Gupta-Klinsky India Institute (GKII) at Johns Hopkins University** mobilizes global expertise to solve critical challenges in India, fostering collaboration across education, research, policy and practice.

<https://indiainstitute.jhu.edu/>