



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

BLAVATNIK INSTITUTE
GLOBAL HEALTH &
SOCIAL MEDICINE

Start date: August 2022

Location: Boston, MA with significant travel

Duration: 1 year with possibility of annual extension based on performance and availability of funding for up to 4 years

Salary: consistent with NIH guidelines; minimum: \$56,000

Supervisor: Vikram Patel, The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health in the Blavatnik Institute's Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School

Research Fellowship in Global Mental Health Implementation Science

The Mental Health for All Lab Research Program promotes the generation of knowledge and its effective utilization with the goal of contributing to the reduction of the global burden of suffering from mental health problems through digital technology and task-sharing scale-up interventions. The research program is based in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and is under the direction of Professor Vikram Patel and is co-led by Dr. John Naslund.

The Project: The Department of Global Health and Social Medicine seeks a postdoctoral fellow to support the scientific and research activities for a new randomized controlled trial (RCT) that will be conducted in India. This study is a collaboration between Harvard Medical School, Vanderbilt University in the United States as well as Sangath and AIIMS Bhopal in India. The study is led by Vikram Patel at Harvard Medical School and Steven Hollon (co-PI) at Vanderbilt University. This RCT seeks to compare a contextually adapted version of behavioral activation delivered by non-specialist health care workers versus antidepressant medication in the treatment of patients with major depressive disorder in primary care settings with the goal of developing and testing a precision treatment rule to identify the optimal treatment for a given patient. This RCT also seeks to assess the costs of optimal vs non-optimal treatment and conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis by comparing relative costs and effectiveness between those who were randomly allocated to their optimal treatment vs those who were randomly allocated to their non-optimal treatment based on the precision treatment rule. This project will be conducted in Bhopal, India. This fellowship, while based in Harvard Medical School in Boston, will require frequent travel and stays over extended periods of time (2-4 weeks at a time) at the research sites coordinated by Sangath, the primary project partner organization, in Bhopal, India. The contributions to scientific knowledge include developing a precision treatment rule that will assist primary care providers with offering the optimal treatment for patients with depression and improving the efficacy and cost effectiveness of depression treatment in primary care settings. This postdoctoral fellowship involves considerable fieldwork, collaborating with leading researchers in the US and in India, and liaising with the National Institute of Mental Health. This position focuses heavily on developing skills in global mental health research so

that the Fellow will be positioned to lead independent studies at the conclusion of this position. This post will be supported by a full-time research assistant based at Harvard.

Responsibilities: Under the supervision of Prof. Vikram Patel, Pershing Square Professor of Global Health at Harvard Medical School, and in collaboration with Prof. Steven Hollon at Vanderbilt and project sites in Bhopal, India, the fellow will assume mentored responsibility for:

- (1) acting as the lead scientific liaison for day-to-day oversight of research activities between Harvard Medical School and the project sites in India, including conducting and leading data analyses across the study components, financial reporting, etc.;
- (2) supporting the design of data collection instruments, obtaining IRB approvals, analyzing associated data, writing manuscripts, and submitting these for peer reviewed publication;
- (3) working with the research teams in Bhopal, India to support the implementation of study protocols and to monitor data collection and quality in the field;
- (4) supervising, orienting, and training project students and staff who contribute to these efforts. Ability to manage virtual meetings and to travel as required to project sites is required; And,
- (5) supporting capacity building at the project sites in India through presenting work to local stakeholders and research collaborators, providing guidance and mentorship to research staff involved in different aspects of the research project, and engaging stakeholders at the study sites in India and globally in dissemination of the project findings.

As noted earlier, the Postdoctoral Fellow should expect to spend about 2-4 months in the year at the project site in Bhopal, India. Specific funds are requested to support a monthly living allowance while in India.

Qualifications: Applicants must have a doctoral degree in a relevant field which may include but is not limited to statistics/bioinformatics, clinical psychology, or epidemiology. Other desirable qualifications include:

- Record of scholarly publication, including first-authored scientific journal articles.
- Expertise in research design and data analysis, including any of the following: clinical trials, precision medicine, statistical analysis for clinical trials, etc.
- Demonstrated track record engaging in fieldwork, involving meeting with stakeholders including study participants, clinicians, community members, and researchers.
- Experience working in or collaborating with researchers in India or other low and/or middle-income countries.
- Prior supervision of research team or coordination of research activities.
- Current knowledge of mental health problems and services in India.

To apply: Email the following items in one PDF with your surname as the first word of the PDF file (ex. SURNAME_GMHpostdoc): (1) cover letter stating long-term career aims, interest in the project, and suitability for the position, specifically referring to the criteria listed above; (2) curriculum vitae; (3) copies of two or three relevant publications; and (4) contact information for three to five potential references. Applications should be emailed to:

rebecca_grow@hms.harvard.edu

For additional information regarding the PI, associated research, and project institutions, see:

<http://ghsm.hms.harvard.edu>

<https://mentalhealthforalllab.hms.harvard.edu/>

<https://ghsm.hms.harvard.edu/faculty-staff/vikram-patel>

<https://sangath.in/>

<https://www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in/>

https://www.vanderbilt.edu/psychological_sciences/bio/steven-hollon

For additional information regarding the project or the post, please email: Professor Vikram Patel (patel_assistant@hms.harvard.edu)

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