

Public Health Research Institute of India (PHRII)

Mysore, India

Project: Measuring caregiver burden among primary caregivers of breast and cervical cancer patients

This is a mixed methods study and will be carried out in two ways - 1) a quantitative survey using a validated tool (for example – the 12-item Zarit Burden scale;) and 2) focus groups among caregivers of breast and cervical cancer patients. This will help elicit the physical and mental stress endured by informal caregivers in caring for breast and cervical cancer patients. It will tell us the areas where we can intervene and offer social, mental, and physical support in the future.

Student Responsibilities:

Assist in adapting of the survey and/or focus group guides, data analysis, designing a referral network to support caregivers based on available resources, dissemination of findings and creating awareness material and guides that will help the caregiver in managing their care recipient's illness.

Student Characteristics and Eligibility:

Open to Undergraduate and Graduate Students with experience working with the community and involved in volunteering or data collection.

Language Proficiency

Language proficiency is not required. The PHRII research team will help in communication; however, preference will be given to students who know Kannada, the regional language of Mysore.

Length of Program:

June – July 2023

Tentative Budget

Item	Cost (USD)
Housing (\$15/day X 8 weeks)	\$840
Meals (\$8/day x 8 weeks)	\$448
UA Placement Fees	\$500
PHRII Fees	\$750
Flight & Visa Fees	\$1600
Local Transportation	\$250
Health Insurance	\$170
Total	\$4,558

Please note these are estimated costs, program costs are subject to change.

Public Health Research Institute of India

Mysore, India

Project: Evaluating polypharmacy among the elderly

Our geriatric population sometimes take different prescriptions given by multiple doctors without proper clarification and guidance. With various systems of medicine being practiced in India, ayurvedic medicines and Siddha medicines which are proven to cause drug-drug interactions, may also be combined with their routine allopathic medication. A mixed-methods study will help us understand their health behaviors and provide an opportunity to explore their understanding of taking medication appropriately.

Student Responsibilities:

Assist in the development of surveys and interview guides, data analysis, dissemination of findings and creating educational material on polypharmacy and the dangers it can cause.

Student Characteristics and Eligibility:

Open to Undergraduate and Graduate Students with experience working with the community and involved in volunteering or data collection.

Language Proficiency

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Public Health Research Institute of India

Mysore, India

Project: Acceptability of breast cancer screening among rural women in Mysore, India

A pre-post study with a simple educational intervention can be conducted to understand the acceptance and uptake of breast cancer screening. Our low-income rural population have lesser awareness of breast cancer and the importance of screening early compared to high-income urban populations. It would be important to involve men in this study as well due to patriarchal cultural norms that are prevalent in India.

Student Responsibilities:

Assist in the development of surveys, design educational material on breast cancer, conducting pre-and post-surveys, data analysis, dissemination of findings.

Student Characteristics and Eligibility:

Open to Undergraduate and Graduate Students with experience working with the community and involved in volunteering or data collection.

Language Proficiency

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Public Health Research Institute of India

Mysore, India

Project: Disease severity and antibiotic sensitivity of extra-intestinal pathogenic Escherichia coli (ExPEC) among women with type-2 diabetes and urinary tract infection in India

The proposed study will determine the prevalence of pandemic lineages of extra-intestinal pathogenic Escherichia coli (ExPEC) in women with and without type-2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) having urinary tract infection (UTI) using multilocus sequence typing (MLST) method and observe the trends of pandemic ExPEC sequence types (STs) among these populations. The study will also compare the antibiotic sensitivity pattern of ExPEC strains among both groups. Diabetics are also more likely to progress to complications (pyelonephritis, bloodstream infections, sepsis) than non-diabetics after an episode of UTI. The study results will help to know the trends of ExPEC genotypes responsible for UTI among T2DM and its similarity and differences. It further can help in the selection of appropriate antibiotics and assures the effectiveness of the prescribed antibiotic therapy, which further controls prolonged patient suffering and increased rate of complications among T2DM patients.

Student Responsibilities:

Interns can assist in collecting biological samples and patient information from the hospital's medical records. Interns can assist in the laboratory processes namely – Bacterial culturing, DNA extraction, PCRs, and sequence data analysis. This study can be assigned to students who are comfortable with biomedical/molecular laboratory techniques.

Student Characteristics and Eligibility:

Open to Undergraduate and Graduate Students with experience working in a biomedical/molecular laboratory with knowledge of basic laboratory skills and Biosafety Level-1 (BSL-1) training.

Language Proficiency

Language proficiency is not required. The PHRII research team will help in communication; however, preference will be given to students who know Kannada, the regional language of Mysore.

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