



**RESEARCH ASSOCIATE POSITION IN GLOBAL HEALTH –
QUALITATIVE STUDIES ON HEALTH ENGAGEMENT**

The Center for Global Health at Weill Cornell Medical College (WCM) invites applications for a 1-2 year research assistant position, offering unique opportunities to participate in global health research focused on health engagement in global settings. WCM Center for Global Health has leading research programs in the clinical epidemiology of infectious diseases, women’s health, and cardiometabolic diseases in Tanzania, Haiti, and India. The mission of our Center is to address health problems that transcend national boundaries through service, research, and training. All research sites are associated with tertiary referral hospitals with large patient catchment areas. As part of the Center, you will have the opportunity to engage with the faculty and other research assistants to learn more about the various projects in progress.

The associate will be based in New York City at WCM and will have the opportunity to travel to international research sites to work closely with study teams. In this position, the researcher will support ongoing international research activities in Uganda, India, and elsewhere as needed. The associate will participate in scientific activities, including global capacity building in qualitative research methods, performing quality assessments of interviews/focus groups, and providing general support for ongoing qualitative research activities. The associate will work closely with our local Project Managers to ensure that qualitative data collection is progressing on schedule and act as a liaison with the Investigator team. The associate will participate in qualitative data analysis, manuscript preparation, dissemination of results, and development of future research proposals.

The associate will work primarily on two ongoing community-based research studies.

The first study is in Mbarara District, Uganda. This is a mixed-methods study to determine whether support from informal community-based providers such as traditional healers can improve HIV care for people living with HIV in rural Uganda.

Dr. Sundararajan and her team have collaborated with traditional healers in rural Uganda since 2017 and have supported people living with HIV. She is currently overseeing a cluster randomized clinical trial to compare the effects of traditional healer-enhanced care to the current clinic-only standard of care and evaluate the implementation of the intervention. In collaboration with local partners, our team has trained traditional healers from to perform point-of-care HIV testing, provide counselling on HIV and the importance of HIV medication adherence, check-in regularly with the participants to ensure medication adherence, and help overcome challenges to remaining in HIV care. This study involves qualitative interviews of key stakeholders, including people living with HIV, traditional healers, clinicians, and government officials.

The second research study is in Pune, India. This is a mixed-methods study to determine if community health workers can improve the uptake of screening and timely diagnosis of diabetes in pregnant and postpartum women in urban slum communities in India. In collaboration with an Indian NGO, we have trained community health workers from slum communities to counsel and test pregnant and postpartum women for diabetes in their homes. This study will involve qualitative interviews of key stakeholders, including pregnant people, community health workers, clinicians, and government officials. The research associate will meet weekly with Dr. Sundararajan to update on study progression, discuss challenges and next steps, create an individual development plan, review progress, and guide analysis and writing of manuscripts and grants. Specific job-related tasks are:

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Research Oversight

- Actively collaborate with study qualitative data coordinators to ensure rigorous collection of qualitative data, troubleshooting and providing guidance when appropriate
- Oversee transcription and translation procedures at each study site, reviewing English transcripts for grammar and providing specific feedback to improve skills of the interviewer. Develop site-specific protocols to ensure translational accuracy of transcripts.
- Contribute to data reporting and research dissemination (e.g. abstracts, manuscripts, grant applications)

- Participate in national and international research conferences
- Attend research management and research training courses, as instructed by PI(s)

Research Activities

- Engage in qualitative methods training for local study staff and provide ongoing guidance to strengthen qualitative data collection skills
- Engage in research-methods training conducted by the study team, including learning and studying SOPs
- Actively pursue independent learning related to research topic and study implementation
- Develop skills in qualitative data analysis and the field of implementation science
- Follow and independently maintain an organized record of study progression and next steps

Requirements for this position include:

- Fluency in English
- A minimum of an undergraduate degree (preferably in social science or global health),
- Ability to work on-site at our New York City-based office
- Willingness to travel to study sites for a few weeks at a time (all international travel is subject to approval by the Medical College).
- Prior qualitative research experience, especially in a low- and middle-income country, would be considered a strength.

Project Personnel are listed below:

Radhika Sundararajan (PI, Weill Cornell Medicine)

Misha Hooda (Research Associate, Weill Cornell Medicine)

This one-year, in-person position with an additional renewable year will begin on or about 1 July 2025. Applications will remain open to candidates with U.S. citizenship or a visa to work in the U.S. until the position is filled. To apply, please send a letter describing research interests and curriculum vitae to Misha Hooda at insightful.lab@med.cornell.edu. Please include "Research Associate in Global Health - Qualitative" in the subject line.

Salary Range - \$48,000-\$50,000 per annum

For more information about our work, please visit our website: <https://sundararajanlab.weill.cornell.edu/>