

Master's Level Internship Opportunity

Project: LIFT-UP (Low Birthweight Infant Feeding Trial and Supportive Care Package)

About the Project:

The LIFT-UP study is a multi-objective, multi-country research initiative in India, Malawi, and Tanzania designed to improve feeding and growth outcomes among low birthweight and/or preterm infants in low-resource settings. The study promotes breastfeeding initiation and maintenance through an integrated approach that includes lactation support, feeding counseling, Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), and WASH in facilities and during the transition home. Additional components include fortifying human milk for very small or preterm infants and exploring the acceptability and feasibility of introducing probiotics.

Internship Role:

We are seeking a highly motivated student for an internship to support the LIFT-UP study team. This position offers the opportunity to contribute to a large, complex global research project and gain hands-on skills in implementation science, data management, and research translation.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist with the development of quantitative research tools.
- Support data visualization and preparation of presentations summarizing key findings.
- Work in **REDCap** to:
 - Test data collection tools prior to study launch.
 - Create and/or modify projects as needed
 - Finalize documentation of tool guides for dissemination to site partners.
- Develop training materials for site partners
- Participate in weekly calls with country partners (optional, depending on schedule).
- Monitor data quality to ensure consistency across sites and flag issues as needed.
- Conduct a literature review and assist with manuscript preparation.
- Contribute to coding and analysis tasks in **R or SAS** (preferred but not required) including cleaning data and descriptive statistics

Learning Opportunities:

Interns will gain valuable, hands-on experience with:

- Implementation science research methods.
- International collaboration with multi-country research partners.
- Data management and quality assurance using REDCap.
- Development of training and capacity-building materials.
- Academic writing and publication processes.
- Attend calls with site partners and build leadership skills

Qualifications:

- Enrollment in a Master's program (e.g., Public Health, Global Health, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Maternal and Child Health, Implementation Science, or related field).

- Strong interest in maternal, newborn, and child health, global health, or nutrition.
- Excellent organizational and writing skills.
- Familiarity with REDCap, R, or SAS is desirable.

Contact:

Questions may be directed to Rana Mokhtar (rmokhtar@ariadnelabs.org)

MCH Leadership Lab/Field Practice Opportunity BetterBirth Program/Accreditation Study (India)

Position Type

Field Practice Opportunity (MCH Leadership Lab)

Desired Degree Level

Master of Public Health (MPH)

Number of Openings

1

Description

Since 2020, the BetterBirth Program at Ariadne Labs has partnered with implementation partners and government counterparts in India to act as a learning and evaluation partner for the Manyata program. The Manyata program is a quality improvement and certification initiative for private maternity care facilities in India, which provide ~40% of childbirth services in India. The program, launched by the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) with technical support from Jhpiego aims to ensure consistent, safe, and respectful maternity care by training providers on 16 quality standards based on WHO guidelines, including antenatal care, preventing postpartum hemorrhage, managing complications, and using tools to improve clinical decision-making and maternal and fetal outcomes. Evidence that emerged from the evaluation work over the years has been integrated to continually refine and improve program content and implementation approaches.

Through the evaluation, Manyata was shown to offer a promising model for private sector engagement for governments, implementers and other professional societies as they collectively work to improve the quality of care for all women and newborns.

After extensive stakeholder discussions and feedback from organizations such as the WHO and World Bank, there is agreement that more rigorous evidence on the use of healthcare facility accreditation is needed to drive systemic improvements. Existing research suggests that accreditation can reinforce evidence-based clinical practices and institutional accountability, current evidence remains inconclusive, fragmented, and poorly linked to maternal and newborn health (MNH) outcomes. This lack of rigorous, outcome-focused research impedes policymakers, donors, and implementing agencies from making informed investments in accreditation as a quality improvement tool.

Therefore, Ariadne Labs will be working with partners to design and implement a large-scale randomized controlled trial (RCT) in India to generate robust evidence on how quality assurance through accreditation impacts maternal and neonatal health outcomes. The proposed study aims to: (a) Measure the impact of accreditation on maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity; (b) Understand what features of

accreditation programs most influence care quality and patient experience; and (c) Identify contextual factors that affect program effectiveness.

This is a practicum opportunity which will enable a student to collaborate on an active and very complex global research project, engage with study partners in India, and participate in the preparation for study launch. The student will be involved in activities like the IRB submission, drafting the study protocol, study tools, tool guides, training materials, drafting the data dictionaries, supporting REDcap development and supporting other start-up activities. *(Exact activities may depend on start date and amount of available time to commit to the practicum).*

Please send any questions to: dtuller@ariadnelabs.org

Qualifications

- Familiarity with quantitative research methodologies
- Interest in accreditation and/or maternal and neonatal health
- Familiarity with health system in India or other health system outside US (preferred)
- Experience with REDCap and field work in data collection (preferred)
- Organized and detail oriented
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and effectively in partnership with colleagues of varying backgrounds and expertise

Location

Boston, Massachusetts United States

Remotely will be considered as well

Time Commitment

Flexible

Organization Website

<https://www.ariadnelabs.org>