

OVERVIEW

The Alliance for a Healthier World (AHW) is a Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Signature Initiative that brings together diverse expertise and perspectives that unlocks knowledge and capabilities to tackle unresolved global health challenges. It serves as an enterprising partnership and resources hub – to stimulate and support university-wide innovation around healthy equity. The AHW sponsors events that unite faculty, staff and students from across the University, funds grants for multidisciplinary work, and provides mentorship, strategic communication and fundraising support. Experts from medicine, nursing, public health, international relations, engineering, education, economics, business, policy, bioethics, and across the natural and social sciences, arts and humanities, work side by side with partners and disadvantaged communities around the world.

The Alliance is a one of the Signature Initiatives established in 2013 by JHU President, Ron Daniels, and reports to the Office of the Provost.

Targeting Health Equity

Health equity is an ambitious goal for global health - a key challenge of global health is to raise the health, nutrition and wellbeing of the world's poorest people. Growing inequities in health, both between and within countries, threaten the community development gains made over the past decades. Health equity is about the fair achievement and capability for good health, and not simply the equal distribution of health care. Health equity is a multidimensional concept that is a central concern of social equity and justice – it cannot be viewed in isolation.

Social, economic, and environmental conditions affect health in a number of ways. Inequities in the social determinants of health – including socioeconomic status, education, the physical environment, employment, and social support networks – have wide-ranging effects on people's health, wellbeing and survival.

Pressing Need for the Alliance for a Healthier World

Addressing global health inequities requires a recognition that we live in an inter-dependent world. We need to better understand the diverse connections between people, communities, institutions, and the environment in which we live in order to make large-scale and sustainable change.

This approach is reinforced by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that highlight the close ties between 17 focus areas including health and poverty, inequality, food security, gender discrimination, education, water and sanitation, decent work and economic growth, affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities, climate action, peace, justice and strong institutions, among other factors. Learn about SDGs (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>)

JHU has pioneered the field of global health research and education as a multi-disciplinary effort to address health problems of disadvantaged populations. But JHU, like others working in global health, has been limited in our ability to solve the most complex and intractable social problems linked to health inequities.

To fulfill this gap in the global health arena, JHU has launched a bold, innovative, university-wide initiative to examine and tackle unresolved challenges that limit opportunities for healthier lives.

Innovative Approach to Address Health Inequities

The Alliance for a Healthier World is building a multidisciplinary ecosystem to produce new ideas, strategies, technologies, and policies to solve major health problems. It supports dynamic collaboration among multidisciplinary teams of faculty, students, partners and local communities by providing various opportunities to stimulate, foster and build skills for working together effectively.

- Grants Program (research grants to catalyze new knowledge and innovative solutions)
- Collaborative Activities & Services (events, online platforms, learning resource library)
- Creative Strategic Communications (research translation to engage civil society, government, foundation leaders and corporations who share our goals)
- Student Scholars Program (mentorship opportunities for students)

Diverse Team of Contributors

Team members include faculty, students and staff from:

- Applied Physics Laboratory
- Berman Institute of Bioethics
- Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Carey Business School
- Krieger School of Arts and Sciences
- Jhpiego
- Nitze School of Advanced International Studies
- Peabody Institute
- School of Education
- School of Medicine
- School of Nursing
- Whiting School of Engineering

AHW also works closely with disadvantaged communities and partner organizations based around the world to refine, test and implement. AHW relies on a Working Group, a Steering Committee and is expanding partnerships with supportive foundations and corporations who share our goals

Priorities for Research and Innovation

The AHW has identified four thematic areas where an integration of expertise and perspectives is needed to address difficult and inter-dependent social problems: 1. Food & Nutrition Security; 2. Healthy Environments; 3. Gender Equity & Justice; 4. Transformative Technologies & Institutions. Learn about thematic priorities on our website (<https://www.ahealthierworld.jhu.edu/thematic-areas-detail>)

Further Information

Please view our website (www.ahealthierworld.jhu.edu) to learn more about:

- Our team, partners and supporters
- Technical expertise in each Division
- Aims of thematic priority areas
- Online collaborative resources
- Updates on research, events & funding
- JHU's history of global health contributions

Contact Us

You can reach the team via email at: ahealthierworld@jhu.edu

Look for us on social media (Twitter) [@JohnsHopkinsAHW](https://twitter.com/JohnsHopkinsAHW)