The Alliance for a Healthier World (AHW) is a Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Signature Initiative bringing together diverse expertise and perspectives that unlock 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 diverse fields, offers funding for multidisciplinary research, and provides mentorship, strategic communication and fundraising support. Professionals 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.

**TARGETING HEALTH EQUITY**

Health equity is about the fair achievement and capability for good health, and not simply the equal distribution of health care. 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. Social 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. Growing inequities in health, both between and within countries, threaten the community development gains made over the past decades.

*Health equity is a multidimensional concept that is a central concern of social equity and justice – it cannot be viewed in isolation.*

**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), highlighting 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 more (http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/)

JHU has pioneered the field of global health research and education as a multidisciplinary effort to address health problems of disadvantaged populations. But JHU, like others working in the global health arena, has been limited in our ability to solve the most complex and intractable social problems linked to health inequities. To fulfill this gap, JHU has launched a bold, innovative, university-wide initiative to examine and tackle unresolved challenges limiting opportunities for healthier lives.

*Working together to advance global health equity: good health and well-being for all*
INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO TACKLING 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 conditions that foster working together effectively and stimulate the generation, testing and implementation of new knowledge.

- Grants Program (funding for teams to focus on health equity issues)
- 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 (research mentorship & networking opportunities for student)

PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION
The AHW has identified four priority themes where an integration of multiple perspectives and expertise 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

DIVERSE TEAM OF CONTRIBUTORS
Team members include JHU faculty, students and staff from:

- Applied Physics Laboratory
- Berman Institute of Bioethics
- Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Carey Business School
- Krieger School of Arts & 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 its research. AHW relies on a Working Group, Steering Committee, student scholars and is expanding partnerships with supportive foundations and corporations who share our goals.

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.ahealthierworld.jhu.edu

Please view our website for:

- Online learning resources
- Updates on research, events & funding
- JHU’s history of global health contributions
- Integration of technical expertise
- Our team, partners and supporters

Contact Us

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