Research Associate – The IDEA (Innovation+Design Enabling Access) Initiative

General Description
This position provides an opportunity to work as part of the Strategic Policy Program for ReAct-Action on Antibiotic Resistance within the IDEA (Innovation + Design Enabling Access) Initiative at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The IDEA Initiative seeks to reengineer how we bring health innovations to market to meet the needs of all populations, particularly those in resource-limited settings. IDEA is an interdisciplinary undertaking—one that requires policy and value chain analysis, systems thinking, and design innovation. By seeding and supporting market-shaping interventions with evidence-based analysis, the IDEA Initiative hopes to amplify the real world impact of delivering technologies for global health, both in the U.S. and abroad. Dr. Anthony So serves as the Director of the IDEA Initiative and Professor of the Practice in the Department of International Health.

A key pillar of the IDEA Initiative is the ReAct Strategic Policy Program. Since 2005, ReAct has served as a global network spanning across five continents dedicated to tackling antibiotic resistance through evidence-based policy solutions. ReAct works with a broad range of stakeholders, including international organizations, governments, and civil society organizations to curb antimicrobial resistance. The Strategic Policy Program also supports the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition, a coalition of 25 civil society organizations across human, veterinary, and environmental health that work together to address this growing global threat. Together, the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition monitors various national and global policy processes and stakeholders, ensuring public accountability towards addressing antimicrobial resistance.

The IDEA Initiative, housed within the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, is a program of scholarship, policy convening, and teaching on globalization and health equity, with an initial focus on the innovation, access, and stewardship of antimicrobials in both healthcare delivery and agriculture. Over the years, our program has supported the work of intergovernmental organizations, from the World Health Organization and the UN Development Program to the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative and the Every Woman Every Child initiative within the UN Secretary-General’s office. The program has also completed commissioned work for the Institute of Medicine, Global Commission on HIV and the Law, and the UK Review on Antimicrobial Resistance.

As part of its work, the ReAct Strategic Policy Program explores alternative policy models and strategies that would advance innovation, access and stewardship of antimicrobials and other complementary technologies such as diagnostics and vaccines, especially for those in low- and middle-income countries; develops and examines frameworks for monitoring and evaluating policies to respond to the challenge of antimicrobial resistance in both healthcare delivery and food production sectors; and organizes policy convenings of key stakeholders on these issues.
Part of the IDEA Initiative will also include a key cornerstone of the University-wide Global Health Signature Initiative (GHSI). The Transformative Technologies and Institutions (TTI) arm of the GHSI specifically works to develop a research and policy framework for discovering, developing, and delivering transformative technologies to advance health equity, particularly in resource-limited settings. At a University with such strong medical, public health and biomedical engineering research work, TTI will work to draw together interdisciplinary teams of faculty and students and apply systems thinking to overcome failures of the market in bringing these technologies to those in need.

The IDEA Initiative is looking for a highly talented, full-time Research Associate, primarily focused on the ReAct Strategic Policy Program work that would bring exemplary analytic and organizational skills to our work. Depending on the individual’s qualifications and interests, the Research Associate will have responsibilities, such as the following:

The primary roles and responsibilities of the job include the following:

- Support IDEA/ReAct/TTI research, policy convenings and outreach activities on innovation and access to health technologies, as exemplified by research and policy work on antimicrobial resistance:
  - Sharing knowledge to ensure innovation and sustainable access to new health technologies, from humanitarian access licensing to patent pools;
  - Innovative financing approaches that encourage collaborative R&D, open science arrangements and ways to share resources, risks and rewards; and
  - Market-shaping interventions and new business models to bring drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other complementary technologies to market and to those in need; and
  - Realigning incentives, both financial and non-financial, to improve delivery of the health technology.
- Write, develop and edit issue briefs, newsletter, fact sheets, reports and publications
- Track and monitor policy processes relevant to the goals of the program
- Conduct literature searches to support research and policy analyses
- Contribute to the teaching of students and supervision of part-time, student research assistants
- Maintain communications with research teams and key policy stakeholders
- Prepare grant proposals, annual project reports, and journal manuscripts
- Coordinate, schedule and prepare for meetings and teleconference calls for Program team for project work and with other stakeholders
- Maintain program administrative files and archives, both in hard copy and in electronic filing systems as well as prepare expense reports
- Support the Director and the IDEA Initiative in other program tasks as needed.

**Qualifications**

- MPH, MPA or equivalent Master’s level training in public health, public policy, biological sciences, or other relevant field
- Background or demonstrated interest in topics on innovation and access
to medicines, either globally or in the U.S. context

- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Outstanding initiative and ability to work independently and solve problems creatively
- Highly organized with ability to set priorities among multiple tasks
- Research experience, particularly with quantitative data
- Strong interpersonal, teamwork, and communication skills essential
- Strong computer skills: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Internet searches

Preferred Qualifications

- Background or research experience in economics, value chain analysis, social network analysis, and/or biomedical research
- Prior experience working in or with civil society organizations
- Track record of organizing policy convenings and/or managing staff or projects
- Experience with data collection and statistical data analysis as well as facility with spreadsheet analysis and software tools

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, writing sample(s) preferably demonstrating policy analytic skills, and the names of three references to rramach9@jhu.edu. As we will review applications on a rolling basis, candidates should indicate their interest as soon as possible and their date of availability. If you have any questions regarding the position, please submit them in writing to rramach9@jhu.edu.