



Staff Spotlight: Kelly Connors

Innovation Intern
Center for Innovation and Impact, USAID



Q: What is your role at USAID?

A: I am a Summer Innovation Intern on the Center for Innovation and Impact (CII) team within the Global Health Bureau. I currently provide support on the Innovation team, supporting the development of an innovation index to highlight and steer support to innovations with near-term potential for global health impact. In addition, I am supporting DesignforHealth in developing a theory of change that would help the community to elaborate on the “thinking” behind how design can play a complementary role in achieving sustainable long-term global health impact.

Q: What did you do prior to joining CII?

A: I finished my first year at an MBA program and the University of Virginia Darden School of Business, where I lead the Darden Business, Innovation and Design club. Prior to school, I was a manager at Deloitte Consulting, working primarily with USAID projects in the areas of public finance and governance. I am also a proud Returned Peace Corps Volunteer from the Dominican Republic.

Q: What makes you passionate about your work?

A: I am energized by the challenge of using business practices to support needed global health innovations achieve scale and impact to help make the world a healthier place. I have always been drawn to serve, and I love working with the fun, quirky, talented and always humble team at CII. Working on interesting, impactful projects with an amazing team... what more could one ask for?

Q: What do you like to do outside of work?

A: I love running, and I am training for my 7th marathon in Chicago this Fall! I am also taking advantage of being in D.C. this summer, and attempting a drawing class at the Smithsonian.

Favorite Quote:

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” – Eleanor Roosevelt



Staff Spotlight: Neha Lalwani

Market Access Intern
Center for Innovation and Impact, USAID



Q: What is your role at USAID?

A: I am a Summer Market Access Intern on the Center for Innovation and Impact (CII) team within the Global Health Bureau. I currently provide support on the Digital Health portfolio, which is primarily focused on development of a new strategy and vision that will guide the Agency's investments in digital technologies to support global health programs and outcomes. Additionally, I am working on a project that aims to define Value Based Care (VBC) health system frameworks for adoption in low- and middle-income countries. In September 2019, I will be starting a master's program in International Development at the University of Chicago – Harris School of Public Policy.

Q: What did you do prior to joining CII?

A: Prior to joining CII, I worked at a nonprofit intermediary in India called Dasra, building the [10 to19 Dasra Adolescents Collaborative](#), a multi-stakeholder initiative to achieve holistic outcomes for adolescents. As part of the inception team, I worked on the initiative's strategy design and planning, business development and relationship management across funders, non-profits, researchers and other stakeholders. Prior to that, I worked in the financial services industry in New York City for over 6 years, working on various project and change management engagements at Barclays Capital and Ernst and Young.

Q: What makes you passionate about your work?

A: Having spent my childhood in Mumbai, India, I was always struck by the inequities of life around me. After spending some time in the private sector, I realized that what I am truly passionate about is utilizing my professional experience and skills towards building more just and equitable societies, especially for women and girls around the world. Working within global health and the CII team has been a great experience to solidify my understanding of how market driven strategies can help solve critical developmental challenges, and I hope to continue exploring similar solutions in the future.

Q: What do you like to do outside of work?

A: I LOVE animals and enjoy spending time with my furry friends; traveling as well as discovering new activities/museums/restaurants in the cities that I live in; practicing yoga and spending time outdoors.

Favorite Quote:

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." – Howard Truman



Staff Spotlight: Tony Gallanis

Digital Health Intern
Center for Innovation and Impact, USAID



Q: What is your role at USAID?

A: I am an intern on the Digital Health team for the Global Health's Center for Innovation and Impact (CII). My role is to build upon the work of the Digital Health team by promoting a digitally-minded culture within Global Health at USAID, aligning digital health actions across the larger donor pool, and envisioning potential implementation of digital health resources among those who need them most to access and receive quality health.

Q: What did you do prior to joining CII?

A: I recently graduated from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health with a master's in epidemiology this past May. During my graduate studies, I was captivated with design thinking in healthcare and also data science to empower decision making. My summer was spent on the Innovation Team at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts working on design sprints.

Q: What makes you passionate about your work?

A: A strong digital health system has the potential to recognize those who are in dire need of health services and to provide these services in a timely manner. Working towards this goal is empowering since it will lead to better lives for millions of people.

Q: What do you like to do outside of work?

A: I enjoy bike rides and watching shows with friends. Hopefully, I will race in the Kona Ironman in the near future.

Favorite Quote:

"And I'm on my knees
Looking for the answer.
Are we human
Or are we dancer?"
- Brandon Flowers