



World Health
Organization

HACK FOR HUMANITY

2024 SUMMARY REPORT



Watson Institute for
International & Public Affairs

BROWN UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AND HUMANITARIAN STUDIES

ABOUT

2 DAYS
4+ SUBTOPICS
60 PARTICIPANTS
14 TEAMS
9 MENTORS
\$3,000 SEED GRANT

THEME: GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY



This year's hackathon focused on the theme of Global Health Security. Global health security encompasses the proactive measures taken to prevent, detect, and respond to a broad range of health threats, including infectious disease and other biological hazards.

Students considered various subtopics such as:

- Pandemics/Outbreaks - Prevention, Detection, and Response
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Threats
- Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Utilization, and Innovative Health Technologies
- One Health Approach: Emphasizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health

Student teams worked together over the course of two days to develop creative ideas for innovative programs, systems, or technologies that fall under the umbrella of global health security.

KEYNOTE LECTURE



Megan Rhodes has has twenty-five years of public health, international development and humanitarian experience in more than 15 countries. She has worked at USAID for twenty years, including three years at the U.S. Embassy in Kampala, Uganda and many years in Washington, D.C. She has contributed to almost all major U.S. global health initiatives of the last two decades: HIV, malaria, food security, maternal & child health, COVID response, infectious disease outbreaks, and pandemic preparedness.



Megan currently serves as a Senior Advisor for Global Health Security as USAID partners with more than 50 countries to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging infectious disease threats, including the deployment of an Outbreak Response Team to rapidly respond to disease outbreaks.

MENTORS

SCHOLARS AND PRACTITIONER ADVISORS



**DEVINA
SRIVASTAVA**



**DAVE
POLATTY**



MARSHALL KRAFT



HENRY MGBEMENA



DR. RAMU KHAREL



LISA DI CARLO



CHRIS KWAJA



ANDREW BOYLE



YARA FRANCIS

We had nine mentors who were invaluable resources helping the teams workshop and transform their ideas into their final projects, with actionable and ambitious yet accomplishable goals. Each team met with at least one mentor, and many met with two or more. Each mentor had expertise in some area of global health security or related topics. Mentors helped the teams understand more deeply the issues and challenges students were dealing with. We are deeply grateful to our wonderful mentors for sharing their time with us and making Hack for Humanity 2024 a success!

DAY ONE

After Megan Rhodes' keynote speech, our students broke out into their fourteen teams to brainstorm. Teams spent the morning engaging their creativity to imagine novel solutions to one of humanitarian aid's perpetual challenges.

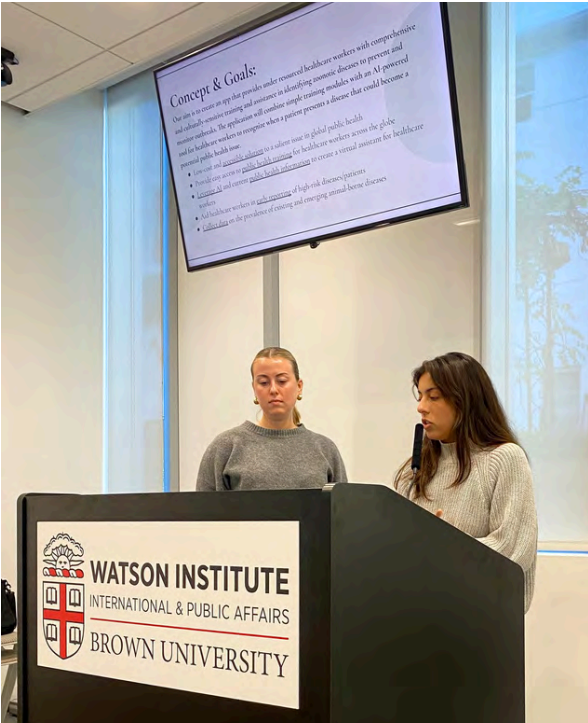


In the afternoon, the teams narrowed down their ideas and met with their mentors for insight and advice. The teams spent the remainder of the day doing further research and problem-solving to determine the details of their proposal. They ultimately finalized their research through the development of pitch presentations.



DAY TWO

PITCH PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS



PITCH PRESENTATIONS

FEATURING 10 STUDENT TEAMS

Fourteen student teams composed of over 60 students in total spent a weekend designing solutions to global health security challenges.

Each student team capped their weekend by giving a pitch presentation of their proposal. Our panel of judges evaluated each project for its design, potential to improve the humanitarian user experience, and ability to be implemented with the \$3,000 seed grant.

1ST PLACE: BatAware

Integrated Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Campaign for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Thailand



PITCH PRESENTATIONS

2ND PLACE

Deng-Away

3RD PLACE

Water Conservation in the Lithium Triangle

4TH PLACE

HerAid: A digital platform to address "period poverty" in refugee camps collectively

HONORABLE MENTION

GagaCare

RUNNERS UP

Biosecurity in Mato Grosso, Brazil: Foundational Education to Prevent Zoological Disease

Canary in the Classroom: A LLM Platform for Public Health Monitoring with Teachers as Reporters in Dharavi

We are all one! A One Health Education Approach

Knowledge is Power: Educational Games to Build Public Resilience

Fresh Start - Addressing Food Insecurity in Rhode Island

OrphaCare Ghana: A Culturally Specific Application to Track Malnutrition in Orphanages throughout Ghana

CareMaps 2024: Crowdsourcing Cultural Competency

ZAPPs: Zoonoses Awareness, Prevention, and Protection System

DigniCare: Menstrual care in humanitarian crises with dignity



THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for our generous support from the Hearst Foundation and the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. We would also like to thank all of our wonderful mentors, judges, and career panelists for sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience. Finally, a hearty congratulations to all of our participants, good work! See you next year!

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