India mHealth and Non-communicable Diseases Internship

An array of mHealth (mobile health) experiments is being conducted across India; several of them are focused on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCD). Unfortunately, relatively few of these experiments are rigorously documented and studied. The generation of knowledge related to the feasibility, acceptability and efficacy of mHealth solutions will inform the design and implementation of public health policies and programs to prevent NCDs in resource-constrained settings. Key challenges identified by NCD researchers and program implementers in India include the lack of awareness of NCDs, delayed care-seeking, and weak coordination among multiple levels of the health care system.

About RTI
RTI International is one of the world’s leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. Our staff of more than 3,700 provides research and cross-disciplinary technical expertise to governments and businesses in more than 75 countries in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, international development, economic and social policy, energy and the environment, and laboratory and chemistry services. For more information, please visit our website at www.rti.org.

Responsibilities
With the guidance of the project lead, the Intern has flexibility in deciding which aspect(s) of mHealth to investigate regarding NCD prevention in India, projects could include:

- Frame the research question and approach to best address the issue of mHealth and NCD prevention such as:
  - Studying the effectiveness of existing mHealth applications for behavior change and/or the process of change and associated factors.
  - Exploring novel mHealth tools and information technologies to address prevention and control challenges.
- Conduct research on the feasibility, acceptability, and efficacy of mHealth solutions for NCD prevention control to address evidence gaps in NCD prevention and control.

Qualifications
- Undergraduate enrolled in US institution majoring in Computer Science or related field.
- Previous experience in assisting with data management, quality control, and documentation of study implementation/preparation of study reports is desirable
- Strong interest in public health and women’s health promotion
- Prior coursework in international development/public health and strong writing skills
- Travel and/or living experience in developing countries is a plus
- Fluency in English is required and comprehension of an additional language used in Bangalore--Kannad, Telugu, Tamil, and/or Hindi--is a plus

Additional Information
Internship is unpaid, 8-10 weeks full-time for Summer 2015, and located in Bangalore, India. Students receiving fellowship, scholarship, or other funding to pursue an internship abroad are preferred. Students not receiving outside funding would be considered, but are encouraged to indicate if an internship is a required component of their studies.
To Apply
Please submit the following application materials to internships@rti.org with the subject title: SUMMER 2015 INDIA MHEALTH INTERNSHIP.

- Resume (limit 2 pages)
- Brief information on your funding source and its requirements (e.g., fellowship, scholarship, etc...). If you are not receiving outside funding, please provide details on your internship requirement for your studies
- Cover letter including: career goals, internship learning objectives, relevant skills and experiences, and which aspect(s) of mHealth you are interested in investigating regarding NCD prevention in India