



Position: Research Director, METROPOLIS Research Programme

Location: New Delhi

Contract type: Full-time (100% FTE)

Programme: Mechanistic trial of problem solving and behavioural activation for youth depression (METROPOLIS). This is a study related to student mental health in universities.

Applications due by 5 PM, April 10, 2026.

About the programme

METROPOLIS is a Wellcome Trust-funded research programme investigating the effectiveness of Problem Solving (PS) and Behavioural Activation (BA) — two promising, scalable psychological strategies — when delivered by peer counsellors as early interventions for youth depression. Programme partners include King's College London (UK), Jindal Global University (JGU) (India), Youth for Mental Health (India), and Brighton and Sussex Medical School (United Kingdom).

About the role

We are seeking a dynamic and experienced Research Director to lead the on-ground research implementation of the METROPOLIS study in New Delhi. This is an excellent opportunity for a mid-to-senior-level researcher who is passionate about youth mental health and has strong experience managing research studies, supervising research teams, and contributing to impactful, high-quality science.

The successful candidate will report to Dr. Pattie Gonsalves, Sangath Investigator and Director of the Youth Mental Health Group (YMHG), and be based at Sangath's Delhi office.

What we are looking for

Essential qualifications and experience:

- Master's degree in psychology, public health, or related field
- Minimum 5 years of postgraduate experience in research and/or programme evaluation
- Proven ability to lead and manage research teams
- Experience with both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies
- Experience with project management tools and MS Office Suite, especially MS Excel
- Academic publication record
- Strong communication skills in English and Hindi
- Highly organised with strong attention to detail

Desirable skills:

- PhD or equivalent research doctorate
- Experience with randomised controlled trials (RCTs), especially in mental health or task-sharing models
- Proficiency in RedCap, Stata/SPSS, and nVivo
- Experience managing ethics boards (TSC/DMC)
- Familiarity working with cross-sector partners (e.g., government, NGOs, universities)
- Interest or background in youth mental health, peer counselling
- Experience developing training materials

Key responsibilities

1. Team leadership and research oversight
 - a. Lead and provide line management to a team of up to 4 researchers and data managers
 - b. Supervise and provide regular feedback on all research operations, including trial management, participant recruitment and management, data collection (qualitative & quantitative), and field logistics
 - c. Ensure compliance of research activities with the METROPOLIS trial protocol, including reporting and addressing any deviations
 - d. Conduct regular team meetings, training, and team-building activities
 - e. Guide the research team in data analysis and reporting
2. Strategic and programme management
 - a. Contribute to high-level programme decisions as part of the senior management team (SMT)
 - b. Coordinate with co-investigators and partners to set goals, monitor progress, and ensure compliance
 - c. Coordinate Steering Committee meetings, ethics submissions, and key stakeholder updates
 - d. Support programme budgeting and procurement activities
3. Research implementation and dissemination
 - a. Oversee all vendor contracts for study-related consultancies, including design of recruitment materials and digitisation of intervention training for non-specialist peer counsellors
 - b. Supervise fortnightly study updates to the wider METROPOLIS team, collaborators and other stakeholders
 - c. Draft and contribute to academic papers, presentations, and grant proposals
 - d. Support the Youth Advisory Group and university partner engagement
 - e. Ensure GDPR, Good Clinical Practice, and ethics compliance
 - f. Participate in training, conferences and special interest groups at Sangath and externally



- g. Writing proposals as necessary to fund or initiate research, evaluation or special projects, building on METROPOLIS

The above list of responsibilities is not exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required to undertake such tasks and duties as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the post.

What we offer

- Opportunity to work on a high-impact international study with leading academic and mental health institutions
- Professional development in research methods and leadership
- Opportunities to attend relevant national conferences
- Collegial, mission-driven team culture focused on youth wellbeing and innovation

Compensation

The salary package offered will be commensurate with educational qualifications, work experience and as per applicable Sangath policy. The initial appointment will be made for six months' probation from the date of joining, with renewal up to two years based on a performance review.

To apply

Interested candidates should submit the following documents by **5 PM, April 10, 2026**:

1. Cover letter
 - Explain how you meet each of the essential and (where applicable) desirable criteria listed in the job description.
2. Detailed CV
 - Include clear dates for your education and employment history
 - Attach a bibliography of academic publications
3. References
 - Provide contact details of two professional referees (name, email, and phone number)

Applications are being accepted till 5 PM, April 10, 2026. Please note that only complete applications will be considered.

We encourage applications from candidates of all backgrounds, especially those with lived experience or a demonstrated commitment to mental health equity.

Please send your application materials to

Alka Singh (alka.singh@sangath.in) with the subject line: "Application for Research Director, METROPOLIS".