

Day Three ES718
A new workshop on
innovation in global health
ANJALI SASTRY

Image removed due to copyright restrictions. See SMART Health India (Systematic Medical Appraisal, Referral and Treatment) at the [George Institute website](#).

Plan for today

11 to 12

- Intro, plus a few words about Sangath
- Four student teams share their findings
- Discussion with Dr Stoner

Noon to 1:30

- Working lunch
- update, finalize decks
- class discussion

Welcome, Dr. Stoner

Robert J. Stoner is an inventor and technology entrepreneur who has worked extensively in academia and industry throughout his career, having built and managed successful technology firms in the semiconductor, IT and optics industries. From 2007 through 2009 he lived and worked in Africa and India while serving in a variety of senior roles within the Clinton Foundation.

Stoner is Deputy Director for Science and Technology, MIT Energy Initiative. He is also co-Director of the Tata Center for Technology and Design at MIT.

He is a member of the Science and Technology Committee of the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, which manages the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. His current research relates to energy technology and policy for developing countries. He earned his Bachelor's degree in engineering physics from Queen's University, and his Ph.D. from Brown University in condensed matter physics.

Aging

Alcohol use disorders, addiction

Child development and disability

Maternal mental health

**OUR FOUR FOCAL AREAS ARE
GLOBAL NEEDS**

Sustaining Healthy Behavior Change

Personalized Health Technology

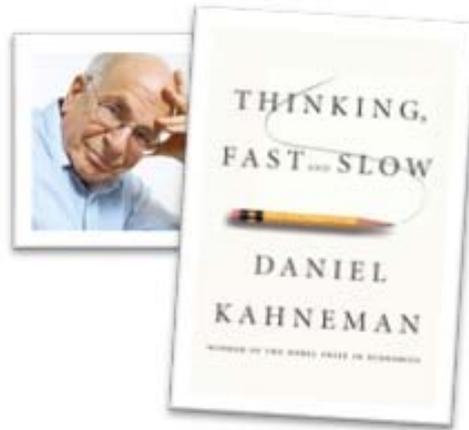
wirelessly and simultaneously tracks behavior change and delivers tailored recommendations to advance individual health.



+

Behavioral Economics

incentivizes and nudges individuals to make healthy decisions.



+

Smart Data Analytics

Analyses using health data provides new insights to drive healthy behaviors.



Healthy Behavior Change

Sangath is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation committed to improving health across the life span by empowering existing community resources to provide appropriate physical, psychological and social therapies.

Photo of Sangath team removed due to copyright restrictions. See [Sangath website](#).

Sangath's evolution

Started in **1996** as Goa's first **multi-disciplinary child development clinic** based in Porvorim through the voluntary contributions of its seven founder-members.

By 2008

Sangath was the **largest and most successful health-related NGO in Goa**, with more than 80 employees providing services, conducting research, and running training programs. Its managing committee includes a lawyer and writer, a psychiatrist, a medical epidemiologist, an educator, a child rights author, and a leading journalist — testimony to the breadth of its vision.

The organization honed its holistic philosophy and multidisciplinary approach based on the idea that health concerns more than the individual; it grows from **families, communities, and social structures that are fundamentally sound and nurturing**.

This distinctive approach has made Sangath a leader in child development, adolescent and family guidance, and behavioral and mental health.

See more at [the MacArthur Foundation Website \(Sangath in Goa, India\)](#)

today

Sangath garners **local, national and international recognition.**

Over the years, we have shifted to a **public health model** to increase the coverage of **basic interventions** for child development, adolescent health and mental health—overcoming systemic barriers that overemphasize care in medical settings, the lack of specialists, and high costs of medical care.

A key element of our philosophy is to **strengthen state and private sector services** by integrating affordable and effective interventions to ultimately scale up through sustainable health systems. We **empower low-cost human resources with knowledge and supervision** to improve access to healthcare for children with developmental disabilities, adolescents and young people, or people with any form of mental disorder.

We realise that NGOs have a limited reach in the Indian landscape and have fashioned ourselves to develop innovative strategies to bridge the treatment gap for mental disorders. Training and supervising low-cost human resources is one of our most inventive strategies.

Sangath is anchored by its vision

The reduction of the treatment gap for mental disorders and disabilities in India – the large gap between the number of people with mental disorders/disability and those who receive adequate health care.

Approach and results

To reduce this treatment gap, Sangath works by

- Designing interventions based on **global evidence** of effectiveness and local evidence of cultural acceptability;
- Systematically **testing** intervention delivery to ensure **feasibility** of its delivery by lay health workers and **acceptability** by patients and families;
- **Involving diverse stakeholders**, in particular people affected by the target mental health problems, in shaping the content and delivery of the intervention;
- **Embedding** the intervention in established health care platforms, most commonly those run by the government, to ensure scalability;
- **Evaluating** the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the intervention in randomized controlled trials;
- **Disseminating** the findings in a variety of methods, ranging from scientific papers to audio-visual media;
- Working closely with federal and state ministries of health to **scale up** the innovations.

Using this approach, Sangath has been able to successfully develop **evidence based, contextually appropriate** and **scalable** models of care for a range of health problems like depression, schizophrenia and autism.

Key background knowledge you'll need

1. India health outcomes; budget and government
2. technology, mHealth
3. innovations in mental health care; mental health in India
4. India healthcare delivery (esp mental hlth), service quality, HR, task shift
5. India health system
6. India social factors, poverty, equity

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