



Global Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

GHI Director Statement on UW–Madison’s RISE Initiative

The University of Wisconsin’s new initiative, [Wisconsin Research Innovation and Scholarly Excellence-Wisconsin \(RISE\)](#), is a strategic movement rooted in interdisciplinary collaboration to innovate for the public good. Currently, Wisconsin RISE focuses on three areas: [RISE AI](#) (artificial intelligence), [RISE EARTH](#) (environment: adaptation, resilience, technology, and humanity), and [RISE THRIVE](#) (transforming healthspan through research, innovation, and education). We applaud University leadership for their vision to drive discovery and innovation to change Wisconsin and the world and set the standard for interdisciplinary fellowship for others to follow.

At the [Global Health Institute \(GHI\)](#), we are conveners and innovation catalysts making impacts in global health by linking multidisciplinary talent and expertise from UW–Madison to partners in academia, industry, governments, and NGOs. Our approach to creating global health impacts through transformative action is the perfect embodiment of the Wisconsin RISE spirit.

[GHI's five focus areas](#)—emerging and infectious diseases; climate and land use change; resource security, including food, water, and energy; social, cultural, and economic equity; and human, animal, and plant health—capture a comprehensive view of global health. Our holistic, [One Health](#)-based approach mirrors RISE’s priority areas and are essential in understanding and tackling the intricate connections among health, equity, and the environment.

The establishment and growth of GHI’s [One Health Center \(OHC\) Network](#) illustrates our commitment to expanding the [Wisconsin Idea](#) globally. GHI offers RISE transdisciplinary partnerships, knowledge sharing, innovation, and capacity building environments. Our existing programs and OHCs in Colombia, India, Mexico, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and South Africa provide a unique platform for RISE to incorporate a global framework for addressing all three RISE focus areas.

We invite the UW-Madison community to consider leveraging our field sites for RISE, giving researchers invaluable access into real-world settings, and providing students and trainees hands on learning experiences. Our OHC Network is a strong foundation for RISE to build upon: from medical frontiers in immunology evaluating the socioeconomic and behavioral determinants of healthy aging and lifespan in India; to understanding the unique balance and connection of healthy ecosystems among humans, animals, and the planet in Mexico; and tapping the transformative power of artificial intelligence on communication and diagnostics in Colombia, GHI’s existing efforts in these areas can be extended to advance RISE.

Additionally, GHI embodies the RISE spirit by actively recruiting top scholars from diverse disciplines to address complex global health challenges because our track record shows collaborating teams of diverse experts with complementary skills and knowledge accelerates the pace of discovery and innovation in global health research.

We also practice a unique entrepreneurial mindset and strategically focus on research areas with the potential to attract significant external research funding from agencies, foundations, industry partners, and individual donors to maximize our ability to drive discovery. Investing time to understand these funding nuances is just as valuable as time spent in the lab and it’s how we empower the Wisconsin Idea.

As you may have seen in our recent news and website ([ghi.wisc.edu](#)), partnerships are at the heart of everything we do. We have set in action powerful transformative practices to create real impacts on communities locally and globally. We look forward to continuing our mission, leading the way as a living example of Wisconsin RISE, and welcoming new and continued conversations with partners on and off campus to continue making positive impacts for global health.

We all RISE together and welcome you to join us.

On, Wisconsin!

Jorge Osorio
Director