

## Widening Horizons of Knowledge: Spatial Statistics and Data Analysis in Health Care

Aarthi Garudam Raveendiran, a PhD student from the [Madras Diabetes Research Foundation](#), undertook a career placement with [Imperial College Business School](#) and [School of Public Health, Imperial College London](#), supported by a [Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration \(SPARC\)](#), funded by the NIHR Academy.

*‘This placement provided an excellent opportunity for personal and professional growth.’*

The placement provided me with cutting-edge experience working on a large NIHR-funded research project as well as exposure to experts in health economics, epidemiology, and environmental mapping, allowing me to learn new skills and contribute to the development of my home institution's spatial GIS-based health statistics.

*‘The essence of spatial statistics was novel and fascinating after the training began, and it got me involved with the ArcGIS software in great depth.’*

This placement provided an excellent opportunity for personal and professional growth. I greatly appreciate the NIHR for this capacity-building initiative, and am grateful to have benefited from it.

- This placement program has fine-tuned the quality of my research practices.
- The training related directly to my research project and my PhD topic, I have been exposed to new research settings which enhanced my knowledge and expertise in my area of interest.
- This opportunity is a stepping stone to my career which would help explore different work environments, perform spatial analysis independently and thus have a rewarding future in Public Health.

*‘I gained confidence by participating and presenting in meetings, establishing rapport with coworkers, and learning to write scientific articles.’*

I am now more confident to undertake research- planning, conducting, analysing, and interpreting spatial data on my own. I have plans to publish two research papers based on this training. It also helped in identifying existing gaps in community outreach programmes and establishing a solid foundation for my future research.