



Building a Dynamic Global Community of Media Practitioners Reporting on Health

The Covid-19 pandemic has propelled health to the top of the world news agenda, requiring journalists everywhere to keep up with fast evolving scientific developments and underscoring the inextricable links between health, human rights, and issues around good governance. Along with the pandemic has come the 'infodemic' that has profoundly challenged reporters, media outlets and others trying to provide accurate information to their audiences and communities in the face of an onslaught of misinformation.



Joyeeta Roy photojournalist from Daily Bangladesh Pratidin. Credit: UN Women/Fahad Abdullah Kaizer

Advancing Health Journalism Globally

Officially launched in 2020, the Internews Health Journalism Network (HJN) builds on decades of organizational experience in advancing health journalism globally. Internews health

experience is rooted in training and support for media partners reporting on HIV in the early 2000s, developed through responses to Ebola in Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and also includes work on maternal child health and sexual and reproductive health and rights programs.

Our goal is to empower journalists everywhere to report on a range of health issues, including emerging pathogen threats. This network is a vibrant media community committed to reporting regularly on health, that can also be rapidly mobilized to share vital health information during an emergency.

Our Members

As of July 2021, the network has over 850 registered members from 65 countries. Membership is for individuals, informal groups, and established networks that regularly, or occasionally, focus on health. Our members are journalists, health communicators, investigative reporters, content producers, media entrepreneurs, and digital health innovators. What they have in common is a passion for covering public health and for bringing marginalized voices into mainstream discussions about health rights and policy.

“I’m humbled to be part of the Health Journalism Network. If I am serving the people I need to serve, I don’t need to be trapped in a specific sector. I will do anything to improve women’s health. #ForeverGrateful”

– Umuziranenge Blandine de Jésus, CEO and Founder of Kosmotive, HJN Member in Rwanda

Our Value Added

Internews support for this network strengthens scientific knowledge amongst health reporters, promotes cross-regional learning and peer support, nurtures engagement, sparks brave conversations around complex health topics, and offers opportunities for career development.

Our first year of operation has focused on the biggest health story of the 21st century, the COVID-19 global pandemic, its impact on vaccine development and rollout as well as the many socio-political and aspects of this story. Our in-house group of technical health journalism experts – known as **Pandemic Mentors** – is supporting and growing the HJN through targeted e-learning courses, specialized media trainings, and resources.

We offer our members the opportunity to access, contribute and share resources that can strengthen their work, collaborate with and benefit from the experience of peers, and find opportunities for career growth. We tailor our offerings to the various interests of our members and their audiences. These include webinars, resources for journalists, and panels that highlight the work of our members. When-

ever possible, we offer these in languages other than English. Registered members get a heads up on grant opportunities to support the production of health stories or digital health innovations.

Our goal is to create a collaborative space that encourages the exchange of ideas and inspires learning around health journalism as a discipline. In this effort, we strive to connect global health experts with local reporters and vice-versa because we firmly believe that this two-way exchange of information and expertise fuels innovative thinking and helps us bridge information gaps.



In May and June 2021, the HJN hosted a three-part webinar training series on Disability Reporting. Each session featured a member of the HJN network that reports on disability.

For more information, please visit: healthjournalism.internews.org



Internews, an international nonprofit organization, empowers people worldwide with the trustworthy, high-quality news and information they need to make informed decisions, participate in their communities, and hold institutions to account.

