

Dr. Ananda S. Bandyopadhyay

Deputy Director – Polio, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Dr. Ananda Bandyopadhyay grew up in Kolkata, India and completed his medical graduation from Calcutta National Medical College & Hospital (2005) with a gold medal and several honors certificates. He received his Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in Global Health from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (2010).

In his professional career spanning more than two decades, Dr. Ananda Bandyopadhyay worked in diverse settings and led disease control initiatives across the globe. He worked as a Surveillance Medical Officer with National Polio Surveillance Project, WHO and contributed to India's historic polio elimination effort and measles surveillance initiatives. Subsequently, Ananda coordinated public health response activities as a medical epidemiologist at Rhode Island State Department of Health in the United States.

In his current role as a Deputy Director at the Gates Foundation Ananda has been providing leadership and direction to global research initiatives aimed at achieving and sustaining polio eradication. Ananda has led numerous research initiatives and clinical studies to generate data on vaccine choices and directly contributed to global policy formulation on polio immunization. In recent years, Ananda played a pivotal role in the accelerated development and rollout of novel oral polio vaccine type-2 (nOPV2) – the first vaccine that received WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL) authorization, paving the way for other life-saving vaccines to use the same regulatory pathway during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Ananda is associated with advanced degree programs in vaccinology and global health at teaching venues across the world as a guest faculty and is passionate about training and nurturing the next generation of public health professionals to take on the pressing global health challenges. He has published nearly 100 peer-reviewed articles in leading medical journals, and written book chapters on polio. He has received many accolades in his career, including the highest recognition from the Harvard School of Public Health - the award of merit, and more recently the prestigious Park ManHoon award from International Vaccine Institute for his contributions to global health and vaccine development.