

## About Our Global Grants Scholar, Sandrena Frischer



**Sandrena** is a social scientist, aspiring bioethicist, and advocate for global health equity. Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sandrena holds a BA in Peace and Conflict Studies and a Minor in Education from UC Berkeley. In 2018, Sandrena received a Rotary scholarship from District 5150 to study for her MSc in Public Health for Development from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), where her master's dissertation investigated Ebola vaccine trial participant experiences with contraception as a condition of trial participation in Sierra Leone.

During her time in Sierra Leone, Sandrena was drawn to understanding how clinical research works with local health systems in low-income settings. In 2022 with support from Rotary District 5190, Sandrena began her doctoral studies at the University of Oxford. Her doctoral research builds on the questions she encountered during her time in Sierra Leone and focuses on ethical challenges during research on diseases of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. As part of her doctoral research, Sandrena is embedded within a clinical study on schistosomiasis - a neglected tropical disease transmitted through contact with contaminated water - and is working alongside Ugandan researchers to understand how best to ensure continuity of care for research participants.



Prior to beginning her studies at Oxford, Sandrena managed field and data operations for a longitudinal epidemiological study on Lassa Fever in Liberia, conducted in partnership with Phebe Hospital, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI), and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia. Previously, Sandrena also worked in healthcare access for undocumented migrants in northern California, in health equity and systems strengthening in Liberia, and as a Community Health Specialist with the United States Peace Corps in Ecuador. Sandrena loves cooking, art of all forms, and practicing yoga, having completed her yoga teacher training certification in India in 2019. The support she has received from Rotary over the last six years has been transformative, and she is deeply grateful to pursue the final stretch of her doctoral research as a Global Grant Scholar with Rotary Oakland #3, District 5170.