

## **NGRI Partners with UC Berkeley on NIH-Funded Study of Heat Stress and Aging**

The **North South University Genome Research Institute (NGRI)** is collaborating with the **University of California, Berkeley** on a U.S. **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**–funded research project titled *“How does heat stress affect telomere length? A pilot randomized controlled trial in urban Bangladesh.”* The study, led by **Dr. Laura (Layla) Kwong** of UC Berkeley, explores how **occupational heat stress impacts biological aging**, focusing on low-income rickshaw drivers in Bangladesh. It also evaluates potential interventions to mitigate these health risks. Under the leadership of **Professor Maqsud Hossain**, NGRI will oversee **field implementation, data collection, and coordination** across Dhaka, Rajshahi, and Comilla, working in partnership with UC Berkeley and **icddr,b**. NSU has been awarded a **USD 31,000 subgrant** to support operations in Bangladesh. This collaboration underscores **NGRI’s commitment to advancing climate and health research** and its growing role in international partnerships tackling urgent global challenges.