

Bio For Nabarun Dasgupta, MPH, PhD

Dr. Nabarun Dasgupta is a street drug scientist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, working in overdose prevention for over 24 years. He is a recipient of the 2025 MacArthur “Genius” Award. At the UNC Opioid Data Lab (OpioidData.org) his team has analyzed over 20,000 street drug samples from frontline public health organizations, health departments, paramedics, and clinics. He pairs the resulting nuanced understanding of the illicit drug supply with large database analytics on overdose deaths to make sense of shifting drug use patterns. From molecules to populations, his work is deeply rooted in community engagement.

He has advised the World Health Organization on the scientific basis for international drug scheduling. He has trained military and police forces in Mexico on illicit drug supply variability, and assisted federal government agencies identify counterfeit, adulterated, and illicit drugs coming from China.

Since 2002 he has done pioneering work in overdose prevention and addiction treatment, including co-founding two non-profits that distribute the overdose antidote naloxone: Project Lazarus and Remedy Alliance For The People (over 7 million doses nationwide).

Dr. Dasgupta is an editor at the *American Journal of Public Health*, and has published over 140 papers on drugs and overdose. Since 2018, his research has been funded by the US Food and Drug Administration, in close partnership with the University of Kentucky. He also trained in infectious disease epidemiology, including development of veterinary test kits for bovines.

He was featured on the 2023 TIME100 Next list of rising global leaders, and the 2026 TIME100 Health list of the most influential leaders in health. He is the recipient of the 2026 Dogwood Award from the North Carolina Attorney General for keeping people safe, healthy, and happy in their communities.