**Name of Potential Opportunity:** Navigation amidst Misinformation and Communication about Emerging Infectious Diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and titles of potential supervisor/s (and link to external-facing RTI expert page, if available):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Name: **Brian Southwell, PhD**  
Title: Program Director, Science in the Public Sphere |
| Name: **Ariane van der Straten, PhD**  
Title: Senior Fellow, Director, Women’s Global Health Imperative |
| Name: **Sarah Ray**  
Title: Communication Scientist |

**Overview:** (2-4 sentences)

Pundits have bemoaned the proliferation of misinformation related to COVID-19 and public health more broadly. We know relatively less, however, about how people are navigating our information (and misinformation) environment. How are people responding to misinformation? Can we find relationships between news coverage, social media patterns, search behavior, and behavior related to medicine and wellbeing? We are hoping to assess patterns in North America and Africa. Our RTI experts have extensive relevant experience and interest in mentoring. See, for example, Southwell’s work on misinformation, van der Straten’s work with public health in Africa, and Ray’s work to track social media and news coverage. The remote internship opportunity may involve work to generate research papers and may also include opportunities to contribute to existing communication research projects at RTI related to emerging infectious diseases.

**Preferred skills:** (including foreign languages, programming languages, etc.)

Experience with social media or news media monitoring software, knowledge of time series analysis, or quantitative social science research, and previous experience with public health or medicine or academic or professional experience in Africa would be a plus.

**Number of Interns:** 1