



The College of Humanities and Social Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award

Raj Ratwani
MA Psychology '04 | PhD '08

Raj Ratwani, MA Psychology '04, PhD '08, is a nationally recognized leader advancing the safe, effective, and human-centered integration of technology into health care. He has built a career at the intersection of research, policy, entrepreneurship, and real-world impact. As director of the National Center for Human Factors in Healthcare at MedStar Health, Ratwani has grown the center into one of the nation's leading programs focused on improving patient safety, usability, and system performance, expanding both its reach and funding more than fivefold.

Ratwani's work extends beyond traditional academic boundaries. He is an entrepreneur and social innovator, co-founding the first "philanthropub," a community-focused restaurant and bar that directs proceeds to local nonprofits. This venture reflects his commitment to building sustainable models that blend business, community engagement, and social good.

His professional contributions have helped shape national conversations on health technology safety, usability, and oversight, emphasizing that technology must be designed with people at the center. He is driven by a belief that health care systems should earn trust through thoughtful design and responsible innovation.

Ratwani is also an avid long-distance runner, often exploring new cities through the sport. He is a dedicated father and husband who values time spent with his family and supporting his children's interests. Ratwani's career reflects a blend of intellectual rigor, civic commitment, and personal balance.