Migration and Reproductive Health Research (MiRHR)

What is MiRHR?

MiRHR is a program of research focusing on migration and reproductive health which began in 2000 from interests in maternal, child and perinatal health, the health of high-risk migrant women, and evidence-based practice in both clinical and policy forums. The multi-disciplinary team involved in MiRHR spans Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, the Canadian cities receiving the highest numbers of international migrants, other Canadian cities and a range of cities worldwide through Reproductive Outcomes and Migration: an International Research Collaboration (ROAM).

Research and policy links related to migration and families is another component of MiRHR. “The Metropolis Project is an international network for comparative research and public policy development on migration, diversity, and immigrant integration in cities in Canada and around the world.” (Metropolis Canada) Dr. Gagnon is the Metropolis Priority Leader for Family, Children and Youth.

What are the National Advisory Committee (NAC) & Community Advisory Committees (CAC)?

NAC and CACs, consisting of governmental, non-governmental, and professional representatives, were created to provide expertise and counsel on the research objectives, practice/policy implications of the various projects, and to facilitate ‘knowledge transfer’ to and from those directly working in the field. CAC’s are found in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. The organizational structure for both NAC and CAC are below:
The organization of MIGRATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH STUDIES

**Steering Committee**

**Investigative Team**

**Ethno - cultural Liaison Group**

**National Advisory Committee**

**Community Advisory Committees**

### National Advisory Committee (NAC)

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<th>Policy making/Government</th>
<th>Professional</th>
<th>NGOs</th>
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<td>CIC¹</td>
<td>AWHONN²</td>
<td>NOIVMWG³</td>
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<td>Canadian Heritage</td>
<td>SOGC³</td>
<td>CCR⁶</td>
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<td>Public Health Agency of Canada</td>
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<td>Status of Women</td>
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### Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

for Montreal (similar structure in Toronto & Vancouver)

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<td>ASSS²-Interpreter Services</td>
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<td>CLSC Côte-des-Neiges</td>
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<td>MICC⁸</td>
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<td>Refugee Juan Moreno</td>
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<td>Action Réfugiés Montreal</td>
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1. Citizenship & Immigration Canada
2. Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses
3. Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Canada
4. Canadian Public Health Association
5. National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada
6. Canadian Council for Refugees
7. Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal
8. Ministère de l’Immigration et des Communautés Culturelles du Québec
9. Direction de santé publique de Montréal
10. Programme régional d'accueil et d'intégration des demandeurs d'asile
11. La Table de concertation au service des réfugiés et des immigrants
12. South Asian Women’s Community Centre
What has been learned in MiRHR in addition to ROAM findings?


- A systematic review of the literature revealed a dearth of research on the reproductive health of refugees and asylum-seekers and highlighted the need for high-quality population-based studies on this population. See: Gagnon AJ, Merry L, Robinson C. A Systematic Review of Refugee Women’s Reproductive Health. Refuge November 2002;21(1)6-17.

- Another systematic review of the literature found that few high quality tools are available to measure concepts relevant to resettling refugee women’s health. See: Gagnon AJ, Tuck J, Barkun L. A Systematic Review of Questionnaires Measuring the Health of Resettling Refugee Women. Health Care for Women International, 2004:25 (2) 111-149.
• One study examining the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) of South Asian migrant women in Montreal regarding HIV/STI prevention found knowledge gaps and stigmatizing attitudes. Results suggest that strategies that consider women’s power may improve KAP among South Asian migrant women. See: Gagnon AJ, Merry L, Bocking J, Rosenberg E, Oxman-Martinez J. South Asian Migrant Women and HIV/STIs: Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices and the Role of Sexual Power. Health and Place, January 2010;16(1)10-15.

• In order to determine what has been studied within the Metropolis research-policy partnership about immigrant families, children, and youth since its inception, all research conducted within the last 10 years by Metropolis was reviewed. Although not all federal policy questions were addressed, data are available to inform certain policy issues. See: Gagnon AJ, Joly M-P, Bocking J. Aligning Research to Meet Policy Objectives for Migrant Families: An Example From Canada. BMC Health Research and Policy Systems. 2009, 7:15


MiRHR newsletters including research findings and activities in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver have been periodically released.