

Immigrant Microbiome Project

- Partners: SoLaHmo¹, UMN Knights Lab², 2 CABs (1 Hmong, 1 Karen)
- Dates: 2015–2018
- Purpose:
 - Measure changes in gut microbiome in Hmong and Karen refugees over time and evaluate if gut microbiome changes are associated with obesity
- Methods:
 - Compared Hmong and Karen women in Thailand, recently arrived in US (< 2 years), long-term in US (>5 years), and born in US, and compared obese with non-obese women
 - Described what germs are in people's stools
 - Placed stool samples inside sterile mice to evaluate weight/health changes
- Results:
 - Significant changes in microbiome over time and location
 - Significant relationship between change in microbiome and obesity
 - <http://www.knightslab.org/immigrant-microbiome-project>
- Funder: UMN Clinical and Translational Science Institute
- Team Members: Rodolfo Batres¹, Bwei Paw¹, Mary Vang¹, Kathie Culhane-Pera¹, Shannon Pergament¹, Pajau Vangay², Dan Knights²