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](http://www.knightslab.org/immigrant-microbiome-project)
- Funder: UMN Clinical and Translational Science Institute
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