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Title: ***Promise and challenges of hypothesis driven health research in multi-ethnic societies with dynamic migration patterns.***

Our world is increasingly becoming ethnically diverse due to human migration. Technological advances and globalization will continue to propel human migration. Migration brings many benefits to both migrants and their families and the countries of settlement including social and economic development, cultural exchange and among many others.

Despite the many benefits associated with migration, migrant populations and their descendants (hence ethnic minority groups) tend to have poorer health outcomes than the host local populations, and this in turn contributes to a widening of ethnic health inequalities. While identifying ethnic health inequalities in health is often easy, teasing out the key factors driving the health inequalities is hard due to the limited prospective cohorts among ethnic minority groups, lack of data among the source population in ethnic minority groups' home countries, and the lack of data encapsulating all the relevant factors (e.g. pre and post migration factors, and epigenetics) in a given study.

Understanding factors driving ethnic inequalities in health is indispensable in developing effective public health prevention programmes and in supporting clinical management efforts for these populations. Consequently, for the last few decades several attractive hypotheses have been proposed, but most of these hypotheses have not yet been tested mainly due to lack of appropriate data. This presentation aims to discuss challenges and new horizons of hypothesis driven health research in multi-ethnic societies with dynamic migration patterns. Examples will be drawn from the recent RODAM study and Pros-RODAM study.