

## **Call for Community Advisory Group Members**

We are calling for people to apply to be on the Community Advisory Group for a new research study addressing gaps in research and services on sexual health needs of MENA youth and encourage collaborations for future research initiatives and knowledge translation and exchange.

Please send in your short biography and expression of interest to Haran Vijayanathan ([ed@asaap.ca](mailto:ed@asaap.ca)).

### **Background**

The Exploring Youth Sexual Health Needs in Middle Eastern and North African Region -Planning & Dissemination Initiative to Address Barriers in HIV Prevention (**YSMENA**) **Research Study** aims to raise the visibility of the sexual need and barriers to care face by young people from the MENA region living in Canada. Presently our project is in its first phase and once concluded, we will have established a research network consisting of knowledge users and international and national clinicians and research leaders in MENA youth sexual health and STI and HIV prevention.

### **Desired Knowledge and Skills**

We are looking for expressions of interest from persons who have knowledge or skills in one or more of these areas:

- Knowledge of stigma, discrimination, and other barriers that youth (16-29 yrs) and newcomers from the Middle East and North Africa face trying to access sexual health services in Ontario
- Knowledge of the types of support, including peer and cultural support, that can strengthen the resilience of gender diverse people
- Knowledge of immigrant and racialized health models and/or health and wellbeing of young people
- Knowledge of how other aspects of a gender diverse person's identity may impact their health outcomes (for example, disability, age, ethnicity, or class)
- An interest in research in the health of racialized groups and immigrants/refugees from the Middle East and North Africa
- Persons living with HIV are especially encouraged to apply

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Community Advisory Group will be instituted in **October 2019** and will run for up to two years. If you are appointed to the Community Advisory Group, you will be asked to:

- participate in developing and providing feedback to study instruments (socio demographic survey, focus group interview guide, peer leader recruitment, recruitment of participants);
- participate in email discussions and/or Skype or in-person meetings every 3 months and, based on study needs;
- participate in planning a research summit in summer/fall 2020;
- attend a 2-day national/international face-to-face meeting in summer/fall 2020;
- respond to email requests for information or comments; and
- participate in one of the CAG's two sub-committees