

## **8. Outcomes in mothers with rheumatic diseases and their offspring workshop**

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Our objective was to bring together a diverse group of specialists who share an active interest in studying the outcomes in mothers with rheumatic diseases and their offspring with the goal of closing key knowledge gaps.

Funding received through CIHR's Planning and Dissemination Grant led to the "Outcomes in mothers with rheumatic diseases and their offspring" workshop, organized for rheumatologists, epidemiologists, clinicians, researchers and consumer advocates from around North America. The workshop was centered around presentations that focused on epidemiological and methodological issues associated with the reproductive and perinatal health of women with rheumatic diseases, as well as a brainstorming session, guided by the question: What are the most important knowledge gaps related to research on outcomes in mothers with rheumatic diseases and their offspring?

Twenty-five stakeholders from across North America participated in the full-day workshop, which was held on June 5, 2015 in Montreal. The group was exposed to two interesting data sources: the Offspring of SLE mother's Registry, a retrospective population based cohort of children exposed and unexposed to women with SLE, and the Quebec Pregnancy Cohort, a population-based cohort that affords the opportunity to identify risks and benefits associated to medication use during pregnancy. Presentations also discussed the use of United States administrative data to study reproductive outcomes, prediction of placenta-mediated pregnancy complications, co-morbidities of rheumatic disease pregnancies, neonatal lupus, and statistical issues related to reproductive outcomes. The brainstorming session discussing key knowledge gaps related to research on outcomes in mothers with rheumatic diseases and their offspring led to many future action points. These action points include elaborating a pragmatic trial on the use of aspirin to prevent placenta-mediated pregnancy complications in SLE, writing guidelines for rheumatic disease research related to reproductive issues and hosting webinars to maintain contact with the group. Funding has since been secured through another CIHR's Planning and Dissemination grant opportunity to support activities to discuss planning a pragmatic trial focusing on the potential benefits of aspirin use in lupus pregnancies.

The workshop created an atmosphere for strong, future collaborations. The group is actively working on several action points, including starting a pragmatic trial, writing guidelines for research in rheumatic disease reproductive issues and hosting webinars to maintain contact with the group.