

MIRA JOHRI

PhD, MPH · Professor, Université De Montréal · Global Health Researcher

Public health scientist, global health advisor, and professor at the Université de Montréal specialising in vaccination equity, child health, and health systems in low- and middle-income countries. For more than two decades, my work has examined how social and structural determinants shape health outcomes for underserved and zero-dose children. I bridge quantitative and mixed-methods research, community partnerships, and policy collaboration to generate evidence that informs national policy, strengthens health systems, and supports global immunisation equity initiatives.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Université de Montréal, School of Public Health 2000 – present

Full Professor, Department of Health Management, Evaluation, and Policy

Lead research in vaccination equity and child health with a focus on low- and middle-income countries. Direct the professional doctoral programme (DrPH) in Public Health and contribute to advanced training in global and population health, and health systems research. Collaborate with leading global health institutions, representing the University in scientific and policy partnerships.

Global Advisory Roles — Independent Expert 2010 – present

Senior advisor to leading multilateral health institutions

Selected appointments:

- WHO Technical Advisory Group on Shigella Vaccines — Member (2026–2028)
- Global Equity Reference Group (ERG) for Immunization — Member (2023–present)
- UNICEF Future of Immunization Initiative — Consultant (2025)
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance — Consultant (Visiting Researcher) (2023–2024); Evaluation Advisory Committee (2012–2022); Chair or member of multiple steering groups and evaluation committees
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria — Chair, Independent Evaluation Panel (2022–2024)
- Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) — Chair, Evaluation Committee (2022)
- World Health Organization (WHO) — Consultant, Visiting Researcher (2016–2017, 2009–2010)
- Lancet Commission on Global Hearing Loss — Commissioner (2019–2022)

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance 2023 – 2024

Consultant (Visiting Researcher), Geneva

Led research on zero-dose (unvaccinated) children that directly informed the design of the Gavi 6.0 strategy (2026–2030). Findings presented to 700+ global partners to guide operationalisation of the equity-focused strategy.

Raah Health & Social Development Foundation, India 2020 – present

Advisor and Co-founder

Co-founded a non-profit organisation advancing immunisation, primary health care, and community development in rural Uttar Pradesh, India. Lead and advise community-based research and implementation initiatives focused on zero-dose children, underserved populations, and equitable access to health services. Foster partnerships with communities, frontline health workers, researchers, and government stakeholders to support locally grounded and scalable interventions. Website: raah.global

SELECTED RESEARCH — POLICY IMPACT

Research informing global strategy and programme design

Zero-dose children and vaccination equity (2021–present)

Conducted a programme of multilevel analyses of zero-dose and under-vaccinated children across India, Latin America, and multiple global settings. Contributed evidence informing Gavi, WHO, UNICEF, and the Immunization Agenda 2030 strategy. Recent publications in *The Lancet Global Health*, *The Lancet Regional Health – Southeast Asia*, *EClinicalMedicine*, *JAMA Network Open*, *BMJ Global Health*, and *BMJ Public Health*.
Johri M et al. Lancet Glob Health 2021; 9(12):e1697–e1706.

Equity indicators for immunisation in Gavi 4.0 (2013–2017)

Contributed to the design of equity indicators used to operationalise Gavi's 2016–2020 strategy, which placed immunisation coverage and equity at the centre of the Alliance's mission. Based partly on early results from our analyses, Gavi lowered its wealth-quintile benchmark (from 20 to 10 percentage points) and added indicators related to geographic equity and gender (maternal education).

Arsenault C, Johri M et al. Vaccine 2017;35(18):2479–2488; Vaccine 2017;35(6):951–959; Bull World Health Organ 2017;95:128–134.

Measles campaigns as a delivery platform, India (2011–2016)

Conducted policy modelling demonstrating that adding high-impact interventions to measles campaigns substantially increases lives saved and reduces gender inequities in child mortality. Contributed to Gavi's approach to integrated delivery through the immunisation platform.

Johri M et al. Bull World Health Organ 2016; 94(10):718–727.

Research informing national policy and scale-up

Cost-effectiveness of the QUARISMA trial, Canada (2008–2017)

Led a trial-based cost-effectiveness analysis of the QUARISMA clinician-training intervention to reduce unnecessary caesarean deliveries. The study demonstrated improved maternal and infant outcomes alongside substantial cost savings and directly informed the decision to scale the intervention nationally through the MOREOB quality-improvement programme. The analysis was also the only economic evaluation included in the WHO Guideline on non-clinical interventions to reduce unnecessary caesareans (2020).

Johri M et al. BMC Med 2017; 15:96.

User-fee abolition policy, Burkina Faso (2012–2014)

Led evaluation of user-fee elimination for services for pregnant women and children under 5 years of age in Burkina Faso. Study was the sole scientific work cited by the Minister of Health in support of a new national policy abolishing user fees for curative child health services (adopted into law, 2015).

Johri M et al. Bull World Health Organ 2014; 92(10):706–715.

pMTCT HIV programme scale-up, Guatemala (2004–2009)

Co-led, with Guatemalan clinicians at Hospital San Juan de Dios, the design, implementation, and evaluation of one of Guatemala's first HIV prevention of mother-to-child transmission (pMTCT) programmes and the country's first delivery-room-based model. The programme was subsequently adopted and scaled by the Guatemalan Ministry of Health with Global Fund support. Findings contributed to international policy discussions on HIV prevention, including a Copenhagen Consensus initiative.

Johri M et al. Int J STD AIDS 2010; 21:789–796.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Exceptional Contribution Award, Université de Montréal (2025–2030)

Recognises achievement across all four areas of the professorial mandate: research, teaching, administration, and public service.

Science Breakthrough of the Year — Social Sciences & Humanities, Finalist (Top 10 globally)

Falling Walls Foundation, Germany, 2025.

Research Excellence Award (Faculty category), ESPUM, Université de Montréal, 2022

Innovation in Science and Technology Award, Drishti Media Group, 2021

Vic Neufeld Mentorship Award (national), Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research, 2020

New Investigator Award, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, 2005–2010

John Devereaux Thompson Scholarship, Yale School of Medicine, 1996–1997

Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 1992–1995

EDUCATION

Postdoctoral Associate

Yale School of Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health · 1998–1999

Focus: Quantitative programme evaluation and cost-effectiveness. Supervisors: E.H. Kaplan, D.A. Paltiel.

MPH — Master of Public Health

Yale School of Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health · 1996–1998

Focus: Quantitative programme evaluation and optimisation modelling. Supervisor: E.H. Kaplan.

PhD — Ethics & Political Philosophy

McGill University · 1990–1997

Thesis: *On the Universality of Habermas' Discourse Ethics*. Supervisors: Charles Taylor, James Tully, David Davies. Dean's List of Honour; nominated for Governor General of Canada's Gold Medal.

BA (Joint Honours) — Economics & Philosophy

McGill University · 1986–1990

Focus: Development economics. Faculty Scholar.

SELECTED GRANTS

CIHR — Data, Dignity, and Direction: A Global Study of Orphans and Children Lacking Parental Care

Nominated Principal Applicant (with E.H. Boyle, T. Druetz, M. Mac-Seing et al.) · CAD \$941,670 · 2026–2030

CIHR — Closing the Equity Gap: Mobilising Evidence on Multisectoral Strategies to Reach Zero-Dose Children

Nominated Principal Applicant (with I. Dadari) · CAD \$150,000 · 2026–2027

Gates Foundation — Addressing Equity Issues Impeding Immunization Coverage in India

Scientific Lead (with A. Seth) · USD \$620,141 · 2022–2025

CIHR — Interventions to Increase Immunisation Coverage in India (Cluster RCT)

Principal Investigator · CAD \$569,293 · 2015–2020

IC-IMPACTS — Tika Vaani: Community Voice for Child Immunization, India

Principal Investigator · CAD \$398,279 · 2015–2018

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

Professor, School of Public Health, Université de Montréal (2000–present). Core teaching in global health methods, health systems research, and health equity and justice at the master's and doctoral levels.

Administrative leadership roles include Director, DrPH Professional Doctoral Programme in Public Health (2024–present); Director, MPH Global Health Track (2015–2022); and Director, ULYSSES International MSc in Health Technology Assessment (2004–2015).

Supervision to date: 11 doctoral students (PhD), 2 professional doctoral students (DrPH), 23 research master's students (MSc), 65 professional master's students (MPH), and 2 postdoctoral fellows.

LANGUAGES & OTHER

English (native) · French (advanced) · Spanish (advanced) · Hindi (intermediate–advanced)

Citizenships: Canada, Switzerland, Overseas Citizen of India · Statistical software: Stata, MLwiN