

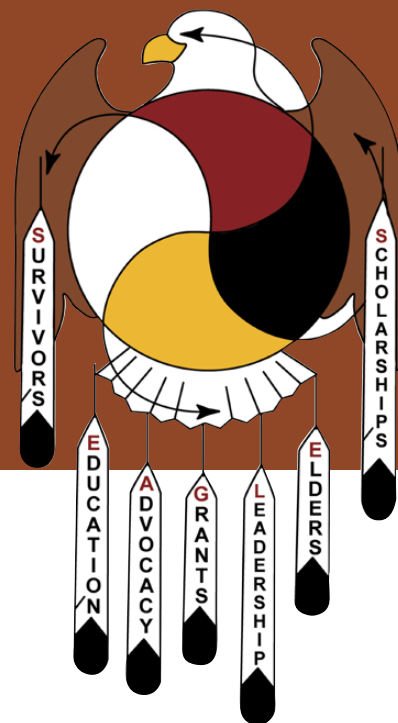


Winter/Spring
2016

Spirit of EAGLES

American Indian/Alaskan Native Leadership Initiative on Cancer

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations have very high incidence rates for specific cancer sites and poor survival rates for most cancers. The AI/AN Leadership Initiative on Cancer addresses comprehensive tribal cancer control.



Chairman's Corner

Greetings from Mayo-Jacksonville! As many of you know, I have been in transition to a permanent Medical Oncology position on our Jacksonville campus. And yes, the weather definitely beats Minnesota. Moves are always challenging and such a major move has indeed had its bumps in the road—my infamous treadmill work station did not make the move with me. I am grateful for the opportunity

to provide some “senior leadership” here but certainly miss all my colleagues in Rochester. The Spirit of Eagles staff (Marcy and Jalissa) remain in Rochester and Native Circle (Lisa) is still based there. We have many regular videoconferences and conference calls to smooth out what must be done for programmatic needs! We look forward to reuniting for the first time

since August at our Network meeting in Jacksonville in February.

Our Spirit of Eagles U54 has a one year Phase Out grant and Christi Patten, PhD, and I are looking for grant opportunities to continue and refine the work of our cores in Research, Outreach and Training. Christi is completing Phase III of the MAW Study with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC). Read details from Chris Hughes, project coordinator, inside this newsletter.

We are committed to a National Conference which will be co-sponsored by the Seneca Nation in Niagara Falls, NY September 21-24 in 2017. Save the date!! If you have ideas for topics, presentations and speakers, please forward them to us. We will start the process of applying for conference funds soon so that we might provide travel scholarships as we have usually done for these conferences.

A new grant from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) provides support over the next three years to develop culturally appropriate materials on colorectal health and will involve Lisa Baethke (coordinator), Dawn Littleton (Mayo Librarian), Melany Cueva (consultant) and Drs. David Baines and Arne Vainio (video and men's focus group leaders) and myself. We look forward to filming in Alaska in August. Dr. Vainio has already done a “We are Healers” vignette for Dr. Erik Brodt's series to include as resources to the NLM.



An exciting new opportunity is being provided by a partnership with Johns Hopkins University, University of California-Los Angeles, and the University of Michigan for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program, Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS), to develop diversity in health policy research for underserved minority doctoral student scholars. We will also be able to provide some community based resources through this grant and

collaborate with other RWJF initiatives over time on their initiatives to provide a "Culture of Health". We will be disseminating specific information about the new programs this spring.

We hope you've had healthy & happy holidays and we look forward to working with you again in 2016!

All the best, Judith ("Coach K")

Dr. Kaur's farewell dinner & going away party in Rochester, MN



Lisa Baethke & Dr. Kaur



Lisa Baethke, Dr. Kaur, Jalissa Nawrocki, and Marcy Averil



Dr. Kaur with her husband, Al and daughter, Krista at the Mayo Foundation House

Operations Director Update

by Marcy Averill

Greetings from Spirit of EAGLES in Rochester!

The Year 5 Community Grantees successfully completed innovative and impactful projects across the country. Being limited to Phase Out funding for 2015-2016, we were only able to provide minimal continuance funds for the following exceptional projects:

- **Standing Rock Men's Prostate and Colorectal Cancer Screening Program** – serving the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota and South Dakota; awarded to Custer Health; directed by Jodie Fetsch, RN, Director of Nursing
- **Behavioral Intervention Training Program, Youth Wellness Camp** – serving AI/AN families and youth in Arizona at Whispering Pines Campground, Prescott, Arizona; awarded to Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona; directed by Francine Gachupin, PhD, MPH
- **We Are Healers** – serving health professions students everywhere; awarded to We Are Healers; directed by Erik Brodt, MD

Within our Training Core in 2015, we were able to support several key opportunities for students.

- In January, we hosted MCAT/GRE Preparation Workshop in Minneapolis, MN for 15 students from all over the US. Jay Rosner from the Princeton Review Foundation served as our instructor.
- In August, we supported 15 students to attend the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) Annual Meeting at Tulalip, WA. The students accepted AAIP awards, served on leadership committees, and presented posters.

- In November, we were able to support 17 students to attend the National American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES) Conference via partnership with the North Star Alliance AISES Professional Chapter and the University of South Dakota AISES Student Chapter. The AISES Conference provided opportunity for students to present themselves at Indian Country's largest Career Fair, share posters, network, etc. The University of South Dakota won the Professional & Development Chapter of the Year award. North Star Alliance AISES Professional Chapter won Professional Chapter Outreach & Community Service, Professional Chapter of the Year.
- Additional scholarships were provided to students to support special research projects, offset the cost of examination fees, and provide travel funds for students to present their work at additional conferences.
- A new cohort of Hampton Faculty Fellows were selected and Mayo Clinic Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCaTS) agreed to support travel funds for them. Please see their introductions later in this newsletter.

As Dr. Kaur describes, we will continue pursuing creative avenues to provide student opportunities and will be working with our valued partners to support our incredible students and community leaders in every way possible!



Dr. Kaur and Marcy Averill with the group of MCAT/ GRE Prep students.

Left to Right: Marcy Averill, Wes Wilson, Ben Yawakie, Sheridan Evans, Lindsey Mabutt, Dr. Judith Kaur, Chad Auginash, Jack Martin, Ariel Swallow, LuAnn Jamieson, Fatima Molina, Alexis Brendible, Dove Spector, Meagan Criswell, Stacy McDermid, Breanna DeFoe, Iris Smith

Dr. Kaur and Marcy Averill at AAIP with the group of our supported students. Left to Right: Amber Anderson, Jennifer Murillo, Orlando Antelope, Erica Poe, Fatima Molina, Ethan Paddock, Dr. Judith Kaur, Justin Kaye, Lindsey Mabutt, Cassandra Rendon, Brent Locklear, Rene Begay, Bryan Hall, Jodi Hewson, Paul Blackcloud, Naomi Young, Marcy Averill



2015 American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES) National Conference in Phoenix, AZ, students and professionals from Region 5 (Upper Midwest: Canada (Manitoba and Ontario), Iowa, Illinois, Michigan – Upper Peninsula, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin)

An update on some of our Hampton Faculty Fellows: Where are they now?

Jessica Blanchard, Ph.D.

"I am still at the University of Oklahoma in the Department of Anthropology. 2015 was a busy year with many conference and presentations to give:

- "Genetics, Identity and Health: Navigating Contested Ideas about DNA Ancestry Testing in American Indian and Freedman Populations in Oklahoma." Jessica Blanchard and Gloria Tallbull. National Cancer Institute (NCI) Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) 2015 Professional Development Workshop (competitive) in Rockville, MD.
- "The Familiar and Strange in Remaining 'Native' and Becoming Anthropologist: Celebrating Dr. Beatrice Medicine's Contributions to Anthropology." Invited Executive Session at the 2015 American Anthropological Association Meetings in Denver, CO.
- "Stakeholder Engagement: A Model for Tobacco Policy Planning in Oklahoma Tribal Communities." Panel: Community Engagement. Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center Symposium in Oklahoma City, OK.

I was also able to attend the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) 2015 Professional Development Workshop as a Hampton Fellow. It was a wonderful opportunity to network with other junior researchers and learn strategies and techniques for improving grant writing. On a more personal note, we are expecting a new bundle of joy to arrive early in 2016!"

Emily Haozous, PhD, RN

2015 was a very productive year for Emily Haozous. In the past year she had a book chapter published about American Indians and Alaska Natives and cancer health policy, a review article describing best practices for clinician partnerships with indigenous communities in American Indian, Alaska Native, Métis, First Nations, and Inuit communities, and she submitted three other articles for review, one



of which is currently in press.

In September, Emily became the interim PhD Program Director for the University Of New Mexico College Of Nursing. This fall she also submitted a grant that proposed to conduct a health impact assessment examining the effect of IHS underfunding on an urban Indian community to the New Mexico Higher Education Partnership that was funded in December. Emily developed and presented a TED-style talk at the for the American Medical Students Association about the importance of retaining minority faculty in the health sciences, which she titled "It's Not About the Pipeline."

Finally, Emily was very honored to be selected as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in October of 2015, a distinction that she feels is due largely to the generous mentoring she has received from Dr. Kaur and all the other wonderful scholars and teachers in the American Indian/Alaska Native health research world.

Rodney Haring, PhD, MSW

Dr. Rodney Haring joined Roswell Park Cancer Institute in 2014 as the newest member within the Office of Cancer Health Disparities Research, Department of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences. He was part of the first cohort of the Mayo Clinics, Spirit of EAGLES, Hampton Faculty Fellowship, a recipient of an Academy Health/Aetna Foundation Scholar in Residence Fellowship, and a past National Congress of American Indians scholar, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, New Connections Grantee. Dr. Haring is also an adjunct faculty member at the Native American Research and Training Center at the University of Arizona.



A member of the Beaver Clan, Dr. Haring is an enrolled citizen of the Seneca Nation of Indians and resides on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation with his family.

Recently, Dr. Haring was appointed as an at-large delegate to the American Indian and Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council which aims to set priorities and make recommendations to the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services leadership regarding Native health programs and policies. He also serves as the outgoing co-chair of the Native Research Network, Inc. Local to the Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse), he serves on the Native American, State University of New York: Western Consortium, as a network advisor to Native Students and community members. Dr. Haring also regularly lectures for Roswell Park Cancer Institute's Education Division in Graduate Studies and has served as a mentor to multiple students for Roswell Park's Summer Educational Internship Program.

During his short time at Roswell Park, Dr. Haring was awarded many grants ranging from obesity-related cancer intervention development and feasibility testing, feedback on ways to improve the conversation on research and clinical trial participation as well as projects related to cancer prevention outreach among the Native Nations in the Northeast. Internationally, Dr. Haring recently attended, presented, and established international collaborative networks during an invited speaking opportunity at the Healing our Spirits Worldwide event held in Kirikiriroa, Hamilton, Aotearoa, New Zealand. The conference focused on traditional approaches to health and well-being, health research, interventions, and hosted sessions related to cancer prevention and other health disparities which have concerns in Indigenous populations world-wide. A joint presentation with Maui Hudson (Maori) and Dr. Bonnie Freeman, PhD (Six Nations, Canada) showcased their recent publication titled, *First Nations, Maori, American Indians, and Native Hawaiians as Sovereigns: Workforce behavioral health and philosophies of the Indigenous*.

Donna Grandbois, PhD, RN

"Greetings! It is with great anticipation that I look forward to a new year and I am truly grateful for the many blessings I have enjoyed in 2015. As I continue to hold a dual academic appointment at North Dakota State University (School of Nursing and Department of Public Health) I realize what a privilege and an honor it is to be a part of the educational experience of each American Indian student who comes to North Dakota State University to earn a Masters degree in the first American Indian public health specialization in the country. I had the



distinct pleasure of being the primary advisor and instructor for our first American Indian MPH graduate in 2014 and have enjoyed the graduations of several more since then. This young man was a member of my tribe, the Turtle Mountain Chippewa, so this made it even more special. I also take pride in being a part of the educational

experience of the many licensed practical nurses who are going on to achieve their Bachelors of Science in Nursing. Each year I usually have 35 nursing students, along with my Master's students.

In regard to scholarship, I serve as a Co-PI, along with Don Warne, MD, MPH, on the CMS Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative grant. With this major grant, NDSU Department of Public Health Health works in collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and North Dakota's tribes to promote tribal leadership in the design of an effective and culturally sensitive package of Medicaid community-based long term services and supports; the operation of administrative responsibilities on behalf of state Medicaid agencies, as well as the elimination of barriers that prevent the use of Medicaid funds to support tribal members with long term care needs. Our MPH team also works to strengthen the ability of state Medicaid programs to respond to the unique needs of tribal communities. The MPH team previously worked with the state Department of Health on the Community Transformation grant.

On Christmas Eve I received my copy of the first American Indian nursing textbook titled *American Indian Health and Nursing*. I co-wrote Chapter 15 on the Northern Great Plains, along with Dr. Margaret Moss, (Editor), Assistant Dean and Associate Professor at SUNY, Buffalo, New York. She is an enrolled member of the Mandan, Arikara, and Hidatsa Nation in North Dakota. I also did an oral presentation titled *Equipping Public Health Leaders Who Can Address the Health Issues in American Indian Communities through Culturally Congruent Approaches* at the 2015 American Public Health Association Meeting in Chicago, Ill, as well as other presentations both locally and nationally.

I continue to work with an ad-hoc leadership committee on developing a behavioral health model

for North Dakota that includes interventions to mitigate adverse childhood experiences. I will take this work to the next level as project director in the NDSU MPH COBRE grant application.”

Leah Rouse, Ph.D.

“I graduated my last 2 doctoral students (one who worked with historical trauma and reintegration for AIs recently released from incarceration; one who will be the first to publish on Hmong historical trauma). I have tied up all my duties at UW-Milwaukee except for some publication items and my 2 research teams working on data sets for Menominee and Oneida, both on smoking cessation. I’m doing lots of trauma counseling (and other) at the Menominee Tribal Clinic and I LOVE IT!! I am also working at the Student Health Center with youth

there as well. I’m also working with the Menominee Tribe - Johns Hopkins Pediatric Integrated Care Collaborative as the trauma specialist. We’re piloting some integrative care procedures early in 2016. I’ve been able to work with the Menominee Tribal Police and State of WI Department of Criminal Investigation on crisis debriefings and suicide intervention--the agencies are developing a consortium of peer counseling support for all the tribal police departments in the state, and their non-tribal partner agencies.

As for personal updates, my daughter is finally back from her deployment!! Also I’m listing my house in Milwaukee for sale on February 1st and will soon be officially relocated to the great north woods of Wisconsin. For now I have an apartment in Green Bay and commute to the clinic about 1 hour each way to Menominee!”

Save the Date!

Spirit of EAGLES National Conference



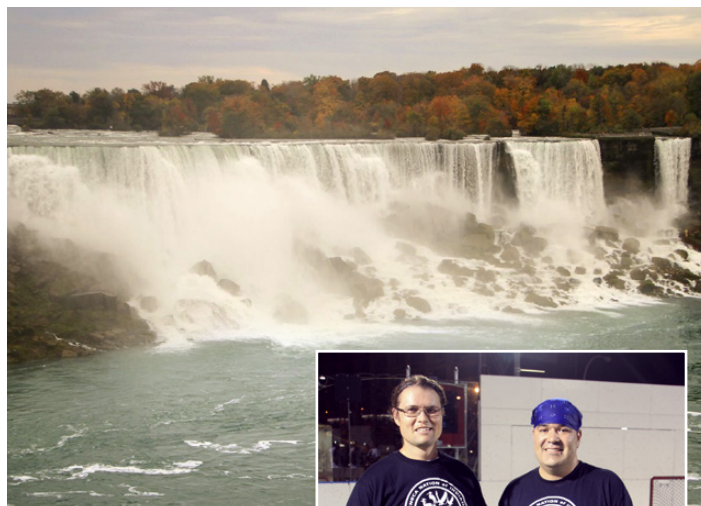
Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino | September 21- 24, 2017 | Niagara Falls, NY

Writing Retreat, Niagara Falls, NY – October 2015

Aside from writing publications together with a few writing advisors, we were able to sneak away for some activities in the community and some fun.



Donna Grandbois, Priscilla Sanderson, and Jalissa Nawrocki on the Maid of the Mist at Niagara Falls.



Hampton Faculty Fellows Erik Brodt and Rodney Haring played in a game of La Crosse for us in Niagara Falls.



Left to Right: Priscilla Sanderson, Erik Brodt, Todd Gates – Seneca Nation Treasurer, Rodney Haring, Marcy Averill, Jalissa Nawrocki, Donna Grandbois, Whitney Ann Henry, and Lisa Henry



Lacrosse teams made up of players from Tuscarora, Cattaraugus and Allegany.

Advisory Board Updates

June Strickland, PhD, RN, MPH

"I am continuing work that originated with the Spirit of Eagles in tribal grant workshop training. In 2015, we completed the training manual that accompanies the grant training video series that is based in the University of Washington School of Nursing website and I provided one train-the-trainer workshop in Oklahoma City for AAIP. We have plans to provide an additional train-the-trainer workshop in Oklahoma in the spring of 2016. In addition, Dr. Cornell Pewawardy and I are providing a course in the Oregon Health Sciences Summer Institute on Indigenous Research Methods. We have a number of publications out on our training and research work with the Pacific Northwest tribes."



Chap. Lt. Col. Dewey Painter, Sr.

The South East American Indian Council, Inc. [SEAIC] has performed recruitment and training of Community Health Workers in the States of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee. Recruitment has been very accepted by Tribal Leadership and an adequate number of volunteers from the tribes have come forth. The major problem has been lack of funding to have an effective ongoing CHW field training program. Some initial funding from State DOH fueled by grants from CDC has been available but extremely limited. We have identified a good number of volunteers to be trained for which we are currently seeking sources of funding to implement an ongoing regional and area training programs.

Volunteers identified are shown by states below. All of them have attended one or more CHW introduction and training presentations and a few have received more advanced training. Our priority goal is to divide into areas in each of the states and therefore focus training within each area to limit the travel time and expenses of our volunteers to participate.

CHW Recruited by State

Florida = 26 Georgia = 6 South Carolina = 22
Tennessee = 2

Discussions are being held with Tribal Leaders and individuals in Alabama, North Carolina, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island to introduce and establish CHW programs in their areas.

Our first formal CHW State Sponsored Training Seminar was held in Tallahassee Florida. Our next formal CHW Seminar will be held in South Carolina in May 2016. Some funding has been provided by SC DOH for the CHW SC 2016 Seminar.



Attendees of the first seminar

Outreach Core Updates

Rick Strickland - University of WI

UW SoE has been busy working on three cancer surveillance projects. The first was an article on the most recent cancer incidence and mortality rates for American Indians in Wisconsin which is currently "in press" with the Wisconsin Medical Journal. This project included preparation of a summary presented to the WI Tribal Health Directors' Association and

distributed to all health directors. During the Tribal Health Directors' meeting, UW SOE was asked to develop tribal specific cancer data reports for each individual tribe based on their local CHSDA region. This



analysis and report preparation is currently being conducted. The third cancer data project looks at what has happened to American Indian cancer rates in WI over the most recent 17 year period. We hope to submit a paper presenting this trend analysis in late Spring 2016. Our goal with all three cancer surveillance project is to provide tribal health leaders with the best available data for their health planning and resource advocacy.

Planning is in full swing for two annual Spring events—the UW Indigenous Health and Wellness Day and the 2016 Share the Care American Indian Cancer Conference. The Indigenous Health and Wellness Day—April 22, 2015— promotes college attendance and exposes 125 American Indian junior high and high school students to American Indian physicians and health professionals. This year's Share the Care conference will be held May 16-18, 2016 and hosted by the Ho-Chunk Nation in the Wisconsin Dells. Share the Care will again be free of charge, and lots of great sessions are being planned that emphasize cancer awareness and prevention, and support for cancer survivors and care givers. This year, the Wisconsin Well Woman Program and UW SOE are co-sponsoring a training session for tribal Well Woman coordinators on May 16 immediately prior to Share the Care. Please note the conference dates, watch SOE for the conference agenda, or contact Louise Voss, louise.voss@ho-chunk.com, or Rick Strickland, rastrickland@uwcarbone.wisc.edu for more information.

Needs Assessment Findings lead to Pilot Implementation of Community Intervention

By Linda Burhansstipanov, DrPh, MSPH

Native American Cancer Initiatives, Incorporation (NACI) continues its collaboration with Native American Cancer Research Corporation (NACR) and Southeast American Indian Council. During the initial years of the Spirit of EAGLES CNP-2 grant, these American-Indian-operated 501(c)(3) community based organizations conducted needs assessments targeting 500 community members. The survey items for each region were modified by guidance from local community advisory committees. The items were formatted into Power Point® slides for use with Audience Response System keypads (clickers)

for anonymous data collection. Participants received a \$10 gift card as acknowledgement for donating their time to the effort. The data were collected in community settings through group sessions (i.e., convenience samples) and then uploaded into an online evaluation program. By the end of year 04, 677 participants completed the needs assessments. More than a third currently smoke commercial / manufactured cigarettes. Most consume insufficient numbers of fruits and vegetables daily, but ¼ get 1 or more hours of daily physical activity. Cancer and nutrition knowledge scores were poor, with 40% and lower average correct responses. Transportation, cost of services and being treated disrespectfully for healthcare services were key barriers to accessing care. This study used a convenience sample of community members likely to take part in local community events. Participants' responses indicated they wanted more local education events about how and why cancer screening is important for them to complete. The findings document continuing health inequities and disparities that can be addressed through culturally and geographically appropriate education interventions, particularly the availability of Native Patient Navigators in their local settings.

Concurrent to the needs assessment, NACI and SEAIC created a 4th new Native Cancer 101 module, Native Cancer 101 Module 10 "Preventing and Early Cancer Detection ("screening). Based on the needs assessment findings for more community education events, NACR and SEAIC conducted a pilot study to determine if a single implementation of the workshop may increase completion of cancer screening by community participants. The Patient Navigators coordinated the implementation of Native Cancer 101 Module 10 in collaboration with 14 ongoing community events over 13 months. They had 200 community members take part and the workshops resulted in 25.50% increase in participant knowledge and 93.40% of the participants responded that they would recommend the workshop to their friends and family. Patient Navigators conducted follow-up calls 3 to 6 months later with participants who submitted informed consent forms and self-reported their eligibility for cancer screening. Thus far for those who were reached through the phone (the follow-up calls are still in process), 34.15% had completed at least one cancer screening test for which they were eligible. Preliminary findings indicate that the single implementation of Native

Cancer 101 Module 10 “Preventing and Early Cancer Detection (“screening) appears to increase workshop participants completing cancer screenings for which they are eligible. This screening module, as well as

the other 3 NACI and partners created during years 02-04 of the SoE grant are available on the opening page of NACR’s website, www.NatAmCancer.org

Research Core Update

MAW Study

Christi Patten, PhD. and Chris Hughes



The Biomarker Feedback to Motivate Tobacco Cessation in Pregnant Alaska Native Women (MAW): Tobacco cessation intervention efforts among Alaska Native pregnant women are significant given the high prevalence of tobacco use during pregnancy, the potential adverse health consequences for both the mother and infant, and the high societal costs associated with tobacco use during pregnancy. When developing this study, our central hypothesis was that biochemical and molecular changes consistent with exposure to known harmful compounds found in tobacco products will be detected in both the blood of Alaska Native mothers who use tobacco products and in the cord blood of their infants compared with non-tobacco users.

We are currently recruiting for phase III, the last phase, of this study. Below are the final enrollment numbers for Phase I and Phase II. The purpose of Phase 1 was to measure the level of tobacco exposure in mothers and their babies after delivery. The purpose of Phase II was to administer individual interviews and present the preliminary findings from the data collected in Phase I to develop an intervention that provides specific information about an unborn infant’s exposure to cancer causing agents associated with tobacco use.

The purpose of phase III is to determine if the intervention is effective in motivating women who are pregnant to stop using tobacco. We are partnering with the South Central Foundation (SCF) “Quit Tobacco Program” to deliver a 5-week intervention. Thirty will be enrolled into the intervention group and provided the intervention, the biomarker feedback, plus provided usual care for tobacco cessation and thirty will be enrolled

Phase I Enrollment

Group	Number Enrolled	Mother-Baby Paired Urines
Non-tobacco User	64	55
Cigarette User	54	46
Smokeless Tobacco User	30	24
Total	148	125

Phase II Enrollment

Phase II Enrollment Summary	Number Screened	Interview Completed
Women who participated in Phase 1	17	12/16
Pregnant women enrolled from clinic	23	16/16
Total	40	28/32
Support person of women who participated in Phase 1	4	4/16
Support person of pregnant women enrolled from clinic	8	7/16
Total	12	11/32

Phase III Enrollment

Phase III Enrollment Summary	Number Screened	Randomized into Intervention Group	Randomized into Control Group
	55	16	15
Total	55	16/30	15/30

into the control group and provided usual care only. All study participants will be enrolled into the SCF Tobacco Cessation Program.

The use of biomarker feedback on maternal and infant exposure to carcinogens to motivate cessation during pregnancy is novel. Developing interventions

to promote tobacco cessation during pregnancy among Alaska Native women is an essential step toward achieving national health objectives, and ultimately for reducing tobacco-related health disparities in this underserved population.

Introducing our Cohort 3 Hampton Faculty Fellows

Amanda Bruegl, M.D., M.S.

"My name is Amanda Bruegl and I am Turtle Clan Oneida and Stockbridge-Munsee. I have completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and have just graduated from a Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Starting August 31, I will be an Assistant Professor in the Department of OB/Gyn at Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) with a 0.6 clinical appointment and 0.4 dedicated research appointment over my first three years. The department has provided startup funds totaling \$75,000/year for the acquisition of a research assistant and community engagement funds.

My research goals are directed toward working with the urban and reservation-based American Indian/Alaska Native women's population within the state of Oregon in the area of cancer prevention with a focus on gynecologic cancers such as endometrial, cervix and ovarian. I also hope to provide information and education on the HPV vaccine for all eligible individuals within the communities.

Dr. Tom Becker and Dr. Dale Walker are two individuals at OHSU who have agreed to assist in mentorship during this early faculty years. They will provide introduction to the AI/AN community within Portland as well as guided mentorship in grant writing.

My experiences in fellowship include basic science and epidemiology research, but this fellowship



will provide the foundation for engaging in community based participatory research and grant writing. These are two areas that I feel need to be strengthened in order to become competitive for larger NIH grants."

Michelle Johnsons-Jennings, PhD.

Michelle is a Choctaw Nation Tribal Member and serves as the *Associate to the Dean on Indigenous Health and RICH Center Director* and tenure-track faculty in the College of Pharmacy. Dr. Johnson-Jennings is a clinical health psychologist who specializes on prevention of chronic disease (e.g., diabetes



and cancer) and preventing addictions (i.e., food addiction and substance use). As an integrated primary care psychologist and researcher scientist, she has focused on bridging the gap between providers and patients to recognize cultural differences in health beliefs (i.e., Indigenous, western medicine, and provider's personal beliefs) in order to address the historical trauma and stressors leading to chronic diseases. She has developed health interventions in partnerships with tribal entities to encourage a renewed commitment to health and revitalization of medicine, food and activity practices. She currently works with two tribal health departments, two MN Indigenous community groups and has developed tribally specific health interventions to increase traditional food medicines and prevent food addiction. She is further partnering with Indigenous groups in NZ and Central America

to increase traditional healing practices that will transform the narrative of historical trauma into a story of hope and resilience. Dr. Johnson-Jennings has been selected as a health leader by Harvard University Leadership Institute, UW-Madison Health Equity Leadership Institute and the National Institute of Health (NIH), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) American Indian Network Committee, NIH National Institute for Diabetes Digestive and Kidney (NIDDK)/National Congress Diabetes Fellow. She currently works with the NIH NIDDK WU-CDTR both as a fellow and as a co-PI recipient for a grant based on obesity prevention and nutrition among Indigenous groups in MN.

Monica Yellowhair, PhD.

Monica Yellowhair is at the *University of Arizona Cancer Center*

Indian Country experiences some of the most pressing public health concerns and disparities in the nation. The sources of these disparities are complex and rooted in historic and contemporary inequities, and often involve barriers of language, geography, and cultural familiarity. Eliminating health disparities in underserved and rural communities requires leadership, vision, teamwork and an understanding of the issues from like-minded leaders. As a participant of the Hampton Fellowship Cohort 3, I believe this program will provide the tools to nurture up and coming leaders with the potential to make a difference for underserved minorities in our communities. As a research scientist, we mostly see a certain perspective of cancer research, focusing on the hard science of the disease. During the course of my post-doctoral training, my goal is to expand my current research and career development by working towards a cancer research mission to ultimately lower cancer and mortality rates. As part of my training, I have had the opportunity to work on projects that are more translational based and slowly bridging the gap of laboratory research and community-based research.

The University of Arizona has been a great learning environment, in that the academic and research community provides many opportunities



and resources. I am able to gain a better understanding of public health, CBPR, and network with fellow peers who are committed to working with underserved populations. I am currently working on two research projects that exemplify the training I am currently receiving. One bi-national research study that aims to investigate whether residents residing near mining operations are at an elevated risk for reduced DNA damage repair capacity due to metal exposure from mining activities and waste compared to people residing elsewhere in the Sonora, Mexico. A second research project, we are currently investigating of the role of gut flora on bile acid (BA) biotransformation and colorectal carcinogenesis. While the gut ecosystem and CRC are influenced by host genetics, the environment plays a significant role in shaping this ecosystem and CRC risks. Minority populations are grossly underrepresented. As such, we are unable to infer the findings in the study of CRC risk factors from a predominantly White population on risk factors and/or intervention targets in Native Americans (NA), African Americans or Hispanic Americans. These data will be extremely informative for future efforts to understand dietary factors and disease risk in NA of the Southwest.

As a junior faculty member, I plan to submit publications for the current research projects as well as apply for a K1 grant to expand my research and implement many of the skills acquired from all my training in cancer research to create a network of colleagues to continue ongoing collaborations with the Native American communities. I would like to become involved and work with tribal and federal governments to address health disparities in underserved and rural communities. Most importantly, I would like to continue to stay in the university setting and inspire, teach, and lead a whole new generation of enthusiastic scientists."

Vanessa Simonds, ScD.

Vanessa Simonds, an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe and descendant of the Blackfeet Nation, is an assistant professor in Community Health at Montana State University. She earned her graduate degrees from the Harvard



School of Public Health with a Master of Science from the Department of Epidemiology, and a Doctor of Science from the Department of Society, Human Development & Health. In 2011, Dr. Simonds finished a postdoctoral fellowship with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-Center for Health Policy at The University of New Mexico. After her postdoctoral training she joined the faculty at The University of Iowa College of Public Health as an assistant professor. After 2 years in Iowa, she was excited to move back to her home state, Montana, so that she could be closer to family. Dr. Simonds uses community-based participatory research approaches to address health and health literacy issues ranging from chronic disease to environmental health among Native Americans. She is especially committed to designing and evaluating strength-based, community-centered outreach strategies designed in partnership with Native American communities. She is currently funded through MSU's Center for Health Equity Research to work in partnership with Crow community members to develop an environmental health literacy program for Crow youth and their families.

Karletta Chief, PhD.

Dr. Karletta Chief is an Assistant Professor and Assistant Specialist in the Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Sciences at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ. As an assistant professor, the goal of her research is to improve our understanding, tools, and predictions of watershed hydrology, unsaturated flow in arid environments, and how natural and human disturbances affect soil hydrology through the use of physically based methods.

Dr. Chief research also focuses on how indigenous communities will be affected by climate change and collaborated in an interdisciplinary group of scientists including hydrologists, system dynamic modelers, and social scientists to determine how hydrological models can be improved to identify and mitigate risks to these vulnerable populations. As an extension specialist, she works to bring relevant science to Native American communities in a culturally



sensitive manner by providing hydrology expertise, transferring knowledge, assessing information needs, and developing applied science projects.

Dr. Chief is a member of a national network of indigenous and non-indigenous scientists focusing on climate change impacts to indigenous peoples and co-authored several publications in the Special Issue of Climatic Change entitled "Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in the United States: Impacts, Experiences, and Actions" and Forest Conservation in the Anthropocene. Dr. Chief is a member of the Indigenous People Climate Change Working Group, Rising Voices, and Climate and Traditional Knowledges Workgroup with a focus on climate impacts to tribal waters. She co-authored a tribes chapter in the Southwest Climate Assessment Report and provisional guidelines for considering traditional knowledges in climate change initiatives.

Dr. Chief worked with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe since 2009 focusing on collaborative water management planning under climatic and non-climatic stressors and is a member of the Groundwater, Climate And Stakeholder Engagement Project employing a novel modeling framework and extensive stakeholder interactions to look at adapting water planning and management to future climate uncertainties. With her students, Dr. Chief developed educational learning modules for tribal colleges on the environmental impacts of mining. Dr. Chief supervises and advises the research of 11 students, 10 of which are Native American working on topics related to tribal environmental issues. She is also the faculty advisor to the UA American Indian Science and Engineering Chapter (AISES).

Dr. Chief is Diné originally from Black Mesa, AZ and received a B.S. and M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Stanford University in 1998 and 2000. As a National Science Foundation Doctoral Fellow, Dr. Chief received her Ph.D. in Hydrology and Water Resources in the School of Engineering at the University of Arizona (UA) in 2007. She completed her post-doctorate at Desert Research Institute in the Division of Hydrologic Sciences in Las Vegas, NV where she worked on large weighing lysimeters at the Scaling Environmental Processes in Heterogeneous Arid Soils (SEPHAS) Project in Boulder City. In 2011, Dr. Chief was named AISES Most Promising Scientist or Scholar and in 2013 she received the Stanford University Distinguished Alumni Scholar award.

Online Cancer Education

Want to learn more about cancer? Looking for patient resources?

Four interactive, online cancer education modules, with resources and activities to support cancer knowledge and understanding, were recently developed. Learn about 'Cancer Basics', 'Cancer and Our Genes', 'Colon Health', and 'Men's Health'. Each module was developed with feedback from Alaska's Community Health Aides and Community Health Practitioners (CHA/Ps), CHA/P leadership, Community Health Workers, community members, project partners, and content experts. Modules include stories, visuals, games, digital stories, and movie vignettes. Future modules will highlight the following topics: cancer treatments, women's health, pain assessment and management, loss, grief, and end-of-life comfort care, physical activity and nutrition, and tobacco.

The modules are being developed with and for Alaska's Community Health Aides and Community Health Practitioners but have been well-received by community members, Community Health Workers, and other people interested in learning more about cancer. These modules will help you to support the people in your community to understand the ways

they can prevent cancer, decrease their cancer risk and if they are diagnosed with cancer to live well along their cancer journey.

Module Evaluation Comments:

- "I interact with people in many venues. It helps to have resources to refer them to as well as facts to share."
- "Has a lot of good information that I learned to share with my patients and my family about getting screened and staying fit and active."
- "I like hearing the stories about real patients. Very interactive. Kept my interests. Liked the videos."

All modules are available free of charge on the www.akchap.org website under 'Distance Learning, Cancer Education'. (<http://www.akchap.org/html/distance-learning/cancer-education/cancer-ce.html>) You can begin your learning journey by clicking on any module title. Modules can be completed in any order and not all in one session. You can log back in and it will ask if you want to resume where you left off. In the words of CHA/Ps:

- "Online learning is convenient. I can log into a course at 3am if I had to and be thankful this course is not in a classroom setting."
- "I think it's a wonderful way... I do not have to travel and leave my family."

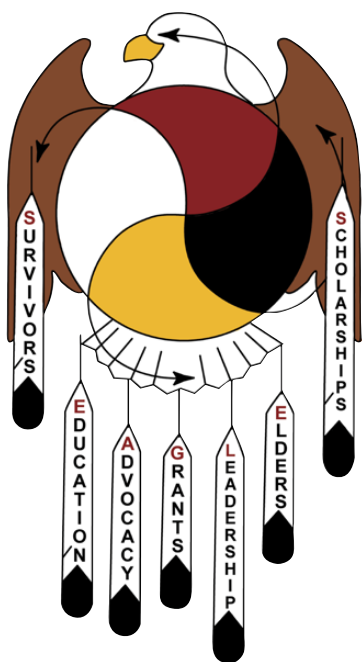
We are grateful for funding from the National Cancer Institute (R25CA186882) to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to support the development of online cancer education.

We look forward to learning from you about your experience with these online cancer education modules. Each module has an evaluation which helps us to continue to develop the best possible cancer education materials for you and the people in your community.

To learn more, please contact Laura Revels at ljrevels@anthc.org or Melany Cueva at mcueva@anthc.org. Thank you!

"I think this is a great step in the right direction for educating ourselves about cancer, how to cure it; how to manage it/live with it every day. Quyannakpuk for making these first steps!" ~ CHA/P





Supporting...

Education

Advocacy

Grants

Leadership

Elders

Survivors

Scholarships

...in Indian Country

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www.nativeamericanprograms.net

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