



National Institute of  
General Medical Sciences



# Native American Research Centers for Health *(NARCH V and VI)*

## List of Grantees

*Capacity Building Branch*

*Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity*

*Division*

*NIGMS, NIH*

**2012**

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# NARCH

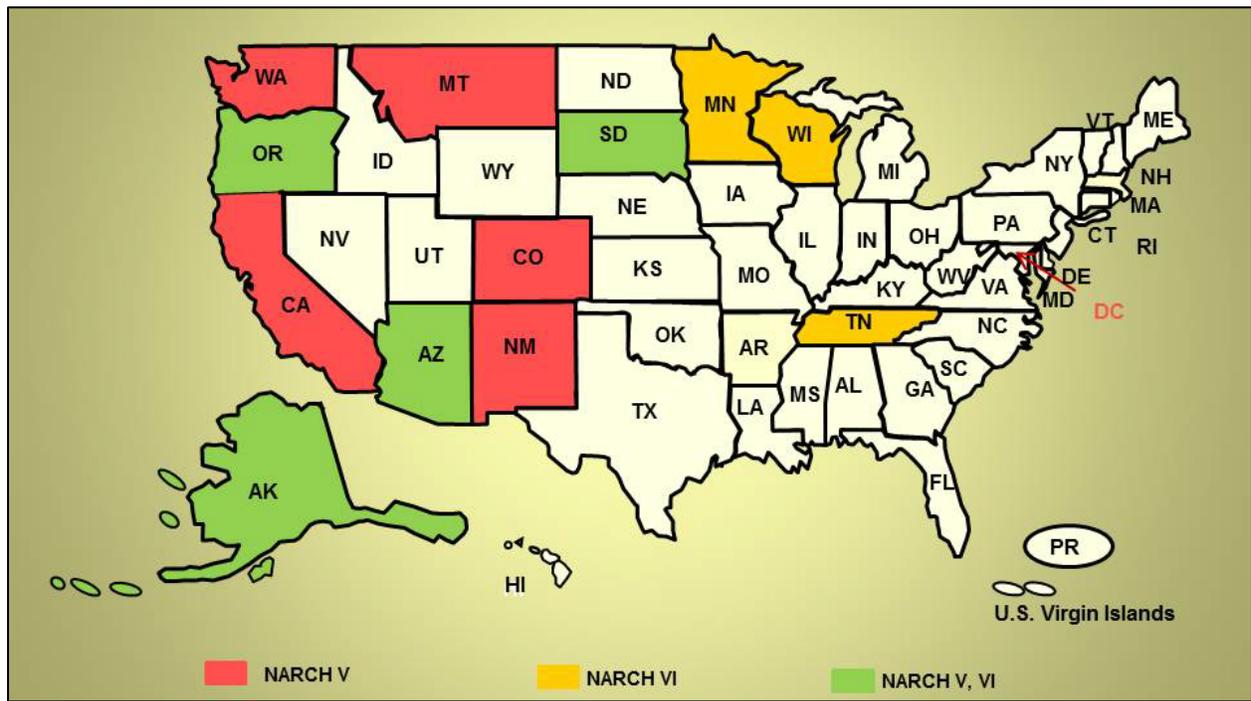
NIGMS' **Native American Research Centers for Health** (NARCH) program is a trans-NIH collaboration with the Indian Health Service that is coordinated through NIGMS. The NARCH program supports partnerships between American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes or tribally-based organizations and institutions that conduct intensive academic-level biomedical, behavioral and health services research. The purposes of the NARCH initiative are: to encourage competitive research linked to the health priorities of the AI/AN organizations and to reducing health disparities; to increase the capacity of both AI/AN organizations and research-intensive institutions to work in partnership to reduce distrust by AI/AN communities and people toward research; to develop a cadre of AI/AN scientists and health professionals engaged in biomedical, clinical, behavioral and health services research who will be competitive in securing NIH funding.

Eligible applicants for a NARCH grant must be a Federally-recognized AI/AN Tribe, Tribal Organization or a combination of a federally recognized tribe and tribal organization. There is no overarching scientific theme for the NARCH grant, but due to the applicant eligibility criteria the overarching goal of the NARCH grants should be benefitting to the AI/AN community it serves. Each NARCH grant can be composed of an administrative core, student development project, faculty development project and/or a research project. The NARCH program provides a unique opportunity for the NIH ICs as well, by allowing each IC the ability to support individual projects within a grant application with NIGMS supporting the administrative cores.

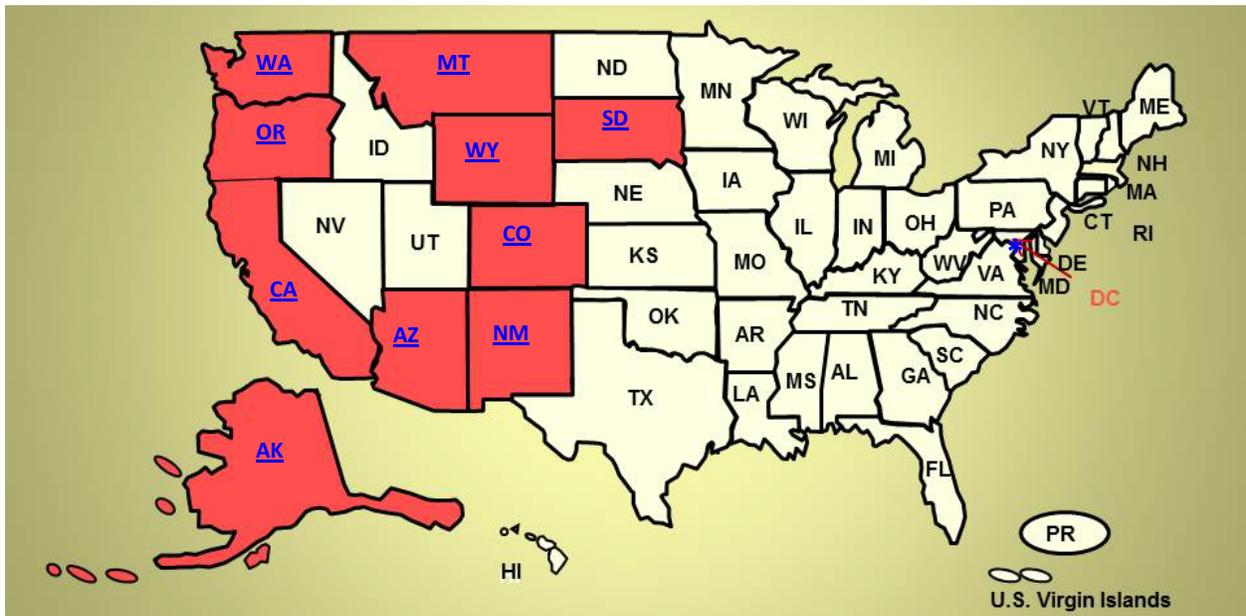
The NARCH program provides opportunities to support research within AI/AN communities that are chosen by the AI/AN community and often conducted by AI/AN personnel. The community involvement paired with the research experience of the research intensive institution provides an opportunity to address health disparity issues of concern within the community while providing sustainability of the research and health outcome programs.

In Fiscal Year 2012, NIGMS supported 35 projects and cores totaling 4.7 million dollars. Additionally NIGMS was able to encourage the other NIH ICs to contribute an additional 4.5 million dollars for NARCH projects.

# Map of NARCH V and VI Recipient States



# NARCH V



*Ctrl and Click on 2-letter crimson state abbreviation or ★ to view NARCH V program.*

## **NARCH V**

### **Alaska**

**GM087142**

**Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium**

**NARCH V Program at the ANTHC and the University of Alaska, Anchorage**

### **Principal Investigator**

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### **Sub-Project**

- Arthritis and Autoimmunity in Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection

*Funding Partner: University of Washington*

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### **Abstract**

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, in addition to being one of the most common forms of chronic liver disease, commonly results in extrahepatic manifestations, most of which are autoimmune or lymphoproliferative states. HCV-associated inflammatory arthritis or musculoskeletal symptoms have been described. Autoimmunity is frequently detected in the setting of chronic HCV and its mechanisms or clinical relevance to virologic and liver disease outcomes are not fully understood. No study to date has prospectively evaluated a combination of joint symptoms by questionnaire, synovitis by examination and autoantibody testing in a population-based HCV cohort with the combined input of rheumatologists and hepatologists. To begin to accurately define the clinical and laboratory features of HCV-associated arthritis and the implications of HCV-associated autoimmunity, we propose a pilot study of an existing population-based prospective cohort of 843 Alaska Native or American Indian (AN/AI) individuals with chronic HCV infection. This pilot study will address the following specific aims:

- In a cohort of AN/AI people with chronic HCV infection, determine the prevalence and associations between: 1) musculoskeletal symptoms; 2) synovitis on joint examination; 3) functional disability; and 4) arthritis-related autoantibodies, including rheumatoid factor (RF), RF isotypes, anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (CCP) antibodies and antinuclear antibodies (ANA);
- describe the clinical characteristics of individuals with synovitis in the setting of chronic HCV infection, including symptoms, patterns of joint involvement, degree of functional disability; and
- in the setting of chronic HCV infection, investigate the relationship between the presence of autoimmunity and: a) clinical outcomes of liver disease and b) virologic factors.

This pilot study will provide the foundation for a larger scale prospective study of HCV-associated arthritis and autoimmunity, including further mechanistic studies and evaluation of clinical relevance. With this NARCH pilot project, the long-term goal is to enhance the capacity of Dr.

Ferucci and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to perform studies of this nature in continued collaboration with the University of Washington. In addition, training a promising Alaska Native person in research methods will be a key component of this project and contribute to the future research capacity of the Alaska Native population.

## NARCH V

### Arizona

GM087175

**Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA)**

**ITCA/UA American Indian Research Center for Health (AIRCH)**

### **Principal Investigator**

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### **Sub-Projects**

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- AIRCH Student Research Development Core  
*Funding Partner:* University of Arizona  
*Project Leader:* Teshia G. Arambula Solomon  
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- Complementary & Alternative Therapies Use in the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT)  
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- Leveraging Social Influence to Increase Physical Activity  
*Funding Partner:* Hualapai Tribe  
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## **Abstract**

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) American Indian Research Center for Health (AIRCH) is the lead agency of this health research project and maintains a schedule and process of operations that facilitates communication among partners and promotes the participation of its partners in the ITCA-AIRCH activities. The ITCA-AIRCH was established in 2000 with funds from the National Institutes of Health and the Indian Health Service's Native American Research Centers for Health. The ITCA-AIRCH is a partnership with tribes in Arizona and the University of Arizona (UA).

The fundamental approach to the goals and objectives of the ITCA-AIRCH is based on collaboration of the partners in all aspects of the project including two tribal community-based participatory research (CBPR) projects as well as student development and faculty development in research. The ITCA, as the administrative component maintains AIRCH operations, facilitates communication among partners, coordinates financial management and engages partners in regional and national research and training efforts. The ITCA increases the research capacity of Tribes, by fostering collaboration and discussion with universities in addressing tribal health disparities through a CBPR approach.

Communication continues through the AIRCH monthly conference calls with partners to discuss on-going projects and activities. Agenda items include monthly updates on projects, discuss priority health disparities and assess the ability of Tribes and universities to address the health disparities and build the capacity of Tribes through research related trainings, workshops and report on the national NARCH conference calls. The AIRCH coordinator communicates with AIRCH projects via e-mail and site visits.

The ITCA-AIRCH will continue in its efforts to collaborate with tribes and universities in achieving the following:

- Develop a cadre of AI/AN scientists and health professionals in behavioral, clinical, biomedical and health services and who are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to address the needs of the tribal communities;
- increase the capacity of both research intensive institutions and AI/AN organizations to work in partnership to reduce the distrust of research in tribal communities; and
- encourage competitive research linked to the health priorities of the tribal communities that ultimately will contribute to the reduction of health disparities.

## NARCH V

### Arizona

GM087173

White Mountain Apache Tribe

NARCH V Program at White Mountain Apache Tribe and Johns Hopkins University

### Principal Investigator

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### Sub-Projects

- NARCH V –WMAT/JHU NARCH Student and Faculty Development  
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- NARCH V-HIV/AIDS Prevention Among White Mountain Apache Youth  
*Funding Partner:* Johns Hopkins University  
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### Abstract

**NARCH V –WMAT/JHU NARCH Student and Faculty Development:** The goal of this project is to continue work with Johns Hopkins University to advance an innovative student and faculty development initiative aimed at developing and strengthening the skill base of our Tribe to design, conduct and evaluate research aimed at reducing health disparities of the WMAT and other American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. Project objectives will be accomplished by means of a two-pronged effort with formal public health science training for Apaches at Johns Hopkins University and community-based training and education for health leaders and emerging scholars on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. The overarching objective of the student and faculty development program are consistent with the purposes of the national NARCH initiatives to:

- develop a cadre of AI/AN scientists and health professionals engaged in biomedical, behavioral and health services research;
- promote successful partnerships between AI/AN and research intensive institutions; and
- encourage competitive research that addresses health priorities and health disparities in AI/AN populations.

The proposed training plan builds upon the successful planning and pilot efforts in student and faculty development launched in NARCH I and NARCH III.

**NARCH V-HIV/AIDS Prevention Among White Mountain Apache Youth:** The goal of the *NARCH Respecting the Circle of Life* project is to prevent risk for sexually transmitted diseases including

HIV/AIDS, as well as unintended pregnancy and substance use among Apache adolescents. During this project we will adapt, implement and evaluate a randomized controlled trial of an evidence based intervention delivered by Apache interventionist. Through this study we will:

- perform formative research through roundtables, focus groups and individual interviews on attitudes, practices and intervention preferences among Apache adolescents, parents and community stakeholders;
- adapt the *Focus on Youth* (FOY) evidence-based intervention using findings from the formative research, components of Protection Motivation Theory and input from the NARCH community advisory board;
- enroll approximately 304 Apache youth (aged 13-19) to participate in a randomized intervention trial of FOY vs. control measuring behavior change at 6- and 12- months follow-up; and
- determine the feasibility of gathering biological specimens via self-administered swabs to track sexually transmitted diseases among 18-19 year olds enrolled in this and future studies. Lessons learned through this research will impact dissemination of evidence-based prevention strategies to other American Indian communities.

## **NARCH V**

### **California**

**GM087518**

**Indian Health Council, Inc.**

**California Native American Research Center for Health**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Student Development Project
- Acupuncture and Diabetic Neuropathy among Native Americans
- Oral Flora, Periodontitis and Vascular Dysfunction in Young Native Americans
- Prenatal Alcohol Consumption Among Native American Women in San Diego County
- Administrative Core

#### **Abstract**

The California Native American Research Center for Health (CA-NARCH) is a partnership of tribal and university organizations committed to reducing health disparities in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations and increase the number of AI/AN scientists and health professionals. The Southern California Tribal community ranges from the U.S.-Mexico border to Riverside County with 17 reservations and is the service area of the project The Indian Health Council (IHC), located in North San Diego County, is the lead agency, and houses the core administrative/research center. IHC's mission is "To continually nurture a balance of physical, mental, emotion, and spiritual well-being." The university partners are San Diego State University and the University of California, San Diego. The goals of the CA-NARCH are to:

- develop a cadre of AI/AN scientists and health professionals engaged in health services research who will be competitive in securing NIH and AHRQ funding;
- increase the capacity of both research institutions and AI/AN organizations to work in partnership to reduce distrust by AI/AN communities toward research; and
- encourage competitive research linked to health priorities and to reduce health disparities.

This NARCH program will continue building its track record of increasing the number of AI/AN students in the field of research (there are currently 22 AI/AN students participating in NARCH), and increase scientific knowledge with three new endeavors: Increase the understanding of the relationship between periodontitis and vascular function in the project Oral, Flora, Periodontitis and Vascular Function in Youth Adults (PI - R. Gottlieb, Laguna Pueblo); Identify culturally appropriate screening and intervention methods for identifying risk for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in the project Native American Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment for Prevention of Alcohol Use in Pregnancy (PI - C. Chambers, co-PI - D. Calac, Pauma Band of Luiseno); and integrate an alternative medicine research project Acupuncture and Diabetic

Peripheral Neuropathy among Native Americans (PI - D. Wingard/ Co-PI - M. Allison; Chicasaw). Dan Calac, serves as the overall PI, and is a member of Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians.

NARCH V will advance knowledge in three areas greatly affecting AI/ANs: cardiovascular function, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and diabetes. The results will assist in identifying links to other health indicators to strengthen educational efforts (vascular disease with oral health), use new technology in determining risk for FASD and determines the effectiveness of acupuncture in treatment of diabetes.

## **NARCH V**

### **Colorado**

**GM087165**

**Oglala Sioux Tribal Council**

**Oglala Lakota Oyate-Owning Our Own Research**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Student Development Program
- Research to Improve Preconception Health of Adolescent Women

#### **Abstract**

The Oglala Sioux Tribe, in partnership with Sanford Research/University of South Dakota School of Medicine and Oglala Lakota College, have developed this NARCH to address priority health issues identified by the Tribe and to support and expand the research capacity and infrastructure that will build on the research foundation that has been developed within the Tribe over the past decade.

The goals of the OST NARCH include:

- advance the science directed toward reducing, eliminating and preventing health disparities;
- accelerate the development of new interventions and expand the utilization/adaptation of existing evidence-based interventions for preventing, reducing or eliminating health disparities;
- increase the number and support the efforts of researchers and professionals from health disparity populations trained in biomedical and behavioral health research;
- increase the quality of the training provided to biomedical and behavioral researchers and professionals conducting research on health disparities;
- increase Tribal and Oglala Lakota College capacity initiate and conduct research relative to their health needs/priorities; and
- increase Tribal and Oglala Lakota College capacity to assess and fully participate in research conducted by academic partners in this, and future, relationships.

The Administrative Core will provide overall leadership and guidance to ensure that the NARCH activities are focused and produce outcomes consistent with the broad goals of NARCH. In addition, the Administrative Core activities include overall responsibility for grant management including overall technical direction of the grant; coordination among the collaborating partners; and monitoring the quality, effectiveness and timeliness of grant activities.

## NARCH V

### District of Columbia

GM106347

**National Congress of American Indians Fund  
NARCH V Program at NCAIPRC and UMN and UW**

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#### **Sub-Projects (we do not have subprojects but do have sub-recipients that are co-investigators)**

- *Funding Partner:* University of New Mexico Center for Participatory Research  
*Project Leader:* Nina Wallerstein  
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- *Funding Partner:* University of Washington Indigenous Wellness Research Institute  
*Project Leader:* Bonnie Duran  
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#### **Abstract**

The study aims are to:

- Describe the variability of CBPR characteristics across dimensions in the CBPR conceptual model to identify differences and commonalities across partnerships;
- describe and assess the impact of governance on CBPR processes and outcomes across AI/AN and other communities of color;
- examine the associations among diverse contexts and partnering processes with major CBPR outcomes, such as culturally-centered interventions, health-enhancing policies and community capacities, found to be linked to health disparities, by testing the CBPR conceptual model; and
- identify, translate and disseminate best practices in CBPR for tribal leaders and other community and academic partners to improve health status and health equity.

The overall goal of this NARCH V study is to conduct an in-depth investigation using a mixed methods approach of promoters and barriers in community based participatory research (CBPR) in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities and other underserved populations in order to improve health status and health equity. This study, through a rigorous examination of the CBPR practices that are associated with better health, has tremendous potential to affect community and individual health. In addition to advancing the science of CBPR, it is an explicit goal of this project to

build the research capacity of the National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center and strengthen research capacity for junior AI/AN researchers.

## **NARCH V**

### **Montana and Wyoming**

**GM087163**

**Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leader Council NARCH**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

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- Medical Service Utilization and Treatment Costs for American Indians with Diabetes  
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- Administrative Core and the Rocky Mountain Tribal IRB  
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#### **Abstract**

The MT WY Tribal Leaders Council (TLC) has developed a unique partnership with the American Indian and Alaska Native Programs at the University of Colorado, Denver, to develop and conduct research and pilot programs that address significant health issues of American Indians in Montana and Wyoming. The approach of the TLC and its partners is one that involves Tribes in setting research priorities and developing research capacity at the Tribal-level through community-based participatory research and technical assistance. Tribal Leaders and Tribal Health Departments provide direct input to design and implement specific projects through subcontracts from TLC to the respective Tribe, Specific Tribal Liaisons or Tribal Health Directors, thus gaining insight to the research process. A primary priority for TLC and its component Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center is to increase public health and epidemiology knowledge, awareness of research issues and education at the Tribal level within these rural reservation communities.

Given the priorities of the Tribes and the overall objectives of the NARCH program, the TLC and its partners developed several NARCH components, including the Rocky Mountain Tribal Institutional Review Board (<http://www.mtwytlc.org/irb/rmtirb-home.html>) and two Pilot Research Projects: Training Community Members for the Prevention of Early Childhood Caries in American Indian Children (Pilot Research Project 2) and Medical Service Utilization and Treatment Costs for American Indians with Diabetes (Pilot Research Project 3).

## NARCH V

### New Mexico

**GM087144**

**Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board**

**Southwest Tribal Native American Research Center for Health**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Southwest Tribal Student Researcher Development Program  
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- Mescalero Apache Family Listening Project  
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- Administrative Core  
*Funding Partners:* IHS/NIH  
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#### **Abstract**

The Southwest Tribal MARCH V Program is a partnership between the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board (AAIHB) and the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTEC) with academic research support from the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. These partnerships will build upon a history of collaboration among representatives of these organizations in efforts to improve the health and American Indian persons from 27 tribes across the states of New Mexico, Texas and Southern Colorado. The specific goals of the Southwest Tribal NARCH program are to:

- Encourage research on health disparities (domestic violence/sexual assault; occupational disabilities; otitis media, family resiliency related to alcohol and substance use; and workforce development) affecting American Indian (AI) people and in particular the tribes of New Mexico and Southern Colorado;
- increase the number of AI scientists, students, health professionals and organizations in New Mexico and Colorado engaged in health research competitive in securing NIH and AHRQ funding by establishing a student mentoring program and links with other colleges in the area and specific tribes; and

- build the capacity of both AAIHB and AASTEC to work in partnership to reduce distrust by AI communities and people toward research.

Three major research projects, one pilot project and a student researcher development program make up the activities of the Southwest Tribal NARCH. The research projects build on existing research partnerships between tribes and UNM faculty and establish exciting new relationships by including AASTEC and its expertise in research, public health practice and epidemiology and the experience and of the AAIHB Audiology Program. The NARCH V planning discussions focused on utilizing the newly added experience and expertise of AAIHB and AASTEC programs and personnel to address Albuquerque Area tribal health priority areas. Through utilization of existing tribal programs, the research capacity, tribal ownership and oversight, and potential translation of research, increases tremendously.

## **NARCH V**

### **Oregon**

**GM087162**

**Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board**

**Monitoring Abuse of Drugs in Indian Communities: MAD NARCH**

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Project**

Monitoring Abuse of Drugs in Indian Communities: MAD NARCH

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#### **Abstract**

Drug and alcohol use disorders contribute to increased mortality and morbidity rates among American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). The age-adjusted AI/AN alcoholism death rate is 6.3 times greater than the U.S. rate and the AI/AN drug-related death rate is 1.8 times greater than the national rate. American Indian communities also have higher prevalence of alcohol use disorders than members of other ethnic groups (10.7% vs. 7.6%). Similarly, the prevalence of drug use disorders is also higher for tribal people compared to non-Indians (5.0% vs. 2.9% in 2010). The Northwest MAD NARCH (Monitoring Abuse of Drugs) addresses these health disparities with three specific aims:

- Collaborate with four Northwest American Indian Tribes (Grand Ronde, Siletz, Umatilla and Yakama) to construct and monitor Community Drug Abuse Profiles – drug abuse indicators that reflect community impacts related to drug and alcohol;
- describe the availability and capacity of treatment services in four American Indian communities (Grand Ronde, Siletz, Umatilla and Yakama); and
- use ASI (Native American version) interviews to assess the epidemiology of drug use (using ASI interviews) among drug users in-treatment (n = 300 - 500) and out-of-treatment (n = 100 - 150).

NW MAD NARCH helps participating communities develop public health surveillance skills that enhance the community's ability to monitor indicators of drug abuse. The combined and integrated datasets, moreover, provide a more complete description of the nature of drug abuse within American Indian communities in the Pacific Northwest.

## **NARCH V**

### **South Dakota**

**GM087176**

**Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board  
Northern Plains NARCH Program**

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Student Development Project
- Faculty and Tribal Health Professionals Development Program
- A Lakota Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Prevention
- HPV Self-Sampling to Improve Cervical Cancer Screening in AI Communities
- Administrative Core

#### **Abstract**

For the last 4 years, the Northern Plains NARCH Program has been conducting community-based participatory research through partnerships with tribes and academic institutions. The Northern Plains NARCH V application proposes to build on existing relationships in order to further the potential for collaborative research projects in this region to address health disparities. By collaborating with academic institutions, Northern Plains tribes are able to access scientific resources in order to conduct health research on pressing issues and increase research capacity within the community. The training and research projects are:

- Student Development Program, Adeola Jaiyeola, Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board
- TCU Faculty and Tribal Health Professional Development Program, Adeola Jaiyeola, Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board
- Diagnosing and Predicting Thyroid Disease Among Native Americans, Gay Canaris, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Diabetes Prevention: Communicating with Native American Families, Phyllis Nsiah-Kumi, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- HPV Self- Sampling to Improve Cervical Cancer Screening in American Indian Communities, Delf Schmidt-Grimminger, University of South Dakota
- A Lakota Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Prevention, Les B. Whitbeck, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Epidemiologic Study of Methamphetamine Abuse in Northern Plains American Indian Communities, Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway, University of Nebraska Medical Center

## NARCH V

### Washington

U261IHS0031-04-01

Northwest Indian College

Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH V)

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### Sub-Projects

- Growing Our Own Students and Faculty  
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- Caring For Our Generations  
*Funding Partner:* University of Washington  
*Project Leader:* Teresa Evans-Campbell  
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- CBPR with Tribal Colleges-Universities-Alcohol Problems-Solutions  
*Funding Partner:* University of Washington  
*Project Leader:* Bonnie Duran  
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- Native Transformations (*formally Pathways to Sobriety*)  
*Funding Partner:* University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
*Project Leader:* Stacy Rasmus  
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### Abstract

The Northwest Indian College Center for Health (NWICCH) has two tribal partners, the Northwest Indian College (NWIC) and the Northwest Washington Indian Health Board (NWWIHB) and three research-intensive university partners, the University of Washington (UW), Washington State University (WSU) and University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). The five partners determined the goals for the Center which are inter-related and synergistic:

- Conduct high-quality community based participatory research (CBPR) projects that address the health needs and research priorities of the tribal partners;
- operationalize fully collaborative partnerships that in turn increase both the trust in and contributions by all partners;
- develop American Indian and Alaska Native students and faculty to be health professionals and researchers who can compete for NIH research, with these CBPR projects and their

- research teams being positive role models and providing motivating and learning experiences; and
- reduce health disparities of tribes by these CBPR projects that rely on and enhance the strengths and resiliencies of Native people and Tribes.

Derived from these goals, the specific aims are:

- Complete successful CBPR projects with the five NWICCH partners focused on expanding sobriety and health to counter substance and alcohol abuse disparities in teens, women before-during-and after pregnancy, tribal college students and the entire Native population;
- build capacity of all five partners to do productive CBPR;
- increase the number of Northwest American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) people in the early career pipeline for health professional and research tracks, with the CBPR projects providing first hand research experiences for students and junior faculty, and NWICCH investigators serving as role models and mentors; and
- develop funded interventions to reduce health disparities in priority areas based on the results of the initial NWICCH projects.

In addressing the specific aims, NWICCH has two commitments:

- Our projects follow CBPR principles and integrating tribal and university members at every level and component; and
- we allocate sufficient resources to student and faculty development to achieve significant results within 4 years.



## **NARCH VI**

### **Alaska**

**GM092230**

**Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)**

**NARCH VI Program at the ANTHC and the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)**

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Project**

- ANTHC NARCH VI Student Development Project  
*Funding Partner:* University of Alaska Anchorage  
*Project Leader:* Elizabeth D. Ferucci  
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#### **Abstract**

The goal of this student development project is to increase the number of potential Alaska Native health researchers and healthcare professionals by providing students with early exposure to research along with mentoring, training, and financial support. Our specific aims are to:

- Support recruitment and participation of AN students into University of Alaska health programs including: WWAMI (Alaska's Medical School) undergraduate and high school research programs; UAA MPH, physician assistant and nursing programs; UAF/UAA joint doctoral program, and UAF interdisciplinary studies graduate program;
- increase exposure of AN students to and interactions with successful health researchers through: participation in research projects; assistance with abstract and manuscript preparation and support for two students to attend a national scientific meeting each year; and access to nationally recognized researchers participating in the UAF President's Professor's program; and
- provide AN students with AN/AI health researcher and health care professional role models through: informational interviews with AN/AI researchers and health care professionals at ANTHC and other tribal health organizations; coordinating participation by AN/AI health researchers and health care professionals in WWAMI summer programs and other health and research career forums.

While our overall goal to increase the number of Alaska Native researchers and health professionals is challenging, our plans to move incrementally toward that goal are feasible given the skills of the ANTHC NARCH project team, the existing programs at the University of Alaska, and the strong partnership between ANTHC and the University of Alaska.

## **Sub-Project**

Helicobacter pylori: host and bacterial virulence factors for severe clinical outcome

*Funding Partner:* NYU School of Medicine

*Project Leader:* Karen Miernyk

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## **Abstract**

Helicobacter pylori (*H. pylori*) infection causes chronic active gastritis and primary duodenal and gastric ulcers and is characterized by the World Health Organization as a class 1 carcinogen and a risk factor for gastric cancer. Gastric cancer rates are 3-4 times higher among Alaska Native persons when compared to U.S. Caucasians. In addition, the mortality rate for gastric cancer among Alaska Native people (16.3/100,000 population) is more than three times higher than the overall U.S. gastric cancer mortality rate (5.1/100,000, all ethnic groups). *H. pylori* strains are genetically diverse with some strains demonstrating greater virulence than others. A number of published studies have shown a relationship between *H. pylori* virulence markers and disease outcomes. Several other studies provide evidence that host response is an equally important determination in *H. pylori* disease progression. Very little is known about gastric cancer in Alaska Native people that can be used to guide early detection or prevention efforts. One strategy would be to identify some marker, in the host, the bacteria, or both, that is associated with *H. pylori* infection and gastric cancer that could be used to identify persons for treatment of *H. pylori* infection and close clinical follow-up to detect and treat early gastric cancer. We plan to use this pilot project to:

- Identify putative bacterial pathogenic factors of *H. pylori* recovered from Alaska Native patients with gastric cancer and peptic ulcer disease (PUD);
- identify putative host factors among Alaska Native persons with gastric cancer and PUD; and
- determine the frequency of putative bacterial pathogenic risk factors and host risk factors among Alaska Native persons with gastric cancer and PUD. This data will then be used to develop hypotheses and a follow-up study that would include the prospective enrollment of a comparison population as well as the continued enrollment of persons with newly diagnosed gastric cancer.

## **NARCH VI**

### **Arizona**

**GM092231**

**White Mountain Apache Tribe**

**NARCH VI Program at White Mountain Apache Tribe and Johns Hopkins University**

### **Principal Investigator**

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### **Sub-Projects**

- NARCH VI-WMAT/JHU NARCH Student and Faculty Development  
*Funding Partner:* Johns Hopkins University  
*Project Leader:* Mathuram Santosham  
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- NARCH VI-CBPR Approach to Preventing Intentional Self-Injury in Apache Youth  
*Funding Partner:* Johns Hopkins University  
*Project Leader:* Mary Cwik  
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### **Abstract**

#### ***NARCH VI-WMAT/JHU NARCH Student and Faculty Development***

The White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) proposes to continue work with Johns Hopkins University (JHU) to advance an innovative student and faculty development initiative aimed at developing and strengthening the skill base of our Tribe to design, conduct and evaluate research aimed at reducing health disparities of the WMAT and other American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. The NARCH VI training proposal will expand upon the successful model pioneered by NARCH I and III, which includes a two-pronged effort with formal public health science training for Apaches at JHU and community-based training and education for health leaders and emerging scholars on the WMA Reservation. Through NARCH VI, we will add three innovative training components:

- A formalized AI-to-AI mentoring program whereby a national cadre of senior American Indian researchers will be engaged in training and career development with junior WMA investigators working on NARCH VI;
- a public health informatics training component designed to increase the capacity of tribal health leaders to collect, manage and utilize WMAT health data, and
- an in-depth human subjects training program that will culminate in the development of a WMAT Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Additional practical training components in health research and public health practice, including a mentorship piece of senior American Indian researchers with junior WMA investigators, an introduction of a public health informatics training component to increase the capacity of health and human service leaders to use health data, and an in-depth training on human subjects research with the eventual development of a tribal OIRB will be included. This project is designed specifically to accomplish the purposes of the national NARCH initiatives to:

- Develop a cadre of AI/AN scientists and health professionals engaged in biomedical, behavioral and health services research; and
- promote successful partnerships between AI/AN and research intensive institutions;
- encourage competitive research that addresses health priorities and health disparities in AI/AN populations.

#### ***NARCH VI-CBPR Approach to Preventing Intentional Self-Injury in Apache Youth***

The goal of the *NARCH Binge Substance Use* project is to expand the comprehensive Apache-Hopkins suicide prevention research program to understand the risk factors, contextual features and behavioral functions of binge alcohol and drug use, as a self-injurious behavior and in relationship to suicide and other non-suicidal self-injury in this population. Through this study we will:

- Update the existing Apache surveillance system to include binge drinking and drug use as other forms of intentional self-injury and risk factors for subsequent suicidal behavior;
- conduct focus groups with Apache youth (aged 10-19) to explore local beliefs and ideas about binge alcohol and drug use; and
- examine correlates of risk, protective factors and behavioral functions of binge drinking and drug use through an exploratory case control study of n=140 Apache youth (aged 10-19) who come through the surveillance system for these behaviors.

Through this NARCH research endeavor we have trained Apache paraprofessional research assistants and junior investigators in mental health assessment, research design and methods, and ethical conduct of research. The findings from this study will be applied through a community-based participatory process to the design and piloting of evidence-based interventions to prevent binge substance use among Apache youth and other disproportionately affected populations.

## **NARCH VI**

### **Minnesota**

**GM092233**

**Fond du Lac Human Services  
Center for Chronic Pain: NARCH Initiative**

#### **Program Director/Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Development of a Pain Rehabilitation Program for American Indians with Chronic Pain that Incorporates Opioid Tapering  
*Project Leader: William Hooten*
- Stepping Stones to Health Careers - Student Development Project  
*Project Leader: Lorentz Wittmers*
- Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Journey Garden Student Development  
*Project Leader: Michael Rabideaux*
- Administrative Core  
*Project Leader: Kevin Walsh*

#### **Abstract**

Chronic pain is highly prevalent among adult American Indians, and 1 in 5 adults who receive primary care services at the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa ambulatory facilities are receiving treatment for chronic pain and comorbid conditions. Culturally appropriate treatment for chronic pain does not exist for any American Indian community in the United States, representing an important yet under-recognized health disparity. The clinical need for a comprehensive pain treatment intervention was the key factor that led tribal leaders of the Fond du Lac Band to initiate and successfully develop a collaborative partnership with the Mayo Clinic pain specialists, the Mayo Clinic Center for Translational Science Activities, and the Center of American Indian and Minority Health at University of Minnesota, Duluth. A tribal-led series of clinical, educational and administrative exchanges resulted in the development of the Administrative Core, Student Development and Research components of the Fond du Lac Center for Chronic Pain - NARCH Initiative. This NARCH initiative will:

- Reduce health disparities in chronic pain and comorbid conditions, including smoking and depression by developing culturally appropriate treatments using community based participatory research and translating findings into clinical practice; and
- enhance educational opportunities for the next generation of American Indian scientists and health professionals by supporting involvement of students in community projects, as

well as biomedical and clinical research.

These objectives will be achieved through successful cultural adaptation and testing of an existing cognitive behavioral intervention for American Indians with chronic pain, profile the social network characteristics of American Indian smokers with chronic pain and explore the application of pharmacogenomics technology to improve the use of antidepressant medications among American Indians with chronic pain and depression. These research projects will provide ample opportunities for tribal health professionals, junior faculty and American Indian students to be involved in biomedical and clinical investigations which will build research capacity within the tribal community. This initiative will effectively and cooperatively involve the two largest academic research institutions in Minnesota. As a result of this proposal, this tribal-led partnership will have adapted and tested the first culturally targeted intervention for American Indians with chronic pain, which will have the potential for widespread dissemination to other tribal organizations. This initiative will also have an impact on the education pipeline of the next generation of American Indian scientists and health professionals. The reach of this research could extend well beyond American Indian communities to other underserved populations of adults with chronic pain.

## **NARCH VI**

### **Oklahoma**

**GM092238**

**Cherokee Nation Health Administration**

**Oklahoma Native American Research Centers for Health (ONARCH VI)**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Understanding Rheumatic Disease and Developing Improved Diagnostic Tests and Treatment Regimens for Oklahoma Tribal Members
- Student Development Project
- Preventing Excessive Gestational Weight Gain
- Administrative Core

#### **Abstract**

The sixth Oklahoma Native American Research Center for Health (ONARCH6) continues the productive research and training partnership with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) by the Tribes, especially the Chickasaw, Creek, Choctaw and Cherokee Nations. Population served consists of 42,749 Chickasaws and 121,680 Cherokees; 49,714 Choctaws and 30,181 Creeks for a total of 244,324 in North East and South Central Oklahoma. As developed from tribal suggestions and OUHSC faculty members and selected by its Community and Scientific Advisory Council, the ONARCH6 consists of student development and mentoring projects, and four full research projects. Full research projects include:

- NARCH Binge Substance Use the impact of infections on maternal and child health in Native Americans;
- research to develop better diagnostic and prognostic tests for rheumatic disease in Oklahoma tribal members, and to examine the potential roles of environmental triggers for autoimmunity focusing on vitamin D levels, tobacco smoke exposure (through serum cotinine levels) and abnormal immune responses to common viruses;
- research to prevent excessive gestational weight gain in otherwise healthy but overweight Native American women and consequently decrease the proportion of women who gain in excess of the guidelines has the potential to decrease the risk and costs of obstetric complications associated with excessive weight gain; and
- develop methods to understand attitudes, beliefs and perceived barriers or motivators to organ/tissue donation among American Indians living off-reservation.

The specific aim of the student development program is to recruit undergraduates from the participating tribes to attend a 9-week Summer Undergraduate Research Program at OUHSC. Specific objectives are fostering undergraduate participation in health research by offering tutoring,

counseling, mentored research opportunities to encourage and facilitate Native American students' entry into health sciences programs. A formal and independent evaluation program will assess long-time quantitative measures and short-term qualitative measures of success.

## NARCH VI

### Oregon

**GM092243**

**Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board  
Enhancing Health Equality in Northwest Tribes**

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Improving Health Research Skills for AI/AN Trainees (student development)  
*Project Leader: Thomas M. Becker*  
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- Summer Research Training Institute for AI/AN Health Professionals  
*Project Leader: Thomas M. Becker*  
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#### **Abstracts**

##### ***NARCH 6 Student Development Grant***

Marked differences in infectious and chronic disease incidence and mortality rates have been documented among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes nationwide compared to U.S. whites, and most health indicators show that AI/AN people have comparatively poor health status. Although substantial research has been directed toward understanding reasons for high disease rates and health disparities among AI/AN people, involvement by AI/AN researchers in most of these studies has been particularly infrequent. Because cultural factors are central to the design and implementation in many clinical, behavioral or population-based studies, increasing the involvement of AI/ANs to carry out effective research in AI/AN populations should be a priority concern. Our program will increase the research capabilities of AI/AN investigators to carry out well-designed investigations within AI/AN populations and in other settings. Experienced epidemiologists, biostatisticians, ethicists and other researchers at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (the Board), Oregon Health & Science University and Portland State University will support individually-tailored training program for qualified AI/AN researchers at different levels—including graduate students, health professions students and Board employees. The training program introduces participants to various research strategies, measurement issues, study design considerations, data management, data analysis, preparation of grant applications, ethics of research and manuscript preparation. Mentoring from seasoned researchers forms a key part of the training experience for trainees who are based at various universities nationwide. This proposal builds upon existing grant-funded training programs for AI/AN trainees at our academic partner institutions, and will further the career development of AI/AN researchers through capacity

building and research skill development. Through the development of qualified, independent AI/AN investigators, our effort may ultimately serve to reduce some of the many disparities in health that are observed among AI/AN groups, compared to U.S. whites nationwide, as well as reduce tribes' distrust of research.

### ***NARCH 6 Summer Research Institute***

Carefully designed and implemented health research can provide solutions to help eliminate the vast disparities in health between Northwest AI/ANs and non-AI/ANs; however, AI/AN communities are generally distrustful of health research because of past experiences with non-AI/AN researchers. The overall goal of the Summer Research Training Institute for AI/AN Health Professionals is to develop a cadre of highly trained AI/AN biomedical and health researchers who are sensitive to the culture and specific concerns of Indian communities, and who can bring the benefits of academic research to these communities to reduce health disparities. The Summer Institute is operated by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB)—an Indian organization uniquely qualified to administer NARCH based on an active membership of all 43 Northwest Indian tribes. As it did in the NARCH 4 funding cycle, the Summer Institute accomplishes its goals through a series of research training and project development and implementation courses offered in modules each summer of the NARCH grant. We also developed an infrastructure for supporting AI/AN students in high quality health and biomedical research. Furthermore, we recruited summer interns who complete a core series of research courses and conduct a research project under the guidance of an experienced mentor. This project opens to AI/AN researchers the extensive health research training opportunities of the two premier academic health research institutions of the Northwest—Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and Portland State University (PSU). All of these projects will be accomplished through enhancements of the existing partnership among NPAIHB, OHSU and PSU. The Summer Institute helps fill the void of well-trained AI/AN health researchers, and will contribute to the national effort to reduce health disparities among AI/AN people compared to other races in the United States.

## NARCH VI

### South Dakota

**GM092240**

**Black Hills Center for American Indian Health  
Lakota Center for Health Research**

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Lakota Center for Health Research Statistics  
*Funding Partner:* Center for Clinical and Epidemiologic Research, University of Washington School of Medicine  
*Project Leader:* Jack Goldberg  
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- Administrative Core  
*Funding Partner:* Black Hills Center for American Indian Health  
*Project Leader:* Jeffrey A. Henderson  
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#### **Abstract**

This Lakota Center for Health Research plan comprises a body of research and activities that take full advantage of the strengths and historical working relationships of tribal entities and research-intensive partners that know each other well, have interacted in several reasonably large research projects in the past and present, including the current NARCH, and that each remain committed to the goals of this initiative. In order to continue and perhaps even to better exemplify the true promise and intent of this announcement, we have identified, agreed upon and will accomplish the following goals with funding from the sixth round of this NARCH initiative:

- To stimulate health research activities by American Indians, their Tribes and Indian Health Service (IHS) partners designed to determine the etiology of and directly address the underlying causes of the myriad health inequities displayed within the AI/AN population. In order to accomplish this we will undertake the following objectives:
  - Assist each tribal and IHS partner to review their former and present environmental health research, measurement and monitoring activities and develop comprehensive, coordinated environmental health research actions and plans;
  - continue our efforts to assist our Cheyenne River and Rosebud Sioux tribal partners in exploring the feasibility of establishing Tribal Research Review Boards like that

- begun on Pine Ridge, which can be valuable in coordinating, evaluating and overseeing local health research activities;
- continue to integrate to the greatest extent possible each tribe's TC/U into the research activities and in so doing stimulate these institutions' growth and capacity for environmental and public health research in ways not previously achieved; and
  - continue to collaborate with our tribal and IHS partners in the planning and execution of discrete individual health research projects and pilot research projects that directly address important AI/AN health disparities.
- Provide ancillary support for two major research projects that were originally a part of our NARCH VI application, but ultimately were funded through another source. These projects, with funding from the National Cancer Institute, are titled The Genetics and Topography of Smoking and Nicotine Metabolism Among American Indians, and the Secondhand Smoke Intervention in Lakota Households.

## **NARCH VI**

### **South Dakota**

**GM092238**

**Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman's Health Board  
Northern Plains NARCH Program**

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Equine-Assisted Substance Use Prevention for Northern Plains American Indian Adolescents
- Student Development Project
- Faculty and Tribal Health Professionals Development Project
- Administrative Core

#### **Abstract**

The Northern Plains NARCH Program (NP) continues to be a vital vehicle by which Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman's Health Board is addressing the health disparities that currently exist for NP American Indians. Despite small improvement in health data trends, substantial health disparities persists for American Indians (AI) in the Aberdeen Area of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa compared to AI/AN in other regions and to the United States (all races). For the last 4 years, the NP-NARCH has established partnerships with Tribes and academic institutions to conduct pertinent research projects using CBPR methods. We propose to build on existing partnerships and further potential for collaborative research to address the persisting health disparities in this region through submission of six research projects and two training components for the NARCH IV funding cycle:

- American Indian Student Development Program, Maurine Orwa, Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board, TCU Faculty and Tribal Health Professional (TCU/THP) Development Program
- Jennifer Giroux, Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board, Diagnosing and Predicting Thyroid Disease among Native Americans
- Gay Canaris, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Effectiveness of Postpartum Home Visits in Promoting Healthy infant Care Practices in Teen Moms in a Northern Plains American Indian Tribe
- Amy Elliot, Health Disparities Research Center, University of South Dakota Health Careers Opportunities for Native Americans in Addressing Health Disparities (HCONA) Shade
- Kosoko-Lasaki, Creighton University, Educating Native American Parents and Youth about Diabetes Prevention
- Phyllis Nsiah-Kumi, University of Nebraska Medical Center, HPV Self- sampling to improve cervical cancer screening in American Indian Communities

- Delf Schmidt-Grimminger, University of South Dakota, Equine-Assisted Substance Use Prevention for Northern Plains American Indian Adolescents
- Jessica White-Plume (Oglala Sioux Tribe) and Jennifer Giroux (Rosebud Sioux Tribe)

## **NARCH VI**

### **Tennessee**

**GM092242**

**United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.  
USET-VU Native American Research Center for Health**

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Health Information Technology to Improve Diabetes Management in American Indian Communities

*Funding Partners:* NIDDK, NIGMS

*Project Leaders:* David Schlundt and Russell Rothman

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- Administrative Core

*Funding Partner:* NIGMS

*Project Leaders:* John Mosely Hayes and Russell Rothman

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#### **Abstract**

The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., (USET) coalition was formed as a non-profit Tribal organization founded on a shared vision that there was strength in Tribal unity. Today, 26 Federally-recognized Tribes make up USET. These Tribes are located in the area known as the Indian Health Service (IHS) Nashville Area that spans a large geographic area from Maine to Florida, to eastern Texas, and includes approximately 75,000 American Indian/Alaska Natives eligible for care through the Indian Health Care Delivery System. A major challenge to improving health for these Tribes has been the relatively small number of members within each Tribe (populations range from 200 to 15,000 persons), lack of resources available for many of the individual Tribes, and the large cultural and geographic diversity of the Tribes in this region. In 2008, USET developed a partnership with Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VU) to develop research and training opportunities that benefited American Indians (AI) and the USET Tribes. In 2010, the USET-VU NARCH was formed, and the proximity of VU to USET both in Nashville, TN, has fostered good communication, efficiency and productivity.

The USET-VU NARCH mission is to increase Tribal-Academic research partnerships and the number and training of AI scientists and investigators interested in improving AI health. The overall focus of the USET-VU NARCH is on maintaining a Tribally guided research and education center, fully integrating VU resources and infrastructure for the benefit of the USET Tribes, and maximizing the use of Health Information Technology and Community Based Participatory Research techniques to improve AI health. Under its NARCH VI award, the USET-VU NARCH has established an Administrative Core, and supports the implementation of one primary research project. Of note, the USET-VU NARCH has been able to engage students in educational projects (e.g. VU Aspirnaut program, <http://www.aspirnaut.org> ) despite the lack of any funding for an education core. The USET-VU NARCH has also been able to promote and develop additional research projects despite a small Administrative Core. The Administrative Core includes an Executive Committee and a Tribal majority Community and Scientific Advisory Committee. In addition, the Administrative Core has an active Web site, <http://narch.psy.vanderbilt.edu>; an introductory video presentation about the USET-VU NARCH; an active list of interested Tribes and over 25 academic researchers from across the USET region; an established education pathway for USET high school students to participate in funded summer research programs at VU; and provides assistance with developing research and educational project proposals. The USET-VU NARCH primary research project is focused on the use of health information technology tools to improve the management of diabetes within the MS Band of Choctaw Indians.

## **NARCH VI**

### **Wisconsin**

**GM092245**

**Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council**

**GLNARCH VI: A Wisconsin Tribal Partnership with Health Research Universities**

#### **Principal Investigator**

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#### **Sub-Projects**

- Teaching the Teachers and Fostering Native American Students and Interns
- The Prevalence of Congenital Heart Disease in Native American in Wisconsin
- Administrative Core

#### **Abstract**

The NARCH VI GLNARCH continuing application process is an ongoing partnership among the consortia represented by Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, the Tribes in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota (ongoing NARCH IV pilot project and student development), the University of Wisconsin (Madison and Milwaukee campuses), the Medical College of Wisconsin/Children's Hospital, University of Minnesota Duluth/St. Mary's Duluth Clinic and the Mayo Clinic (ongoing NARCH IV work). The overall fiscal administration will be the responsibility of GLITC. The partnership with the academic institutions will provide the technical expertise required for the three new research projects and will be accomplished via research service agreement mechanisms. The GLITC Board will retain the overall administrative control of the grant, while a Community and Scientific Advisory Committee will provide advisory oversight for the GLNARCH VI projects. The three research projects and two student development projects have been developed from our tribal community based activities to address four major areas of health and sciences: behavioral health, basic sciences, environmental health and community health. Research Project 1 (RPI) focuses on community health as it evolved from Alex Adam's NARCH II work to a new investigator, Tara LaRowe. Research Project 2 with Michael Carvan, a successful NARCH II principal investigator, utilizes laboratory sciences (i.e., zebrafish) to study the developmental neurotoxicity of persistent organic pollutants and mercury. A pilot project with Andrew Pelech of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin is a new environmental health initiative aimed at determining the proper inclusion of Wisconsin's Native people into the Wisconsin Pediatric Cardiac Registry. All three research projects and general health-related science areas converge on training AI students for future careers to help address these and many other health issues in their communities.