



#### Mission

To alleviate the unequal burden of cancer among Native Americans of the Southwest through research, training, and community outreach programs in collaboration with the communities we serve.

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The Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP) is a partnership of Native American communities, Northern Arizona University, the University of Arizona Cancer Center, and the National Cancer Institute to address cancer health disparities in Native Americans.

## Greetings!

It has been a stressful month with anxiety over election results and ever increasing COVID-19 infections and deaths. This anxiety is moderated by moments that bring beauty and hope such as a stunning sunrise, a new baby in the family and connecting with friends and family, even if just by phone or Zoom. May this month bring you an abundance of beauty and hope.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Jani Ingram

Margaret Briele

Francine Gachupin

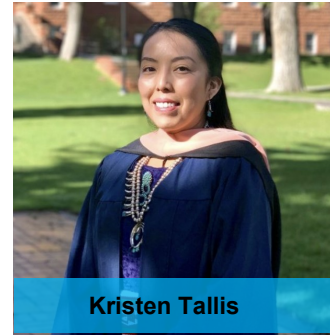
## Panel Participation in the 13th Annual Arizona Tribal Collaborative Cancer Conference

On October 21, Drs. Priscilla Sanderson, Bill Montfort, Jennifer Erdrich, and Jani Ingram participated in the 2020 Tribal Collaborative Discussion Panel along with Drs. Monica Yellowhair and Tommy Rock, who formerly were part of NACP. The Panel addressed questions posed from Native American community members and healthcare workers in tribal communities. The questions focused on cancer care during the pandemic, cultural sensitivity with respect to clinical trials, expansion of telemedicine for cancer care, and building partnerships between cancer researchers and health providers and Native American communities. One example of how the panelists provided important insights is Dr. Erdrich's response to approaches in increasing the use of telemedicine to provide care and how there needs to be practical solutions that work for both the health providers and the communities. Dr. Montfort made the point that telemedicine requires stable internet accessibility, yet many of the tribal communities have inadequate internet as well as other necessities such as power and running water. Dr. Sanderson applauded the decisions of the Navajo Nation in mandating lock-downs and curfews to protect the Navajo people from COVID-19; she also stressed the need for discussions with Native American communities on cancer and other health care related areas to take place at the literacy level that is understandable to lay community members. Dr. Ingram discussed the need for cultural issues to be incorporated in these discussions to educate non-Native American researchers and health providers of the significance of culture, which affects health-related decisions for Native American people. Overall, the response to the panel by the conference participants was very positive; they appreciated our insights on their questions and concerns.



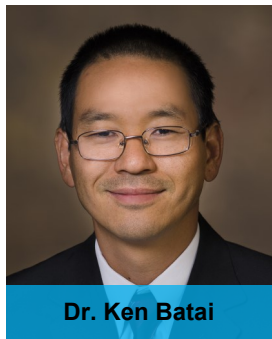
## Congratulations to Kristen Tallis

We congratulate Kristen Tallis, an NACP alumna, on her new position as a Program Manager for Johns Hopkins University in Chinle, Arizona. Four years ago, Kristen started work with NACP in the scholars' program at NAU. Over the ensuing years, she had a research internship at UA and then worked at NAU as a Research Specialist for Dr. de Heer's Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant on the Healthy Dine' Nation Act (the 'junk food tax'). Kristen has contributed to Dr. de Heer's NIH R01 for the past year while completing a Master's of Public Health degree and working as a Graduate Research Assistant for the Center for Health Equity Research. The Johns Hopkins University Program Manager position is a wonderful opportunity for Kristen, as a stable position that is close to her home. We are excited for her next step to contribute to the health of Native community members!



Kristen Tallis

## Poster Award to Dr. Batai



Dr. Ken Batai

Last month's *NACP Insights* included an article on presentations by NACP at a national conference. The conference was a meeting on, *The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved*, organized by the American Association for Cancer Research. The abstract by Dr. Ken Batai, a member of the UA Outreach investigator team, was selected as one of the best in the conference. He presented his research showing an increased risk of death from kidney cancer among American Indians, as compared to other racial/ethnic groups. Congratulations to Dr. Batai on his recognition for this important research.

## Outreach Core's Clinical Trials Brochure

The Outreach Core has developed its eighth brochure in an educational series for researchers and Native communities. The brochures provide guidelines for researchers to promote respectful research with tribes and information to help Native cancer survivors and caregivers with questions they may have about diagnosis, treatment, follow-up care and overall Native cancer experience. The newest brochure is titled, *Clinical Trials, what are they?* It covers the topics: What is a Clinical Trial, What do I need to know, Explaining a clinical trial, Side effects, Clinicaltrials.gov and Resources & Readings. To disseminate the information in the brochures, the Outreach Core sends printed copies to Tribal Leaders and Tribal Health Directors. The brochures are also available online at:

<https://nartc.fcm.arizona.edu/partnership-native-american-cancer-prevention-nacp>

**Clinical Trials,  
what are they?**



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## Promotion and Recruitment



We would like to congratulate Alura Benally on her new position as Project Coordinator for the American Indian Youth Wellness Camp (also known as American Indian Youth Energy and Mental Health Balance or AYEM-B) with Dr. Francine Gachupin. Alura started with NACP Research Education Core as a Graduate Assistant and was hired as an Administrative Assistant after receiving her MPH degree in Health Administration. She started the “My Journey” Seminar and Networking Series as her Master internship project. We wish you the best in your new position.



We would also like to welcome Jalisa Ingram to the Administrative Core. Jalisa is a transfer senior at NAU this fall studying sociology and environmental sustainability. She attended the University of Alaska-Anchorage where she played volleyball, but due to the pandemic, will be spending her senior year in her hometown. She has been around NACP for the past decade or so thanks to her mother, Dr. Jani Ingram. Jalisa states that she is excited to be involved directly with NACP for her senior year.

Both Alura and Jalisa will be co-creators for *NACP Insights*.

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UA: <https://cancercenter.arizona.edu/researchers/collaborative-research/nacp>