



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.

In this issue:

- Insights on Kidney Cancer
- Update on the Navajo Healthy Stomach Project
- Promotion of Dr. Naomi Lee
- Graduate Student SACNAS Award
- New Members added to the IAC

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!

This is a particularly special time of year for NACP, with November being National Native American Heritage month. We encourage you to intentionally celebrate this month's theme. Some ideas are to acknowledge the Indigenous peoples on whose land you live and work, read an article, book or poetry by a Native American author, encourage Native American students, thank Native American faculty members and participate in a special event being held to honor of Native American heritage, knowledge and contributions.

Jani Ingram

Francine Gachupin

Jason Wilder

Margaret Briebl

Insights on Kidney Cancer from Dr. Andrew Kraft

Kidney cancer is deadly but can be cured if caught early. Red blood cells in the urine, even if not visible, are a tell-tale sign of this disease. The diagnosis of kidney cancer can be made at a yearly physical exam simply by examining a urine sample, which is a test called urinalysis. If only part of the kidney is involved this tumor can be surgically removed leaving the remainder of the good kidney behind. Because we can live easily with only one kidney, if the tumor is larger, the entire kidney can be removed. Great strides are being made in the treatment of kidney cancer that has spread. Genetic changes that cause this disease are now well-known and drugs targeted at these abnormalities are currently under development.

Update on the Navajo Healthy Stomach Project

The August 2020 issue of NACP Insights included an article that was an introduction to NACP's Navajo Healthy Stomach Project. The project team includes Drs. Fernando P Monroy and Priscilla Sanderson (NAU), Drs. Robin Harris and Heidi Brown (UACC), and Drs. Greg Jarrin and Rishi Dholakia, Alfreda Butler, and Laura Pauli, who are health care professionals at the Winslow Indian Health Care Clinic. As an update on this project, the team has measured the frequency at which the bacteria, *Helicobacter pylori*, is found within three communities on the Navajo Nation. Infection of the stomach with these bacteria can lead to gastritis, ulcers and stomach cancer, if not treated. The research team organized focus groups, which showed that there is limited knowledge among Navajo about *Helicobacter pylori* and the stomach diseases that these bacteria can cause. Laboratory studies done by the research group revealed that some *Helicobacter pylori* genes make the bacteria more likely to cause severe disease. This new knowledge is a first step toward better treatments to cure *Helicobacter pylori* infection and prevent stomach cancer. The group has prepared research articles on their discoveries. The articles are currently under review by the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board.



Promotion of Dr. Naomi Lee to Major



Dr. Naomi Lee

Dr. Naomi Lee was promoted to the rank of Major in the Army Reserves effective September 16th. Dr. Lee has over 12 years of military service. In 2009, she joined the Army National Guard with duty positions in NY, MD, NM, and AZ. Over the years, Dr. Lee has served as a logistics officer, military police, senior instructor, and member of the training, advising, and counseling office for the Officer Candidate School. Currently, she is a Functional Specialist in the 322 Civil Affairs Brigade based in Honolulu, HI. Recent missions focus on building partnerships within the Pacific Islands. These include increasing COVID-19 education and vaccination rates, designing biomedical laboratories, and training Pacific Islander students in STEM. Congratulations to Dr. Lee on this fantastic accomplishment. We thank her for her service.

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Graduate Student SACNAS Presentation Award



Mialynn Jim

Mialynn Jim received a graduate student presentation award at the recent Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) national meeting. Ms. Jim' presentation was titled "Quantification of Calcium in Blue Corn Mush". The presentation focused on characterizing the blue corn meal for calcium content. Blue Corn Mush is a traditional food of the Navajo. It has been linked to health benefits for elderly Navajo people. Congratulations to Ms. Jim for this recognition.

New Members added to the Internal Advisory Committee

NACP would like to thank Drs. Lynda Ransdell and Chad Hamill for their service as Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) members. NACP welcomes Dr. Gabe Montaño and Vice President Ann Marie Chischilly from NAU to our IAC. Dr. Montaño is a molecular biologist and NAU's Diversity Officer. Vice President Chischilly serves as the Director of the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals and is the Interim Vice President for Native American Initiatives. NACP looks forward to the expertise Dr. Montaño and Vice President Chischilly bring to our Partnership.



Dr. Lynda Ransdell



Dr. Chad Hamill



Dr. Gabe Montaño



VP Ann Marie Chischilly

Contact Information and Websites

Jani Ingram, PI at NAU
Jani.ingram@nau.edu
(928) 523-7877

Margaret Briehl, PI at UACC
mmbriehl@pathology.arizona.edu
(520) 626-6827

NAU: <https://in.nau.edu/nacp/#>

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

Maria Jackson, Program Manager at NAU
Maria.jackson@nau.edu
(928) 523-8383

Maria Prevatt, Research Administrator at UACC
mprevatt@uacc.arizona.edu
(520) 626-6979