



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!

Happy New Year! Elizabeth Edwards was an attorney, health care activist and author. She wrote, “(r)esilience is accepting your new reality, even if it’s less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you’ve lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that’s good.” As we begin another year in a pandemic, we are confident that during 2022 the NACP team will continue their resilience, putting forward good efforts to reduce cancer health disparities.

Jani Ingram

Francine Gachupin

Jason Wilder

Margaret Briebl

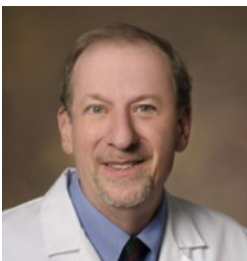
Congratulations and Farewell to Sheena Hale



Sheena Hale

It is a bittersweet combination of congratulations and goodbye that NACP bids to Sheena Hale, our amazing Research Education Core and GUIDeS Shared Resource coordinator at NAU. Sheena began working with NACP in January 2016. She has been the anchor for the recruitment, retention, and mentorship of our NACP students and early stage and junior investigators. Sheena has accepted the Assistant Director position with NAU’s Multicultural Student Services. Sheena will be starting the new position on January 31, 2022. We know we will continue to interact with Sheena in her new position, and NACP wishes her the best as she begins a new chapter in her career.

Best Wishes Dr. Kraft and Welcome Dr. Allen



Dr. Andrew Kraft

With deep gratitude, NACP says farewell to Dr. Andrew Kraft and wishes him the best in retirement. Andrew has guided our efforts for three years, providing insight and expertise from his experience as an oncologist and Cancer Center Director at the University of Arizona as well as the Medical University of South Carolina. His guidance as MPI was critical to the renewal of the U54 grant which provides the funding for all of our efforts. He has continued his advisory role as leader of the Planning and Evaluation Core. Andrew is retiring in Colorado to be close to family.



Dr. Alicia Allen

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Alicia Allen as the new leader of the Planning and Evaluation Core at UACC. Alicia is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She studies factors underlying addiction with a particular focus on the health of women and children. In 2020, Alicia was awarded the prestigious National Institutes of Health’s New Innovator Award to explore how postpartum hormones influence relapse to opioids. She has been recognized as an outstanding mentor. We look forward to having Alicia’s expertise on our NACP team.



“My Journey” Speaker Series Presents: Heidi Dugi, MPH



Heidi Dugi

The goal of the ‘My Journey’ speaker series for the fall and spring semesters is to cater to Native American students involved in the health sciences fields by organizing Native American professionals to present their work and their journey through academia in hopes that they serve as role models. This speaker series will give students the opportunity to gain motivations, network, and gain knowledge about their field, interests, and/or educational endeavors.

This past fall semester, NACP Research Education Core invited Heidi Dugi, MPH (Diné, she/her/hers) to speak on her journey as a first-generation graduate and medical student. Heidi is a medical student at Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine in Portland, Oregon. She is currently developing research projects both in determining benefits of screening for *H. pylori* to reduce gastric cancer prevalence and the quality of patient-provider interactions for *H. pylori* treatment in Indigenous communities. Heidi also spoke to her challenges and all that she had overcome from her personal life to educational life to her professional life. If you missed this very impactful talk please visit our YouTube page: https://youtu.be/I_muG9I0wMA.

Disparities in Breast-Conserving Therapy for AI/AN Publication



Dr. Jennifer Erdrich

Dr. Jennifer Erdrich, MD, MPH, FACS is one of six researchers on this study, “Disparities in Breast-Conserving Therapy for Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native Women Compared with Non-Hispanic White Women”, published in the *Annals Surgical Oncology*. The purpose of this study is to determine disparities in breast cancer surgery and radiation therapy between non-Hispanic AI/AN women and non-Hispanic White women. This cross-sectional study uses data from the National Program of Cancer Registries of the Centers for Disease Control and Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results. This research is particularly notable because it is the first study to show disparities in surgical management of non-Hispanic AI/AN women with breast cancer. The researchers compared the data of race/ethnicity, surgical procedure, and radiation across regions and stage. It was concluded that

non-Hispanic AI/AN women with early-stage disease are undergoing mastectomy at higher rates than non-Hispanic White women. The regions experiencing the highest rates of mastectomy for early-stage breast cancer were the Northern Plains and Alaska. Through this study, Dr. Erdrich and her colleagues are able to illustrate the surgical disparities in breast cancer for non-Hispanic AI/AN women.

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