



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! We hope that it has started out healthy for you, your family, and colleagues. Karen Kaiser Clark is an author and motivational speaker who wrote: "Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely." We hope that 2021 is another year of positive change and growth for NACP: new discoveries, strengthened relationships with the Native American communities we serve, and the growth of our trainees along their career paths.

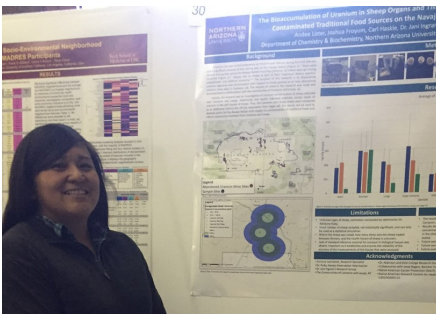
Jani Ingram

Francine Gachupin

Jason Wilder

Margaret Briele

Determination of Uranium in Sheep Hearts from the Navajo Nation



Andee Lister

Andee Lister (Navajo and PhD candidate at NAU), Joshua Froyum (NAU alumnus), Jonathan Credo (Navajo NAU alumnus and current MD/PhD student at the University of Arizona) and Dr. Jani Ingram (Navajo) have recently had a manuscript entitled "Determination of Uranium in Sheep Hearts from the Navajo Nation" accepted to the *Journal of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences*. The manuscript is a short communication that describes the characterization of uranium in sheep hearts from animals raised near abandoned uranium mine sites in the western region of the Navajo Nation.

The work is important to the Navajo people as sheep, or mutton, is an important traditional food. These findings are noteworthy as many of the Navajo people living in the rural regions of the Navajo Reservation are concerned that their sheep are being exposed to uranium due to the legacy mining in the region. The sheep research was accomplished with guidance from Navajo community members. The results indicate that there are similar levels of uranium in sheep hearts from both mining and non-mining areas, ranging from 50 to 100 ppb. The results suggest that the uranium exposure of sheep grazing in abandoned mine regions of the Navajo Nation are similar to the uranium exposure of sheep grazing in non-mining areas.

Congratulations Dr. Felina Cordova-Marks

We are excited to share the news that Dr. Felina Cordova-Marks was named the Tucson 2020 Woman of the Year, as part of a "40 under 40" annual award program. Dr. Cordova-Marks is a member of the Hopi tribe and is also of Hispanic heritage. She started her cancer training with NACP as an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Dave Albert's laboratory. Dr. Cordova-Marks is currently a postdoctoral researcher. She studies the general needs, challenges, stress management and overall health of urban American Indian caregivers. Her focus had been on caregivers of people with cancer, chronic disease, or a disability. In the past year, she pivoted to studies of caregiving during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Congratulations Dr. Felina Cordova-Marks (cont.)



Dr. Cordova-Marks & her Award

The recipients of “40 under 40” awards are selected based on community service. Dr. Cordova-Marks has been volunteering with various organizations in Tucson for over 20 years. She is the Founder/lead organizer of the Southern Arizona Urban, Native and Indigenous COVID-19 Relief fundraising and outreach efforts. To date, the organization has raised more than \$30,000 through direct donations and a GoFundMe account. She also has organized mask drives for the Hopi tribe and Gallup Indian Medical Center. In response to this recognition, Dr. Cordova-Marks said, “I have always wanted to use my skills to help my community, and I am proud that this award reflects the work that I and many others have been doing to help during a difficult time.” The “40 under 40” annual award program is sponsored by the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Arizona

Daily Star. A full story can be found at: <https://cancercenter.arizona.edu/news/2020/12/cancer-center-postdoctoral-research-fellow-named-woman-year>

Welcome Dr. LuAnn Leonard



Dr. LuAnn Leonard

NACP is excited to welcome new members who have joined the NAU-UA Community Advisory Board in the past few months. In this issue of the newsletter, we introduce LuAnn Leonard. Other new members will be introduced in future issues. LuAnn is a member of the Hopi Tribe and a cancer survivor. She served as a Regent on the Arizona Board of Regents from 2008 to 2016. She is currently the Executive Director of the Hopi Education Endowment Fund where she has served since 2002. She has

also held various positions within the Hopi Tribe. LuAnn is an alumna of NAU where she holds a bachelor’s degree in applied sociology. In 2017, NAU presented LuAnn with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. LuAnn brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and compassion to our NACP CAB; we look forward to gaining insight and guidance from LuAnn.

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