



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!

April can be associated with the deadline to file personal income taxes. These taxes help support the multi-billion-dollar budget of the National Institutes of Health, without which our work in the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention would not be possible. We encourage you to take time this month to thank family, friends and colleagues who are supporting our efforts through the various taxes that they pay (including at the gas pump). Enjoy our updates for this month!

Jani Ingram

Francine Gachupin

Jason Wilder

Margaret Briebl

NACP Shines at The American Society for Preventative Oncology Conference



NACP research made a significant impact at the annual conference of the American Society for Preventive Oncology (ASPO). The conference was held in Tucson, AZ from March 13th through March 15th. LeCario Benashley, an undergraduate student, won the much-coveted ASPO Calle/Rodriguez Minority Travel Award. The award covers up to \$1000 in travel expenses. Additionally, his poster titled, "Paclitaxel Treatment Effects on Neurofilament Light Chain (NF-L), a Possible Biomarker of

Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy (CIPN)," won second place at the conference. Dornell Pete, a long-time contributor to NACP, currently completing post-doctoral training at University of Washington, was recognized with an abstract award from the ASPO Disparities Special Interest Group. Kellen Polingyumptewa gave a talk titled "Innovations in Patient Navigation: What's it going to take to achieve cancer equity?" Members of Dr. Gachupin's team, Keyauni Leist and Ty Figueroa, presented their research in a poster titled, "Renal Cell Carcinoma Surgical Treatment Disparities in American Indians". Kudos to this outstanding group!

Annual Program Steering Committee Meeting

On April 21 and 22, the Partnership's Program Steering Committee will be reviewing the progress of NACP along with the proposed projects for the coming grant year. Our Committee members are LeeAnn Bailey, PhD, NCI; Tom Becker, MD, PhD, Oregon Health & Science University; Raymond Bergan, MD, Oregon Health & Science University; Linda Burhansstipanov, MSPH, DrPH, Native American Cancer Research Corporation; Shiraz Mishra, MBSS, PhD, University of New Mexico Cancer Center; Maria Jamela (Jay) R. Revilleza, PhD, INB, CRCHB, NCI, NIH; Dorothy Rhoades, MD, MPH University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Stephenson Cancer Center; Isabel Scarinci, PhD, MPH University of Alabama Birmingham. They provide guidance and support for our Partnership. NACP is very happy to have such an important group providing oversight to our Partnership.



Navajo Healthy Stomach Project's Recent Publication



The results from an NACP research study were just published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. Dr. Robin Harris, Dr. Heidi Brown, Rachelle Begay, Dr. Priscilla Sanderson, Dr. Carmenlita Chief, Dr. Fernando Monroy and Dr. Eyal Oren carried out the study. *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) is one of the most common bacterial stomach infections, and it is a cause of a many cases of stomach cancer. While stomach cancer has decreased in the United States, the frequency of newly diagnosed cases (incidence) in the Navajo Nation is nearly four times higher than surrounding Non-Hispanic White populations. However, little is known about the prevalence (or frequency) of *H. pylori* at Navajo or other Indigenous communities in the lower 48 states. In this study conducted in summer of 2019, 101 adults representing 73 households from three Navajo Nation chapter communities completed surveys and a urea breath test for active infection. The research group found that 56.4% of the participants had an active *H. pylori* infection, and 72% of households had at least one infected person. This prevalence of *H. pylori* in Navajo is like that seen in Alaska Natives. Further investigation into factors associated with prevention of infection is needed as well as understanding barriers to screening and treatment.

Congratulations Skylar Bordeaux



Skyler Bordeaux is an NACP trainee who was honored as the NAU Distinguished Graduate Student in two separate programs: the Department of Health Sciences and the Master of Public Health – Indigenous Health program. Skylar is a member of the Sicangu Lakota (Rosebud Sioux) and comes from White River, South Dakota. Skylar was part of the 3-year NACP pilot project “Viewing Native American Cervical Cancer Disparities through the Lens of the Vaginal Microbiome” under mentorship of Dr. Naomi Lee. When Skylar learned of this double honor, he immediately acknowledged his parents, Dr. Lee, his peers in graduate school, and his girlfriend, Jasmine, for supporting his pathway to

becoming a Master of Public Health researcher who can impact the health of Native communities around the U.S. We extend our warmest congratulations to Skylar and his support team! A full article on Skylar's honors can be found at: <https://nau.edu/cher/bordeaux-awarded-twice-as-distinguished-graduate-student/>

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