



### 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:

- Congratulations Dr. Amanda Hunter
- Welcome Dr. Paloma Beamer
- Recent Publication from Drs. Armin and Williamson
- *Taking Care of Us* Podcast

**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!

When working around an academic schedule, August can feel like a beginning. We start a new school year and meet new students. It's a time of beginnings for NACP, too. New research project leaders are getting ready to join the team. In this issues we welcome a new Internal Advisory Committee member and congratulate a former NACP trainee on receiving a new grant for launching her independent research career. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Jani Ingram

Francine Gachupin

Jason Wilder

Margaret Briehl

## Congratulations Dr. Amanda Hunter



Dr. Amanda Hunter

Congratulations to Dr. Amanda Hunter (Pascua Yaqui Tribe) for receiving a prestigious National Institutes of Health Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC) K99-R00 award, called a Pathway to Independence Award. The Award will assist her in expanding and supporting Native Spirit, a culturally-grounded after-school program for Native youth in Arizona created by Hunter and her community partners. Native Spirit is an innovative, resilience-building program developed in partnership with community members. Dr. Hunter is the first postdoctoral scholar at Northern Arizona University to receive a K99-R00 for her work titled, "Native Spirit: Culturally-Grounded Substance Use Prevention for Indigenous Adolescents."

## Welcome Dr. Paloma Beamer



Dr. Paloma Beamer

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Paloma Beamer as the newest Internal Advisory Committee member from the University of Arizona. Dr. Beamer is a Professor in the Department of Community, Environment & Policy in the College of Public Health. Her research investigates how individuals are exposed to environmental contaminants and the health risks of these exposures with a special focus on vulnerable populations, including Native Americans. Dr. Beamer's ultimate goal is to apply the results of her research to develop effective interventions and policies to prevent disease caused by environmental exposures, including carcinogens. Given Dr. Beamer's expertise, we are fortunate to have her helping guide NACP's research, education, and outreach efforts.



## Recent Publication from Drs. Armin and Williamson



### International Journal of *Environmental Research and Public Health*

Congratulations to Drs. Julie Armin, Heather Williamson and team for their recent publication, “Adapting a Cancer Screening Education Program for Native American Women with Disabilities”, published

in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health on July 29, 2022. The publication includes two student co-authors, Andria Begay and Jennifer Etcitty, and two co-authors from their community advisory board, Agnes Attakai and Kim Russell. In this qualitative research with Native American women with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), their caregivers, healthcare and service providers, and community leaders, they asked, “What are the influences on breast and cervical cancer screening for Native American women with IDD?” Results highlighted individual, interpersonal, and community/institutional influences on screening, emphasizing the individual effects of social inequity on this population, the importance of ableist bias in recommending cancer screenings, and opportunities to integrate traditional ways of knowing with allopathic medicine. Results of this work were used to adapt a cancer screening education program for Native American women with IDD, called My Health My Choice. Visit the project web site at [www.myhealthmychoice.org/](http://www.myhealthmychoice.org/).

## Taking Care of Us Podcast



NACP NAU Outreach Core developed a safe way to share cancer information resources for Native American communities called *The Taking Care of Us* Podcast Series during the Covid-19 pandemic. This podcast series was an alternative way aimed at community health education and awareness about cancer prevention, screenings, treatments, and services during the pandemic. The podcast series covered cancer-related topics of interest to Native American audiences like the following: The Navajo Nation Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program, The Restoring Balance in Indian Country Project, American Indian Pediatric Cancer, and American Indian Women and Human Papillomavirus (HPV). The Outreach Core promoted the episodes through the Buzzsprout<sup>™</sup> and Spotify<sup>™</sup> platforms and

soon will explore increasing listenership by further spreading the word about the podcasts using two tribal radio stations: KTNN (Navajo) and KWLP (Hualapai).

The first guests to be interviewed for the initial episode of the *Taking Care of Us* podcast series were staff of The Navajo Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program (NNBCCPP). This first episode focused on the NNBCCPP Program's altered guidelines to maintain its services while abiding by the Covid-19 restrictions established on the Navajo Nation to minimize Covid-19 exposure. The NNBCCPP director and three program case managers also discussed how the Covid-19 pandemic changed the dynamic between them and their clients. For example, case managers reassured clients that additional Covid safety measures like face masking, sanitizing all contact surfaces, and social distancing were in place during all screenings and consultation appointments. To learn more about the relationship between NNBCCPP and NACP and the development of the podcast, see the link to a recent publication co-authored by the university and tribal program: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2022.902253/full>  
Please find us on Spotify: NACP *Taking Care of Us* <https://in.nau.edu/nacp/>

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