

# Invitation to a Community Dialogue about Genetics

With support from the University of Utah's Genetic Science Learning Center, we will be holding monthly dialogues about genetics and health through April 2010.

We will feature Dr. Gilbert John (Dine'), microbiologist and Associate Professor at Oklahoma State University. Dr. John will share with us how he got involved in and maintained his interest in science from elementary school through graduate education. He will also discuss his current research and provide some recommendations on how we could encourage and mentor Native students.

► *The next discussion will take place April 14, 2010 at 1:00 pm (MT)*  
*Dial 1-866-421-2856, enter Pass Code: 9163564#*

Co-Leaders: Dr. Lillian Tom-Orme & Marla Pardilla  
This is a project of the Native Research Network

# Dr. Gilbert John, Microbiologist

- <http://www.sacnas.org/beta/pdf/gilbertHS.pdf>
- When and how did you become interested in science?
- Was there a special person who discovered your aptitude or curiosity?
- Did you have the needed resources in K-12 to foster your science interest?
- What were some of the challenges you dealt with in your career?
- What courses do you recommend that native students take to develop their knowledge and skills in science?
- What type of research are you currently involved in at OSU?
- How is your research related to native health?



## Here are some questions we will begin exploring:

- ▶▶ What comes to mind when we hear the word, “Genetics or Genomics”
- ▶▶ What is the relationship between genetics and health?
- ▶▶ Do we have genetic counselors in our communities who could potentially be helpful to us? In what ways could they be helpful?
- ▶▶ Which health conditions have genetic components?
- ▶▶ Which health conditions are more common in Native populations?
- ▶▶ What is Genetics?
- ▶▶ Why is it sometimes viewed negatively?
- ▶▶ How can we change it to mean something positive?
- ▶▶ CAN it be something positive among native people or populations?
- ▶▶ Are there examples of positive experiences in native populations?



# Resources

- <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu> Review Family Health and Pick the Risk
- <http://www.geneticalliance.org> Click on Tools, the to Family Health History
- <http://www.geneticsalliance.org> Go to Making Sense of Your Genes

