

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

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Native Research News

SPRING 2013

UPDATE...

2013 NRN Annual Research Conference

POSTPONED

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Co-Chairs Report

Greetings from the NRN Co-Chairs!

As the 2011 and 2012 Co-Chairs of the Native Research Network (NRN) it is our pleasure to express our appreciation to our membership, sponsors, and friends across the nation. Your support and dedication contribute to NRN's success. Thank you. We would also like to welcome and congratulate new members to the NRN Board of Directors elected by our membership during the last annual conference held in Seattle, Washington on July 16-19, 2012. These include incoming Co-Chairs, Priscilla Sanderson (Dine') and Janelle Palacios (Salish/Kootenai), and incoming Member At-Large board member Tam Lutz (Lummi). As always NRN would not work without the devotion of returning board members, Teshia Solomon (Choctaw), student board member, Tonie Quaintance (Oneida), secretary, Marla Pardilla (Dine'), and our Treasurer, Debra Isham (Muscogee Creek). Much thanks is given to our wonderful affiliate team members, Stefanie Brooks (Choctaw), Program Coordinator, Jeannie Yazzie (Dine') Bookkeeper, and Bernard Miller (IT and web designer) for their work and contribution. We are very honored and privilege to collaborate with such great minds.

Co-Chairs Report (contd.)

NRN Native Health Research Conference: Silver Anniversary (Postponed)

Unfortunately the Native Health Research Conference has been postponed until further notice. **Please keep an eye out for the save the date card.** The NRN Native Health Research Conference has relied on financial support from the Indian Health Services(IHS) and other federal agencies. On March 1, 2013 in accordance with the Budget Control Act of 2011 a series of spending cuts, called sequestration, cancelled approximately \$85 billion in budgetary resources across the Federal government for the remainder of the Federal Fiscal year. The sequestration affected the funding by IHS and other Federal agencies for this year's conference. As a result, the NRN Board has decided to postpone the conference. Despite postponing the conference, NRN has sent letters seeking financial support to host our next conference. Our annual conference on Native health is a leading multidisciplinary forum for researchers, Tribal partners and advocates doing work with American Indians and Alaska Natives and it is our (NRN membership) duty to continue this legacy. We are asking all NRN members, affiliates and treasured friends to advocate upon our behalf. Please share the upcoming forwarding email sent from NRN to universities, programs, training centers, tribes and businesses. Thank you for helping our small village of collaborators to continue to grow, share and advocate.

Any resources or financial help is greatly appreciated to help this year's conference. NRN will be sending letters seeking support shortly. All inquiries of financial support should be addressed to either of us; Kenton Laffoon at Kenton.laffoon@itcaonline.com, or Vanessa Shortbull at vshortbull@gmail.com.

We appreciate the dedication of our NRN members and participation in our annual research conference. As we move forward in securing our conference times, please check the NRN website for more detailed information.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Kenton Laffoon (Mohave) and Vanessa Shortbull (Oglala Lakota)

NEW Board Members

Priscilla R. Sanderson PhD, CRC

Priscilla R. Sanderson PhD, CRC (Incoming Co-Chair)

My first clan is Hozii Tachii' nii (Old Orabi Red Running Into the Water People), born of Kinyaa'anii (The Towering House Clan). My paternal grandparent's clan is Naakaii Dine' e (The Mexican Clan), and my maternal grandparent's clan is Bit' ahnii (The Leaf Clan). I am Navajo originally from Shiprock, New Mexico. My parents are Toney and Lena Lansing and they reside in Shiprock; they have four grandkids. I have two sisters (Tina Nelson and Cornelia Max) who have a family and they live in Shiprock. My husband, Timothy and I live in Flagstaff, AZ. We enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, camping, motorcycle riding, gourmet cooking and eating (smile), and visiting our family in Shiprock and Alma, Michigan. Tim's heritage is Ojibway from Michigan and he has his own business as a rehabilitation counselor.

I am honored to be elected as NRN co-chair for 2013-2014 with Dr. Janelle Palacios. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and help meet the NRN mission. I am chairing the Membership Committee and welcome NRN members to join me. Please call me at 928-523-6741 (office) or email a message to (Priscilla.Sanderson@nau.edu) to join the Membership Committee.

I am an assistant professor in the Department of Health Sciences (College of Health and Human Services) and Department of Applied Indigenous Studies (College of Social and Behavioral Sciences) at Northern Arizona University. I am a Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Nicolette Teufel-Shone (UA) for a newly funded Center of Excellence called the Center for American Indian Resilience (CAIR). The CAIR is funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health. In addition, I am a Co-Leader with Dr. Sylvia Brown (UA) of a pilot research project titled, Hopi Survey of Cancer and Chronic Diseases. The three-year pilot research project is funded by the NAU Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP).

I enjoy mentoring students who are my research assistants (four undergraduate students), Applied Indigenous Studies Department (seven undergraduate students) and College of Health and Human Services, Native Journey for Academic Success (NJACKS) (16 undergraduate native students). Several of my students have presented with me at the NRN conference in New York and Washington.

It is important to accept opportunities, especially to be mentored by experienced researchers. My mentors include Dr. Elena Martinez, Dr. Nicolette Teufel-Shone, Dr. Neil Weinsten, Dr. Tom Becker, Dr. Jennie Joe, Dr. Teshia Solomon, Dr. Judith Kaur, Dr. Linda Burhansstipanov, Dr. David Perdue, Dr. Rob Vierkant, Dr. Robin Harris, Dr. Diane Stearns, Dr. Laura Huenneke, and Dr. Jani Ingram.

I completed my three-year postdoctoral fellow with the cancer prevention and control program with the Arizona Cancer Center, College of Medicine, University of Arizona. My research project was in colorectal cancer screening, knowledge, attitudes and beliefs. I am a member of the Chi Sigma Iota; faculty fellow with the University of Arizona, Native American Research and Training Center, Tucson, AZ (Dr. Teshia Solomon), and a Hampton Fellow with the Spirit of EAGLES (Dr. Judith Kaur), Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. I am a former Northwest NARCH fellow (Dr. Tom Becker). I have published peer-reviewed journal articles, one book, and numerous book chapters. My research interest includes indigenous health and chronic diseases; indigenous colorectal cancer screening knowledge, attitudes and beliefs; breast cancer screening and education; and indigenous disability rehabilitation.

Recently, I organized a diabetes prevention awareness walk during November Native American Heritage Month on Northern Arizona University campus. See the photo below after our walk standing next to the Applied Indigenous Studies Hogan on-campus.

Have a wonderful and safe 2013 year!



Janelle Palacios PhD, CNM, RN

Janelle Palcios PhD, CNM, RN (Incoming Co-Chair)

Greetings fellow NRN Members! I am honored by your support for this new position.

I am Salish-Kootenai and grew up on the Flathead Reservation in Montana. After graduating from the University of Washington's School of Nursing, I moved to the University of California at San Francisco to complete my graduate education.

Recently, I completed my postdoctoral fellowship which focused upon the fatherhood experiences and online social identities among young Native American men at the University of California Los Angeles School of Nursing, while working with Drs. Adey Nyamathi and Felicia Hodge. Currently, I am a research faculty member at the University of Arizona's Native American Research Training Center and a practicing nurse midwife in the Northern California Bay Area. Over the past eleven years, I have worked collaboratively with tribes and Native communities in Washington, California, and Montana. Most of my collaborative work has centered upon understanding young motherhood among Native women. Additional research interests include; labor and delivery, reproductive health, risky behaviors among youth, adverse childhood experiences, mixed methods, historical trauma, weathering, digital storytelling, and collaborative research practices.

When I became a student NRN member in 2004 it was my goal to participate and support NRN. It is my pleasure and honor to work with my fellow NRN Board Members, to follow in the footsteps of trailblazers and build upon their foundation. I look forward to working with my Co-Chair, Dr. Priscilla Sanderson, and the great number of mentors devoted to NRN.

If you have any questions, ideas or comments you would like to share, you may always reach me at janellepalacios@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support of NRN!



Tam Lutz, MPH, MHA

Tam Lutz, MPH, MHA (Incoming Member-at-Large)

Tam Lutz, Doctoral Student, MPH, MHA, an enrolled member of the Lummi Nation, is the Project Director and Jr. Investigator of the Native Children Always Ride Safe (Native CARS) Study at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and the Prevention of Toddler Overweight Study (PTOTS). Tam has worked in Indian health programs for the last nineteen years where she has led research, surveillance, health planning, evaluation and health policy analysis. Through the Native CARS Study, Tam partners with six tribes to collect data on child safety seat use and develop community-based interventions to promote the use of child safety seats. Tam also spends time working with other NW tribes on other maternal child health related data, planning and policy issues. Tam received both her masters of public health and master of health administration from University of Washington's School of Public Health and Community Medicine and is now finishing a doctorate degree in Public Health Leadership (DrPH) from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill's School of Public Health. Tam lives in Beaverton, Oregon with her husband Ed and two children Josephine and Rowan and spending many weekends following their numerous sports and cultural activities.



NRN SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Phillip Smith

Dr. Phillip “Phil” Smith (Navajo)

Years ago, we were lucky that a young Navajo man from a line of Traditional Navajo Healers, decided to pursue medicine, and luckier yet that he built his life upon service. Phillip (or also Phil) Smith, MD, MPH has devoted more than 30 years to working with underserved, of which many of those years have been in various departments within Indian Health Service. Most recently since 2001, Phil’s work within IHS has focused upon research with American Indians/Alaskan Natives

Colleagues are quick to point that underlying this fierce strength for service to underserved communities, there is a gentle, kind and wise spirit passionately devoted to reducing health disparities and inequities among American Indian/Alaskan Natives. Keenly aware and understanding of Native sovereignty issues, Dr. Phillip has championed Tribes and Native communities’ rights to health care and research participation. In his testimony to the DHHS, National Center for Vital and Health Statistics, Subcommittee on Privacy, Confidentiality, and Security on April 17, 2012, Dr. Smith says it best: “Of all the things that I think when I work with the tribes I tell them they have the ultimate authority. Research as a whole is usually elective. You don’t need to do it. It is a good thing to do it. It is the right thing to do, but it is elective. And you could always say no.”

Please join us in honoring Dr. Phillip Smith, for without his tremendous work and trailblazing, many of our important programs, leading scientists, and recognition for issues assaulting American Indian/Alaskan Native health would not exist.



NRN Student Spot Light

Erica Doxzen, MHSe

Erica Doxzen, MHS (Lumbee)

I am currently a 2nd year doctoral student at the University of Maryland College Park in the School of Public Health. I began pursuing a career in public Health (PH) with the Native population during my graduate education at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, founding a work-study program at the Baltimore American Indian Center. It was through this experience that I began to understand the PH issues surrounding Natives, and since then I have focused my career on improving the health and wellbeing of our population. I then worked for the National Indian Health Board as a Public Health Program Assistant linking the tribes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. After gaining a strong understanding of the government-to-government relationship between the tribes and the federal agencies, I focused on program evaluation through a position with JBS International, Inc. on the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention, funded by Indian Health Service. In this role I worked with the tribal grantees, to evaluate their suicide and methamphetamine programs. The more I learn about the health disparities impacting Natives, the more inspired and dedicated I become to making progressive contributions. My long-term research goals include improving the AI/AN health by assisting in the sustainment and improvement of diabetes and obesity prevention programs. Upon completion of my doctoral degree, I plan to become an evaluation consultant for tribal communities to not only conduct program evaluation, but also train their staff to ensure evaluation is sustainable without a need to continue consulting outside the community. Being a part of the NRN has allowed me to connect with Native professionals in my field of interest and I hope to continue to build strong personal and professional networks to support my growth as a Native woman and a passionate PH professional.



Membership News

Dues Increase

During the February NRN Board Meeting, it was decided by vote that the NRN annual membership fees for professionals and students would increase. The annual dues for professionals increased from \$30 to \$60, and the annual dues for students increased from \$5 to \$35. The general consensus behind the decision to increase fees results from a need to support the organization. It was felt that while the increase may appear drastic, the fees are still significantly lower than many professional organization's annual dues. At this time dues for the elders and community health representatives remain the same, but are expected to increase.

Membership Renewal & Dues

Annual Membership Dues—January 2013-December 2013

a. Full Membership

Student.....	\$35.00
Fellow/Intern/Post-doc.....	\$50.00
CHR.....	\$5.00
Elder.....	\$5.00
Professional.....	\$60.00

b. Affiliate..... \$15.00

c. Treasured Friend..... \$45.00

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

****Send payment: NRN, Inc., PO Box 721539, Oklahoma City, OK 73172**

Questions contact Stefanie at: 405-517-4129; stefaniearabula@mac.com

Elections– Board of Directors

NRN holds elections for its Board of Director positions each year at the annual meeting, which is held during the Annual Native Health Research Conference. We are requesting nominations for the following four NRN positions.

Co-chairs elect, 2 positions—serves 3 years

Secretary—serves 2 years

Treasurer—serves 2 years

2 Member-at-large position—serves 2 years

Please consider nominating colleagues who you think would commit and contribute greatly to the Native Research Network. The Board's roles and responsibilities are included in a separate document. Please review these carefully before submitting your nominations as the time and energy commitment can be challenging, but also very rewarding!

Please submit your nominations for positions to us electronically by emailing stefaniearambula@mac.com or by mail to Stefanie Brooks at Native Research Network, PO Box 721539, Oklahoma City, OK 73172. Please indicate clearly the name of the nominee and the position for which you are nominating. We will verify the nominee as a member of NRN, at which point the nominee will be placed on the ballot. *Mail and email nominations will close at midnight, Monday–July 10, 2013.* Please be sure to check out the NRN website for bios of those nominated for NRN Board positions.

Instructions for voting will be communicated to dues paying full members shortly after July 10, 2013

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please contact us should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Vanessa Shortbull, Oglala Sioux

Elections Committee



Meeting of the minds discussing research: (L to R) Alan Trachtenberg, Jeff Henderson and Sam Deloria discussing at the 2012 NRN conference held in Seattle, Washington.



Native Research Network, Inc.
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The Native Research Network publishes a newsletter at least once a year in the fall/winter or spring/summer. Members of the NRN are invited to send in articles or information about research activities for the newsletter. Time sensitive announcements may be broadcast via the NRN website. Students are welcome to submit articles, as well as graduation announcements, special training or fellowships, etc.