



Stay in the circle...

Greetings,

from Native People for Cancer Control. As an ongoing feature of our monthly activities and news, we would like to highlight an NPCC staff, student, community partner, or research



advisory board member and an NPCC outreach, training, or research activity in each issue. If you would like to receive our monthly e-news or if you would like to contribute any news for further issues, please contact:

Steve Charles at stevec3@u.washington.edu or call 206-543-9731

Ryan Morigeau (Salish) is from the Flathead Reservation in Montana, but now works in Seattle at the University of Washington with Native People for Cancer Control. He has worked closely with Steve Charles on the Art for Cancer project since its beginning over two years ago and is excited about the newly released poster on clinical trials, featuring a blanket by Conrad House. Ryan also works in digital storytelling and just finished co-facilitating Native People for Cancer Control's first workshop held this past January. The workshop was a complete success with seven digital stories completed.

Like many, Ryan's life was personally touched by cancer when his father



passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2005. This experience is what brought him to work with Native People for Cancer Control.

Ryan is also preparing to be a new daddy; he and his wife Kirsten are expecting a baby boy in May and are catching up on their sleep now.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

- Cancer clinical trials are research studies that help answer questions about new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer.
- Clinical trials test a standard, often used treatment against a newer one that doctors think could work better.
- In a clinical trial, doctors ask the question "Does the new treatment work better than the standard treatment?"
- Almost all standard cancer treatments used today were once tested in clinical trials.
- Ask your health care provider about cancer clinical trials.



Stay in the circle of life . . .

To find out more about cancer, visit us at www.npcancer.org or call 206-543-9731. We are grateful for the support of the National Cancer Institute, the University of Washington, and the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program. © 2008 Native People for Cancer Control. All rights reserved.

Native People for Cancer Control's latest poster is now available. It highlights some important points about "What You Need To Know About Cancer Clinical Trials" and features the work of Conrad House (Navajo). His contemporary quilt draws inspiration from a traditional Navajo Chief's Blanket design. The poster accompanies our clinical trials brochure that describes cancer prevention, screening, diagnostic and treatment trials. The brochure discusses possible benefits and risks of clinical trials, as well as "What is informed consent?" and "What questions should I ask about participating in a clinical trial?" The poster and brochure are available free of charge by calling **206-543-5342** or e-mail: stevec3@u.washington.edu.



Stay in the circle...

NPCC Launches Digital Storytelling Project

Staff members Steve Charles, Debra Sprague, HollyAnna Pinkham and Jessica Sutterliet were part of a three-day digital storytelling workshop on January 2-4, 2008, at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center led by Jen Nowicki of Creative Narrations, Inc. Other participants included Northwest Cancer Information Services staff Kathy Briant and Heidi Harbach, and Spirit of Eagles staff Teresa Guthrie. NPCC Director Brenda Manuelito and Research Assistant Ryan Morigeau were also involved as co-facilitators and peer-trainers. From beginning to end--the small group was led through a sequential process of crafting a story script, recording audio, scanning and downloading images, and editing their 3- to 5-minute digital stories using Microsoft Moviemaker. Digital stories about the 1-800-4-CANCER telephone line and the Alaska Radio Show on breast health were created, as well as the story behind the development of NPCC's Native Art for Cancer project. Other stories included powerful narratives about cancer survivorship, caregiving and support.

The purpose of this first intensive training workshop was to create "home-grown" digital stories on cancer-related topics and to build capacity within NPCC to deliver digital storytelling workshops within our eight-state region. NPCC plans to build a community of digital storytellers who are working in the field of cancer health disparities in order to create powerful and compelling first-person narratives about all aspects of the cancer care continuum. Our vision is to utilize this innovative technology to further our community outreach, training and research efforts. For example, we plan to evaluate it as a novel method for increasing early colorectal screening rates, and we plan to educate health providers about American Indian and Alaska Native patients utilizing a variety of first person narratives in a digital format.



Brenda Manuelito, editing a digital story

The three-day workshops are intensive learning environments that are sprinkled with personal photos and stories about each other's lives. On the last day of the training, all seven digital stories were screened for the first time and participants discussed plans for future dissemination. The following statements were taken from the workshop evaluations:

- "I loved being able to take these parts of my life and put them into a new form that is accessible to others and might affect their lives."
- "I think this is such a gripping form of communication that can be used to communicate messages surrounding any array of topics."
- "Storytelling is intimately tied with our culture and ceremonies. It was a very healing process."
- "Digital storytelling breaks down many barriers and gets to the part of us that remembers that we are all human."

For more information about NPCC's digital storytelling project, contact Brenda K. Manuelito at 206-543-3939 or email her at bkay4@u.washington.edu.



Stay in the circle...



My name is Cheri Hample, and I was hired in September 2007 to be the Partnership Program Coordinator for NCI/Cancer Information Service (CIS) and Native People for Cancer Control (NPCC). My office is located at the Black Hills Center for American Indian Health (BHCAIH) in Rapid City, South Dakota.

My passion for public health, social work and volunteering began when I was a teenager living in Breckenridge, MN, a small community located across the border from Wahpeton, ND. The youth group from my church spent time with children, who were living at and attending the Wahpeton (ND) Indian School, now called Circle of Nations.

I am a graduate of the University of Minnesota and have masters' degrees in Public Health and Social Work. My internship was spent working in South Dakota with the Pine Ridge, Rosebud and Cheyenne River Indian Reservations. Following graduation I was hired to be the first director of a community-based Indian Health Clinic in rural North Dakota.

My career journey has been inspiring and rewarding, filled with many opportunities to work diligently with others to improve the health and well-being of American Indians and Alaska Natives. My life's work is based on core values of compassion, honesty, listening, respect, hard work, social justice and an appreciation of diversity.

Prior to returning to South Dakota, I worked for the South East Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) Community Health Services Division. SEARHC is the health care provider for 18 tribal communities. During my time at SEARHC I traveled extensively to many small SE Alaska communities; most are only accessible by boat or small plane. Promoting, establishing and maintaining partnerships with tribal organizations, community members, state and national agencies and others was an essential part of my work.

I am very pleased to join Native People for Cancer Control, NCI/Cancer Information Service and the Black Hills Center for American Indian Health as they partner with American Indian and Alaska Native communities to control and prevent cancer.

As the Partnership Program Coordinator some of my goals are to increase, strengthen and maintain partnerships; support and enhance Tribal and community-based cancer education and prevention initiatives; expand education about health and cancer disparities; and strengthen collaboration between local, state and national cancer efforts. NPCC's theme "stay in the circle of life" encourages all of us to participate in these efforts.

