



**Native
People
for
Cancer
Control**

Stay in the circle of life...

Greetings

from your friends and partners at Native People for Cancer Control. As a new feature of our monthly newsletter, we will highlight other American Indian and Alaska Native research projects within UW's Center for Clinical and Epidemiological Research as well as continue to share information about ongoing NPCC outreach, education, training and research projects.



Pictured: Front Row L-R: Francine Swift, Dedra Buchwald, and Brenda Manuelito. Back Row L-R: Jon Tomhave, Ardith Doorenbos, Debra Sprague, Sweetwater Nannauck, and Johnny Mao. Not pictured: Steve Charles and Ryan Morigeau.

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) 543-5342

**We wish you many blessings
in 2009!**

With a new president, comes a new healthcare plan. Native People for Cancer Control would like to bring to attention the efforts being made toward cancer care reforms by President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. These reforms will result in new policies that will reverberate in change across the nation. Looking ahead, this transition will no doubt be felt by Native communities. Excerpts from the Obama-Biden plan to combat cancer follow:



- “As United States Senator, [Obama] has fought for increased funding for cancer research, and championed genomics and personalized medicine to identify new and better treatments for cancer research, and championed genomics and personalized medicine to identify new and better treatments for cancer and other diseases. As president, Barack Obama will build upon his career-long efforts and launch a new campaign to combat cancer and provide greater lifetime support to cancer survivors and their families.”
- “Despite these advances, cancer funding has stagnated in recent federal budgets. Barack Obama and Joe Biden are committed to reversing this trend, and providing our nation’s scientists with the resources they need to expand and accelerate bench-to bedside research that will lead to enhanced prevention and diagnostic tools and innovative treatments. The Obama-Biden plan will double federal funding for cancer research within 5 years, focusing on the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute.”
- “Improve Access to Clinical Trials: Barack Obama and Joe Biden will seek to increase participation in clinical trials to 10 percent of adult cancer patients by requiring coverage of patient clinical trial costs in the new public and private plans offered through the National Health Insurance Exchange, increasing NCI reimbursement for patient participation in clinical research and requesting the NCI Director to identify regulatory barriers that prevent the timely implementation and completion of successful clinical trials.”
- “Improve Federal Coordination of Cancer Research, Treatment and Awareness Programs: The Obama-Biden plan will maximize federal cancer funding by improving coordination both within the government and across government/private/non-profit partnerships for research, treatment and awareness efforts.”...“As president, Barack Obama will immediately direct his Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with agency officials, academic researchers, cancer survivors, and advocates for people with cancer, and state public health officials, to comprehensively examine the various cancer-related efforts of federal agencies, and provide recommendations to eliminate barriers to effective coordination across federal agencies and between the federal government and other stakeholders.”
- Provide New Supports to Cancer Survivors and their Families: Barack Obama and Joe Biden recognize that the majority of individuals diagnosed with cancer live for over five years after diagnosis, and they will implement a comprehensive agenda to support the unique needs of cancer survivors. Obama and Biden will direct the CDC to develop and carry out an epidemiologic study on cancer survivors to understand their long-term health needs.

For complete information on the Obama-Biden plan to combat cancer, please visit:
www.barackobama.com/issues/healthcare/

EXPORT Research Projects Underway

The Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Health Disparities, also called Project EXPORT, is a partnership between the University of Washington and the University of Colorado Denver, funded by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities. Spero Manson, PhD, is the principal investigator for the project. Dedra Buchwald, MD, is site principal investigator for one major research project and five pilot projects conducted at the University of Washington, assisted by Debra Sprague, PhD, project director.

The major research project, **Barriers to Care and Burdens Faced by American Indian/Alaska Native Adults with Cancer and Their Caregivers**, will survey Washington State American Indian and Alaska Natives diagnosed with cancer and their caregivers to identify barriers to cancer care and the burdens experienced by caregivers. Phase I of the project will conduct focus groups of cancer survivors to provide feedback for development of the surveys. The project director is Debra Sprague.

Pilot Project 1, **Extending Trauma-Focused Intervention Development to Diverse American Indian Communities**, is a randomized trial of a care management intervention which links injured Native patients treated at a trauma center with primary care in distant tribal communities. The first phase of this project consists of developing a health services ecology map for trauma patients who live in rural areas of the state. Native healers will be interviewed to provide insight on culture-specific aspects of recovery from traumatic injury. The project's consulting director is Doug Zatzick, MD. Ursula Tsosie, MPH, is project leader.

Pilot Project 2, **Physician Implicit and Explicit Attitudes, Stereotypes, and Health Care Quality for Native Youth**, will use a web-based survey to

examine physicians' implicit and explicit attitudes about race and obesity. Biases that favor white over Native youth and thin over obese patients will be investigated. The survey will also investigate physicians' treatment approaches to overweight and their attitudes about comfort with and competence in treating obesity. The project director is Janice Sabin, PhD.

Pilot Project 3, **Communicating Renal Risks**, will compare the effectiveness of different formats of risk information presented to urban and rural Native people with type 2 diabetes. Formats will include a media version—digital stories—and standard written materials such as brochures. The project director is to be named.

Project 4, **Assessment of Liver Disease in a Washington State Tribe**, is a cross-sectional descriptive study screening for chronic liver disease, including viral hepatitis, alcoholic liver disease, and nonalcoholic liver disease. The findings from the study will be a first step for understanding the high rate of liver disease in tribal communities, for planning future larger-scale intervention trials, and for establishing successful preventive approaches to lessen the devastating health effects of chronic liver disease. The project director is John Scott, MD, MSc.

Project 5, **American Indian and Alaska Native Cancer Survivors Support Groups**, will provide support for cancer survivors in rural areas in Washington and Alaska by training Native cancer survivors to be support group facilitators, starting new cancer support groups in Alaska, and supporting cancer support group facilitators with ongoing monthly training. The project director is Ardith Doorenbos, PhD, RN. Laura Revels is co-project director in Alaska.

For more information, contact Debra Sprague at (206) 616-9772 or dsprague@u.washington.edu.

Digital Storytelling moves across Indian Country

The Center for Native Digital Storytelling (CNDS) has been closing the digital divide and democratizing the media by training tribal health educators, researchers, policy makers, community members, and youth how to create powerful, creative, first-person narratives that “break through the sound barrier” to reach and teach others about the everyday healthcare and health access issues we face in Indian Country.

Founder and Director Brenda Manuelito has developed a three-day training workshop and adapted curriculum materials for Native-specific audiences modeled after Joe Lambert’s Center for Digital Storytelling in Berkeley, CA. Ms. Manuelito and other NPCC staff have been traveling extensively across our eight-state region to share this innovative new media tool with out NPCC partners, including the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Aberdeen Area Indian Health Board, and the Oglala Sioux Tribe. In addition, several training workshops have taken place locally with individuals and tribes in Washington State, and in the next few months the Center for Native Digital Storytelling will be working with the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Business Council and Black Hills Center for American Indian Health, to name a few, to develop digital stories for their organizations.

Digital storytelling is becoming an effective new health literacy tool because Native people can tap into our inherent wisdom and innate storytelling skills and use it as



Participants at Oglala Sioux Tribal Health digital storytelling workshop (January 2009).

we become *active producers* of health information using open source software and new technology. One recent workshop participant summarized it as follows: “Effective partnerships are built on respectful, honest, and sustainable communication. Digital stories provide access for both sides to deliver information, education, outreach and personal stories which will help each side to gain understanding about the problem, find a solution, and empower us to participate together to create healthier communities” (February 2009 workshop participant).

For more information or to schedule a training workshop for your community or organizations, please contact Brenda Manuelito at (206) 543-3939 or bkay@u.washington.edu.



Telehealth Services for Native Communities Case Conferences for Providers

Stay in the circle of life . . .

Continuing Education
Opportunities
for
Health Care Providers
Grand Rounds:

Fred Hutchinson
Cancer Research
center

Tues 8:00am-9:00am

UW Medicine
Thurs 8:00am-9:00am

UW Lab Medicine
Weds 3:30pm- 4:30pm

UW Cardiology
3rd Fri each Month
7:30am-8:30am

UW Psychiatry
Every other Thurs
Noon-1:30pm

Children's Hospital
Pediatric Medicine
Thurs 8:00am-9:00am

Children's Pediatric
Nursing
1st Thurs each Month
Noon-1:00pm

Harborview EMS
1st Thurs each Month
9:00am-Noon

Cara Towle
ctowle@u.washington.edu

1730 Minor Avenue
Suite 1760
Seattle, WA 98101

206.543.3830 fax
www.uwccer.org

Thursday Noon-1:00 p.m. PST (11—Noon AK time) Video TeleConference

February 5
Pain Management
Anjana Kundu, MD

Director, Complementary & Integrative Medicine, Seattle Children's Hospital

February 19
Dermatology
Roy Colven, MD

Director, Dermatology Residency Program
University of Washington School of Medicine

March 5
Dermatology
Roy Colven, MD

Director, Dermatology Residency Program
University of Washington School of Medicine

March 19
Pain Management
Anjana Kundu, MD

Director, Complementary & Integrative Medicine, Seattle Children's Hospital

Cancer support groups

Telehealth cancer education and support group for cancer survivors

February 19 and March 19 from 5-6pm PST 4-5pm AK time

For more information contact: [Laura Revels](mailto:Laura.Revels@u.washington.edu), (907) 729-3961 - direct line

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