BODY WORLDS is a unique exhibit exploring the human body in all its intricacies. It is exhibited worldwide. The Science Museum of Minnesota hosted the exhibit from July through Labor Day in St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. Judith Kaur and Ms. Paulette Baukol served on an advisory committee to the science museum and coordinated a special Youth Health Careers Day on July 29th for junior high and high school students. Over 200 underserved and minority youth from the region attended the exhibit and following talks and exhibits on health careers. The Spirit of Eagles program sponsored around 90 Native American youth from the Community Youth Services Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, MDE Office of Indian Education, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Upper Sioux community. Dr. Kaur and Tricia Hemberger, a 4th year Mayo College of Medicine student from White Earth reservation, guided students around the exhibit and spoke to the group about their path into medicine. Students also received information at booths hosted by the University of Minnesota.

In addition, 12 pre-med and medical students who attended the American Association of Indian Physicians conference held nearby received free tickets to the exhibit.

~submitted by Judith Kaur, M.D.
Community Based Cancer Control: A Seminar for American Indian and Alaska Native Community Health Advocates

Oregon Health & Science University in partnership with Dr. June Strickland of the University of Washington conducted their first grant writing and research capacity building course designed for community health advocates in Seattle, WA March 12-17, 2006.

This capacity building program introduces non-researchers to resources for cancer control programs and funding, the principles of community based participatory research, and the anatomy of a grant and the grant submission process. Sixteen people representing tribes in California, Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, South Dakota, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Washington attended the training. Over 41 people applied.

This is the first training program supported through a subcontract from the Mayo Clinic Spirit of EAGLES to OHSU to address community capacity building. Past training programs have focused on researcher development. It is hoped that trainees from both programs will partner in future cancer control research endeavors, creating the perfect symbiotic relationship between well-informed communities and culturally competent researchers.

Plans for the next CBPR and grant writing seminar are underway for the spring of 2007 in Seattle, WA.

~submitted by Esther Dunn
Email: dunne@ohsu.edu
Phone: 503-494-2947
The Association of American Indian Physicians Diabetes Program began its original grant in 1999 and was funded through the Center for Disease Prevention and Control for five years. A new proposal was submitted to the CDC and the program was funded for a new five-year period beginning in 2005. The program’s main objective is to disseminate culturally sensitive materials designed and produced by the National Diabetes Education Program for the purpose of health education in the attempt to eliminate health disparities in the American Indian/Alaskan Native communities.

The AAIP Diabetes Program is the National Program to Promote Diabetes Education Strategies in Communities: the National Diabetes Education Program. We support the National Diabetes Education Program activities focused on reducing the burden of diabetes among high-risk populations. This program addresses the “Healthy People 2010” focusing on diabetes and related health issues resulting from this disease. Program activities use strategies that promote diabetes awareness through diabetes education messages and by forming coalition affiliates that are trained to use lifestyle interventions to prevent or delay diabetes. Our program goals are to improve the knowledge, attitude, skills and behavior for early detection and control of diabetes. We offer two major forms of training: Diabetes Today Training and Community Partnership Guide Training. We host an online database of educational database resources in the excess of 600 materials and how these materials may be obtained. The AAIP Diabetes program also establishes and maintains collaboration with various American Indian/Alaskan Native and community organizations, and establishes Network Partnership Affiliates as well as Regional Member Affiliates.

Dr. Kaur serves as a regional advisor to this grant. A new AAIP-SoE collaboration will provide matching funds for diabetes programs to increase cancer screening during Diabetes Awareness month in November. Applications will be on the AAIP web site this fall.

AAIP has been a long-standing partner of SoE’s. The SoE has sponsored students to attend the national AAIP meeting, pre-med workshops as well as other AAIP conferences that promote student participation.

The AAIP presented awards to the program’s two Outstanding Mini-Grant Program recipients during the annual meeting and conference. The annual meeting was held in St. Paul, Minnesota at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, August 3-8, 2006. Accepting the awards are John Christopherson and Dr. Kevin Teehee. In addition, Bobbie Hiltbrand, Diabetes Program Director and Jennifer Bennett, Diabetes Training Specialist gave a presentation on AAIP diabetes program during an education breakout session. After receiving their awards and certificates of appreciation, Mr. Christopherson and Dr. Teehee shared their diabetes mini-grant programs as part of the presentation.

John Christopherson is the Program Director of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Health and Fitness Center in Agency Village, South Dakota. The funds his organization received to address diabetes prevention and control was used for a Veteran's Day Pow Wow where National Diabetes Education Program Materials for American Indian and Alaska Natives were distributed. During the pow wow, participants were screened for diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol and had their Body Mass Index (BMI) checked that created individual baselines that included their age, sex, weight and family health histories. Individuals who showed some risk of diabetes or other health problems were referred to the Sisseton Indian Health Service. A second event held at the health center was called “Cooking for the Holidays”. The event was for people who needed assistance managing their diabetes. This was a joint collaboration between the community, the fitness center and the local hospital/clinic.

Kevin Teehee, M.D. is the Medical Director for the American Indian Health and Services an urban health clinic in Santa Barbara, California. Dr. Teehee used the grant funds to set up a Pre-Diabetes Registry and to get family members involved in diabetes activities. The participants gathered and created “Possible Pouches”, which are beaded bags that emphasizes the “cultural aspects of talking circles inherent in Native culture” as stated by Dr. Teehee in his mini-grant application. The diabetes education classes included learning about AIC numbers and ways to control diabetes. Incentives for the program were the materials used for beading the Possible Pouches and culturally relevant information was disseminated to get people involved in learning about diabetes. Dr. Teehee wanted to expand his program to include youth who are family members of diabetic patients. The program included disseminating the “Move It!” and “Future Generations” campaign materials as well as utilizing the “ABCs” program materials to motivate patients with diabetes to exercise and learn their AIC numbers. The program was useful in motivating patients to become more interested in managing their health and to keep individuals from feeling isolated while dealing with their diabetes. Dr. Teehee’s program also collaborated with other community partners that include the Indigenous Youth Foundation, the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation and others.

~Submitted by Jennifer Bennett, M.A., Training Specialist
And Bobbie Hiltbrand, M.Ed., Diabetes Program Director
Association of American Indian Physicians / www.aaip.org
The Muckleshoot Tribe in Auburn, Washington, hosted the 2006 Tribal Canoe Journey celebration. The Tribal Canoe Journey honors centuries-old traditions of transportation by water, family, and trade of the Pacific Northwest coastal tribes by canoeing to the host tribe.

More than 70 canoes traveled to participate. This event promotes healthy lifestyles with training and mandates a drug-free environment. Approximately 4,000 Tribal members from 50 Tribes attended the week-long celebration at Muckleshoot from July 31 thru August 5, 2006.

August 1 & 2, Native People for Cancer Control hosted a cancer education and prevention table. John Simmons, Director; Steve Charles, Research and Outreach Assistant; and Gail Harrell Colfax, Administrator and Outreach Manager, distributed over 700 cancer prevention and informational materials. They were joined by South Puget Intertribal Agency employees Michael Maxwell and Melissa Kristy.

Gail Harrell Colfax said, “Many people were deeply touched to have cancer education materials available to take home. We appreciated the opportunity to bring hope and education about cancer.”

Colfax said, “After we closed our table each day, I would sit in the pavilion with participants. Several people sat with me in small groups and individuals to talk about how cancer has devastated their families and lives.” As I listened, I handed each person a Cancer Information Service pencil suggesting they call the 1.800.4.CANCER line.

~submitted by Gail Harrell Colfax
gharrell@u.washington.edu
Standing Room Only
Anne P. Lanier MD, MPH, Melaney Cueva RN, MA, Regina Kuhnley RN, CNM, M Ed, Mark Dignan PHD.

Now Showing... Three 30-minute cancer education movies are available for you to watch and discuss with the people of your community. Together, learn about cancer screening exams and celebrate healthy ways of living and being. Alaska Native people’s cultural values of story, humor, community, spirituality, elder wisdom, interconnections, and living traditions breathe life into these movies.

The Story Basket: Weaving Breast Health into Our Lives
Woven together in ‘The Story Basket’ are three important choices women make to find breast cancer early when it can be best treated. We see a clinical breast exam, a mammogram and an Alaska Native woman doing a good self-breast exam using the vertical pattern and three levels of touch. Women talk about breast health... people supporting people, listening and sharing, the circle of life, handed from elder to youth in a life-sustaining dance upon the drum of the Earth.

Reviewer Comments: “Made mammograms less scary.” “WOW, by seeing a real person doing a breast exam it made it a lot easier to do my own exam. I can’t wait to share this with my sister.”

Awakening Choices: Colon Health, Our Stories
Yupik dolls, symbols of the old ones, guide our artistic movie journey showing us ways to keep our bodies strong and our communities healthy. We learn the importance of colorectal screening through the stories of Alaska Native men and women.

Inspired, motivated, comfortable, relieved, encouraged, hopeful, aware, and educated were words expressed in response to watching the movie. Reviewers comments: “I felt a part of the people in the movie-same fears, same relief;” “I want to go out and get colon screening now;” “I am important. I want to see my children’s children;” “Take Care of yourself. If you don’t you can’t take care of others.”

Staying Strong Staying Healthy: Alaska Native Men Speak Out About Cancer
This movie shares the resilient stories of men whose lives have been affected by cancer, hopeful stories of men living with prostate, colorectal, and testicular cancer. Men share ways to prevent cancer, ways to decrease cancer risk, and ways to find and treat cancer early. Part two of the movie shows a clinical testicular exam and a young man doing a testicular self-exam.

Reviewer comments: “This should be seen by all men.” “It felt good to see our Native men speak out and act. It helps all of us to understand.” I felt encouraged and braver to get checked.”

Experience stories of wellness; celebrate the gift of life through the beauty of Alaska Native people’s songs, dances, and culture as shared in these movies. Wellness abides in the heart of the community.

Thank you to the Community Health Aides and Community Health Practitioners in Alaska and the many people who generously shared their stories to make the gift of these movies possible. Your viewing extends our learning community. Working together we will make a difference in the story of cancer. Thank you for watching.

Copies Available through Native C.I.R.C.L.E or Cancer Education for Community Health Aides/Practitioners in Alaska
Melaney Cueva mcueva@anmc.org
ANTHC- CHAP
4000 Ambassador Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 729-2441

Movies were developed with support from NCI R 25 96514 to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Additional funding from: State of Alaska Division of Public Health Section of Epidemiology Alaska Cancer Registry, Native C.I.R.C.L.E, AVON Foundation Breast Cancer Fund, Alaska Native Medical Center Auxiliary, Men’s 5-Miler Cancer Research Anchorage Alaska, Association of Community Health Aide Program Directors
On Your Way To a Tobacco Free Life

Expanded nicotine dependence treatment services for patients and employees, along with increased community support for a tobacco free campus, are showing signs of the growing readiness of the Alaska Native Medical Center campus in Anchorage, Alaska becoming 100% smoke free in November 2006.

This spring, the Alaska Tribal Health Consortium's Nicotine Research and Control Program welcomed a new Tobacco Treatment Specialist, Karlene Borja, to support the expansion of cessation services at Alaska Native Medical Center.

An Inupiaq Eskimo born and raised in Nome, Alaska, Karlene previously worked for Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks as a Tobacco Cessation Counselor, providing tobacco treatment counseling services to Tanana Chiefs health beneficiaries who were interested in quitting their tobacco use, as well as providing tobacco preventative presentations to high school students at health fairs, spirit camps and regional conferences. Karlene's experience is helping to expand tobacco cessation services to ANMC patients, beginning with the cardiology department. Services are expanding throughout the campus to include cessation support for employees beginning in August 2006.

The program will closely follow U.S. Public Health Service Clinical Guidelines for Treating Tobacco and Dependence. Over 6,000 peer reviewed articles were used in creating these clinical practice guidelines. Motivational interviewing theory is used in patient treatment, developing a quit plan and setting a quit date are also part of treatment strategies used and proven effective. In most cases Nicotine Replacement Therapy will be offered to patients, which has also been proven to double quit rates in conjunction with counseling.

Karlene says "I am very excited to be working with this outstanding group of people at ANTHC. I am also honored to offer this much needed service to the ANMC cardiology department."

As part of the Tobacco Free Campus initiative, each month between now and November's campus policy change, all employees of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Southcentral Foundation have an opportunity to participate in a Tobacco Free Day. These events are promoted both to those who use tobacco products and those who do not, to celebrate the journey to wellness.

These gatherings will focus employees on the opportunities that are available to quit tobacco and set realistic goals as well as provide tobacco cessation information. In an effort to bring visibility to the Tobacco Free Day events, employees can buy a commemorative "Proud to Support Tobacco Free" button for $1. Participants wearing the button support the Tobacco Free Campus initiative and agree to support becoming tobacco free by not using tobacco products for that day, or by choosing a quit date to become tobacco free.

As added incentives, button purchasers are also allowed to wear jeans, normally prohibited in the employee dress code, for the Tobacco Free Campus Event day. The button also entitles the wearer to be eligible to enter a raffle for great prizes.

Six hundred buttons quickly sold out earlier this summer at the July events and are anticipated to sell out early in August. Tobacco Free Days will continue to be held monthly into the fall, leading up to the campus becoming 100% tobacco free in November.

~Submitted by: Judith Muller for Marie Lavigne
CIS Partnership Program Coordinator
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
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Website anthc.org
3rd Annual Mayo Clinic Spirit of EAGLES and the Southeastern Alliance Conference
“Eliminating Cancer Disparities in Indian Country”

The Southeast Alliance (“SEA”) of the Spirit of EAGLES conference brings the ‘American Indian/Alaskan Native Leadership Initiative on Cancer’ to the Eastern and Southeastern shores of the United States. This year’s conference, held March 22-23 in Wilmington, NC brought leading experts to speak about AI/AN community education. We held discussions on developing cancer programs, teaching Cancer 101 to community members, designing tribal specific and education level specific brochures and education material. We also heard from the community advocates who illustrate what is going on in their own communities by slide presentations and community member presence. Dr. Ronnie Bell gave us a presentation on the epidemiology of breast cancer of the American Indians of North Carolina. We had respected elder, Dr. June Strickland, who comes from Washington State lead us in a Native American Way grant writing workshop.

Paulette Baukol, Operations Director of SOE, presented on research among Native American people and scholarship opportunities from SoE.

Mr. Dean Seneca brought a plethora of information from the CDC involving the toxins and substances in our environment that may cause cancer and how we can eliminate risks from our environment. And Mr. Lawrence Shorty, brought drama to the lectern as he spoke about the top 3 causes of mortality among Indian people and a story about Pocahontas and stopping tobacco abuse. Dr. Linda B consistently brings a bright smile and yet serious look at cancer. Her work includes research, leading workshops for cancer patients, and survivors, palliative care resources and support to the many Native Americans living in the United States affected by cancer. She also brings a live look at pre- and post-testing in cancer education through an “Audience Response System”.

This annual right of spring is affectionately called, “The Spirit by the SEA”. It is humbling to look back and see where we started and now, how far we’ve come. How appropriate for the Spirit of EAGLES to take the Cancer Leadership Conference to the Southeast where we can balance our daily lives and “SEA” our place in eliminating cancer disparities in Indian country.

~Submitted by Dana Kontras, Jacksonville, FL
Email: kontras.dana@mayo.edu

Save the Date:
4th Annual SEA Conference: March 6 and 7, 2007
Savannah, Georgia Contact: Dana Kontras @ kontras.dana@mayo.edu

Dr. Ronny Bell
Dr. Linda B.
Paulette Baukol
Lawrence Shorty, MPH

Dana Kontras
Fond du Lac Reservation’s Annual Health Fair

Every June for the past 29 years the Fond du Lac Reservation Human Services Division (FDL HSD) has sponsored a Health Fair for the community members of the Fond du Lac Reservation located in Minnesota’s Arrowhead region near Cloquet, MN. From humble beginnings with a few educational displays provided by the FDL HSD health and social services staff, this year’s Health Fair, held on June 15, featured over 140 displays with vendors not only from FDL HSD but from healthcare organizations located all over Minnesota. Over 1400 people attended the Health Fair.

In 2003 the Fond du Lac Reservation received a Comprehensive Cancer Control and Prevention grant from the CDC. This grant provided support for the FDL HSD to increase its focus on cancer issues. Cancer is the leading cause of death for Minnesota’s American Indian populations. Partnerships have been developed with several organizations to increase cancer awareness, provide education and increase access to services for individuals with cancer, their caregivers and families.

Mayo Clinic’s Native Program and SPIRIT of EAGLES program support Fond du Lac’s efforts to address cancer issues within their community through:

- Education Resources
- Increasing access to Mayo Clinic’s oncology services
- Funding for special cancer activities projects

At this year’s Health Fair 14 displays were devoted to cancer. Three of the displays were provided by Mayo Clinic programs:

- Native American Programs
- Cancer Education Program
- Center for Patient Oriented Research

A “Chi Miig Wech” to Mayo Clinic for its role in seeking to reduce the cancer burden among Minnesota’s American Indian People.

~Submitted by DeAnna Finifrock PHN
Fond du Lac Reservation

Northern Plains Youth Physical Activity

(J.A. Levine, M.D., Ph.D.; P.A. Baukol, R.Vierkant & E.Tansey)

Two-thirds of all Americans are obese or overweight and the prevalence of these two conditions is even greater for American Indians. It is the second leading cause of preventable death in the United States and is associated with a host of co-morbidities including cancer, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and hyper lipemia. Although American Indian diets are often analyzed, diet alone does not explain the increase in disease or obesity. What may help elucidate the increase of obesity are lifestyle changes and physical activity.

The purpose of this pilot project was to determine the amount of physical activity in American Indian adolescents by using a culturally sensitive survey in three Northern Plains American Indian Communities and their urban counterparts. The approval process and effort to meet the integrity of this study and more importantly, community involvement was time-consuming. In addition to our institutional review board approval, and the IHS-IRB approval researchers (Baukol-Ojibway, Tansey-Navajo) made several trips to meet with all of the communities involved with this study and waited to conduct the study only after all schools and communities provided consent and or resolution as well as consent from all of the subjects to participate in the study.

Researchers utilized the International Physical Activity Questionnaire (I-PAQ), a well validated and culturally adaptive questionnaire, to assess the amount of daily physical activity in populations of 1000 American Indian adolescents (ages 10-15 years old) living in tribal and urban communities and we surveyed non-American Indian adolescents as a control group. The audience response system (ARS) was used to collect and organize the data simultaneously. This allowed for quick, accurate data entry by the participants and also allowed for a rapid review of the data and subsequently analysis.

Analysis suggests a statistically significant difference between the amount of daily physical activity of rural and urban American Indian adolescents. The data also suggests a significant difference in daily physical activity between the American Indian and non-Indian adolescents. The subjects included approximately 700 males and females in 3 reservations and 3 urban communities and 1 rural, non-reservation community.

The results from this study will be presented to all the communities involved with the research and with permission from the communities will serve as preliminary data to be used for an R01 grant submission. A collaborative effort was made to involve community health representatives (CHRs), community members and health care providers. The principle goal was to collect data, which will be used to develop a model for community-specific physical activity programs. A second goal is to encourage physical activity that results in the prevention or reduction of cancer rates and other diseases in American Indian communities. The permission to publish the results has been received by all communities involved and a manuscript is in process.

~submitted by Paulette Baukol / Email: baukol.paulette@mayo.edu

~submitted by Cheryl Baertlein
Fond du Lac Reservation
Cancer 101-A Cancer Education and Training Program for American Indians and Alaska Natives

In 2002, Spirit of EAGLES (SoE) worked collaboratively with the Northwest Portland Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), the National Cancer Institute’s Cancer Information Service (CIS) - Northwest Region, and members of Pacific Northwest tribal communities to develop Cancer 101-A Cancer Education and Training Program for American Indians and Alaska Natives (Cancer 101). Cancer 101 is a culturally relevant educational resource that provides basic information about cancer and aims to help individuals and communities increase their knowledge of cancer and influence positive health outcomes. The curriculum is targeted toward community members, staff of Indian Health programs, and Community Health Representatives serving tribal communities. To date, collaborators have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from numerous tribal communities and organizations across the country that have implemented Cancer 101 trainings.

Recently, Cancer 101 collaborators initiated a formal study to evaluate the impact of Cancer 101 among Northwest urban and rural tribal community members that participate in training opportunities. Data gathered from this study have the potential to inform future research efforts focused on reducing cancer health disparities in Indian communities by identifying an intervention tool that can start the cancer control process in tribal communities. Study outcomes will shed light on how the use of this curriculum contributes to promoting health changes at the individual and community level. The specific aims of the study are to: (1) provide a demographic profile of training participants, (2) assess knowledge gain and attitude change of participants pre/post trainings, (3) describe perceived benefits received from attending trainings, and (4) determine future activities of trainees.

The study focuses on the evaluation of four Cancer 101 Train-the-Trainer sessions conducted in the Northwest region over a twelve-month period. In February 2006, representatives from SoE, CIS, and the NPAIHB conducted the first research study session in collaboration with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe in Port Angeles, WA. Seventeen participants representing eight Northwest Native communities attended the two-day training to increase their knowledge about cancer and learn how to share this information with family, friends, and the community. The second research study session took place in May 2006 and was hosted by the Coeur d’Alene Tribe in Plummer, ID. Nineteen participants from the Kalispel, Nes Perce, and Coeur d’Alene tribes attended the two-day session. During both trainings, participants expressed an interest in developing educational forums within their own communities to inform others about specific cancer topics of interest. Study collaborators plan to conduct the remaining trainings early fall with dissemination of study findings by mid 2007.

~submitted by Teresa Guthrie
Email: tguthrie@fhcrc.org
Setting the Course to Partnership: A Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Health Service & Mayo Clinic:

On July 10, 2006, the Indian Health Service and Mayo Foundation participated in a signing ceremony that was held in Rochester, MN, on Mayo’s Annenberg Plaza. The afternoon event was held on a beautiful, warm, sunny July day. With approximately 200 people present, Dr. Charles Grim (Assistant Surgeon General and Director of the IHS), Dr. Glenn Forbes (CEO of Mayo Clinic Rochester), and Dr. Franklyn Prendergast (Director of Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center) added their signatures to a formal agreement between Mayo and the IHS. Their signatures joined that of Dr. Denis Cortese (President and CEO of Mayo Foundation) who could not be present for the ceremony. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) establishes a formal relationship between IHS and the Mayo Clinic and outlines the framework for developing projects, initiatives in research and education, and developing cost effective approaches to patient care. The relationship is two-way and applies to IHS and Mayo Clinic equally. Specific applications of the MOU will be worked out mutually as they are proposed. Proposals may originate within the IHS or Mayo Clinic. External organizations may submit proposals or seek information from either the IHS or Mayo Clinic.

Mayo Clinic greatly appreciates the formal participation of the Prairie Island Singers (Prairie Island Indian Community, Welch, MN) and the Andrew Blackhawk Post 129 and Ladies Auxiliary and the Thundercloud Singers (Ho-chunk Nation, Black River Falls, WI). Their role emphasized the importance of this significant development in the relationship between Mayo Clinic, the Indian Health Service, and tribal communities.

If you would like a signed copy of the MOU, would like more information, or would like to explore collaboration opportunities, please contact the Mayo Clinic at 507-266-9755.

--submitted by Ann Nicometo
Email: nicometo.ann@mayo.edu
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
The Department of Health and Human Services
Indian Health Service
and
Mayo Clinic

I. PURPOSE
To establish a formal collaborative relationship between the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Mayo Clinic (Mayo) that capitalizes on the individual and combined strengths of both parties to facilitate and support efforts of both parties to reduce cancer and related health burdens in American Indians and Alaska Native communities through research and its applications, education and training, and clinical practice.

II. AREAS OF COLLABORATION
Nayo and the IHS share a philosophy of collaboration, teamwork, cooperation, open communication, and commitment to respectfully serve patient and community needs. Through Mayo’s Native American Programs, the IHS communities that have worked with these programs know Mayo’s commitment to these values. These Mayo programs have a long history of working with American Indian, Alaska Native, and urban American Indian communities, including clinic and hospital staff, to improve the health care of native Americans. The relationship between the IHS and Mayo is based on mutual respect and trust, which is essential for the success of this partnership. Mayo, in collaboration with the IHS, will provide education, research, and clinical services to improve the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP AND EXPECTATIONS
All collaborations, agreements, understandings, contracts, and activities will be consistent with the goals and objectives of the IHS and Mayo and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the mission, values, and goals of the parties and deemed valuable by the American Indian communities. Mayo will collaborate closely with the American Indian communities to ensure that all activities are consistent with the mission, values, and goals of the parties and deemed valuable by the American Indian communities. Mayo will work to address the health needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives through the provision of education, research, and clinical services.

IV. PUBLICITY
Without express written consent of the Parties, neither Mayo nor the IHS shall issue press releases regarding the MOU, nor shall either party publicly announce any activity, finding, result of any research, or data concerning the partnership. All documents, data, or materials prepared for or by the Parties or in connection with the partnership shall be made available to the other party for any purpose they may request.

V. PERIOD OF AGREEMENT
This relationship will be in effect for up to 5 years contingent on a satisfactory annual review by members of the IHS and Mayo. Either party may end the relationship by giving written notice to the other party. Amendments to the relationship may be accommodated during the annual review or at any time with the written agreement of both parties. After five years, the relationship may be renewed, if both parties agree.

VI. EXCLUSIONS

1. This MOU does not authorize either party to act on behalf of the other party in any manner.

2. Each party shall be liable for its own actions and decisions.

3. Each party shall be liable for its own actions and decisions.

4. Each party shall be liable for its own actions and decisions.

VII. AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES
For the Department of Health and Human Services / Indian Health Service:

By: Charles W. Haines

Date

For Mayo:

Mayo Clinic, A Minneapolis Non-profit Corporation

By: Dennis A. Conti, Jr., President 

Date

Chief Executive Officer, Mayo Clinic Rochester

By: Franklin G. Perdorego, M.D.

Date

Director, Cancer Center


Moral imperative

A traditional song was performed Monday at the official signing of documents marking Mayo Foundation’s collaboration with the Indian Health Service.

We were honored to have the opportunity to meet with our partners from the Native American communities and discuss the future of health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. We appreciate the strong partnership we have with the Native American communities.

The signing ceremony took place in the Fedora Room at Mayo Clinic Rochester.

Moral imperative

As long as we are here, we will hold Mayo and our colleagues responsible.

— Dr. Franklyn Prendergast, director of the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center
The Spirit of EAGLES will conduct a conference on cancer epidemiology, cancer control, and cancer survival among Native populations in the United States. The goal of the September 2007 national conference is to evaluate progress through partnerships in these areas. The target audience of the conference will be community members, survivors, advocates, researchers, clinicians, and other health service providers working with Native populations.

For more information please email: nativecircle@mayo.edu
Toll -free: 877-372-1617

SAVE THE DATE
“7th National Changing Patterns of Cancer in Native Communities: The Power of Partnerships”
Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, Minnesota
September 6-9, 2007
NOW² Pilot Study Finds Advantages to Electronic Patient History System

In busy clinics, demands on nurses are a constant that test their ability to sustain accuracy and efficiency when recording patient information. Emphasis on either accuracy or efficiency (speed) may compromise the other. Wes Petersen (PI), Mary Alice Trapp, and Ann Nicometo conducted a Spirit of Eagles funded study of nurses’ ability to record patient information efficiently and accurately while using electronic patient history software called NOW² (Nurses Online for Well Women). NOW² is designed to be used by nurses to record patient information and exam results during and after patients’ breast and cervix cancer screening exam visits. Software development was led by Dr. Piet de Groen, a Mayo gastroenterologist and inspired by observations made by Native WEB’s Mary Alice Trapp, during her work with nurses at tribal and IHS clinics. The study compared nurses’ performance when recording patient information using NOW² to their performance when using paper forms.

Four nurses from a state of Wisconsin county health department participated in the 4-phase study. The first phase involved a half-day training and practice session. In the second phase, nurses interviewed and recorded scripted responses and exam results from 14 pseudo patients. Half of the pseudo patient responses were recorded using NOW²; the other half was recorded on paper forms. Pseudo patients were paired so that in every set the number and complexity of responses was equivalent whether the nurse recorded information to paper or used NOW². The third phase involved actual patients. Each nurse interviewed and recorded information on a minimum of 10 willing patients, divided equally between NOW² and paper forms. Nurses saw a total of 49 patients during this part of the study. In the fourth phase, nurses were asked to offer their assessments of NOW².

Time to complete NOW² compared to paper forms. Results from the study showed that the overall time to record information on pseudo patients and patients was not significantly different between NOW² and paper forms. The one exception was in the case of pseudo patients who had abnormalities that nurses needed to document. For these patients, paper forms proved to be significantly faster than NOW² (p<0.000). However, precision and accuracy were poorer with the paper forms.

Accuracy of information using NOW² compared to paper forms. Across pseudo and live patients, nurses recorded significantly fewer errors (p<0.000 and p<0.006, respectively) while using NOW² compared to their performance on paper forms. The 43 errors made using NOW² were only one-third the number (127) made when nurses used paper forms. With paper forms, nurses made 10 or more errors in six of fifteen areas of the patient exam record compared to only 2 areas with NOW².

Nurse impressions of NOW². Nurses found NOW² intuitive and easy to use (even for non-computer users). They appreciated that the software guided them to the pertinent questions they needed to ask. They reported that NOW² was helpful for guiding discussions and inquiry with patients, and patients seemed more engaged and attentive. Recommended additions to the software largely emphasized expansion to other diseases and populations. All nurses felt that NOW² would be useful in their clinic.

Based on the encouraging pilot results, the study team is searching for funding opportunities and collaborators to expand the development and testing of NOW².

~Submitted by Wes Petersen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Oncology
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Email: petersen.wesley@mayo.edu
SPIRIT OF EAGLES EXPANDS IN NORTH DAKOTA

Welcome Jessica Gilbertson!

North Central Spirit of EAGLES (SOE) and NCI's Cancer Information Service (CIS) are both based within the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center. Both programs have had a long-standing and fruitful partnership with the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control of the North Dakota Department of Health. When SOE and CIS decided to combine funds to support a full-time partnership program coordinator in North Dakota, housing the staff member with the Department of Health was a natural fit and complimented the mission of all three organizations.

The purpose of this new position is to improve cancer outcomes by building programmatic partnerships that effectively address the needs of those affected by cancer health disparities. In North Dakota, this work will focus largely on tribal communities and rural populations.

Jessica Gilbertson accepted the position as Partnership Program Coordinator with the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center in March 2006. Jessica is a graduate of North Dakota State University (NDSU) with a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication and a minor in Political Science. While at NDSU, Jessica completed three internships, two with the office of Senator Byron Dorgan and one with the Head Start program working with English as a Second Language (ESL) students. She also worked part time with the Head Start program for five years. Prior to her new position, Jessica worked for two years organizing and working on tribal outreach for an environmental non-profit organization.

Jessica is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and lives in Bismarck, ND, with her husband Michael.

Jessica is a great addition to the Spirit of EAGLES and Cancer Information Service team! Contact her at 701-328-4515 or jfgilbertson@nd.gov.

~submitted by Rick Strickland
Email: strickla@uwccc.wisc.edu

STRICKLAND LOANED TO CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES INITIATIVE

Rick Strickland, Program Director with North Central Spirit of EAGLES since 2000, has been named Co-Director of UW Comprehensive Cancer Center’s new Cancer Health Disparities Initiative (CHDI). CHDI is envisioned as a comprehensive program that will focus attention and coordinate resources across the cancer center on reducing cancer health disparities. During CHDI’s 18 month development period Strickland will continue to serve as North Central SOE program director and divide his time between the two programs. As Dr. Judith Kaur noted, “Spirit of EAGLES takes pride that the participatory character and effectiveness of our work, both in the North Central region and nationally, has been recognized by UW Comprehensive Cancer Center as fundamental to reducing cancer health disparities among all populations.”

~submitted by Rick Strickland
Email: strickla@uwccc.wisc.edu

GREAT LAKES NARCH SURVEILLANCE PROJECT EXTENDED

Over the past four years, North Central Spirit of EAGLES has conducted a community-based participatory research project to improve cancer surveillance and data reporting among Wisconsin tribal and urban Indian clinics. This research pilot study was supported by a grant through the Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health at Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. The project featured the development of “cancer profiles” for each participating clinic, based upon a 10-year retrospective study of cases found in clinic records. The clinic profiles have been completed and an aggregate report has been prepared. As of this writing, the project has received word of possible extended support to complete two peer-reviewed articles on the project and establish ongoing, volunteer reporting of cancer cases by AI clinics to the state registry. For more information on this project, contact Jackie Matloub, matloub@uwccc.wisc.edu.

~submitted by Rick Strickland
Email: strickla@uwccc.wisc.edu
The 3rd Annual Symposium on Academic Medicine and Research was held March 31st - April 1st, 2006 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. American Indian and Alaskan Native community researchers, University of Minnesota faculty, physicians, residents and medical students gathered to discuss career options, share opportunities and discuss issues involved with research in Native communities. The conference opened with greetings by University of Minnesota Medical School faculty members, Joycelyn Dorscher, M.D. (Director of the Center for American Indian and Minority Health), Deborah Powell, M.D. (Dean, University of Minnesota Medical School) and Anne Taylor, M.D. (Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs) followed by a prayer by Jerry Dearly, Lakota Elder.

University of Minnesota Medical School faculty members including Anne Taylor, M.D., Russell Luepker, M.D. (Department Chair, Epidemiology) and Kola Okuyemi, M.D. (Associate Professor, Center for Clinical Research) formed a panel sharing their experiences on how they became involved in academic medicine. The panel also included a discussion on a typical day in the life of academic medicine and what each member is doing to decrease health disparities within the populations they serve.

Monica Roth Day, CAIMH Assistant Director, conducted several activities to assist students and residents with thinking about careers in academic medicine and community participatory research. She also presented information about the Fellows-In-Training (FIT) program associated with the University of Minnesota Center of American Indian and Minority Health. The program provides medical students and medical residents with research, networking and workshop opportunities to help prepare them for academic careers and community medicine.

Saturday's session focused on working with tribal communities on research projects. William Freeman, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Tribal Community Health Programs and Human Protections (Northwest Indian College), gave an overview and led a group discussion on community participatory research in Native American communities. Dr. Freeman emphasized the importance of involving tribal community members in designing and conducting studies and awareness of culturally sensitive issues specific to each community.

Lawrence Agodoa, M.D. (NIDDK-NIH) shared data on some of the disparities seen in minority populations and also discussed funding for research available through the Office of Minority Health Research through the NIH.

The symposium wrapped up with several case studies in community participatory research. Presenters included Bunny Jaakola (Fond du Lac Health and Human Services), Amy Delong, M.D. (Ho-Chunk Nation House of Wellness), and third-year U of M medical student, Jeff Pinnow. Each speaker discussed how they got involved community based research, their role in the project and results of the hard work put in by the community.

This conference was organized by the University of Minnesota CAIMH with funding support from the US Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA, BHPR, Diversity Division, Native American Centers of Excellence. Travel scholarships were also provided by the Association of American Indian Physicians.

~Submitted by Belinda K. Galeano
Mayo Graduate School
Email: galeano.belinda@mayo.edu

Belinda Galeano

Students attending 3rd Annual Symposium (Belinda Galeano upper left corner)
The Mayo Clinic’s program: “The American Indian/Alaska Native Initiative on Cancer” (Spirit of EAGLES), is seeking nominations for an award for successful community-based initiatives and/or projects with a focus on cancer. The award(s) will be presented at the 23rd Annual NIHB Consumer Conference, October 10-13th, in Denver, Colorado.

The “Spirit of EAGLES” award will consider tribal and urban communities or collaborative programs that have demonstrated effective efforts to promote cancer awareness, early detection, treatment, and support for cancer patients and their families in their communities through prevention, education, outreach, policy development and implementation, and/or supportive activities. The building of collaborative partnerships to address these activities at the community level will also be recognized.

The “Spirit of EAGLES” was initiated in 2000 as one of eighteen NCI/NIH funded Special Populations Networks in the nation. Through the initial project, efforts were implemented to increase cancer awareness among AI/AN Nations and urban communities throughout the nation. The long term goal is to reduce cancer health disparities by maintaining and expanding tribal and urban community networks and coalitions.

Examples of community initiatives to be recognized may be creation of a healthy lifestyle and exercise program, the development of a “no smoking” policy, supporting Indian families through a creation of a hospice or similar traditional program, and the development of prevention, education programs that have a focus on cancer.

Deadline for Submission: September 15, 2006

Send Nominations to: Paulette Baukol / E-mail: baukol.paulette@mayo.edu / Phone: (507)266-3064

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**NOMINATIONS FORM**

**Nominated Program or Tribe (include contact information):**

**Reason for Nomination:**

**Nominator:**

Send Nominations to: Paulette Baukol
E-mail: baukol.paulette@mayo.edu
Phone: (507)266-3064
### Spirit of EAGLES on the Road Again…...Travels: Fall 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Quality of Life through Roots of Strength” Conference</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>Sept. 21, 2006</td>
<td>Co-Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Supporting Native Americans’ Psychosocial Needs Through Tailored Online Education” for the 8th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology, International Psycho-Oncology Society</td>
<td>Venice, Italy</td>
<td>Oct. 19, 2006</td>
<td>Co-Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Native Americans’ Breast Health” for the 4th Annual Pink Party</td>
<td>Okmulgee, OK</td>
<td>Oct. 25, 2006</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>“GENA® Objectives 14 ‘Micro-RNA’ and 5 on CBPR for Genetics Study”</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
<td>Oct. 26, 2006</td>
<td>Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Process Evaluation and the National Native American Spirit of EAGLES Community Network Programs” for APHA 134th annual mtg</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
<td>Nov. 6, 2006</td>
<td>Co-Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Becoming a Successful Minority Scientist” to the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minorities</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Nov. 9, 2006</td>
<td>Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Native American Cultural Training for CDC Professional Staff and Consultants”</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>Nov. 14, 2006</td>
<td>Co-Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Cancer in Indian Country: Successful Interventions”</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td>Nov. 15, 2006</td>
<td>Co-Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Mayo Clinic’s Spirit of EAGLES Community Network Program; Rapu-Oranga: In Pursuit of Excellence in Health”</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Dec. 6-10, 2006</td>
<td>Co-Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Native American Cancer Education Materials &amp; Support: An Interactive Session”</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Dec. 1-10, 2006</td>
<td>Co-Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTHC</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>Aug. 25-29, 2006</td>
<td>Providing Training &amp; Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHS Tobacco Taskforce</td>
<td>Mille Lacs, MN</td>
<td>Sept. 11-13, 2006</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mtg with NIDA director, Dr. Nora Volkow, ANTHC</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>Sept. 12, 2006</td>
<td>Presenting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spit Tobacco National Conference</td>
<td>Rochester, MN</td>
<td>Oct. 15-18, 2006</td>
<td>Plenary Speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smokefree Families State of Science Capstone Conference</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Oct. 18-19, 2006</td>
<td>Presenter</td>
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<td>RWJF</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Dec. 5-9, 2006</td>
<td>Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>SoE Network Meeting</td>
<td>Mpls, MN</td>
<td>Sept. 7-9, 2006</td>
<td>Subcontractor Participant</td>
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<tr>
<td>NW Portland Area Indian Health Board’s Clinician’s Update</td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td>Oct. 11, 2006</td>
<td>Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Cancer Control Leadership Institute’s for Tribes and States</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>Oct. 23-27, 2006</td>
<td>Facilitator</td>
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<td>National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association Summit XII</td>
<td>Tempe, AZ</td>
<td>Nov. 12-14, 2006</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>SoE Network Meeting</td>
<td>Mpls, MN</td>
<td>Sept. 7-9, 2006</td>
<td>Planning</td>
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<td>SoE Physicians Society</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
<td>Sept. 14-17, 2006</td>
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<td>“Roots of Strength” National Survivors Conference</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>Sept. 22-24, 2006</td>
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<td>Supportive Oncology Conference</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Sept. 27-29, 2006</td>
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<td>National Indian Health Board</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>Oct. 12-13, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comp Cancer Control Leadership Institute</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>Oct. 24-25, 2006</td>
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<td>C-Change</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Nov. 2-4, 2006</td>
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<td>APHA Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
<td>Nov. 3-6, 2006</td>
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<td>International Program of Psycho-Social Health Research</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Nov. 29-30, 2006</td>
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<td>PRIDoC Congress</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Dec. 5-13, 2006</td>
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<td>OHSU</td>
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<td>U of WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>President’s Ca Panel Mtg U of MN Ca Ctr</td>
<td>Mpls, MN</td>
<td>Sept. 11, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Plains Cancer Coalition Summit—Jessica &amp; Rick</td>
<td>Rapid City, SD</td>
<td>Nov. 14-18, 2006</td>
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**SoE Partners:**

**Research Training:** The Native Researchers’ Cancer Control Training Program is a 3-week all expenses paid training program for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, American Samoan, and other US Associated Pacific Islanders. The program covers epidemiology, data management and analysis, cancer control examples in Native communities, culturally competent research methods, and grant proposal development. For more information, please visit our website at [www.ohsu.edu/nrcctp](http://www.ohsu.edu/nrcctp). Additional research training is also available through the Summer Research Training Institute for American Indian and Alaska Native Health Professionals. Please visit our website at [www.ohsu.edu/summer-institute](http://www.ohsu.edu/summer-institute) for course listings, dates, and program information. You may also contact Esther Dunn @ Oregon Health & Science University, 503-494-2947, dunne@ohsu.edu.

**Grant writing workshops:** Community-Based Cancer Control: A Seminar for American Indian & Alaska Native Community Health Representatives is a one week, all expenses paid training covering cancer 101, grant writing, and an introduction to community-based participatory research. For more information, please contact Esther Dunn @ Oregon Health & Science University 503-494-2947, dunne@ohsu.edu.

**Community Outreach:** University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center: North Central Spirit of EAGLES, University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center: Builds relationships with Tribes, Indian Health Service units and Urban Indian Centers in IA, MN, ND, SD and WI to reduce AIAN cancer health disparities. NCSOE helps organize education seminars, conferences and survivor support groups; provides research mentoring to students and faculty; and promotes and conducts community-based participatory research. For more information, please contact Rick Strickland @ strickla@uwccc.wisc.edu or 608-262-0072. For ND contact: Jessica Gilbertson, jfgilbertson@state.nd.us or 701-226-9109.

**Fred Hutchinson Research Center - Cancer Information Service-Cancer 101:** The National Cancer Institute’s Cancer Information Service provides information about cancer to patients and their families, physicians and other health professionals, and the public. “Cancer 101: A Cancer Education and Training Program for American Indians and Alaska Native” is an educational resource tool designed to provide basic information about cancer and be adaptable to meet the needs of the learner and is targeted toward community members, staff of Indian Health programs, and Community Health Representatives serving tribal communities. For more information, please contact Teresa Guthrie or Nancy Zbaren @ tguthrie@fhcrc.org 206-667-7593 or nzbaren@fhcrc.org, 206-667-4675.

**Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium:** The office of Alaska Native Health Research-Nicotine Research & Control Program at Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) offers technical assistance on clinical systems change to Alaska Native Tribal Health Systems interested in implementing tobacco treatment services. Technical assistance includes trainings for physicians and other health care professionals on brief clinical interventions on screening for tobacco use and education on unique Alaska Native tobacco use patterns and special interventions. As well as providing research education, ANTHC provides tobacco education and outreach services to health professionals & community members in several villages in rural Alaska. For more information, please contact Caroline Renner @ ccrenner@anmc.org 907-729-3663.

**Clinical trials:** Native American Cancer Research (NACR) is an American Indian operated, community-based 501(c)(3) (non-profit) organization. The mission is to reduce cancer incidence and increase survival among Native Americans. Our priority is to implement cancer research projects involving: prevention, health screening, education, training, control, treatment options, and support. For more information, please contact Linda Burhansstipanov, Native American Cancer Research @ LindaB@NatAmCancer.net or 303-838-9359.

**Other programs we endorse:**

**Network for Cancer Control Research Among AI/AN Populations:** The 22 “NETWORK” Advisory Board members (Chair, Dr. Judith Salmon Kaur) meet biannually to discuss current research and other important topics in Indian Country. For more information, please contact Lisa Baethke, Native CIRCLE @ nativecircle@mayo.edu or 877-372-1617

**Native CIRCLE:** The Native CIRCLE is a resource center providing cancer-related materials to healthcare professionals and lay people involved in the education, care, and treatment of American Indians and Alaska Natives. For more information, please contact Lisa Baethke, Native CIRCLE @ nativecircle@mayo.edu or 877-372-1617.

**Native WEB:** The Native WEB’s mission is to serve AI/AN community-identified needs related to cancer and its risk factors by providing training, education, and research. For more information, please contact Ann Nicometo, Native WEB @ nativeweb@mayo.edu or 507-284-4575.
The Spirit of Eagles Ad Hoc Health Policy Group has held two conference calls since the last Network meeting in Bethesda, MD, and held their first informal meeting immediately after the Network meeting. There are several items that have been highlighted at the Bethesda group meeting and the conference calls.

1) The Health Policy group is still seeking interested individuals to join.
2) The development of a “central clearinghouse” concept which will gather pertinent cancer policies or policies related to healthy “lifestyles” from tribal and urban Indian programs.
3) The possible development of a “baseline” or “model” cancer policy format for tribal and urban Indian programs.
4) Identify what critical components and evaluation criteria that would the framework of a “model” cancer policy.
5) Identify other organizations or programs who have established any such policies for format in order to collaborate.
6) Develop evaluation criteria for the annual SoE evaluation regarding the SoE policy component for the NCI grant.
7) Develop the announcement and solicit nominations for the annual SoE Policy award(s) to be highlighted at the Annual NIHB Conference in Denver, CO in October. Nominations DUE ON September 15th to Paulette Baukol at: baukol.paulette@mayo.edu
8) Develop the SoE presentation(s) and workshop session(s) for the NIHB Conference.

Another area that could be of interest to the policy group is how the NCI Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers throughout to nation are reaching out to Indian tribes, Indian urban programs and AI/AN patients and families. Each of the NCI funded and designated centers must have an active “Community Service, Outreach and Dissemination” program that reaches out and establishes collaborations to underserved and minority populations and communities in the designated center’s defined catchment area.

I recently reviewed several such NCI grants and there was a wide difference as to how such centers did address these program requirements. Some were extremely well done and thorough including detailed information of their collaborations and data regarding the underserved or minority groups. Others only have a very brief description of their activities and with little collaborative efforts. Only two even cited the AI/AN populations in their catchment area, even though I know of tribes and urban groups who reside within their area. There was very little data that included reference to Ai/AN patients and their communities even in those two grant applications.

Perhaps, the SoE Policy Group can begin to be a resource for such center’s and assist them in how to reach out to tribes and urban communities in their designated areas. In addition, the SoE Policy group can make tribal programs, IHS and urban centers aware of the nearest NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center so that they can begin to work more closely with that center to assure better access and services for their patients.

The Policy Group will meet during the Minneapolis Network conference and continue working on the previously listed items. And, it will begin to finalize the plans for the SoE presentations and workshop(s) for the NIHB Denver Conference.

If you have any suggestions or recommendations as to other issues that the SoE Policy Group should review or become aware of please contact me though Cheryl Baertlein at: baertlein.cheryl@mayo.edu

~submitted by Dr. Michael Trujillo
Questions, comments, photos or story ideas, contact: Cheryl Baertlein at 1.507.538.7069 or baertlein.cheryl@mayo.edu

Supported by generous funds from the National Cancer Institute
UO1 114609