



NIMHD AI/AN Grant Activities in Health Disparities

NIH Tribal Advisory Committee
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National Institute
on Minority Health
and Health Disparities

NIMHD

- **Only NIH institute dedicated solely to leading and supporting rigorous science to understand and reduce health disparities**
- **Multidisciplinary research:**
 - **Integrative biological and behavioral sciences**
 - **Clinical and health services research**
 - **Community health and population science**
- **Established through statutes and codification in Title 42 of the U.S. Code in 2010**



NIMHD Science is Important!

- **Helps community members and organizations, clinicians and healthcare systems, scientists, and policymakers understand the complex relationships among factors—like biological, behavioral, psychosocial, healthcare access, and trust—that affect health outcomes and disparities.**
- **Foundational to strengthening the well-being of the U.S. population, improving health outcomes, enhancing societal productivity, and reducing health care costs.**



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Solution-Oriented Approaches in Health Disparities Research

- NIH continues to support research advancing the health of all Americans, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, or other characteristics.
- Both individual and external factors that influence health outcomes must be considered and guided by the needs of the research question.
- Investigators must employ specific and measurable concepts in health disparities research.
- NIH will prioritize research focused on actively testing, advancing, scaling, and implementing innovative evidence-based interventions and treatments that improve public health.

[Learn More](#)





NIMHD Research



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NIH CEAL AI/AN NHPI Enrichment Initiative

NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) is a research network designed to work with communities and organizations to identify promising engagement practices that communicate trustworthy, science-based information.

- ***Enrichment Initiative***

- **Est. 2024**
- **Addressing differences in health outcomes linked to social and structural influences on health**
- **Prevention and management of chronic diseases and emerging public health threats in these populations**
- **Community-driven, scientifically rigorous, intervention research**



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URL: ceal.nih.gov

Website for researchers and health practitioners: nihceal.org



NIH CEAL AI/AN NHPI Enrichment Initiative

Awardees

- **University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa**
 - *Populations:* Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders
- **Johns Hopkins University**
 - *Population:* Lakota
- **University of Alaska Fairbanks**
 - *Population:* Rural Alaska Native communities
- **Johns Hopkins University Engagement with Indigenous Communities**
 - *Population:* Navajo Nation



Tribal/Indigenous Community-Led Research Projects

Community-led research intervention projects studying ways to address factors that affect health—safety, nutritious food, economic opportunities, transportation, housing, and quality healthcare in partnerships with academic researchers (Hubs).

- 6 Tribal/Indigenous awards to community organizations (reinstated)
- Enable research on potential solutions to promote health to create lasting change in U.S. communities
- Dr. Angela Fernandez (Menominee Nation), NIMHD Program Officer, is Project Scientist for Yale Hub (academic researchers) supporting Tribal/Indigenous CRPs



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Tribal/Indigenous Community-Led Research Projects

Awardee	Title	Tribal Affiliation
Wabanaki Health & Wellness (Cammack)	Improving Health Outcomes Through Systems and Policy changes in Maine	Multiple Wabanaki Tribal communities (ME)
Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (Yazzie)	Indigenous healthy homes and healthy communities: A community-led initiative to improve health and support Indigenous Resilience in the US Southwest	Multiple Southwestern Tribal communities (NM, CO, UT, TX)
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (Lefferts)	Neqkiuryaraq - The Art of Preparing Food	Multiple Alaska Native Tribes (AK)
Cultura y Arte Nativa de las Americas (Hernandez)	Somos Esenciales: Community Revitalization and Health through Latino Arts and Entrepreneurship	Urban Black, Latino and Indigenous (multiple U.S. & Latin American; CA)
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (Okiihiro)	Fostering Community Connections Through Native Hawaiian Cultural Values to Strengthen Youth Resilience, Health, and Well-Being	Native Hawaiian (HI)
Open Aid Alliance (Ramos)	Counteracting Structural Barriers to Increase Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Among Unhoused Montanans	Urban and rural American Indians (MT); near Flathead, Crow and Blackfeet Nations



NIMHD Initiative for Improving AI/AN Cancer Outcomes ([RFA-MD-24-009](#))

- **FY24 \$6 million appropriated to launch projects linked to NCI-designated cancer centers**
- **Coordination with NCI leaders, tribal consultation through NIH office, developed U19 mechanism**
- **Awards to U Oklahoma Stephenson Cancer Center and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center**
- **Both proposed studies on lung cancer screening**
- **May 2026: Currently planning grantee meeting on NIH Campus**





NIMHD Training

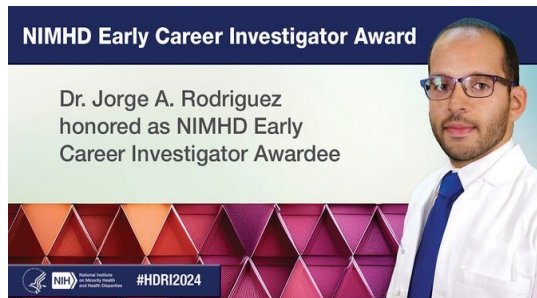


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2024 Health Disparities Research Institute

August 5-9, 2024

- **Applications:** 202
- **Participants:** 51 early-stage career scientists representing 22 states and the District of Columbia
- NIMHD Early Career Investigator Awardee announced for exceptional research contributions
- Jorge Rodriguez's work focuses on fully integrating the needs of patients with limited English proficiency into health IT implementation



[Learn More](#)

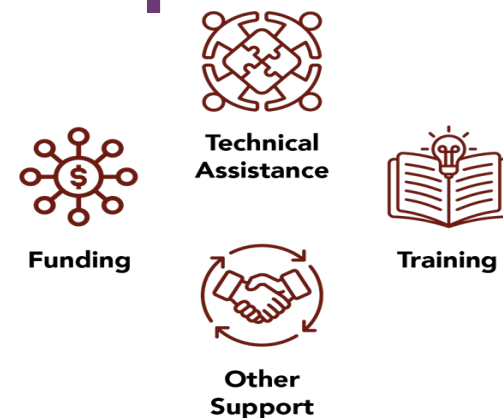
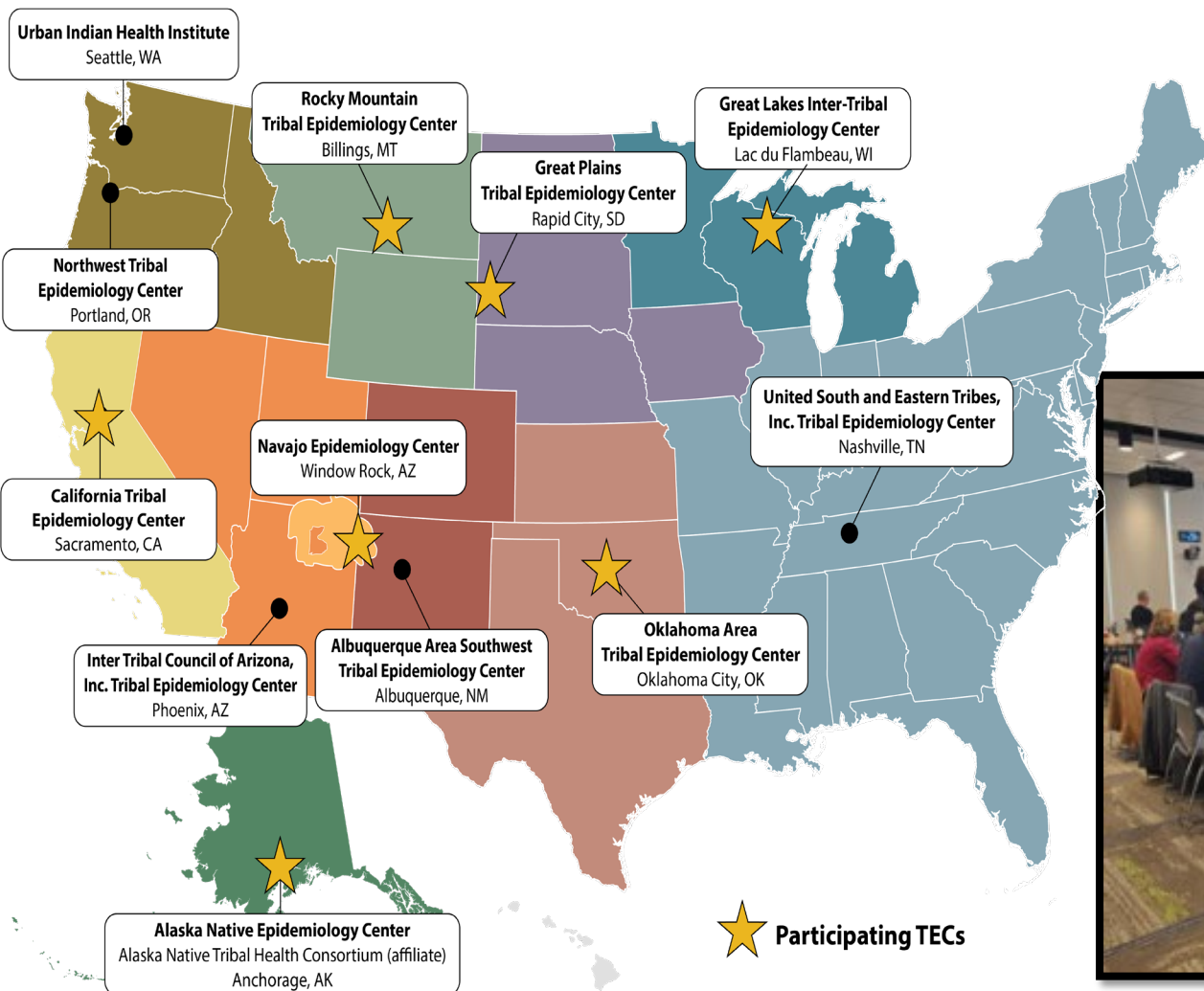


From left to right: Drs. Ricky Camplain, Helen Russette, Karina Walters, Melanie Nadeau & Kathy Prue-Owens

AI/AN Scholars: NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute 2023

- HDRI supports early-career minority health/health disparities research scientists
- Features lectures, small group discussions, mock grant review, seminars

3rd Annual RC-TEC Conference and Grant Writing Workshop





NIMHD Site Visits & Special Events



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University of North Dakota, School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Department of Indigenous Health: Visit by Dr. Eliseo Perez-Stable with Leadership & Students



October 8th, 2024





**Association of
American Indian
Physicians
NIH Tour for
National Native
American Youth
Initiative
June 2025**

The Association of American Indian Physicians in collaboration with NIMHD, sponsored 14 high school members of the National Native American Youth Initiative to visit the NIH Tribal Health Research Office, the NIH Clinical Center and labs from NINDS, NIA, NCI and NIMHD.





NIMHD Opportunities



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NIMHD Opportunities

Research

- Research Opportunity Announcement: *Community-Academic Partnership for NHPI Community Engagement*
- Expand current *NIMHD Initiative for Improving AI/AN Cancer Outcomes* ([RFA-MD-24-009](#)) to fund additional NCI-Designated Cancer Centers to address AI/AN cancer disparities across multiple geographic regions
- Forecast to Publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement for Addressing Determinants of Health Disparities Among Rural Populations (R01 - Clinical Trial Optional) [FOR-MD-25-003](#)
- MAHA Priorities: Addressing rural & Tribal chronic diseases, chemical and environmental exposures including water quality, physical activity

Training

- Health Disparities Research Institute 2026
- Community based hubs linking high school students with university and college researchers to build research skills in preparation for NIH Summer Internship Programs (10 week, paid, summer positions in NIH intramural labs) and later post-bac research assistant experiences



Specific Ways to Contribute (a few examples)

**Your involvement
will be ongoing and
meaningful.**



**Participating in advisory
councils**



**Co-developing research
questions**



**Reviewing materials for
cultural relevance**



**Helping define success
and outcomes**



Conducting the research



Closing: We Invite Dialogue

- **We are here to listen and learn from your experiences and insights.**
- **We hope to shape this research together, guided by your priorities and wisdom.**



Visit us online www.nimhd.nih.gov

Thank you!



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