



January 30, 2017

Dear Tribal Leader:

In response to a request made during a meeting of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee and with input from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee, the NIH will host an informational/consultation session on Thursday, February 23, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on tribal interests in research involving human participants.

As outlined further below, the session will be organized in two parts. Part 1 will begin with NIH staff briefly reviewing the NIH's role in advancing research and in assuring the protection of individuals and populations participating in NIH-funded research. Staff will then address any questions and seek the perspectives of participating tribal members. In Part 2, participating tribal members will be asked to provide information and perspectives on the integration of tradition and culture in research design and conduct and partnering with tribes in those research activities.

Part 1:

- The role of the NIH in advancing research to address public health needs;
- The role of the NIH in assuring the protection of individuals and populations participating in NIH-funded research; and,
- Institutional Review Board review and approval of research, including research with tribal populations.

Part 2:

- Ways of integrating tradition and culture in the design and conduct of research involving tribal populations; and
- Partnering with tribes in the design and conduct of research.

The NIH mission, primarily achieved through research, research training, and the dissemination of research findings, is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. To help achieve this mission, the NIH promotes the full integration of bioethical considerations to NIH-supported research. Please visit the links below for additional information on the discussion topics.

This informational/consultation session will be held via web conference with a toll-free conference line available. Tribal leaders and participants may obtain the login information and agenda from the NIH Tribal Health Research Office website: <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/thro>. Additionally, Tribal leaders may send any testimony, comments, and/or questions to NIHTribalCommittee@od.nih.gov, before and after the consultation.

The NIH remains committed to continuing our efforts to improve relations with tribal nations and to partnering with tribal nations to use the power of science to support healthier communities. For more information, please contact Robin Kawazoe at NIHTribalCommittee@od.nih.gov.

We look forward to receiving your input as we work to improve the health of American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Sincerely yours,



Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director

Links:

- Current HHS Common Rule: <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/regulations/45-cfr-46/index.html>
- Federal Register Notice, January 19, 2017 final Common Rule: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/19/2017-01058/federal-policy-for-the-protection-of-human-subjects>
- Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health (CRCAIH) IRB toolkit: <http://www.crcaih.org/zoo-category/item/crcaih-tribal-irb-toolkit.html>
- NCI Policy Research Center: Genetics Research and American Indian and Alaska Native Communities: <http://genetics.nci.org/>