



May 8, 2017

Dear Tribal Leader:

I welcome you to participate in the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Annual Tribal Consultation on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Alaskan time zone or 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time in Anchorage, Alaska as a pre-meeting to the National Indian Health Board's Tribal Public Health Summit. The consultation will be held at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, Tikahtnu Ballroom, Section E-F.

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. This consultation will allow NIH to hear feedback from tribal leaders on research priorities and concerns that can be used to help the NIH Tribal Health Research Office develop its strategic plan.

If you are unable to travel for the consultation meeting, we will have a toll-free conference line available. Tribal leaders and participants may obtain the toll-free number and agenda from NIH Tribal Advisory Committee's website at: <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/thro> or send a request to participate by teleconference to Kendra King Bowes ([kking@namsinc.org](mailto:kking@namsinc.org)). Additionally, you are encouraged to send any testimony, comments, and questions before and after the consultation meeting to: [NIHTribalCommittee@od.nih.gov](mailto:NIHTribalCommittee@od.nih.gov).

NIH will adhere to the HHS Tribal Consultation Policy, which established a presentation/speaker protocol. This ensures that the highest ranking official from each respective tribe is given the opportunity to address the session first, followed by other elected/appointed officials, those designated by their elected official to represent Indian Tribes, and representatives of Indian/Tribal Organizations. I ask that tribes provide an official letter to NIH, before the session begins, designating the representative (Designated Tribal Officials).

NIH remains committed to continuing its 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 Dr. David Wilson, Director of the NIH Tribal Health Research Office, at: [NIHTribalCommittee@od.nih.gov](mailto: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