National Institutes of Health
Tribal Health Research Office
Indigenous Knowledges Powering Science

Bi-Annual In-Person NIH Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
November 19, 2026
Mary E. Switzer Memorial Building
330 C Street, S.W., Conference Room
Washington DC 20201

TAC Members and Technical Advisors Only--For Tribal Caucus Closed Session
https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1657798978?pwd=7Y0fwLo4rcvxVvHnnnpfnAbjKrULWq.1

Guests--*For NIH TAC Open Sessions* (Zoom Webinar Registration)
https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_C6IV_5U-Q36pn1Iigh0xTQ

NIH TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

NOTE: ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN TIME (ET)

November 19, 2026		
7:30 a.m. ET	**Meet in the hotel lobby at 7:30 AM to depart from the Holiday Inn, 550 C Street, S.W., to Mary E. Switzer Memorial Building, 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC.**	**TAC Members**
8:00 a.m. ET	**TAC Caucus: Closed Session** TAC & TA Internal Discussion	**Herminia Frias, M.P.H.** (Pascua Yaqui Tribe) TAC Chair **Stephen Kutz, M.P.H., B.S.N.** (Cowlitz Tribe) TAC Co-Chair **TAC Delegates**
9:00 a.m. ET	**Invocation** • Blessing • Cultural Drumming • Welcome and Land Acknowledgment	**Raymond Loretto, MVD (Jemez Pueblo)** **Lance Fisher (Northern Cheyenne Tribe)** **Karina L. Walters, Ph.D., M.S.W.** (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) Director, Tribal Health Research Office (THRO) Office of the NIH Director (OD), Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI), NIH
9:10 a.m. ET	**Introductions, Welcome, and Business** • Roll Call and Introductions • Meeting Procedures	**Herminia Frias, M.P.H.** (Pascua Yaqui Tribe) TAC Chair

	• Review Agenda & Meeting Goals	**Stephen Kutz, M.P.H., B.S.N.** (Cowlitz Tribe) TAC Co-Chair **Karina L. Walters, Ph.D., M.S.W.** (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) THRO Director, OD, DPCPSI, NIH
9:20 a.m. ET	**THRO Updates**	**Karina L. Walters, Ph.D., M.S.W.** (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) THRO Director, OD, DPCPSI, NIH
9:40 a.m. ET	**Planning the 2027 NIH American Indian and Alaska Native State of the Science and Tribal Priorities Summit** • Priority health topics, priority scientific and capacity approaches, and priorities to be leveraged from the HHS Traditional Foods Summit	**Herminia Frias, M.P.H.** (Pascua Yaqui Tribe) TAC Chair **Stephen Kutz, M.P.H., B.S.N.** (Cowlitz Tribe) TAC Co-Chair **Karina L. Walters, Ph.D., M.S.W.** (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) THRO Director, OD, DPCPSI, NIH
10:25 a.m. ET	**Break**	
10:40 a.m. ET	**National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) AI/AN Programs and Activities**	**Andrea Beckel-Mitchener, Ph.D.** Acting Director of NIMH
11:20 a.m. ET	**Follow-Up Discussion on Ancient DNA for Modern Genomics (aDMG) Funding Opportunity**	**Alexander Arguello, Ph.D.** Program Director, Division of Genome Sciences, National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), NIH
12:15 p.m. ET	**Lunch**	
1:15 p.m. ET	**Discussion with NIH Leadership**	**Jayanta "Jay" Bhattacharya, M.D., Ph.D.** Director, NIH
2:15 p.m. ET	**Group Photo**	**TAC Members and NIH Leadership**
2:30 p.m. ET	**TAC Business** • 2027 TAC Meetings (Topics/Speakers) • Vote for TAC Chair(s) • In-Person Meeting Planning (Hold before June 2027)	**Herminia Frias, M.P.H.** (Pascua Yaqui Tribe) TAC Chair **Stephen Kutz, M.P.H., B.S.N.** (Cowlitz Tribe) TAC Co-Chair **Karina L. Walters, Ph.D., M.S.W.** (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) THRO Director, OD, DPCPSI, NIH

3:00 p.m. ET	**Break**	
3:15 p.m. ET	**Tribal Data Sovereignty Policy Update and TAC Discussion**	**Karina L. Walters, Ph.D., M.S.W.** (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) THRO Director, OD, DPCPSI, NIH **Herminia Frias, M.P.H.** (Pascua Yaqui Tribe) TAC Chair **Stephen Kutz, M.P.H., B.S.N.** (Cowlitz Tribe) TAC Co-Chair
4:30 p.m. ET	**Reconvene and Wrap-up** **Closing Comments and Blessing**	**Karina L. Walters, Ph.D., M.S.W.** (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) THRO Director, OD, DPCPSI, NIH **Herminia Frias, M.P.H.** (Pascua Yaqui Tribe)
5:00 p.m. ET	**Adjourn**	