

The Talking Circle

News and Updates

APRIL 2021



CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS
CANCER RESEARCH

Cultivating Indigenous Cancer Knowledge



Native CIRCLE Finds a New Home at CICR

The Native CIRCLE (Cancer Information Resource Center and Learning Exchange), established in 1997 and once located within the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center, was created to provide, maintain and disseminate culturally appropriate cancer, diabetes, health and wellness materials for Indigenous peoples.

In 2020, Native CIRCLE transitioned the resource center to the Center for Indigenous Cancer Research at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. The goals of Native CIRCLE are to advance community outreach, mentor students, and contribute to the science of cancer health disparities.

CICR extends a special thanks to Lisa Baethke, Judith Kaur, MD and Jonathan Baines, MD, PhD at Mayo Clinic for their vision and guidance during the transition of Native CIRCLE. We are also appreciative for the help of Yvette Holston and the team at Roswell Park who were responsible for developing the new Native CIRCLE web page.

If you are interested in learning more about Native CIRCLE, or your organization would like to contribute health education materials to the Native CIRCLE library, please contact:

William Maybee

Community Relations Coordinator
William.maybee@roswellpark.org



The CICR ROOTS Grant Launches Indigenous Virtual Research Video

ROOTS (Resources, Optimizing Outreach, Teaching and Science for Native American and WNY Cancer Prevention) serves as an easily accessible learning platform for people from Indigenous and rural communities to enhance the knowledge of clinical trials and the research process. Funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the aim of this grant program is to describe the process and increase access to new and emerging clinical trial opportunities.

With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine related clinical trials, there is a newfound awareness and interest from our communities to learn more about health research. To support this awareness, CICR developed a short video to introduce viewers to CICR and offer a virtual tour of the Roswell Park BioBus. The BioBus travels into adjacent communities with the intent to provide research-related education and offer opportunities to participate in clinical trials through biological specimen collection.

ROSWELL PARK

MOBILE Lab SCIENCE to Sidewalks



To learn more about CICR, the BioBus, and the implications of research on Indigenous communities,

STAY UP TO DATE WITH CICR!

The Talking Circle

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PODCAST



The latest episode of the Talking Circle Podcast is available now.

This episode features CICR's Community Relations Coordinator, **Will Maybee**. Will offers some insight on traditional food diets, holistic and traditional approaches to health, and suggestions for cancer patients and families to help increase physical activity to improve quality of life.



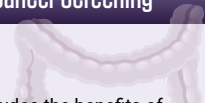
If you have suggestions for guests you'd like to hear featured on The Talking Circle Podcast, please contact Josie Raphaelito, The Talking Circle host at josie.raaphaelito@roswellpark.org.

Sign up for FREE LOVE Virtual Classes!

The Center for Indigenous Cancer Research is now offering 2 FREE Virtual Classes!



1. Colorectal Cancer Screening



This class includes the benefits of colorectal cancer screening, how to get screened safely, text message cancer screening reminders, and navigation to free cancer services if uninsured.

2. Clinical Trial Education



This class will help you to understand the basics of clinical trials and research, how to participate in clinical trials and the risks and benefits involved.

CICR's grant from the National Cancer Institute, referred to as Screen to Save, focuses on building awareness, providing resources and educating Native American and rural communities on two critical topics – colorectal cancer and clinical trials. Many of our Indigenous communities experience higher rates of colorectal cancer compared to other communities, as well as limited opportunities to participate in clinical trials. CICR works closely with Native communities, and rural partners to share knowledge and exchange resources. Classes on colorectal cancer and clinical trials are now offered virtually one-on-one at a time of your choosing!

Participants are also offered a \$15 gift card.



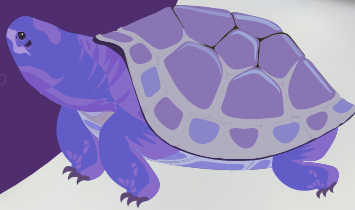
Contact **Will Maybee** to set up an individual or group session.



Text or call
716-225-3418

Email
William.Maybee@RoswellPark.org

The Talking Circle



Webinar Series

COMMUNITY OUTREACH ONLINE



Each month, CICR's Talking Circle webinar series highlights topics that are important to Indigenous communities. The February webinar featured Melissa Begay, MD, an Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico's Department of Pulmonology Critical Care and Sleep Medicine. Dr. Begay presented on "Sleep in Native America," which included a discussion on her work in sleep medicine and how Indigenous Knowledge about sleep relates to a holistic understanding of health and wellness. Past webinars included Santee Smith who presented on "Indigenous Creativity and Leadership" and Kris Rhodes, MPH who presented on "Tobacco Two Ways: Understanding Traditional Tobacco Use."

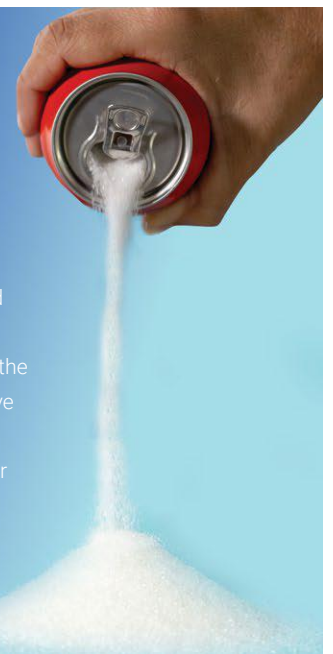
To watch previous presentations and register for future webinars

Two New Projects Focus on Sugar Sweetened Beverages

Indigenous Knowledge, nutrition, and physical activity are important components of cancer prevention and wellness in our communities. Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) over the next two years, we will partner with Indigenous communities to create evidence-based, culturally appropriate nutrition education aimed at encouraging Native men to lessen their consumption of sugary beverages.

The second project is funded by the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation and will focus on how sugary beverages are marketed in Native communities.

We will partner with community leaders to receive feedback on the existing language used in marketing sugary beverages in Native communities, and then discuss ideas for adapting marketing language in a culturally appropriate way that promotes healthier behaviors and purchase decisions.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Kathryn Glaser, MA, PhD

Assistant Professor of Oncology
Department of Cancer Prevention and Control

Dr. Glaser is an Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Cancer Prevention and Control and joined Roswell Park in 2011.

She has been a strong partner working alongside CICR Director Rodney Haring to address cancer health disparities in Western New York, including Indigenous peoples. Most recently, CICR partnered with Dr. Glaser on developing plans to establish cancer patient navigation services to meet the needs of Indigenous and rural communities. Together, we will utilize our strengths, partnerships, and experiences to create these services and help build health equity.

Q Please introduce yourself and explain why you chose research and cancer prevention efforts among racial/ethnic minority populations for your area of work?

A As a medical anthropologist and researcher, my work has shifted from traditional ethnography to a focus on cancer health disparities, especially the interplay between health beliefs that facilitate behavior and behavior change, as well as potential health systems barriers that are often a source of inequity. My current work focuses primarily on underserved communities, particularly among immigrants and recently resettled refugees, with outreach efforts in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to increase cancer screening rates.

Throughout my career path to this current identity, I participated in various field experiences, including several years abroad studying different Indigenous communities in South America. For many years, I collaborated with primary care physicians on quality improvement initiatives to improve chronic disease management. I joined the team at Roswell Park over 10 years ago, and it is encouraging to see the positive impact we are making on our community. As program co-leader of Cancer Screening and Survivorship at Roswell Park and a member of Community Outreach and Engagement, this impact continues to grow with the goal to address the cancer burden in our region. Now with recent funding, and with my friend and colleague, Dr. Rodney Haring, and the Center for Indigenous Cancer Research (CICR), we are expanding outreach efforts to rural and Native territories in our region.

Q Is there a song, quote or activity that helps you find balance during these strange COVID-19 times?

A Well, the first song that comes to mind is "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley. It is always a reminder that everything will be all right. I also love the poem "Anyway" by Mother Teresa. It is a powerful representation of always doing the right thing to create a kind and happy world, and to give your best. I also practice yoga daily and find moving meditation helps me find my balance, especially right now.

Q What contributions to Roswell Park's screening and access practices are you most proud of?

A I would have to say the colorectal cancer screening outreach program we have developed in partnership with local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and primary care physicians. The collaboration provides navigational services for colorectal screening to underserved populations who may have low health literacy. This project, grounded in both health services research and clinical care implementing evidence-based guidelines into practice, works directly with underserved communities to address health disparities in our local community.

To respond to community need, we developed a process to provide culturally-appropriate patient education combined with clinical interventions to increase screening rates in a predominantly refugee population of diverse ethnic backgrounds and languages. A Roswell Park patient navigator was deployed in 2016 to help lead a cancer screening program within three clinics. Since then, we have seen a significant increase in colorectal cancer screening rates at partner health centers where they went from 28% to now over 50% of their patients screened.

Q How has your involvement with the Roswell Park Indigenous Research Group support partnership building with CICR and Indigenous communities?

A The CICR, directed by Dr. Rodney Haring, is the first of its kind in the Eastern United States (US). It was established in 2020 to continue Roswell Park's work with Native Americans and other Indigenous populations. Indigenous communities face some of the greatest cancer health disparities, higher mortality rates, and persistent challenges in health equity. Recent grant support for the CICR and Roswell Park has laid the foundation to build bi-directional networks to support successful navigation of the cancer care continuum for Native American and rural communities. This program will form bridges between Indian Health Services health centers and thoughtfully selected FQHCs, creating a safety net of providers adjacent to IHS health centers.

As we have done with our current screening programs, our aim is to streamline the transfer of patients and information. This is not as an intervention from outside these communities, but an inclusive, intentional program coordinated in partnership with these communities. The project proposes pairs of patient navigators to practice in the IHS health centers and three geographically matched FQHCs.

Q What are your hopes for the new cancer patient navigator services at Roswell Park in partnership with CICR?

A Our goal is to continue to focus on health equity, which gives everyone a fair opportunity to live a long and healthy life. These teams of Indigenous navigators and FQHC-based navigators will provide in-person and on-site navigation focusing on breast cancer, prostate cancer and co-occurring conditions that plague these communities in high rates including obesity, diabetes and other cancers seen in excess. The navigation will focus on education and prevention related to cancer screening and diagnosis, treatment, clinical trials, palliative care and survivorship.



CANCER PATIENT NAVIGATOR SERVICES

BEGINNING IN 2021

Post-Pandemic, Translational Research, and Indigenous Communities

CICR Director Rodney Haring, PhD, and Research Assistant Whitney Ann Henry, along with Laticia McNaughton, State University of New York at Buffalo, Dean Seneca, Seneca Scientific Solutions, and Donald Warne University of North Dakota, collaborated to create the publication titled, "Post-Pandemic, Translational Research, and Indigenous Communities." This paper discusses perspectives on the post-pandemic frameworks and policies toward translational science (translating scientific findings to apply them to a community setting) as an approach to advance health promotion for community-based interventions, dissemination, and sustainability in Indigenous communities. This paper also takes a deeper look into the importance of exercising Indigenous self-determination, public health authority, and population health sovereignty.

To read the full paper

The Center for Indigenous Cancer Research partnered with Roswell Park's Cancer Screening, Survivorship and Mentorship team to develop a Cancer Patient Navigator framework that meets the needs of Indigenous and rural communities across New York. The Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation awarded our teams \$3.3 million to develop, implement, and evaluate these new services over the next three years. Partnerships with the foundation, Indian Health Services and geographically matched, rural federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) allow our teams to provide on-site and virtual patient navigation. Services include cancer prevention, screening, treatment and education as well as education on clinical trials, palliative care and survivorship.

This new initiative includes hiring six full-time patient navigators who will be based in high-need communities and two virtual navigators. Together, navigators will collaborate with IHS health centers and FQHCs to provide tailored services to improve cancer education, screening and co-occurring disease management. Click here to watch the full press conference between Roswell Park, The Center for Indigenous Cancer Research, and the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation.

Why were these services created?

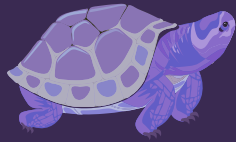
Much of this initiative was developed as a response to CICR's Two-Row project where our team listened to Indigenous leaders and community members about their experiences throughout various cancer care services. We heard the process is complex and challenging, and that there was a need to have an Indigenous person to help guide our community members and serve as additional support.

Listen to these stories and perspectives shared in our Two-Row video:

Interested in Becoming a Cancer Patient Navigator?

Visit [here](#) to view available positions.





The Talking Circle

Cultivating Indigenous Cancer Knowledge

Need to Talk to Someone?

If you're having a hard time coping with the challenges we currently face, you are not alone. Take these steps toward help:

- ✓ Talk to family, friends, spiritual leaders or Indigenous medicine people. Simply expressing your fears can greatly alleviate anxiety and uncertainty.
- ✓ Reach out to your Indian Health Services Behavioral Health Team.
- ✓ Tribal and Indian Gaming Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) by way of human resources, is a free service that can provide virtual counseling for employees and family members that reside in the same household.
- ✓ Call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline: **1-800-985-5990** or text TalkWithUs to **66746 (TTY 1-800-846-8517)**.

Our Mission

The Center for Indigenous Cancer Research aims to honor the values of Indigenous Knowledge, sovereignty, and respect for the environment through community-driven partnerships, collaborative research and education to reduce the impact of cancer on Indigenous communities regionally, nationally and internationally.

*Pictured from left to right: **Rodney Haring, PhD, MSW**, CICR Director; **Josie Raphaelito, MPH**, Research Project; Coordinator; **Will Maybee BS, CSCS**, Community Relations Coordinator; **Whitney Ann Henry, BS**, Research Assistant. Not pictured: **David Mattson, Jr., MD**, Director of Radiation Oncology Residency Program; **Michelle Huyser, MD**, Surgical Oncology Fellow*



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