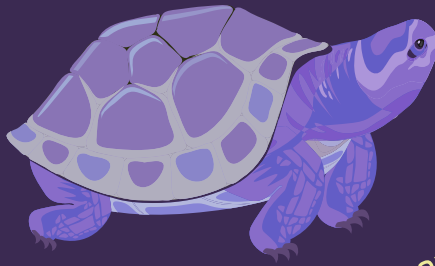


The Talking Circle



CULTIVATING INDIGENOUS CANCER KNOWLEDGE

JULY 2020



CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS
CANCER RESEARCH

New Grant Supports Education on Colorectal Cancer, Clinical Trials

A new grant from the NCI, referred to as **Screen to Save**, will focus on best ways to increase awareness, educate and provide resources on two critical topics — colorectal cancer and clinical trials — for Native American and rural communities. These communities experience disproportionate rates of colorectal cancer and have limited opportunities to participate in clinical trials, the only way to access the very latest cancer treatments. CICR will work closely with Native communities, individual community members, families, and rural partners to provide education and resources regarding cancer and the importance of clinical trials.

SCREEN TO SAVE

NCI COLORECTAL CANCER OUTREACH & SCREENING INITIATIVE

To sign up for our 20-minute class to learn about colorectal cancer screening and clinical trial programs, please contact

Will Maybee

EXT OR CALL 716-225-3418

Email William.Maybee@RoswellPark.org



TWO ROW PROJECT

Campaign Goals

FRIENDSHIP



PEACE

FOREVER
Ensuring a Sustainable
Future



Two Row Project Wraps Up; DOCUMENTARY COMING SOON

The last two years witnessed the exciting growth and expansion of the Center for Indigenous Cancer Research (CICR) project with the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The project, named for the Two Row Wampum Belt and Haudenosaunee belief in partnership and mutual respect with neighbors, focused on developing partnerships across Indian Health Service clinics, rural clinics, hospital partner networks and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Together, these networks built more understanding around the current cancer care continuum — from prevention to survivorship — for Indigenous people. Our team was fortunate to have met so many resilient Indigenous community members, as well as dedicated health care workers who seek to improve the lives of Indigenous cancer patients. To share key themes and lessons learned from the project, the CICR will showcase a short documentary in the upcoming months.

COVID-19 and Indigenous Cancer Patient Safety Tips

Spring Awakening — Nature's Health Restoration

Under normal circumstances, winter in the northeastern United States is a trying time. With this year's unusual situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, lives have been disrupted significantly. We should consider our Indigenous way of life to provide an abundance of solutions to these complex challenges. Below, we share our go-to activities to maintain spiritual, mental and physical balance:



- **Fishing.** The seasonal return of many of our fish species such as steelhead, catfish, walleye and crappie represent the slow transition from winter to spring. Be sure to check your local fishing advisories to ensure your fish species are safe for consumption and contain limited amounts of known carcinogens such as mercury, dioxins and PCBs.



- **Foraging.** Depending on your region, nature lends many springtime edibles and herbs. Wild onion, leeks, plantain, wild garlic, dandelion and tree sap to name just a few. If you are a novice, it is advisable to consult with a local expert, herbalist or healer to identify plants before consuming them.



- **Planting.** Tackling a vegetable or flower garden offers a rewarding spring experience whether you live in the country or want to try your hand at urban gardening with limited space. Gardening is a versatile activity that helps cultivate a good mind and promote strong spiritual, mental and physical health.

Beyond the obvious benefits of nutritious food, these activities provide other subtler qualities. They require functional physical activity, offer an opportunity to exercise your connection with the land and those who inhabit it, and help to clear the mind of stressful clutter. Traditional lifeways recruit the body and spirit in its whole form and may offer many solutions to modern challenges.

Postdoctoral Position Available

APPLY TODAY

The Center for Indigenous Cancer Research (CICR) is accepting applications for a post doctoral position on our team. Specifically, we are looking for someone who can support projects related to the environment, human exposure and the human condition as they relate to cancer, health issues and population science. This is a full-time virtual position.



Recent Publications

CICR Director Dr. Haring, along with Indigenous authors from around the world, published an article in one of the country's leading medical journals, Nature Reviews Genetics. The article titled, "Rights, interests and expectations: Indigenous perspectives on unrestricted access to genomic data," discusses Indigenous Peoples' desire for greater involvement and oversight in genomic research projects. The authors provide practical recommendations for the handling and sharing of Indigenous genomic data, with the aim of achieving mutual benefit for participating Indigenous communities and the research community.

nature
REVIEWS
GENETICS



CICR Live Virtual Webinars

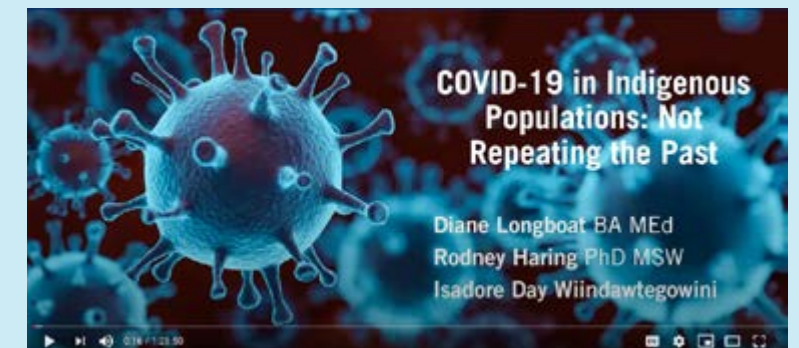
CICR Hosted a Webinar on COVID-19 and Indigenous Peoples

On April 3rd, Rodney Haring, PhD, MSW, Director of CICR, led a fireside chat — Cancer and COVID-19 in the Indigenous Community — with a panel of Indigenous doctors, researchers and scholars. Panel members included Nina Scott, PhD (Maori), Evan Adams, MD (First Nations), David Mattson Jr., MD (Native Hawaiian) and more. This webinar style chat brought in almost 300 registrants with 160 unique viewers. People joined from the U.S., Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The conversation brought Indigenous communities together to discuss COVID-19 from a clinical, research, and community perspective, and most importantly, shared ideas for solutions and positive impact to protect the health of their communities.



CICR's Dr. Haring Lends Expertise to eForum

Dr. Haring also served as a featured speaker during an April 22nd e-forum/panel with a former Chief of Ontario on COVID-19 and Indigenous Health, hosted by the University of Toronto. The webinar attracted 2,300 online registrants.



Indigenous Cancer Caregivers Webinar

The CICR partnered with the American Indian Cancer Foundation on June 25th to honor cancer survivorship month by presenting, "Honoring the Journeys of Cancer Caregivers: An Indigenous Perspective." This webinar welcomed William Maybee from CICR and Elizabeth Bouchard, MA, PhD, from Roswell Park to discuss caregivers' important

role in the treatment of cancer patients, and unique perspectives from Indigenous caregivers and caregivers of Indigenous cancer patients. Tune in to hear stories shared by Indigenous caretakers in this webinar honoring cancer survivorship month.

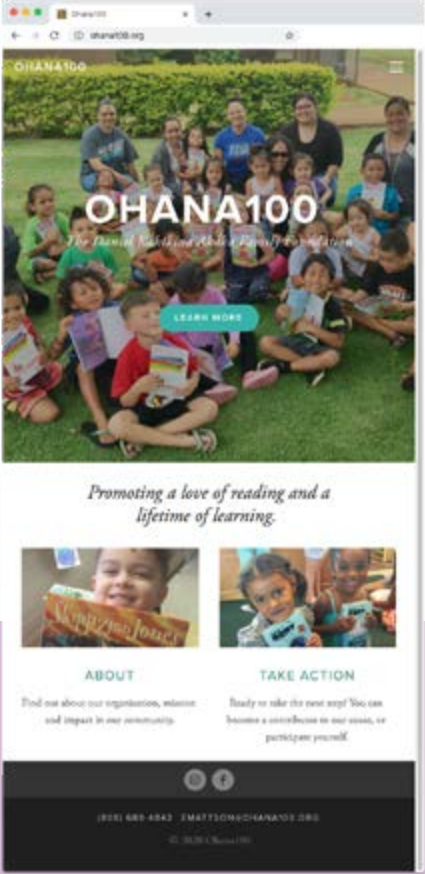


Dr. David Mattson

Native Hawaiian, CICR Clinical Advisor



OHANA100



Radiation oncologist David Mattson, Jr., MD, is of Native Hawaiian ancestry and was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. He attended the Kamehameha Schools, an institution established through an endowment in the will of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the last royal descendant of the Kamehameha line, the Royal Family of the Kingdom of Hawaii. Her endowment was instructed to provide the education Native Hawaiians needed to survive with their language, culture and traditions in a rapidly changing world.

In addition to serving as a Clinical Advisor and an Indigenous Community Advisory Board member for the CICR, Dr. Mattson is an Associate Professor at the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and serves as the Radiation Oncology Residency Program Director in the Department of Radiation Medicine at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is also the Director of the Gastrointestinal, Gynecological and Brachytherapy Programs in Radiation Medicine. He is a Faculty Senator with the University at Buffalo representing the Jacobs School of Medicine where he sits on the Executive Committee, the Military and Veteran's Committee, the Budget Priorities Committee and the Committee on Equity and Diversity.

In medical school, Dr. Mattson was involved with a program that explored the historical significance of sterilization and its impact on infectious disease in Hawaii, including Hansen's disease and leprosy.

He traveled to the former leprosy colony of Kalaupapa on an isolated peninsula on the Island of Molokai, and met with residents and former patients there.

Dr. Mattson obtained his medical degree from the University of Hawaii and then completed a surgical internship in Syracuse, New York. He did a research fellowship investigating the role of radiosensitizers with the Radiation Oncology Sciences Program at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. He completed residency training in radiation oncology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa where he continued his basic science research. That led him to a faculty appointment with the University at Buffalo and Roswell Park in 2008 where he's been ever since. His recent research is clinically oriented, involving novel brachytherapy treatment for breast and gynecological malignancies, and studying factors that influence survival in rectal and esophageal cancers.

Dr. Mattson, along with his wife and family, created a foundation to promote youth literacy in New York called **Ohana100**, which translated from the Hawaiian language means "family." Over the years, the foundation expanded to include services in Hawaii and five countries internationally. The foundation focuses on serving those in need, primarily children. Some of its accomplishments include providing nearly 200,000 books; sending volunteer readers to read to more than 1,800 children each month, offering volunteer opportunities for all ages, establishing an endowed scholarship fund, and managing youth volunteer summer service projects.



To help get to know Dr. Mattson, we asked him to share his take on many topics concerning cancer and Indigenous people:

Q Where do you see Indigenous cancer research in the next five years?

a

I am excited about the Center for Indigenous Cancer Research (CICR) and Dr. Rodney Haring's vision and research initiatives. In the next five years, I hope to see more projects that include:

- Intervention components to provide knowledge, resources and/or services in the process of collecting data so that both parties benefit from the interaction.
- Other Indigenous populations. In our working meetings and discussions, we've found a lot of similarities in cultural values and challenges that we face. By bringing together other Indigenous populations the CICR can be a powerful platform for the exchange of ideas and broadening the impact of its work.

Q What encouraging words would you offer to someone thinking about joining the cancer research field?

a

There are so many opportunities to make meaningful contributions to the field because of the persistent disparities in the health of Indigenous populations. There are many reasons why, but Indigenous populations fare worse when faced with health issues, and it's made more challenging when they are also diagnosed with cancer.

Q Do you have a song or quote that helps you during these strange times?

a

I remember that every cloud has a silver lining. In difficult times like these, when we face tremendous challenges there are always positive things that can be found if you are willing to look. With our current situation, being at home means we can spend more time with our children and bond through activities we normally wouldn't have time to do. Large cities across the world have much less smog pollution and there are sightings of wildlife roaming our streets. The cost of driving has gone down, from lower gas prices to auto insurance refunds because of far fewer accident claims. I think of these things as the silver lining, the balance of good things that we can find in times like these.

Indigenous Lifeways Are Prevention



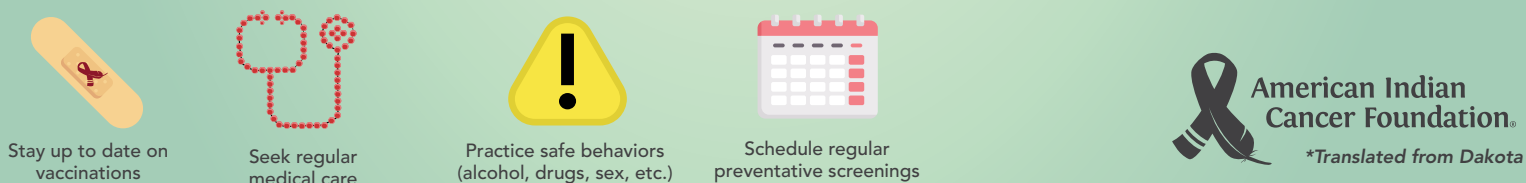
CICR encourages you to acknowledge the resiliency of Indigenous cancer survivors and their caretakers. Together, we can honor those in our community who have survived cancer by cultivating a strong mind and strengthening our physical bodies. According to the NCI, 90 to 95% of all cancers are attributed to modifiable risk factors including: a long-term, nutrient-deficient diet, lack of physical activity, commercial tobacco use, excessive alcohol consumption, industrial chemical exposure, chronic inflammation and chronic infection, among others. In other words, we influence our chances of developing cancer by exercising a good mind to cultivate a healthier lifestyle. While it is not practical to eliminate all these risk factors, adopting our ancestral lifeways may help to manage cancer risk. Our friends at the American Indian Cancer Foundation created a free infographic to remind us of our Indigenous lifeways and their interconnectedness.

Our ancestors recognized that our lives are *wakan (sacred) and how we take care of *unkíthančhanpi** (our bodies) is important.**

Indigenous lifeways focus on the spirit, mind, body, heart, earth, and community. Each aspect is a thread in a web that is related to our past, living and future ancestors:



We can enhance our resilience and protection against chronic illness by embracing contemporary activities to achieve health equity. The combination of our traditional ways and these modern practices is essential to advance the health of our communities:



The Talking Circle
Cultivating Indigenous Cancer Knowledge

JULY 2020

Need to Talk to Someone?

- ✓ 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; **Shannon MacCallum, MBA, PhD**, Student



**CENTER FOR
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