

The Talking Circle News and Updates



CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS
CANCER RESEARCH

Cultivating Indigenous Cancer Knowledge

Talking Circle Podcast



The Talking Circle Webinar Series

COMMUNITY OUTREACH ONLINE



The work at the Center for Indigenous Cancer Research (CICR) would not be possible without the contributions of our fellow Roswell Park colleagues as well as our invaluable partnerships across the world. Through these partnerships, we identified an opportunity to showcase these leaders, relevant health-related resources and innovative approaches to cancer care. We're using the Talking Circle Webinar Series to do just that. On the last Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. EST, we create online space to introduce the remarkable work of our Indigenous colleagues to our Indigenous communities across Turtle Island. The goal is to present information about emerging cancer-related research, how it relates to our communities, and how it might practically apply to our daily lives. You can catch our previous webinars as well as sign up for upcoming sessions here:



In addition to the webinar series, our team at CICR introduces another communications outlet – The Talking Circle Podcast. This podcast was created to bring the conversations about cancer research and wellness from the laboratory, classroom, and webinars into Indigenous communities through storytelling. Once a month, we feature a community leader, researcher, resource and/or partner as a guest on the show. These are brief 30-minute discussions that can be found at the link below. Our first episode invites CICR Director Dr. Rodney Haring and Research Assistant Whitney Ann Henry to introduce CICR, our work, and how we plan to support Indigenous communities through cancer research.

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.Raphaelito@RoswellPark.org.





Student Opportunities at Roswell Park

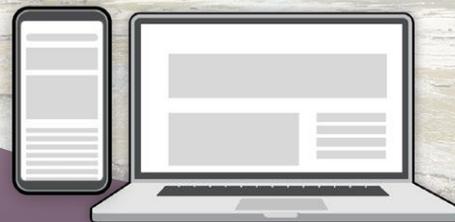
CICR is committed to supporting Indigenous students as they explore areas of study and career pathways related to cancer research. We encourage young leaders to apply to Roswell Park's summer research programs for high school, college and health professional students. If accepted to the program, Native students are matched with mentors and CICR will serve as a resource and support network while they are on campus.

Applications for the 2021 Summer Research Experience are due January 31.

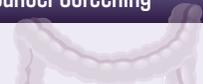
Sign up for FREE **LOVE** Virtual Classes!

EARN A **\$15** GIFT CARD

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



1. Colorectal Cancer Screening



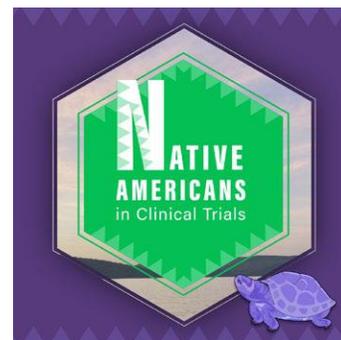
This class includes the benefits of colorectal cancer screening, how to get screened safely, text message cancer screening reminders, and navigation to free cancer services if uninsured.

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. 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 works closely with Native communities, individual community members, families and rural partners to provide education and resources regarding cancer and the importance of clinical trials. Classes on colorectal cancer and clinical trials are now offered virtually!



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

TEXT OR CALL 716-225-3418 Email William.Maybee@RoswellPark.org

DR. RODNEY HARING LEADS THE COMPLETION OF THE **Two Row Collaboration: Indian Health Services, Rural Partnerships, and the Cancer Care Continuum” Project**

TWO ROW PROJECT

Campaign Goals

FRIENDSHIP



PEACE

FOREVER
Ensuring a Sustainable
Future



Two Row is an Indigenous concept portrayed on a Haudenosaunee wampum belts using white and purple wampum shells. The depiction symbolizes the peace and friendship between Haudenosaunee and non-Haudenosaunee peoples. They will row their canoes side-by-side but never cross into the other's path with malice or ill intent. Two Row recognizes the need for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to cooperate for the greater good. This same ideology applies to the journey of Indigenous cancer patients who often rely on the coordination of numerous entities during cancer treatment and survival. Unfortunately, we know very little about this journey and these complex interactions.

The recently-completed Two Row Cancer Care Continuum project funded by the National Cancer Institute sought to illuminate these journeys throughout the cancer care continuum from cancer prevention, treatment, survivorship and end-of-life care. The work highlighted the many gaps in cancer care for Indigenous patients, as well as the resiliency shown by our communities under challenging circumstances. We encourage you to watch the short documentary about the Two Row Cancer Care Continuum project's findings, produced by Dr. Rodney Haring and Roswell Park's Paul Hage.

Previous Scholar Spotlight:

Marissa Haring

“ I was lucky enough to intern with a Community Outreach Coordinator in the Department of Population Science and Cancer Prevention. The summer internship was an amazing opportunity, I learned so much and made many great connections. I would definitely recommend this program to any Native student studying health or medicine! Since then, I graduated college in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in health science and a concentration in community health. I also became a certified health education specialist. After graduating, I began teaching sexual health at different organizations in Buffalo and Syracuse. I recently started working for the Seneca Nation Health System as a prevention specialist to help prevent youth substance use and suicide. I also started working on my master's degree, studying Native American leadership and will graduate in 2021!”



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Adam Kisailus, PhD, MBA

Assistant Dean, Division of Educational Affairs



Although **Adam Kisailus, PhD**, was born in New York City, he considers himself a Buffalonian through and through. His family moved to Buffalo when he was two years old and has lived in Buffalo for most his life. Dr. Kisailus began at Roswell Park in 2004 and over the years worked in both research and education capacities.

While his official title is Associate Dean for Educational Affairs, Dr. Kisailus' vocation is "talent agent" for the future cancer workforce. He manages the learning and educational research experiences for students – from high schoolers to medical students – to unlock their gifts and skills for research, and establish paths into careers in cancer. "Not to sound cliché," says Dr. Kisailus, "but my career in education administration found me!" As an aspiring academic researcher in the laboratory of **Irwin Gelman, PhD**, here at Roswell Park, Dr. Kisailus was always assigned a summer student. He soon found his calling to mentor, educate and inspire students at the lab bench. This led to opportunities to make an impact in Roswell Park's education mission both in an administrative leadership role and in our Educational Affairs department.

Dr. Kisailus earned his doctoral degree in molecular biology in 2004 from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, and came to Roswell Park as a post-doctoral fellow in cancer genetics for 2004 to 2008.

Q What contributions to Roswell Park's Educational Affairs Division are you most proud of?

A I am most proud of the alumni of our education programs with whom I have mentored, offered guidance and encouraged on their career paths. Even walking the halls of Roswell Park, I encounter former alumni of our summer research experience, graduate and post-doctoral programs who have reached their full potential and attained fruitful careers in advancing our cancer center's mission. Beyond our campus, I am still in touch with many alumni who are establishing themselves in their career fields. Just recently, I was in touch with a former graduate student who was doing some interesting work on the lingering health effects of COVID-19! I recall when I had met this particular student in our master's program some years ago; I saw that particular passion and talent for science, and encouraged the pursuit of a PhD.



Q What type of recruitment efforts are most rewarding when it comes to diversifying student participation at Roswell Park? Or, what new efforts are being explored?

A I take a “boots on the ground approach” to seeking out students and making them aware of the education and experiential opportunities at Roswell Park. Over the past decade I have worked closely with directors of programs concentrating on students from racial/ethnic backgrounds that are historically under-represented in the research and medical profession. These relationships are particularly important to develop and maintain. Each Fall, I travel to regional colleges and universities to spread the word about our education and training programs. Further, once a student has passed through our summer program, I continue to follow up with them as a valued member of our Roswell Park community and to help guide their next steps. We have about one-quarter of our summer high school students return for summer college and medical programs. Our summer research programs have been entry points for students in our graduate division and medical school. Extended mentorship is very key in diversifying our workforce.

Q What advice or encouraging words would you offer to someone thinking about the student programs at Roswell Park?

A I strongly encourage you to seek a research experience if you are considering a career in science. So often, I have witnessed how a student in the new and challenging space of an academic research lab will uncover hidden talents, fuel their passion for science and set them on a course to match their talents with a career to serve those suffering from disease. More information about our education programs can be found at the web pages below:

PhD Program

**Applications deadline:
January 6.**

Master's Program

**Applications deadline:
February 6.**

Summer Research Experience Programs

for high school, college, physician assistant, nursing and medical students

**Applications deadline:
January 31.**

Q Do you have a song, quote or some type of reading that helps you during these strange COVID-19 times?

A I turn to prayer during such challenging times. I also am aware that not only am I dealing with these strange and difficult times, but so are my colleagues, our students and visitors to Roswell Park. I am particularly attentive that we all share the confusion, anxiety and fear associated with these times. Therefore, I often start conversations with, “How are you doing through all this?” as a way of connecting and reassuring you are not alone during the pandemic even though we must remain socially distant.



The Talking Circle

Cultivating Indigenous Cancer Knowledge



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.

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)**.

*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*



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