

**2021 Bi-Annual Navajo Research Conference  
Virtual Conference  
October 20-21, 2021**

*Hózhó Náhasdlíí': Sustaining Reverence for Life and Wellness*

Sponsored by:



Diné College



Navajo Nation Department of Health  
& Department of Diné Education



Johns Hopkins  
Center for American  
Indian Health



Center for Health Equity  
Research  
& Partnership for Native  
American Cancer Prevention

AGENDA

**DAY ONE: Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

**Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/641587404>

<b>8:30AM</b>	<b>MASTER OF CEREMONY</b>	Sonya Shin, IRB Board Member
	<b>INVOCATION</b>	Stanley Reddye, Navajo Practitioner
	<b>WELCOME</b>	Charles M. Roessel, Ph.D., President, Diné College
<b>8:45AM</b>	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b>	Rebecca Izzo-Manymules, NNHRRB Chair
<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b>	Jonathan Nez, President, Navajo Nation
<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>	Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Epidemiology Center
	<b>Navajo Nation's Dikos Nitsaaígíí (COVID-19) Response</b>	Ramona Antone-Nez, Director Del Yazzie, Epidemiologist

**10:30AM- 12:00PM DAY I: Session I (90 min)**

<b>A: COVID-19 on Navajo Nation</b>	<b>Session Facilitators:</b> Carmen George
<b>Title</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>
<b>Link To Recording:</b> <a href="https://vimeo.com/641309557">https://vimeo.com/641309557</a>	
COVID-19 disease in Native American communities	Deionna Vigil, Tracy Goldtooth
Assessing Navajo COVID-19 Risks and Increasing Indigenous Resilience	Karletta Chief, Stephanie Carroll, Jani Ingram
Describing challenges in the face of COVID-19	Elvira Begay, Bryan Simmons

Observing PPE use in one Navajo Nation community

Miranda J. Haskie

COVID-19 Impact on Navajo Stores

Brianna John, Carmen George

**B: Diabetes & Chronic Disease** [Link To Recording: https://vimeo.com/641310414](https://vimeo.com/641310414)

**Session Facilitators:** Brianna John

**Title**

Life and wellness in DPP and Look AHEAD studies

**Presenter(s)**

Harelda Anderson, Mary Hoskin

Effectiveness of a cultural DM education program

Jamie Wilson

Stopping GDM: Navajo Nation baseline to 3-months Results

Sandra Beirne

Clinical pharmacy services for chronic diseases

Joan OConnell

Blindness in the Navajo Nation: A 9-year Study

Ryan T. Wallace, Craig J. Chaya

**C: Physical Activity & Nutrition**

[Link To Recording: https://vimeo.com/641314138](https://vimeo.com/641314138)

**Session Facilitators:** Sean Etsitty

<https://vimeo.com/641316139>

**Title**

Healthy Places – Healthy People: A Toolkit for Promoting Active Living in Navajo Communities

**Presenter(s)**

Sally Davis, Latasha James, Sheldon Benally, Julia M. Hess, Elverna M. Bennett, Marla Pardilla

The evaluation of the Healthy Diné Nation Act

Jennifer Hudson, Alysso Reformado

Healthy Diné Nation Act: Manager/Owner Survey

Sean Etsitty

Produce prescriptions on Navajo Nation: A case study

Carmen George

Implementation of multilevel obesity interventions

Joel Gittelsohn

**12:00PM – 1:00 PM**

**Break II (60 min)**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**DAY I: Session II (90 min)**

**A: Education Part I**

[Link To Recording: https://vimeo.com/641316139](https://vimeo.com/641316139)

**Session Facilitators:** Sonya Shin

**Title**

Engaging Diné youth in high school: Recruitment and Retention Strategies

**Presenter(s)**

Eudora Redhouse, Nisha Talk

Culturally-relevant engineering design curriculum

Shawn Jordan, Ieshya Anderson

Project Safe Schools

Joshua Allison-Burbank

Restorative justice and school-based relationships

Tasha Seneca Keyes, Irina Riverman, Aundrea Dilanchian

National Indian Education Study (NIES)

James Deaton

**B: Maternal, Child, & Family Health Part I****Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/641302258>**Session Facilitators:** Shawndeena George**Title**

Breastfeeding attitudes and practices in a rural Utah Navajo community

Navajo mothers' perinatal resiliency in the NICU

Overview of developmental profiles in NBCS/ECHO

Arizona (First Things First) Parent Kit evaluation

Azhé'é Bidziil (Strong Fathers): Advancing family

**Presenter(s)**

Laura Brown, Revina Talker

Chelsey Tarazi

Brandon Rennie

Lisa Colling, Candida Hunter

Tiffani Begay, Leander Staley, LeDaniel Gishie

**C: Environment Part I****Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/641318906>**Session Facilitators:** Tressica Johnson**Title**

Design &amp; implementation of a Navajo heating stove

Wood stove interventions and indoor air pollution

Wood stove interventions and respiratory infection

Assessing indoor radon exposure on the Navajo Nation

Update on thinking zinc nutritional intervention

**Presenter(s)**

Michael King, Lupita Montoya

Eugenia Quintana, Ethan Walker, Tony Ward

Johnnye Lewis, Ethan Walker, Curtis Noonan

Sheldwin Yazzie

Laurie Hudson, Debra MacKenzie,  
Erica Dashner-Titus**2:30 PM - 2:45 PM****BREAK III (15 min)****2:45 PM - 4:15 PM****DAY I: Session III (90 min)****A: Education Part II****Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/641602297>**Session Facilitators:** Jayme Biakeddy**Title**

A Viable Path for Education: Preliminary Findings from the Indigenous-language Immersion and Native American Student Achievement Study

Instructional Strategies for Supporting Oral Language Development in a Diné Immersion Classroom: A Case Study

Dancing to learn Navajo

Engaging Navajo elementary schools in randomized controlled trial of Yéego! Healthy Eating and Gardening

Teacher Satisfaction and Lessons Learned in the Implementation of Yéego! Healthy Eating and Gardening

**Presenter(s)**Teresa McCarty, Tiffany Lee  
Sheilah Nicholas, Michael Seltzer

James McKenzie

Telletha Valenski

Kevin A. Lombard, Shirley A.A. Beresford,  
India Ornelas, Mark C. Bauer, Geraldine  
Garrity, Brandon Francis, Sonia Bishop, Felix  
Nez, Filiberto Vecenti, Heather Wilcox,  
Linda V. Garcia and Eileen Rillamas-Sun

Heather Wilcox

**B: Maternal, Child, & Family Health Part II****Session Facilitators:** Chassity Begay

**Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/643345589>

**Title**

SHARP 2019 survey results

**Presenter(s)**

Mary Johnstun

Intergenerational programming for Native girls

Jaime Begay, Tiffani Begay  
Rachel Strom Chambers

RCL virtual program delivery during COVID-19

Barbara Harvey, Lauren Tingey

Family based equine assisted therapy

Charlene Poola

A Sample of Observational Restraint Use on Navajo Nation

Robert Chaffe

**C: Environment Part II**

**Session Facilitators:** Andria Begay

**Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/643373680>

**Title**

Radiation and metals in Navajo Birth Cohort homes

**Presenter(s)**

Chris Shuey ,Johnnye Lewis, Elvira Honie

Immune changes associated with metals in the NBCS

Debra MacKenzie, Nicole Thompson

Preterm birth and metals exposure in NBCS women

Joseph Hoover, Esther Erdei, Johnnye Lewis

Arsenic and birth outcomes in 3 U.S. cohorts

Debra MacKenzie, Daniel Beene

ANA testing & metal mixture exposures from uranium mines

Esther Erdei, Chris Shuey, Johnnye Lewis

**4:15PM – 4:30PM**

**DAY I: Announcements**

Michael Winney

**DAY TWO: Thursday, October 21, 2021**

**Link To Recording:**

<https://vimeo.com/641592805>

**9:00AM – 9:15AM**

**MASTER OF CEREMONY  
INVOCATION**

Nanibaa' Garrison, PhD, IRB Board

**OPENING REMARKS**

Daniel Tso, Chair, HEHS Committee

**9:15AM – 10:30AM**

**PLENARY SESSION**

The Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Study

Laura Hammitt

Resilience & Mental Wellbeing during COVID-19

Manley Begay

Wastewater monitoring to track SARS-CoV-2 levels

Otakuye Conroy-Ben

Navajo student report of COVID-19 effects

Randall Swaim

Assessing COVID-19 risk factors on Navajo Nation

Joseph Hoover

**10:30AM – 10:45AM**

**BREAK I (15 min)**

**10:45AM – 12:15PM**

**DAY II: Session I (90 min)**

**A: Navajo Culture****Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/641665148>**Title**

A Cultural, Spiritual and Health Impact Assessment of Oil Drilling Operations in the Navajo Nation are of Counselor, Torreon and Ojo Encino Chapters

Diné (Navajo) Traditional Names and Culture

Laughter and healing in Navajo social life

Collaborative fieldwork using Traditional Ecologic Knowledge

**Session Facilitators:****Presenter(s)**

David J. Tsosie, Teresa Seamster

Kendrick McCabe

Kohei Watanabe

Christine Samuel-Nakamura

**B: Cancer****Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/641668718>**Title**

Perspectives on Genetic Research: Results from a Survey Navajo Community Members

Addressing Disparities in Cancer Care

Helicobacter pylori infection in Native Americans

Helicobacter pylori and diet on the Navajo Nation

**Session Facilitators:****Presenter(s)**Katrina G. Claw  
Nanibaa' Garrison, Frank Sage

Kristin Mitchell, Joel Begay, Laura Hammitt

Enoque Costa, Fernando Monroy, Heidi Brown

Darien Fuller, Shea Littlepage  
Rachelle Begay, Robin Harris**C: Respiratory Illnesses****Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/643403925>**Title**

Carriage prevalence and genomic epi of S. aureus

Impact of PCV13 on invasive pneumococcal disease

Adult PCV15 clinical trial

Single-dose Nirsevimab for prevention of respiratory syncytial virus in healthy late preterm and term Infants

Trends in invasive Haemophilus influenza disease

**Session Facilitators:****Presenter(s)**

Valerie Coho-Mescal, Catherine Sutcliffe

Shea Littlepage, Angelina Reid

Dan VanDeRiet, Gwen Livingston

Johanna Blais, Catherine Sutcliffe

Nina Richie, Wanda Lefebvre

**12:00 NOON – 1:00 PM****BREAK II (60 min)****1:00 PM – 2:30 PM****DAY II: Session II (90 min)****A: Education Part III****Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/643498939>**Title**

Culturally responsive teacher professional development through the Diné Institute for Navajo Nation Educators

**Session Facilitators:****Presenter(s)**Angelina Castagno, Pradeep Dass  
Darold Joseph

Engaging Native American High School Students in Public Health Career Preparation Through the Indigenous Summer Enhancement Program

Amber-Rose Waters  
Kalvina Belin, Shawndeena George

Online adaptations for summer research programs

Carmella Kahn  
Heather Dreifuss, Mark C. Bauer

Four-year evaluation of the Navajo NARCH Summer Research Enhancement Project

Tressica Johnson  
Kelly McCue, Nicolette (Nicky) Teufel-Shone

Case study findings: Understanding, documenting and evaluating internships at Diné College to support student success

Geraldine Garrity  
Crystal LoudHawk-Hedgepeth  
Reeverson Descheny, Mike Lerma

**B: Maternal, Child, & Family Health Part III**

**Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/643603459>

**Session Facilitators:**

**Title**

Family Spirit Nurture: Examining long-term Impacts

**Presenter(s)**

Taylor Billey, Leonela Nelson

Social determinants of diabetes in youth

Christine Hockett

Influences on Navajo children’s diet intentions

Keona Manuelito, Rebecca Palacios

TTP and COVID-19: Impacts and lessons learned

Rachel Steinberg, Debra Yazzie,  
Deidra Goldtooth

RSV and respiratory infections in AI/AN children

Rachel Hartman, Marqia Sandoval

**C: Environment Part III**

**Link To Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/643623644>

**Session Facilitators:**

**Title**

Diné Hydration Project: Exploring Water Security and Child Health

**Presenter(s)**

Lisa Cohoe, Ashley Lee

Wristbands to measure environmental exposures

Christy Porucznik

Impacts from the GKMS

Yoshira Ornelas Van Horne.

Mutton consumption survey

Tasha Nez, Jani Ingram

Geodesign for Community-Based Land Use Planning

Jonathan Davis

2:30PM – 3: 00PM

**DAY II: Closing Remarks  
Closing Prayer**

Rebecca Izzo-Manymules  
David Begay