

Part 3: Challenges and Opportunities for Cancer Prevention and Screening in Indian Country

Wednesday, July 1



MELISSA BUFFALO, MS

Ms. Melissa Buffalo is an enrolled member of the Meskwaki Nation in Iowa, and Dakota from the Crow Creek and Lower Brule Sioux Tribes. She received her undergraduate degree in child psychology from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and earned an MS in Human Development from South Dakota State University. Melissa has over a decade of experience working in the public health sector in a variety of different roles, she brings a wealth of knowledge to AICAF. As the Deputy Director, Melissa is committed to working with and for tribal communities, both urban and rural, supporting our Indigenous people with opportunities to heal; emotionally, historically, spiritually and physically from the burdens of cancer.



TINKA DURAN, MPH

Ms. Tinka Duran received her MPH at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She serves as the Program Director for Great Plains Prevention Programs of the Great Plain Tribal Chairmen's Health Board. The Great Plains Prevention Programs work on cancer prevention and early detection utilizing evidence-based interventions with the Great Plains Tribes. This includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa Tribal Nations.

Ms. Duran is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribes.



RODNEY C. HARING, PHD, MSW

Dr. Rodney Haring is Director of the Roswell Park Center for Indigenous Cancer Research, research faculty at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Office of Community Outreach and Engagement, Department of Cancer Prevention and Control and adjunct faculty at the Native American Research and Training Center, University of Arizona. He is also a past fellow at the National Congress of American Indians and Mayo Clinic. Dr. Haring (Beaver Clan) is an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation of Indians and resides on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation (NY). He holds a doctoral degree in social work with over 15 years of social work practice and a former delegate on the US Department of Health and Human Services, American Indian and Alaska Native, Health Research Advisory Council. He is also the lead delegate for the historic MoU between Rowell Park and Indian Health Services with the common mission of addressing health burdens in Indigenous communities. In 2017 he was awarded an Impact Award by the National Indian Health Board. His research interests intersect eliminating disparities and encouraging resiliencies within First Nations and Indigenous societies.





KRIS RHODES, MPH

Ms. Kris Rhodes, of the Bad River and Fond du Lac Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa, earned a master's degree in Public Health degree in Public Health Administration & Policy and a bachelor's degree in Community Health Education both from the University of Minnesota. Her professional work has focused on improving the health of Native communities. In collaboration with many tribal, urban and mainstream partners, she has developed countless American Indian health programs and resources that weave public health science with the cultural resilience of Native communities. She is the CEO of the American Indian Cancer Foundation, a national organization dedicated to eliminating cancer burdens faced by American Indian and Alaskan Native people with capacity building solutions based in tribal wisdom.



DONALD WARNE, MD, MPH

Dr. Donald Warne, a member of the Oglala Lakota tribe in Pine Ridge, SD., is a director of Indians into Medicine; director of Master Public Health, associate dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. He earned his Doctorate of Medicine degree from Stanford University School of Medicine and completed his residency training at the Good Samaritan Regional Medical center in Phoenix, AZ, and earned his Master of Public Health degree from Harvard University. Dr. Warne served several years as a primary care and integrative medicine physician with the Gila River Health Care Corporation in Sacaton, AZ, and three years as staff clinician with the National Institutes of Health in Phoenix. During Dr. Warne's time in AZ, he conducted diabetes research and developed diabetes education and prevention programs in partnership with tribes. Previously, he served as chair of the Department of Public Health at North Dakota State University. He currently serves as adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Sanford/University of South Dakota Medical School and adjunct clinical professor at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Indian Legal Program at Arizona State University. Dr. Warne is a member of the National Board of Trustees for March of Dimes; the Health Disparities Subcommittee for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the National Advisory Committee for Rural Health and Human Services with the Department of Health and Human Services.