

## NCMHD Science Advance #5: MOA-Os

**Title:** Memoranda of Agreement with American Indian (AI) Organizations (i.e., **MOA-Os**)

**Background:** “Native Navigators and the Cancer Continuum” (NNACC) is a community-based participatory research (CBPR) project among Native American Cancer Research Corporation (NACR, CO), Intertribal Council of Michigan, Incorporated (ITCMI, MI), Rapid City Regional Hospital (RCRH, SD), Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board (GPTCHB, SD), Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN, OK), and Comanche Nation [PI: Eschiti, R15 NR 012195] (known as “the Partners”). Twice each year, in collaboration with a local Native organization, trained Native Navigators implement a series of 24-hours of community education related to the full continuum of cancer care in CO, MI, SD and as of 2011, in OK. They implement a baseline and 3-month delayed follow-up “Family Fun Event” for data collection and dissemination of the findings. The rationale for the American Indian (AI) community workshops is to increase cancer knowledge and increase the visibility and accessibility of the local Navigator(s) who can help schedule screening appointments, carry out follow-up recommendations, and provide support and education for those diagnosed with cancer. Collaborating with a local AI community organization allows access to a broader audience who can benefit from cancer education and patient navigation services. Additionally, relationships between the NNACC navigators and the community are strengthened for future collaborations.

**Advance:** The Partners and their respective Navigators create relationships and Memoranda of Agreement with AI organizations from their respective areas (called MOA-Os). These MOA-Os have strong relationships with their local AI communities. The MOA-Os generally are different organizations for each Workshop series; however, some Partners have the same MOA-O coordinate the intervention twice each year.

The MOA-Os have multiple responsibilities while working with NNACC, such as:

- ⊕ Agreeing to host the community education workshops and Family Fun Events (**FFE**) (there are specific statements of work and a Memorandum of Agreement spelling out obligations and expectations).
- ⊕ Coordinating the logistics for 24 hours of AI community education workshops for the NNACC Cancer Continuum.
- ⊕ Coordinating the logistics for Family Fun Events that occur prior to (baseline) and about 3 months after each series of community education workshops is completed (all participants invited) (total 2 Family Fun Events per MOA-O, per year).
- ⊕ Promoting the NNACC AI Community Education Workshop series to members or frequent users of the MOA-O.
- ⊕ Recruiting at least 35 unduplicated AI community members to attend the 24 hours of community education workshops. The MOA-O invites the same AI participants to each workshop, as well as inviting AIs who have not previously attended to participate to the workshops.
- ⊕ Hosting the 24 hours of educational sessions (*total of 12 topics that cover the full continuum of cancer care*) and Family Fun Events [NOTE: The Navigators are conducting and evaluating the Workshops, not the MOA-Os; the Navigators of the workshops are the faculty / educators].
- ⊕ Retaining and updating lists of all participants and the Audience Response System (**ARS**) keypad they used in the workshop and distributing keypads at each session (the participant uses the same keypad for each session and Family Fun Event attended; no one else uses that key pad even when a previous participant does not attend).
- ⊕ Assisting the Navigators to prepare and share easy-to-understand findings with community members who took part in any series of Workshops (information is shared at the Family Fun Event and at other events as the MOA-O desires).

**Public Impact Statement/Significance:** One NNACC Partner is affiliated with a state institution. While negotiating a MOA-O with an American Indian church, this partner had to recognize the boundaries that are needed to protect the division between church and state. This respect for the division between church and state created a foundation for future, respectful collaboration.

The MOA-Os create stronger community partnerships for the NNACC sites and Navigators. They allow the Navigators to focus on teaching the 24-hours of workshops while the MOA-Os promote and coordinate the logistics of the workshops and Family Fun Events. Similarly, the MOA-Os are able to integrate the NNACC program within their other outreach services without having the pressure of learning or teaching new content.

**Specific Area of Opportunity:** Health disparities

**Grant Support (solicited vs. investigator-initiated):**

"Native Navigators and the Cancer Continuum (NNACC) [PI: Burhansstipanov, R24MD002811]

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