

Science Advance Submission Format

NCMHD Science Advance



Title: Native Navigation across the Cancer Continuum in Comanche Nation (PI: Eschiti, R15 NR 012195)

Background: NNACC is a community-based participatory research (CBPR) project among Native American Cancer Research Corporation (NACR) (Colorado), Intertribal Council of Michigan, Incorporated (ITCMI) (Michigan), Rapid City Regional Hospital (RCRH) (South Dakota) and Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board (AATCHB) (South Dakota). Twice each year, in partnership with 2 local Native organizations, the trained Native Navigators implement 48 hours of community education related to the full continuum of cancer care in CO, MI, and SD. The rationale is to increase cancer knowledge among the community participants, but also to increase the visibility and availability of the local Navigator(s) who are available to help them schedule screening appointments, carry out follow-up recommendations, and provide support and education for those diagnosed with cancer.

Advance: The NNACC PI (Burhansstipanov) has mentored Dr. Eschiti since 2008. During 2009, she attended 3 of the 4 NACR Regional Cancer Seminars (supported as a supplemental grant to NNACC) and wanted to add Comanche Nation as a new site. She applied for an Area 15 grant in 2009 and was awarded the 3-year grant in April 2010. This is her first grant. She has one Comanche LPN who is a new Navigator, as well as two Comanche tribal members who recently graduated from practical nursing school who serve as a Navigator and Administrative Assistant. The Comanche team takes part in NNACC calls and webinars and NACR staff and consultants have already traveled to OK to provide 20 hours of face-to-face training. The Comanche Nation team has already been highlighted on the University of Oklahoma's College of Nursing website (see photo).

Public Impact Statement/Significance: Although the NNACC is in the first portion of year 03 of the 5-year grant, collectively the 3 existing sites are close to meeting their participant goal. NACR is submitting an amendment to the Western IRB in September to extend the number of participants from 600 to 700. With Comanche Nation on board through this new R15 grant, the study will have 900 participants. Basically the education intervention is very successful and has clearly made the local Navigators more visible and accessible to each of our respective communities. The Navigators are helping Native cancer survivors' access and use quality cancer services and provide supportive care to all of them.

Specific Area of Opportunity: Health disparities

Grant Support (solicited vs. investigator-initiated): *Please give grant number and title. If solicited, also include the solicitation number and link to the solicitation.*

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

Publication Citation and Link to Publication: Drs. Burhansstipanov and Eschiti were invited to submit an article to the *Journal of Cancer Education* in September 2010.

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