



**Alaska Native
Tribal Health Consortium**

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Press Release

September 24, 2001

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**Alaska Native health researchers
awarded \$2.9 million grant**

***Grant will build capacity of tribal organizations to
conduct their own health research***

Through a highly competitive nation-wide grant process, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) will receive \$709,000 a year for four years from two U.S. Health and Human Services agencies. The money is for training and research on Alaska Native health issues. It will fund mentoring for Alaska Native researchers, and collaboration with several prominent Universities on pressing health issues identified by Alaska Native tribes. Total funding anticipated between 2001-2005 is \$2.9 million.

Research topics to be supported by this project (entitled Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH)) include:

- disabilities in children
- telemedicine use in treating ear infections
- H Pylori bacteria (linked to ulcers and stomach cancer)
- chronic Hepatitis B (liver disease and cancer)
- maternal nutrition and pregnancy outcomes
- dietary assessment (western and subsistence foods)
- Pneumococcal disease (pneumonia and meningitis)

Project collaborators include the Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, MD; University of Washington, Seattle, WA; University of Alaska; Washington University, St. Louis, MO; and CINE, St. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, Canada.

“There are huge disparities between the health status of Alaska Natives and other races,” said Anne P. Lanier, MD, MPH, Director of the Consortium’s Office of Alaska Native Health Research. “This research is a way to find out more about the causes and to turn those numbers around.”

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“This is a unique opportunity for Alaska Natives to conduct culturally sensitive research in areas identified by tribes as a priority” said Principal Investigator Tim J. Gilbert, MPH.

“I’m excited at the opportunities it provides for Alaska Natives interested in pursuing a career in science and research,” said Jim Berner, MD, Director of the Consortium’s Community Health Services division. “We’re building Alaska’s capacity for future research,” he said.

Reviewers praised the Consortium’s grant application as “extremely strong.” They described staff as “highly skilled,” and said the proposal shows an “outstanding environment for the project.”

The Anchorage-based Consortium is one of eight recipients of a total of \$3 million (this year) in grants from two agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) -- the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The funding supports American Indian and Alaska Native medical research efforts across the country.

For more information on grant process, a press release on the grants with links to the grant announcement and application process is available at: <http://www.ihs.gov/PublicInfo/PublicAffairs/PressReleases/Press_Release_2001/Release_16_NARCH_Announce_2001.asp> .

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