



**Alaska Indigenous Research Program:
Promoting Resilience, Health and Wellness**

May 13-17, 2019

PRESENTER BIOS

Mary Beaver

Mary has been working as the Calricaraq Elder helping to provide guidance and teaching ancestral ways of healthy living practices. She has worked with the team for the past 7 years. Prior to this she first retired as a bilingual teacher at the Kilbuck elementary school. She worked several years at the Children's Advocacy Center as a Child Advocate. She has also worked at AVCP Healthy Families Elder until this past March. She is originally from Kasigluq and lives in Bethel. She has one daughter and 3 grandchildren. She is also just recently become a proud great grandmother.

Robert Boeckmann, PhD

Dr. Boeckmann is a long time Alaska resident who calls Alaska home. He first came to Alaska in the early 70s, living in Girdwood, Bird Creek, and Indian. After graduating high school he left to pursue his higher education in California where he earned his doctorate in Social Psychology at UC Berkeley. His dissertation and subsequent research has focused on social justice and social identity. After working as an academic in the Bay Area he took his first full time job in the psychology department at Flinders University in South Australia. There he served on the IRB for 4 years. In 2002 he returned home to Alaska to take a post at UAA. In 2003 he began serving on the IRB and after some years before he became chair of the IRB. He has consulted and collaborated with his colleagues at ANTHC for many years. Since returning to Alaska he has conducted research in collaboration with Alaska Native students and Alaska Native colleagues. This research has focused on the associations between identity, cultural practice, and behavioral health.

Verné Boerner (not available)

Walkie Charles, PhD

Walkie Charles received his PhD in Applied Linguistics in 2011. His interests include Dynamic Assessment, Sociocultural Theory, and Yugtun (Yup'ik Eskimo) Language teaching and learning. Since Walkie began teaching Yugtun at UAF, he has been involved in the Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE) Program, through which he earned his doctorate. His dissertation was titled Dynamic Assessment in a Yugtun L2 Intermediate Adult Classroom.

Malasri Chaudhery-Malgeri, PhD

Dr. Chaudhery-Malgeri graduated from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and Wayne State University where she acquired education and specialties in a variety of areas that include: Biopsychology and Cognitive Sciences, Marriage and Family Psychology, Counseling and Educational Psychology, Latin American Studies, Industrial/Organizational Psychology & Developmental Psychology. Dr. Chaudhery-Malgeri started teaching in 2004 and was able to work with a variety of students from the community college to the university level teaching courses within the above-mentioned areas. Teaching is one of her favorite experiences because it represents her ability to impart knowledge she has acquired and also serves as an opportunity to continue learning personally and from my students!

Chris Desnoyers, MBA

Chris has worked with Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) from 2004 to 2007 and 2009 to 2019 in roles as a program coordinator (immunizations), a study coordinator for a clinical trial for the 13 valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, program staff for the YK Delta Regional Hospital (YKDRH) electronic health record (EHR) system, and research coordinator. She has managed research staff over several years and regularly communicates with the YKHC Human Studies Committee. Chris has conducted data queries of the YKDRH E.H.R. and has overseen data management for clinical trials. Her experience enables her to contribute and perform data queries and manage data for various projects.

Rose Dominick

Rose is the Director of Preventative Services, Behavioral Health, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel, Alaska. She has primary responsibility for establishing traditional Yup'ik healing and promotion of healthy living as well as integrating this into the mainstream Behavioral Health Services. Programs are focused on healing from impacts of historical and lifetime trauma along with cultural activities to revitalize and strengthen traditional healthy living skills. Rose has been instrumental in developing these activities addressing root causes of social issues in the Yukon Kuskokwim delta following a career and retiring from the Alaska Department of Corrections. Rose holds a double bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Yup'ik Eskimo, where she lives in Bethel with her husband, two daughters and 2 grandchildren.

Christie Flanagan, MPH

Christie was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. She has worked at ANTHC in nicotine and tobacco research for over eight years. She received her Masters of Public Health from UAA and plans to continue her education as an entering medical student into the Alaska WWAMI program this fall. She is

committed to continuing to serve Alaskans and give them the knowledge they need to stay healthy and the care they may need if they are not.

Alexandra King, MD, FRCPC

Dr. Alexandra King is a citizen of the Nipissing First Nation (Ontario). Alexandra is the inaugural Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health at the University of Saskatchewan. She works with Indigenous communities and relevant stakeholders to understand the health and wellness needs of First Nations and Métis peoples in Saskatchewan and the structural changes needed for improved Indigenous health outcomes. Alexandra brings leadership skills in culturally safe and responsive research and care, Two-eyed Seeing (bringing together Indigenous and Western worldviews or forms of knowledge) and Ethical Space—which needs to be created when peoples with disparate worldviews are poised to engage each other.

As a First Nation researcher, Alexandra is a Principal Investigator on various CIHR research grants related to Indigenous people and HIV, HCV and co-infections. Other research interests include Indigenous wellness and Indigenous research ethics, and much of her research is community-based interventions grounded in Indigenous epistemology, culture and wellness. Alexandra also teaches Indigenous health and contributes to the University of Saskatchewan's decolonization, reconciliation and Indigenization.

Malcolm King, PhD, FCAHS, Professor

Dr. Malcolm King, a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, is a health researcher at the University of Saskatchewan, joining the Department of Community Health & Epidemiology in October 2017. There, he serves as the Scientific Director of SCPOR, the Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research; he also continues to teach and research in Indigenous health, with a particular focus on wellness and engagement. Dr. King's international Indigenous health interests include improving Indigenous health through workforce development and provision of culturally appropriate care, and developing Indigenous health indicators to monitor progress in programs aimed at achieving wellness and health equity.

From 2009 to 2016, Dr. King led the CIHR Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health as its Scientific Director, spearheading the development of a national health research agenda aimed at improving wellness and achieving health equity for First Nations People, Métis and Inuit in Canada. Dr. King was honored with a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 1999, and in 2016 he was named a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Jordan Lewis, PhD

Dr. Jordan P. Lewis is Aleut from the Native Village of Naknek and the Director of the National Resource Center for Alaska Native Elders is an Associate Professor with the University of Alaska Anchorage, WWAMI School of Medical Education. Trained as a cross-cultural community psychologist and social

worker (BSW, MSW), and a credential professional gerontologist (CPG), Dr. Lewis's has worked with Alaska Native Elders for many years in numerous capacities, including federal policy in Washington, DC, state and local capacities with education and program development, and tribal health programs in rural and urban Alaska.

Dr. Lewis's research identifies characteristics that enable Alaska Native Elders to age well and become role models for their families and communities. Using the lessons and experiences of elders, Dr. Lewis develops culturally-tailored approaches for family and community members to improve the health of all generations, from long term care programs, dementia caregiver education programs, peer based alcohol interviews, to community-based programs to support aging in place. His past research has explored cultural understandings of successful aging, intergenerational programming in tribal communities, as well as collecting stories to improve program and service delivery in long-term care settings. Jordan received his BSW from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, MSW from Washington University in St. Louis, and PhD from University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Shanda Lohse (not available)

Zoe Merritt

Zoe is Iñupiaq and Aleut and her family is from the communities of Kotzebue and St. Paul Island. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology with a focus in Health and Development and a minor in Native American Studies from Stanford University in 2016. Zoe currently pursues my Masters of Business Administration degree in General Management from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She currently works in the Clinical and Research Services Department at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium as a Research Associate. Zoe specifically works on health research projects related to tobacco use and colon cancer. Prior to ANTHC she worked as a Research Analyst in the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit with the Division of Public Health.

Terry Powell

Terry was born in Cordova, Alaska and grew up in Bethel and Kodiak, Alaska. She is a graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Terry is the daughter of Bob and Esther Mulcahy, the eldest of five children and a lifelong Alaskan. She has been a member of the Alaska Area Institutional Review Board (AAIRB) since 1994 and currently serves as IRB Administrator for the AAIRB. Her interests include research ethics in tribal health care and bioethics. Terry has been married to her college sweetheart John for 39 years, is the proud mother of two adult children and four Alaskan grandsons. In July you will find Terry fishing for salmon on the Kenai River with her family.

Diana Redwood, PhD

Diana is a Senior Epidemiologist at the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC). She received her Master of Public Health degree and Master of Science in Nutrition from Tufts University, Boston, MA in 2003. She received her PhD in Public Health in 2013 from University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Dr. Redwood has worked in the Alaska Tribal Health System since 2004. Her expertise is in public health and epidemiology, with a focus on cancer screening and prevention. She was the director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention-funded ANTHC Colorectal Cancer Control Program (2009-2015). This program worked to increase colorectal cancer screening among Alaska Native and American Indian people through the provision of direct screening services, public outreach, provider education, and policy and systems level improvements in the Alaska Tribal Health System. She also conducts research into novel methods of colorectal cancer screening outreach and new screening methods for the Alaska Native population. She is a member of the Indian Health Services Task Force on Colorectal Cancer and has published extensively on her work with Alaska Native people, including over 25 peer reviewed articles. She has been an invited speaker for the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, the Mayo Clinic Transform Conference, American Society of Human Genetics, and the Native American Research Centers for Health. She consults frequently with states and tribal programs on best practices for colorectal cancer prevention and control and is a passionate advocate for decreasing the burden of cancer among Alaska Native and American Indian people.

Agnes Roland

Agnes is the MSPI Coordinator (Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative) for Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel, Alaska. She has worked for the Tribal Health Corporation, YKHC for the past 10 years in various positions. Prior to her work with YKHC she spent almost 15 years at other Tribal organizations in Bethel, Alaska. Those various positions over the past 20 years has prepared her well for the important work she is doing now with Calricaraq/Traditional Healing Program at YKHC's Behavioral Health Prevention department where the MSPI Program is housed. We work together, travel together and present together in order to help our communities understand the signs of suicide ideation and know how to tell our community members to watch out in their family and friends for suicide symptoms. Agnes is a Yup'ik Eskimo and lives in Bethel with her 15yr old son.

Flora Sapp, RN

Flora is Iñupiaq and grew up north of the Arctic Circle. She got her nursing license from UAA in the early 2000's. Flora worked at the ANMC hospital and Providence Valdez before becoming a Research Nurse at the Clinical & Research Services.

Jordan Skan, MS

Jordan is a doctoral candidate in the joint University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Anchorage Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology. Jordan was born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska. He is currently the Cardiology Research Program Manager and leads the Healing and Empowering Alaskan Lives Toward Healthy Hearts (HEALTHH) Study. Additionally, Jordan is the principle investigator on a sub-study under HEALTHH that explored alternative ways of obtaining informed consent remotely with Alaska Native men and women living in rural villages.

June Walunga

Ms. Walunga was born in Gambell on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska to Nancy and Willis Walunga as the oldest of 12 siblings. She worked with the Department of Labor, Building and Construction Trades, as a Legislative Aide to the Alaska Bush Caucus and as the General Manager of the Native Village of Gambell. Ms. Walunga has also served as an Elder of Gambell Presbyterian Church and as a Commission Lay Pastor. She currently serves as the Vice President of the IRA Tribal Council and on other Boards and Commissions and has been a member of the Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) Board of Directors since 1995 where she is also the chair of the NSHC Research Ethics Review Board. She loves Alaska Native Arts and Cultures and is mother of two beautiful and wonderful children.

Amy Wilson, PhD, RN

Amy has worked at ANTHC for 16 years as a Research Nurse. She received her PhD from Walden University in Public Health: Community Health Promotion and Education in 2007. Amy has an MSN from the University of Kentucky and has been in nursing for 40 years. She has taught nursing for 35 of those years. Amy's primary focus has been Pediatrics/Family Health and Community / Home Health services.