



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

**May 10-15, 2020**

**PRESENTER BIOS**

### **Rose Domnick**

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.

### **Leona Johansson**

Leona is the DBH Program Coordinator within Preventative Services, Behavioral Health, for Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Alaska. Leona started working with the Calricaraq team in March 2019 and her main job is to coordinate with coalition members in the YK Delta. The work that she has been doing with the Calricaraq team and Traditional healing program and the work they do within this department lets her learn something new every time she facilitates Calricaraq. Prior to her current position for YKHC she has also been a Sobering Center Technician. Leona was born in Anchorage, AK but grew up in Sweden and she has worked in various industries, she has been a waitress in a restaurant, road utility worker and been working within social services. Leona is bilingual, English and Swedish, and has dual citizenship. Her highest education is a high school diploma, Social and Behavioral Sciences Program. Now she has moved back to Bethel and connected back to her roots.

### **Moses Ayagalria**

Moses is the Opioid Outreach Community Prevention Educator, for the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel, Alaska. He has a wife and four children, one boy and three girls. He has been working for the Behavioral Health Preventative Services since April 2019. He previously worked as a Nicotine Dependence Counselor for YKHC since December 1, 2015 until he started his current position. It is a continuing passion for Moses to get word out to communities and to help them to see and understand addiction and how we get out of it in a Traditional Calricaraq way.

### **Cynthia Pearson, PhD**

Dr. Cynthia Pearson is a Professor in the School of Social Work, Adjunct Professor, American Indian Studies, and Director of Research at the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute (IWRI) at the University of Washington. Dr. Pearson provides oversight for IWRI research activities including development of institute and tribal partnership policies, quantitative and qualitative methods, data-related activities



(collection, analyses, storage), as well as human subject protocols. Over the past 18 years, Dr. Pearson, has collaborated with Native American communities in designing and implementing community-based prevention interventions and in the development of tribally approved research polices (data use agreement, research and publication guidelines). Her effort has contributed to 42 community and university-led grants. She has over 53 publications: 49 peer-reviewed publications and have contributed to 94 national and international presentations.

#### **Katrina Claw, PhD**

Dr. Katrina Claw, a member of the Diné (Navajo) tribe, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in the Division of Biomedical Informatics and Personalized Medicine. Her research program focuses on personalizing medicine, using genetic information and biomarkers for tailored treatment. Her primary research interests focus on pharmacogenomics and the ethical, social, and legal (ELSI) implications of genomic research with American Indian/Alaska Native and other Indigenous communities around the world. Dr. Claw's current research focuses on hepatic genetic variation, tobacco cessation and nicotine metabolism, and examining the perspectives of genomic research in Native communities. Dr. Claw grew up on the Navajo Nation, and she obtained her BS in biology and BA in anthropology at Arizona State University; her PhD in genome sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA in 2013, where she was also a National Science Foundation predoctoral fellow. Dr. Claw continued as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Washington with the Northwest Alaska Pharmacogenomics Research Network, and was awarded both the Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship and the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA F32).

#### **Maria Christina Crouch, MS**

Maria is Deg Hit'an (Athabascan), Coahuiltecan (Mexican), and Scandinavian. She currently works in the Behavioral Health Department at Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and is a doctoral candidate in the Clinical-Community Psychology program with a rural and indigenous emphasis at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

#### **Melissa J. "Qillauruq" (Tabor) Castaneda**

Melissa is an Inupiaq from Northwest Alaska. Melissa works for the Wellness and Prevention Department at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Melissa has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Religion, and an Interdisciplinary Minor in Gerontology from Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY. She has also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Rural Development from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Melissa enjoys spending time with her cherished friends and family, listening to traditional and modern storytelling, and practicing yoga on and off the mat.

#### **Rebecca Ervin**

Rebecca is Upper Tanana Athabascan and European originating from Northway, Alaska. Rebecca currently lives in Anchorage and works in the Wellness and Prevention Department as an Elder Outreach Coordinator with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Rebecca received her BA in Counseling Psychology from APU in the Fall of 2017. She is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP) Degree at the Alaska Pacific University and is a first generation college graduate.



### **Brenna Simons-Petrusa, PhD**

Dr. Simons is originally from Anchorage, and 'moved back' in 2009, working in public and tribal health ever since. She is the current laboratory director at the CDC Arctic Investigations Program and has the honor of serving as director of the Alaska Area Specimen Bank. When not in the office or laboratory, Dr. Simons enjoys fishing, biking and outdoor adventuring with her family.

### **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.

### **Laura Youngblood, MPH**

Laura is a Human Subjects Advisor for CDC's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID). In this role, Ms. Youngblood is responsible for determining the applicability of human subjects research regulations for scientific projects conducted in NCEZID. Ms. Youngblood previously served as an IRB Administrator in CDC's Human Research Protection Office, and she was an active IRB member at CDC from 2005-2018, serving in Vice-Chair, Chair, and Executive Chair roles. Ms. Youngblood holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA, and a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology from the Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, GA. She became a Certified IRB Professional (CIP) in 2008. Before her transition to the field of human research protections, Ms. Youngblood was an Epidemiologist in CDC's Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases

### **Abbie Willetto, MA**

Abbie holds a BS in Biology and an MA in Educational Leadership both from Northern Arizona University. She completed PHD coursework in Social Foundations of Bilingual-Multicultural Education at the University of Colorado Boulder. In Alaska she has worked as a researcher for Chugach Regional Resource Commission and Southcentral Foundation. She served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage in the School of Education M. Ed. program for 7 years. Her early career included; teaching middle and high school science, staff development, educational leadership, and curriculum development on the Navajo Nation. She has worked with the National Science Foundation as Co-Principal Investigator of a nationwide systemic initiative. Throughout her career she has worked to improve the opportunities for underrepresented groups to increase access to the areas of mathematics, science, research and evaluation. Since 2010 she has worked with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Currently she leads the ANTHC Abstract, Manuscript & Proposal Review Committee and works closely with the ANTHC Health Research Review Committee, where all health research conducted with ANTHC receives review and approval by tribal leadership. She is also the ANTHC Specimen Archive coordinator. She has served on numerous national and statewide committees that focus on science,



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mathematics, and multiculturalism. She is a member of the Navajo Nation and lives in Anchorage, Alaska with her children.