



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

1ST ANNUAL NATIONAL NATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH TRAINING CONFERENCE:
Healing Ourselves: Cultural- and Traditional Medicine-based Approaches to Sustainable Health
September 18-20, 2017

The NNHRT Conference Committee welcomes abstracts addressing topics related to the theme of the 1st Annual National Native Health Research Training Conference, ***Healing Ourselves: Cultural- and Traditional Medicine-based Approaches to Sustainable Health***, and focusing on AI/AN research-related activity consistent with the five tracks described below. We invite abstracts from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, and we are interested in a diversity of (inter-)national, regional, and local perspectives. Submissions by researchers, health care practitioners, health systems experts, and doctoral students engaged in research are welcome. Researchers from all organizational and institutional types (health service providers, governmental agencies, Tribal Colleges and Universities and other institutions of higher education) are encouraged to submit abstracts. We particularly welcome new scholars and members of AI/AN Tribes and other Indigenous populations interested in creating and engaging with a community of scholars through participation in the annual NNHRT conference.

Introduction & Background

In 2017, the Indian Health Service (IHS) launched the **National Native Health Research Training Initiative** (NNHRTI) to promote Tribally-driven research activity through educational and training opportunities, including the first of five annual conferences that will build capacity and disseminate new and best practices for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) health research. The 5-year initiative and each of the five annual conferences are sponsored by the IHS and hosted by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), and the Native Research Network (NRN).

Conference Objectives

- Increase opportunities for AI/AN scientists and health professionals to share knowledge gained from health sciences research with AI/AN students and other scientists and health professionals.
- Increase the dissemination and use of biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and health science research findings to address the health needs of AI/AN communities.
- Enhance Tribal-academic collaborations and improve the ability of Tribes to better understand research findings, particularly related to the physical, biological, genetic, behavioral, psychological, cultural, and social implications of research.
- Increase the effective use of Traditional Medicine, Indigenous Knowledge, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge/Environmental Health to enhance protective factors/effects and to improve health outcomes among AI/ANs.

History

AI/AN research has led to important advances with respect to specific health issues (e.g., vaccines for preventable diseases, diabetes prevention) as well as approaches to conducting research in AI/AN communities (e.g., Indigenous and Community-based Participatory Research). Further, studies conducted by and for AI/ANs have demonstrated the benefits of designing and evaluating health care and research programs that are founded on cultural and traditional practices, spirituality, sovereignty, self-reliance, and collaboration. However, greater attention needs to be placed on developing research methods consistent with traditional AI/AN ways of knowing in evaluating and improving systems for health care delivery and research.

1st Annual NNHRT Conference Theme

Healing Ourselves: Cultural- and Traditional Medicine-based Approaches to Sustainable Health

Conference Tracks

The conference will have five tracks, which are described below. Examples of types of questions that could be considered for each track are included; however, these should not be considered exclusionary. They are intended only to be illustrative.

- **Biomedical and clinical systems and research (BCSR):** This track will highlight new advances in biomedical and clinical research in improving primary healthcare delivery, as well as innovative approaches in research that incorporate traditional AI/AN methodologies. The session will explore, among other questions: How are AI/AN researchers using traditional and cultural-based knowledge to break new ground in biomedical and health systems research? How can Western biomedical research models be informed by Traditional Knowledge? How are approaches to AI/AN research changing in response to community inclusion and consultation? What are good models for collaboration between Tribal and non-Tribal community-based health care providers that promote access to services, continuity of care, or public health? What is the future of biomedical and health systems research in AI/AN communities?
- **Injury Prevention:** This track will highlight evidence-based strategies by tribal, federal, state and local agencies applied to unintentional injuries. The session will explore: What are emerging injury prevention research applicable to AI/AN communities? How should the outcomes of injury prevention research be disseminated to be responsive to the needs of AI/AN communities and aimed at reducing health disparities?
- **Native Men's Health:** This track will focus on the health of young and adult AI/AN men. The session will explore: What resilience and protective factors have been identified and what is their role in health outcomes? How is culture-based prevention, intervention, and treatment modalities improving health outcomes for Native men? What models for men's health have demonstrated effectiveness? What are the research gaps in men's health? How can we successfully translate what we know into program development and implementation?
- **Traditional Medicine:** This session will focus on the value of Traditional Medicine in promoting AI/AN health. The session will explore: What are successful models of Traditional Medicine-based or related treatment? What challenges do researchers face today

when evaluating the effects of Traditional Medicine in practice? How are these challenges being met? How are Traditional Medicine models changing? What are the strengths and weaknesses of different models? Are certain Traditional Medicine practices associated with certain outcomes? How will this information enhance Tribal-academic collaborations and improve the ability of Tribes to use research findings?

- **Traditional Ecological Knowledge/ Environmental Health (TEK/EH):** This session will explore the intersection and interactions between TEK and EH. It will highlight the importance of intergenerational learning and the value of adapting STEM curricula to reflect a TEK perspective. Both successes and challenges of applying different but potentially complementary knowledge systems will be discussed. The session will consider questions such as: How is TEK being applied in contemporary research contexts to address pressing environmental concerns? How can TEK inform EH, and vice versa? How can TEK be used in ecological management and policy development? When can TEK be more informative than Western scientific methods? What is being done to prepare AI/AN tribal college students, scientists and health professionals to incorporate both TEK and current EH research methodologies in AI/AN health studies?

GENERAL INFORMATION

Submission deadline:

A completed Abstract Submission Form must be submitted online no later than **11:59 p.m. CDT on July 15, 2017.**

Submission format:

Abstracts must be submitted using the NNHRT Conference Abstract Submission Form. The form, with instructions for completion and online submission, can be found at: www.NNHRTI.org.

Types of Presentations & Submissions: Abstracts may be submitted for a podium presentation, either as an individual presenter or panel session, or a poster presentation.

Abstract selection and notification:

The NNHRT Conference Abstract Selection Committee (Committee) will review abstracts and assign the presentation date and time for each accepted podium-individual presenter or podium-panel session, and poster presentation on the conference schedule. The Committee reserves the right to accept abstracts as a podium-individual presenter, podium-panel session or poster presentation.

If your abstract is selected for presentation, you will be notified by email with the presentation date and time. The notice will be sent to the presenting author of each abstract. If the study has more than one author, the contact person is responsible for sharing this information with their coauthor(s).

Conference Registration

All presenters are required to register for the conference. The registration fee (\$150) is waived for all accepted presenters. However, if the primary author is unable to attend the conference

and has made arrangements for someone else to present the paper or poster, that person must register for the conference and pay the applicable registration fee.

Definitions:

Podium Session: Session consisting of presentations of completed research, projects/best practices, methodology papers, and theory development/conceptual analysis papers. There are two types of podium sessions:

- **Individual Presenter Session:** Papers on similar or related topics grouped together by the Committee from abstracts accepted for presentation.
- **Panel Session:** An overview abstract and three (minimum) to five (maximum) abstracts, and organized by the submitters to present a set of planned papers related to a specific topic. Panels may consist of research papers, methodological and theory papers or project/best practices papers. Panels may also consist of a mixture of the types of papers. The panel overview is not counted in the 3-5 abstracts but is required upon submission of the podium-panel session and will be allotted time for presentation on the conference schedule. The number of presenters should be equal to the number of papers in the panel, excluding the overview. For example, if three investigators submit a panel on collaborative tribal research, one paper may be on theoretical use of collaborative research with communities, one paper may present results of the collaboration, and the third paper may be on best practices. A fourth abstract that summarizes each of the three papers and integrates them into a holistic unit for the panel will be required with the panel submission.

Poster Session: A visual display of work completed or in-progress. In-progress research will be considered only for poster presentations. Individual abstracts and panel abstracts are eligible for poster sessions. Panels will be allocated one poster space for each abstract, plus the overview.

SELECTION CRITERIA

General Abstracts of all papers should reflect or include:

- Aligned with one or more of the four NNHRT conference objectives
- Relevance to AI/AN or other Indigenous issues
- Quality and Completeness of Science/Design, Internal consistency of purpose/aims and methods
- Clarity or Completeness of Abstract
- Innovativeness or Originality of Subject Matter, Implications and significance of the study/project/theory for the discipline and improving outcomes for AI/AN people
- Culturally Appropriate Indigenous research

Specific Criteria

In addition, the Committee will use the following specific criteria when selecting abstracts for podium or poster sessions:

Research papers (including instrument development, other methodological studies and research-based best practices)*:

- Purposes/Aims
- Rationale/Conceptual Basis/Background
- Methods
- Results
- Implications

Theory Development/Concept Analysis papers

- Purposes/Aims
- Description of theory or definition of concept to be discussed
- Internal consistency of the theory developed; concept analysis approach or process used
- Logic linking the theory or concept to practice or research problem
- Conclusions, including a statement about the utility of the theory or concept for practice or research

Project/Best Practices papers

- Purposes/Aims
- Rationale/Background
- Brief description of the undertaking/best practice, including the approach, methods, or process used
- Outcomes achieved/documentated
- Conclusions, emphasizing implications for clinical, collaborative, or educational practices
- Recommendations for research, community partnerships, or future undertakings

Additional Selection Criteria for Panel Sessions: Each panel abstract will be rated as a whole, and each paper in the panel must be scored high enough to be accepted. One low scoring paper will result in a panel being rejected. The Committee (or a Track Subcommittee assigned by the Committee) will score panels in accordance with the following criteria:

- Individual papers in the panel, except for the overview, will be scored using the above stated specific criteria for the type of paper submitted
- The overview paper sets the stage for the panel
- The degree to which there is collective clarity of the papers that compose the panel
- The importance of the panel topic overall
- The degree to which all the papers in the panel fit together

**A word about Literature Reviews as Research:* To assist abstract submitters, the Committee offers this additional information:

- **Meta-Analysis** involves calculation of a summary statistic (effect size) across empirical studies with the same design (RCTs, descriptive or epi) and research questions.
- **Literature Review** does not involve calculation of a summary statistic but is based on the conclusions/opinions of reviewers regarding the quality, grade or level of evidence across empirical studies. Abstracts for literature reviews must demonstrate a systematic review and include search methodology.

- **Meta-Synthesis** is used to describe the evaluation of research findings (meta-interpretation), research methods (meta-method), or theoretical frameworks (meta-theory) across qualitative studies. The methods you used and the results need to be clearly presented as with any research abstract consistent with forms of literature review listed above.

ELIGIBILITY

The paper has not been presented or accepted for presentation at a regional or national meeting or accepted for publication by the abstract submission deadline.

Research, projects/best practices, and theory development/concept analysis undertakings must be completed by the abstract submission deadline to be eligible for podium presentation either as individual papers or as part of a panel. However, these papers will automatically be considered for poster presentation.

In-progress research or projects are eligible for poster presentation.

Completed research, projects, and theory development/concept analysis papers are also eligible for poster presentation.

APPLY NOW

To submit the Abstract Submission Form, please [click here](#).

Follow all instructions listed within the Form. Should you have questions, please email conference@NNHRTI.org.