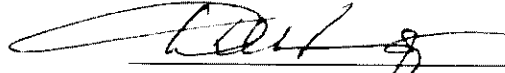


**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**


- WHEREAS**, members of the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe are duly elected representatives of the people of their respective districts; and among the many issues of concern to the Council are the health and well-being of its Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council supports and favors efforts that promote and demonstrate self-sufficiency and self-determination; and
- WHEREAS**, an opportunity is available for the White Mountain Apache Tribe to take over the leadership role with regard health-related research on the Reservation through a program referred to as the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) which is jointly sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Indian Health Service (IHS); and
- WHEREAS**, guidelines for establishing a NARCH program on the Reservation include the partnering with a research institution and the Tribe has selected the Johns Hopkins University's Center for American Indian Health as its partnering institution; and
- WHEREAS**, in December 2000, the Tribe submitted an application for full funding of a NARCH program on the Reservation, but received funding for only the infectious diseases portion (adult pneumococcal disease epidemiology study) of the application; and
- WHEREAS**, recently the NIH/IHS announced to tribes the availability of funds that would supplement the amounts that were partially awarded to tribes; and
- WHEREAS**, an application is planned to be submitted by the Tribe to NIH/IHS to seek supplemental NARCH funding to expand the infectious disease portion of the study and to add on a program which proposes to train and educate at the graduate and post-doctoral levels Apache tribal members to become health researchers; and
- WHEREAS**, training and education of Apache tribal members will take place at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and/or by distance learning through the Internet.
- BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it approves the submission to the NIH/IHS of an application to obtain funding to supplement that already received for an infectious diseases study, and that funding will also go towards a graduate and post-doctoral training and education program for Tribal members to be done at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (Baltimore, Maryland) and/or through their distance learning link with the School via Internet.

Resolution No. 11-2001-303

The foregoing resolution was on November 15, 2001 duly adopted by a vote of NINE for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (b), (j), (k), (s), (t), and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Chairman of the Tribal Council

ACTING 

Secretary of the Tribal Council

**THE WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE
NATIVE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN HEALTH (NARCH) PROJECT**

Last December 2000, the White Mountain Apache Tribe in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health responded to a competitive national grant competition to launch one of five national research centers in Native American health. The application was reviewed and approved by the WMAT Tribal Health Board and the Tribal Council in November 2000. The grant submission was partially successful: WMAT was awarded \$165,000/year for four years to complete one of four research projects that we proposed:

WHAT PART OF OUR ORIGINAL NARCH GRANT WAS FUNDED?

The research project that was funded will address the serious threat of disease caused by pneumococcus among our adult population. Pneumococcus is a bacteria that causes blood stream infections, pneumonia and meningitis among children and adults. Adults on the Apache reservation are 3-5 times more likely to get pneumococcal infections than similarly aged people in the general U.S. population. There is a licensed vaccine for use among adults against pneumococcus. The research project that was funded will allow us to find out:

- exactly how many adults are getting pneumococcal infections,
- how serious these infections are,
- what proportion of eligible adults have already received the pneumococcal vaccine, and
- why those who don't get the vaccine are not getting it.

Once we know these things, we will work with Johns Hopkins to design ways to improve the vaccination rates and promote the use of the vaccine.

In addition, the NARCH research project will provide partial salary support for an Apache research coordinator and an Apache outreach worker. Both of these positions will be trained in research methods by Johns Hopkins investigators. They will also be eligible to take courses in public health from Johns Hopkins during their employment.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE NARCH FUNDING:

In September 2001, we found out that because we were awarded a partial NARCH grant, we are eligible to apply for supplemental funds (up to \$535,000/year) to expand the scope of work that has already been funded. For our supplemental NARCH grant, we are proposing to work with Johns Hopkins to conduct: 1) an additional research project to strengthen our tribe's ability to curb pneumonia and 2) a large training initiative (described below) to increase our numbers of Apache public health professionals.

A) Newly Proposed NARCH Research Project

The second NARCH research project will add to our knowledge of how to prevent pneumonia caused by pneumococcal disease. While the first study that was funded will focus on adult vaccine strategies, this new study will determine the true incidence of pneumonia disease among Apache adults and will help us determine the best clinical methods for screening and preventing the disease. The specific aims to achieve these goals are: (1) to measure the incidence of pneumonia confirmed by x-rays; (2) to determine the seasonal variation in incidence; (3) to measure the prevalence of medical risk factors in patients; and (4) to evaluate best diagnostic tools to screen for pneumonia. This research project will cost approximately \$175,000 a year, which will fund the balance of salaries for the Apache research coordinators and outreach workers who will be working on the first research project. They will gain vast knowledge in community-based research methods, designs and evaluation.

B) Newly Proposed Training Initiative

The proposed training initiative will be aimed at providing graduate and post-doctoral training in public health sciences and research to a cadre of White Mountain Apache health workers. American Indian tribes, including the White Mountain Apache, suffer from a lack of trained Native health professionals, and therefore, are overly dependent on outside experts to address our health problems. Meanwhile, Indian tribes are burdened by an excess of disease and disability that can be reduced or prevented through culturally appropriate, community-run public health strategies.

The NARCH training grant will seek funding to employ a White Mountain Apache training director, with prior graduate school training, who will be in residence at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health for the next four years. That individual will help to recruit and mentor Apache health scholars to be trained at Johns Hopkins in a variety of public health sciences at the graduate and post-doctoral levels.

Johns Hopkins is the number one school of public health in the nation and the largest in the world. It also has one of the most sophisticated distance education programs in the country, meaning that our Apache people could choose to do a great portion of their graduate degrees at home via the Internet, with mentorship from Johns Hopkins faculty. The total amount of the training initiative grant will be approximately \$360,000 a year. This amount will provide support for the training director and tuition support for the graduate and doctoral level scholars. The goal will be to train at least 15 Apache public health scholars over the next four years. In addition, the previously described NARCH research projects will provide a "real-world" training ground and possibly part-time employment for the Apache health scholars.