



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Approving Proposed Study on Spondyloarthritis by Indian Health Service Personnel)

- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Constitution”) provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise power “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe (“Tribe”); and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe in conjunction with the Whiteriver Service Unit has worked to raise the level of health of all residents of the Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** The Council supports the continued progress in disease surveillance and positive outcomes from research projects by the Indian Health Service that have contributed to medical science and the development of interventions which seek to decrease or alleviate health problems for the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** Autoimmune conditions like spondyloarthritis are more common in Native American communities, including the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and can result in acute and chronic pain conditions, vision loss, and debilitating joint disease; and
- WHEREAS,** Unlike other Native American communities, current data is lacking as to the prevalence of, and risk factors for, the development of spondyloarthritis among members of Tribe, thus limiting the ability of the Whiteriver Service Unit to sufficiently screen, diagnose, and treat those community members most at risk for these conditions; and
- WHEREAS,** It is the duty of the Whiteriver Service Unit to identify, monitor, and respond to medical conditions that disproportionately affect members of the White Mountain Apache Tribe so as to continue to work towards improving the overall health of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Whiteriver Service Unit of the Indian Health Service is requesting approval for a study that will accomplish the following:
1. Assess the prevalence of spondyloarthritis among members of the White Mountain Apache Tribe through enumerating all living adult and pediatric patients who have a diagnosis of spondyloarthritis and actively receive care at the Whiteriver Service

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Unit. This has the additional benefit of creating a patient registry which will be used by the Service Unit only, separate from but in addition to, the proposed study, to ensure all patients are appropriately tracked and not lost to follow-up for clinical care;

2. Describe the demographic, clinical, and radiologic features of disease in these patients through a retrospective chart review. No personal identifying information will be collected as part of study; and
3. Describe potential underlying risk factors that could lead to the development of spondyloarthritis in these patients; and

WHEREAS, When analyses are complete, IHS will present all data to the Tribal Council and Health Board for feedback and discussion of recommended next steps; and

WHEREAS, The Council has reviewed the request by I.H.S and finds that the proposed study will increase knowledge about spondyloarthritis on the Reservation, help in its treatment and prevention, and is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the spondyloarthritis study proposed by Whiteriver Service Unit Indian Health Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **JANUARY 8, 2020** duly adopted by a vote of **TEN** for, **ZERO** against, and **ZERO** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

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Gwendene Lee-Gatewood 1/9/20 Doreen T. Numkena 1-9-20
Gwendene Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman Date Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date