

# Southwest American Indian Cancer Collaborative Network (SAICCN)

## Abstract

The fundamental aim of the Southwest American Indian Cancer Collaborative Network (SAICCN) is to eliminate cancer health disparities by closing the gap between the health needs of the American Indian community and the promise of cancer prevention and cure made possible by a responsive health delivery and research system. This fundamental aim will be achieved through support of participatory education, training, and research programs driven by community input.

The primary partners include the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., (ITCA) the Arizona Cancer Center (AZCC), the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) and Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGEN).

## Infrastructure of SAICCN

The organizational infrastructure is made up of four interdependent **Core Services**:

- Administration and Evaluation
- Outreach and Service
- Policy and Research
- Training and Education

A multidisciplinary team of community leaders, researchers, clinicians and educators are members of the Cores. Each core, led by a SAICCN Co-PI, is developing action plans for each of the five aims. The action plan will include specific goals, objectives, activities and measurable outcomes that will be evaluated and built upon as the program progresses through each phase.



## Specific Aims

- ▶ **AIM 1.** Further develop a core **organizational infrastructure** to support community-based participatory activities and effective partnerships between communities, cancer prevention/care delivery systems, and research discovery/development systems at many levels to increase and sustain delivery of beneficial interventions.
- ▶ **AIM 2.** Strengthen existing **partnerships** and create new partnerships with communities that suffer cancer health disparities and create opportunities to work with other organizations with an interest in reducing health disparities.
- ▶ **AIM 3.** Strengthen existing **collaborations** with Cancer Information Services and establish and formalize collaborations with three additional NCI programs.
- ▶ **AIM 4.** Increase the utilization of culturally-appropriate interventions to reduce cancer health disparities. Perform community-based participatory educational activities that reduce cancer health disparities by **increasing cancer education and community use of beneficial cancer interventions**, and treatment options including clinical research for care.
- ▶ **AIM 5.** Leverage SAICCN activities by **obtaining funding** from various sources for community-based participatory activities.



Mr. John Lewis  
Executive Director of ITCA, Inc.  
Director of SAICCN



Dr. Kathryn Coe  
Director, Special Populations Shared Service and  
American Indian Oncology Program  
Arizona Cancer Center  
Assistant Professor College of Public Health  
Principal Investigator  
SAICCN



Dr. Eddie Brown, Director  
American Indian Studies,  
Arizona State University  
SAICCN Policy Consultant



Dr. Felicia Hodge  
Professor  
UCLA School of Nursing  
Co-PI of SAICCN Training/Education

Maria Tirado, Partnership Program Coordinator  
NCI's Cancer Information Service, Rocky  
Mountain Region  
SAICCN Training Consultant



Dr. Jeffrey Trent  
President & Scientific Director  
Translational Genomics Research Institute  
Co-PI of SAICCN Research



Dr. Charlton Wilson  
Associate Director  
Centers of Excellence  
Phoenix Indian Medical Center  
Co-PI of SAICCN Outreach/Service



David K. King, MD-Medical Director  
Western Regional Community Clinical Oncology Program  
SAICCN Outreach/Service Consultant



Dr. Michael D. Lebowitz  
UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health  
SAICCN Evaluation Consultant



## Background Of SAICCN

The SAICCN collaboration developed out of the American Indian Oncology Program (AIOP), a National Cancer Institute Special Populations Network grant. It involved a partnership between the Arizona Cancer Center and the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. The aim of AIOP was to reduce cancer health disparities in American Indians in Arizona. AIOP investigators and staff continue to work with SAICCN.

ITCA Regional Epidemiology Center was an AIOP partner. The mission of the Center is to empower the American Indian tribes in Arizona, Nevada and Utah in the development of health services and systems. The purpose is to support tribally-driven health surveillance systems that can assess both individual and community health status, facilitate planning and manage existing health services.

## SAICCN partners have both local and regional programs in:

- Arizona
- Nevada
- Utah
- New Mexico and
- California.



PI Michael Lobell and  
Co-PI Kathryn Coe  
Staff of AIOP



Dr. Zeenat Mahal, Director,  
Epidemiology Center  
Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.  
Co-PI of SAICCN  
Evaluation



## Contact:

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.  
2214 North Central Avenue  
Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004  
Tel: (602) 258-4822  
Fax: (602) 258-4825  
[www.itcaonline.com](http://www.itcaonline.com)