

# Scientific Advisory Board – Annual Meeting

2024- BIOSKETCHES

Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH)



**INDIAN HEALTH COUNCIL, INC.**  
Research & Student  
Development



**Daniel Calac, MD.**, CA-NARCH Principal Investigator, has served as Chief Medical Officer at Indian Health Council, Inc. (IHC) since 2003. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and did both internship and residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency Program at University of Southern California/Los Angeles County (USC-LAC). He serves on the Advisory Board of Directors for California State University San Marcos; as a Governance Board Member for the local All Tribes Charter School; and as a National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Advisory Council member from 2015-2020.

**Temet M. McMichael, PhD.**, CA-NARCH Program Director, is a Medical Science Liaison at Hologic, Inc., a medical technology company focused on women's health. Temet received his PhD from The Ohio State University where he studied infectious diseases as a virologist and immunologist. Following his PhD, he joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) elite Epidemic Intelligence Services where his work focused on Public Health and Epidemiology. He serves as a board member at IHC and as a steering committee member of the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center at California State University San Marcos.



**Corrine McDaniels-Davidson, PhD.**, CA-NARCH Evaluation Director, is the Director of the Institute for Public Health (IPH) at San Diego State University and holds an adjunct faculty and lecturer positions at the School of Public Health, San Diego State University. She represents SDSU as the co-Lead for Community Outreach and Engagement for UCSD Moores Cancer Center and is the Academic-Community Liaison for the Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute.

**Deborah Morton, PhD.**, IRB Chair, is an epidemiologist and retired professor from both the MPH program at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) and the UCSD Family and Preventive Medicine, Division of Epidemiology. As a chronic disease epidemiologist, Dr. Morton has a long history of varied research experience in many areas of Public Health/Medicine such as diabetes, osteoporosis, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, obesity and tobacco prevention primarily in ethnic and sexual minority populations. Dr. Morton is also retired affiliated faculty with the Department of American Indian Studies and the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC) at CSUSM.



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**NARCH XI: Student Development Program**

NIH/NIGMS Grant # S06GM142117



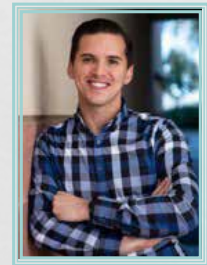
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**Stephanie Brodine, MD.**, CA-NARCH Program Director, is a Professor and Head of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) School of Public Health. She is board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases with active research interests and expertise in infectious disease epidemiology, international health, and health disparities.

**Richard Armenta, PhD.**, Co-Investigator, is Pascua Yaqui and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology at California State University San Marcos. His research focuses on addressing health disparities to improve health equity. Dr. Armenta helps run the IHC Student Development program to train the next generation of Native scholars.



**Geneva Lofton**, Program Coordinator, is a member of the La Jolla tribe and has been a long-time advocate for Native students and her community.

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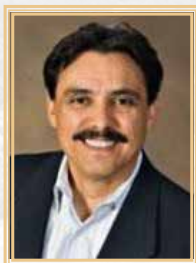
2024 - BIOSKETCHES

## NARCH XII: Cervical HPV Education Resources for Indigenous Sacred Health (CHERISH)

NIH/NIGMS Grant #S06GM146121



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**Jesse Nodora, DrPH**, Principal Investigator, is committed to improving health outcomes through discovery, implementation, and dissemination of effective health promotion and health service interventions. He is Associate Professor in the University of California San Diego School of Medicine Department of Radiation Medicine and Applied Sciences (RMAS) and a full member of the Moores Cancer Center (MCC). At MCC he is Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE). Additionally, he is a member of the RMAS Center for Health Equity Education and Research (CHEER). His research focuses on systems interventions, informed decision-making, and patient-provider communication among poor and underserved populations.

**Samm Hurst PhD, MA**, Co-Investigator, is a Professor in the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Longevity. She brings over 25 years of experience to working with Indigenous and other cultural/ethnic communities. Recognized for her collaborative approach in community health, Dr. Hurst has worked across various areas of behavioral health and prevention care, including substance abuse, harm reduction interventions, cancer disparities, and secondary stroke prevention. As a medical anthropologist, she is also widely acknowledged for her expertise in qualitative and mixed-methods research. Dr. Hurst is passionate about teaching, mentoring, and developing innovative education for the next generation of public health advocates.



**Jian Shen, PhD**, Project Coordinator, is research data manager for Population Sciences, Disparities, and Community Engagement Program at Moores Cancer Center, UC San Diego. Trained as nutritional and genetic epidemiologist, her research focuses on environmental, behavioral, nutritional, and genetic factors and risk of cancer, osteoporotic fracture, and cardiovascular diseases.

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## NARCH XII: Cervical HPV Education Resources for Indigenous Sacred Health (CHERISH)

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**Melissa Villa, MPH**, Project Coordinator, is a graduate of the University of California Los Angeles, receiving dual bachelor's degrees in Geography and Spanish with a minor in Global Health. She received her Master of Public Health with an emphasis in Health Promotion and Education from California State University San Marcos. Her interest lies in advancing health equity in historically excluded communities through culturally appropriate and community-based strategies, particularly relating to adolescent and women's health.

**Leslie Rodriguez**, Research Assistant, is an undergraduate student at California State University San Marcos, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. She is currently a volunteer research associate with UCSD Health. Leslie's interest lies in serving underrepresented communities. She hopes to pursue a master's degree in the future.



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## NARCH XII: Cervical HPV Education Resources for Indigenous Sacred Health (CHERISH)

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**Dr. Elaine Davidson, MD**, Co-I, completed her Family Medicine residency at the University of California at Irvine Medical Center in Orange, and is a Board-certified family physician in full-time practice since 1997. She joined Indian Health Council, Inc. (IHC) in 2008. She now serves at IHC in multiple capacities including providing full-spectrum patient care, coordinating the newly AAAHC-accredited Patient Centered Medical Home, directing the Medical Laboratory, coordinating the Chronic Pain Management Program, serving as a NextGen EHR Clinical Superuser and acting in an Assistant Medical Director capacity to the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Daniel Calac. She obtained certification to use buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid dependence under the DATA 2000 waiver in 2017 and is currently working on defining its implementation into the clinic setting to expand the services IHC provides.

**Fie Gamble, FNP**, Clinical Research Associate, is a Family Nurse Practitioner at IHC. For the CHERISH project she will provide cervical cancer screenings and HPV vaccination. She works with the clinical team to determine best practices that are culturally and medically appropriate for the AI/AN community.



**Corinna Nyquist, BSN**, Business Intel Director, is a graduate of Michigan State University where she received her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. Her professional experience includes over thirty years experience in healthcare industry serving as support to clinical and business operations, program and project development, integration of information technology, clinical applications and data analytics. She tracks cost, quality, clinical utilization standards and performance measures, manages and ensures continuous improvement of all clinical practices, services and operations at IHC.

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**NARCH XII: SHAPing Native Health Study on Health, Awareness,  
& Prevention**

NIH/NIGMS Grant #S06GM146121



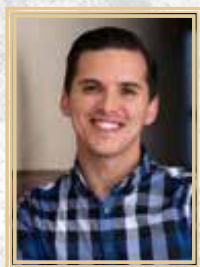
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**Tommi Gaines, DrPH** and Project Lead is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. As an Associate Professor in the UC San Diego Department of Medicine, she utilizes spatial and quantitative methodologies to examine prevention and treatment resources in relation to substance misuse and infectious diseases. She has received multiple grants from the National Institutes of Health to address drug use patterns in the context of physical, social, and structural environments. Dr. Gaines is currently leading the 4-year NARCH project entitled, Examination of evolving opioid misuse and overdose risk among American Indians.

**Charles Rodriguez, Project Coordinator**, an Acjachemen from the Juaneño band of Mission Indians 84-A, first got his introduction to grant tribal work through his tribe in genealogical research, archival research and census data analysis. In 2022 he began his career at IHC as the Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) program coordinator, where he provided services and resources to those suffering with opioid use disorder. Recently, he transitioned to the Research and Student Development Department to coordinate a research study examining opioid use and overdose risk within American Indian tribal communities.



**Richard Armenta, PhD** and co-Investigator, is Pascua Yaqui and an Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology at California State University San Marcos and the Associate Director of the Center for Training, Research, and Educational Excellence. His research focuses on addressing health disparities to improve health equity. Dr. Armenta helps run the CA-NARCH Student Development program to train the next generation of Native scholars.

**Peter Davidson, PhD.**, is a medical sociologist who has been conducting research and harm-reduction based intervention development on opioid-related overdose, hepatitis C transmission, and sexually transmitted infections among drug users since 1997 in Australia, the United States, and Mexico. His current projects include a NIDA-funded R01 study of the impacts of a low threshold, high volume naloxone-on-release program in the Los Angeles County jail system, and a foundation-funded study of the impacts of a safe consumption site operating in the United States.



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California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP)

REZolution



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**Joseph Ravago, BA**, is Cupeño from the Pala Band of Mission Indians. Joseph is Project Coordinator for IHC's California Reducing Disparities Project, REZolution, and a graduate from Georgetown University with a B.A. in Anthropology and African American Studies. He also serves as a group member for the California Department of Public Health's Tribal Health Equity Advisory Group. With a year of REZolution under his belt, Joseph hopes to continue to provide tribal youth with the tools needed to ensure that reservations are thriving communities at the forefront of innovation for decades to come.

**Justin Rodriguez, BS**, is Luiseño from the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians as well as Haliwa-Saponi from the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, and he is Research Assistant for REZolution at IHC. Justin received his B.S. in Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2023. Prior to joining REZolution, Justin has experience doing research in tribal communities as a Youth Advisory Council member for TEPOC since 2021. Justin appreciates the opportunity to do research that incorporates expression and creativity within the Native community he grew up in.



**Deborah Morton, PHD.**, Evaluator, is an epidemiologist and retired professor from both the MPH program at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) and the UCSD Family and Preventive Medicine, Division of Epidemiology. As a chronic disease epidemiologist, Dr. Morton has a long history of varied research experience in many areas of Public Health/Medicine such as diabetes, osteoporosis, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, obesity and tobacco prevention primarily in ethnic and sexual minority populations. Dr. Morton is also retired affiliated faculty with the Department of American Indian Studies and the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC) at CSUSM.

**Lisa Brucks, MPH**, Project Director, is a dual graduate of California State University San Marcos, receiving her Bachelor's in Human Development/Health Services and her Master of Public Health with emphasis in Health Promotion and Education. Her professional experience includes over 20 years working in healthcare; in various areas including nutrition, dental, specialty pharmacy, laboratory, administration, billing, surgery and treatment coordination. Since working with Indian Health Council, Lisa became a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist. Lisa serves as the Director of Research and Student Development at Indian Health Council, Inc.



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Tobacco Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP)

Tobacco Education Prevention Outreach Cessation (TEPOC)

TEPOC 1 - T30IR0933 • TEPOC 2 - T32CF5371



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**Chase Kornacki (Navajo/Diné), BS**, Project Coordinator, is a graduate of University of California San Diego, receiving a Bachelor of Science and minor in Business in 2022. Currently, Chase is a graduate student at University of California San Diego, pursuing a Masters of Public Health. Chase is proud to serve the American Indian/Alaska Native community through research.

**Joseph Rodriguez (Luiseño, Haliwa-Saponi), BS**, Research Assistant, is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, earning a Bachelor of Science and minor in American Indian Studies in 2023. He is passionate about STEM and is a proud member of the community he serves.



**Christina (Chrissy) Gonzales, Community Engagement Representative**, is a dedicated community member with over 25 years of experience in customer service. Passionate about community support, Chrissy organizes cessation support groups and community outreach, striving to make a positive impact in the IHC service area.

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**Roland Moore, PhD.**, Principal Investigator, is Center Director and Senior Research Scientist at the Prevention Research Center in Berkeley, where he has worked since his Ph.D. was awarded by UC Berkeley. His research topics include social and occupational contexts and how they influence individual alcohol and tobacco consumption patterns and problems, especially among young people. He uses both ethnographic and survey analysis methods.

**Juliet Lee, PhD.**, Co-Investigator, is a Senior Research Scientist and Study Director at the Prevention Research Center of PIRE. Her work focuses on social environmental aspects of substance use and misuse, with emphasis on participatory approaches. She is currently Principal Investigator of the first major research study of Tribal alcohol policies, focused on a sample of Tribes across 12 states including California.

