

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

- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe is composed of duly elected members who represent the population of the Reservation in all matters pertaining to its citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** a primary consideration of the Tribal Council is the health of its people, and a significant health problem of infants and young children during the winter months each year is the problem of lung infections which often result in their hospitalization; and
- WHEREAS,** although there are a number of bacterial and viral agents responsible for lung infections, the most common cause in infants during the winter months is the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) which results in a very contagious illness, especially in infants between 2 and 6 months of age; and
- WHEREAS,** during the winter months in many hospitals, on and off reservations, including the Whiteriver IHS Hospital, pediatric wards are often filled to capacity with infants acutely ill with RSV lung infection, and there is no vaccine or medicine that can prevent or cure the illness; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indians have higher rates of a number of infectious diseases than the general U.S. population, and it is felt that rates of RSV infections in Indian infants are likewise quite high, however, this is not known because no rates of RSV infections have ever been determined in any tribe of American Indians; and
- WHEREAS,** understanding how individuals respond to infectious agents (immunology), such as the RSV virus, can help answer questions about why rates of RSV infections are felt to be higher in Indians, why some infants get sick and others don't, why some get mild disease while others become severely sick, and how immunological mechanisms might be different in Indian infants versus non-Indians; and
- WHEREAS,** immunological information is obtained from the analyses of blood specimens obtained from infants and their mothers and the assaying these specimens for antibodies; and
- WHEREAS,** knowing the epidemiology and immunology of RSV infections in American Indians can assist in the development of preventive methods of this illness; and

Resolution No. 10-96-236

WHEREAS, the Johns Hopkins Program has continuously maintained a project site on the White Mountain Apache Reservation since 1980 and has worked with the people to decrease the severity of a number of diseases of infants and young children; and

WHEREAS, this project is also planned to take place on the San Carlos Apache, Gila River Indian, and Navajo reservations, and at each site, including the Whiteriver site, will take place only during the winter months of two consecutive winters, specifically, November 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997, and November 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998; and

WHEREAS, this project has been reviewed and approved by the Tribal Health Authority of the White Mountain Apache Tribe and the Indian Health Service hospital in Whiteriver.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that, based on the foregoing, it hereby grants approval to the Johns Hopkins Program to conduct an epidemiological and immunological study of respiratory syncytial virus infections in infants and young children on the White Mountain Apache Reservation, and that this approval applies to the protocol approved by the Indian Health Service, and that enrollment of Apache infants and their mothers into this project is strictly voluntary.

The foregoing resolution was on October 02, 1996, duly adopted by a vote of ten for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Constitution, including Article IV, Sections 1 (a), (l), (s), (t) and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe on 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).


RECEIVED

OCT 15 1996

**FORT APACHE INDIAN AGEN
WHITERIVER, ARIZONA**



Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council