

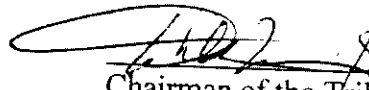
**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

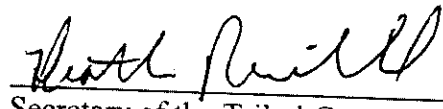
- WHEREAS,** members of the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe are duly elected representatives of the people of their respective districts; and among the many issues of concern to the Council are the health and well-being of its Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council supports efforts that increase health-related educational and training opportunities for its tribal members since educated and trained individuals can apply and teach their learning to others in the tribe so that the overall health of the tribe can be improved; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) jointly operate and fund a Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) program which awards on a competitive basis funds to develop tribally-controlled health research activities and training, and recently the NIH/IHS announced the availability of supplemental funds for which tribes can apply to fund research projects and health-related training and educational programs; and
- WHEREAS,** in accordance with NARCH guidelines for tribes to select a research institution with which to partner, the White Mountain Apache Tribe has selected the Johns Hopkins University as its research partner (Resolution No. 08-2000-247) because of its long-standing presence on the Apache Reservation and its record of research projects which have significantly benefitted the entire tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe wishes to seek NARCH funding to be used to train and educate as many as 15 qualified tribal members at the graduate and post-doctoral levels so that they can be placed into positions as research professionals in the future to oversee research activities on behalf of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** under the partnership between the White Mountain Apache Tribe and Johns Hopkins University, public health education and training will be done at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (Baltimore, Maryland) which is internationally recognized as the leader in public health education; and
- WHEREAS,** other training and education can be done by distance education programs via Internet links with Johns Hopkins University thus allowing the individual to remain on the Reservation to earn the Master of Public Health degree.
- BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it approves the training and education component of the NARCH supplemental funding application

Resolution No. 11-2001-302

to be submitted to the NIH/IHS and that education and training of Tribal members at the graduate and post-doctoral levels be done at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (Baltimore, Maryland) and/or through their distance learning link with the School via Internet.

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

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH)

Background Information: Original NARCH Application.

In the summer of 2000, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) jointly announced to American Indian tribes the availability of funds to be awarded on a competitive basis for the development of Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) on Indian reservations. A primary objective of the program was to place tribes at the helm of research activities that occur on their reservations. Typically, research institutions, such as universities, controlled research activities among Indian people on their lands.

One of the first steps to be taken in applying for these funds was for tribes to select a research institution with which to partner and from which technical and scientific assistance could be obtained. A typical application included proposals for health-based research projects and a proposal for training native individuals to become researchers.

The amount of funds available to tribes that were successful in obtaining NARCH funding amounted to \$4.5 million spread out over a 4-year period. Only five tribes would be selected to receive these funds.

The White Mountain Apache Tribe made the decision to complete an application for these competitive funds. The Center for American Indian Health of the Johns Hopkins University was selected as the research institution with which to partner (Resolution No. 08-2000-247) since there already was established a collaborative research relationship between the Apache Tribe and this institution. In the twenty years that Johns Hopkins University had been present on the Reservation, a number of clinical research projects had been conducted among the infant population of the tribe which resulted in significant improvements in their general of health.

Included in the NARCH application submitted by the White Mountain Apache Tribe were four health-based research projects. These projects were: 1. a depression study among pregnant teens and teen mothers, 2. a study of injuries among Apache youth, 3. a study to determine the epidemiology of pneumococcal infections among adults, and, 4. a study to determine the effectiveness of treating alcoholism using a model based on treating the whole family. With five resolutions, the Tribal Council approved (November 27, 2000) the overall application and each of the four separate proposed studies. The completed application was submitted to the NIH/IHS in December 2000.

Unfortunately, the submitted application was not among the final five to receive full funding. Instead, only partial funding (\$165,000 per year for four years) was made to the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Funding was successful only for the study to determine the epidemiology of serious pneumococcal diseases in the adult population.

Supplemental NARCH Application.

Along with being informed in September 2001 that the White Mountain Apache Tribe received partial

funding for the original NARCH application, the recommendation was made by the NIH/IHS that the Tribe submit an application for supplemental funding for up to \$535,000 per year to expand the scope of the proposed study to determine the epidemiology of adult pneumococcal diseases.

A common type of pneumococcal disease is pneumonia. Adults of all age groups, especially those at high risk including the elderly, alcoholics, diabetics, and those with chronic diseases, become sick with pneumonia often caused by pneumococcus. Thus, the pneumococcal diseases epidemiology study has been expanded in the supplemental application to intensively research pneumococcal pneumonia (see accompanying information and resolution).

Also being proposed in the supplement application is a large training initiative to increase the numbers of Apache public health professionals. The 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 the Tribe's 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 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 per 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 project will provide a "real-world" training ground and possibly part-time employment for the Apache health scholars.