



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Amendment to Group A Streptococcus (GAS) Study)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the White Mountain Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Reservation (“Constitution”) provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe”; and

WHEREAS, The Council, in conjunction with Johns Hopkins University, has authorized research projects for nearly 40 years which aim to raise the level of health of all residents of the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, Invasive Group A *Streptococcus* (“GAS”) was added to the ongoing bacterial surveillance activities and a current study (the “Study”) approved by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council (resolution #04-2017-71) is in progress and an amendment (resolution 02-2018-48); and

WHEREAS, Johns Hopkins, this day, requests an amendment to include new study activities to understand if there is a difference in the strains of GAS that are causing mild infections (sore throat) and those causing severe and invasive infections that will:

1. Include GAS isolates collected and stored in 2016. As part of infection control at the WRSU in 2016 when GAS was first recognized as becoming a public health problem, GAS isolates from patients with GAS infections were collected and stored. We propose to send these isolates for sequencing. The molecular characteristics of the 2016 and 2017-2019 isolates will be compared. This will allow us to make inferences about the strains of GAS that have been causing infection and disease in the area and determine if the high burden of disease has been caused by a single set of strains circulating in the community or if different strains have been introduced.
2. Evaluate the feasibility of implementing real-time sequencing of GAS isolates. Sequencing technologies have advanced such that it can take place at or near the point of care and results can be obtained in a short amount of time. This can facilitate clinical care of patients by quickly evaluating the antibiotic susceptibility profile of organisms, which can impact the choice in antibiotics prescribed, and the virulence of organisms, which can help to identify patients at risk for adverse outcomes. We propose to conduct real-time sequencing on any GAS isolate (pharyngitis, non-severe, and severe/invasive) for a period of 2-4 weeks to evaluate the feasibility of implementing this method in this setting and assess the potential utility of the results for clinical care; and

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WHEREAS, Data analyses will be de-identified and maintained with the highest standards of confidentiality. When first analyses are complete, the local JHU Apache study team with our JHCAIH technical advisors will present data to the Tribal Council and Health Board for feedback and discussion of recommended next steps for prevention; and

WHEREAS, The Council has reviewed the proposal, and finds that authorizing expansion of the Study will contribute to the understanding of these infectious diseases 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 authorizes the amendment to the Group A *Streptococcus* study better determine the transmission and grasp a better understanding of this persistent disease among the White Mountain Apache community.

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.

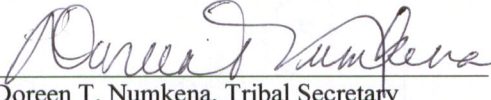
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

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 **JULY 3, 2019** duly adopted by a vote of **NINE** for, **ZERO** against, and **ONE** 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).


Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Tribal Chairwoman

15 July 2019
Date


Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary

7-15-19
Date