



Resolution No. 04-2023-87

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Supporting and Recommending Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health to apply for the National Institutes of Health Research Grant (R01) for Staphylococcus Aureus)

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”), *inter alia*, the Tribal Council has the authority to represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, The Tribe, in conjunction with Johns Hopkins University has conducted research projects on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”) for more than 40 years with the purpose of raising the level of health of all Reservation residents; and

WHEREAS, The White Mountain Apache Tribe and Johns Hopkins have worked effortlessly to address the health disparities and inequalities among the White Mountain Apache people; and

WHEREAS, The *Staphylococcus aureus* surveillance (approved April 13, 2015; Resolution # 04-2015-64) and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* carriage (approved August 3, 2022; Resolution # 08-2022-209) study is currently funded only to look for *S. pneumoniae* and group A *Streptococcus*; and

WHEREAS, We are requesting approval to submit a new grant application to better understand the genomic epidemiology of *S. aureus* carriage and disease and how the situation has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic to the National Institutes of Health; and

WHEREAS, the following project activities will include:

- 1) From the carriage study, we will estimate the proportion of children carrying *S. aureus* in their nose and throat, risk factors for carriage, and determine which strains are present by sequencing the bacteria identified;
- 2) From the surveillance system, we will determine which strains of *S. aureus* are causing invasive disease by sequencing the bacteria identified;
- 3) We will assess changes in the genetic population structure of *S. aureus* strains causing disease and carriage during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Data analysis will be de-identified and maintained with the highest standards of confidentiality. When analyses are complete, the JHU study team will share the findings with the Tribal Council and Health Board; and

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WHEREAS, The Council has reviewed and considered JHCIH's request and finds that applying for the Grant funding to conduct the proposed study activities is essential to better understand the burden of staphylococcus aureus among the community 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 Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health to apply for the National Institute of Health grant for the Staphylococcus Aureus activities identified for this study.

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 Chairman, or in his 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 APRIL 12, 2023 duly adopted by a vote of NINE for, ONE against, and ZERO 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 November 10, 2021, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

			
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman	Date	Vaneysa Johnson, Tribal Secretary	Date