



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Supporting and Authorizing Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health to Apply for the Merck & Co. Investigator Studies Program Grant for RSV)

- 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 “[t]o represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe”, and in Article IV, Section 1(j), “[t]o accept grants and donations from any person, state, or the United States”; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe, in conjunction with Johns Hopkins University (“JHU”), 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 Tribe and JHU have worked effortlessly to address the health disparities and inequalities among the White Mountain Apache people; and
- WHEREAS,** The surveillance for RSV and other respiratory infections among Native American children and pregnant women (resolution #01-2019-14) was previously approved and is currently in progress; and
- WHEREAS,** JHU has conducted surveillance over the past four years to understand the burden of respiratory infections caused by RSV, SARS-CoV-2, and other respiratory viruses which has provided critical insight on disease burden; and
- WHEREAS,** Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health (“JHCIH”) is now requesting approval to submit a funding application through Merck & Co., Inc. to seek additional funding to study and better understand the particular strains of RSV affecting community members; and
- WHEREAS,** The study would entail the following activities:
- 1) Determine particular strains of RSV that are circulating;
 - 2) Explore whether prevention of RSV could decrease antimicrobial use in children;
 - 3) Characterize risk factors for recurrent wheeze and respiratory infections in children with an RSV infection; and
 - 4) Inform prevention strategies.
- WHEREAS,** Data analyses will be de-identified and maintained with the highest standards of confidentiality; and
- WHEREAS,** When analyses are complete, the JHU study team will share the findings with the Tribal Council and the 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 RSV 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 Merck & Co. Investigator Studies Program grant for the RSV 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 **JUNE 7, 2023** duly adopted by a vote of **TEN** for, **ZERO** 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
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman

6-9-2023
Date

Vaneysa Johnson
Vaneysa Johnson, Tribal Council Secretary

06/12/2023
Date