



# **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 *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*)**

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**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,** *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is a germ that lives in the nose of healthy individuals (called “carriage”) but sometimes causes disease, including pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis, among children; and

**WHEREAS,** Indigenous communities are disproportionately affected by pneumococcal disease despite the widespread availability and use of an effective vaccine; and

**WHEREAS,** JHU has conducted studies over the past decade to understand the level of carriage with *S. pneumoniae* among adults, but updated data is needed as new vaccines will be licensed in the next few years; and

**WHEREAS,** Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health (“JHCIH”), this day, requests permission from the Tribe to submit a funding application through Merck & Co., Inc. to conduct a study to understand how many adults have *S. pneumoniae* carriage in the community and what strains are present; and

**WHEREAS,** The study would entail the following activities:

- 1) Approximately 120 adults will be recruited over a 12-month period to participate in a one-time study visit;
- 2) Participation in the survey is completely voluntary;
- 3) People who are interested in participating will go through informed consent, which will ensure that they understand the requirements and the risks and benefits;
- 4) A nasal swab, throat swab, questionnaire and chart review will be performed on all consenting participants;
- 5) Swabs will be tested for *S. pneumoniae* and other respiratory germs;

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- 6) The results of this project will provide current information on the extent of carriage of *S. pneumoniae* among adults in the community, which can help us understand which pneumococcal vaccines will be most effective in preventing pneumococcal disease in the community; and

**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

**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 *streptococcus pneumoniae* 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 *Streptococcus Pneumoniae* 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 6-9-2023  
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman Date

Vaneysa Johnson 06/12/2023  
Vaneysa Johnson, Tribal Council Secretary Date