

2026 CANCER SYMPOSIUM

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW

Connecting on Cancer
Prevention, Early Detection,
and Survivorship across
Tribal Communities

PHOENIX
CONVENTION
CENTER

November 9-10, 2026

**No registration fee*



Center for Community
Health and Engaged
Research



Partnership for
Native American
Cancer Prevention



TUBA CITY
Regional Health
Care Corporation



SESSION
TRACKS:

1 |
PLENARY / GENERAL
101 A - 101 C

2 |
EARLY DETECTION
102 A

3 |
PREVENTION
102 B

4 |
SURVIVORSHIP
102 C

5 |
OTHER
SPECIAL TOPICS
103 A
103 B

6 |
WELLNESS
104

6:30-7:00	Fitness Fusion/Walk-Run <i>Elfreida Barton, BS; Paula Carter, PhD; Theresa Clay, MS; Lena Jaques, MPH; Joe Law, BS</i>		
7:30-9:00	Light Breakfast		
8:00-8:30	Registration		
8:30-9:00	Welcome and Blessing <i>Darold Joseph, PhD</i>		
9:00-9:30	Opening Plenary <i>Loretta Christensen, MD, MBA, MSJ, FACS; Nicolette Teufel-Shone, PhD</i>		
9:30-10:15	Panel Discussion - Building Native American Cancer Programs <i>Melissa Buffalo, MS, Dorothy Rhoades, MD, Monica Yellowhair, PhD</i>		
10:15-10:30	Energy Boosters - Main Room		
10:30-11:30	Updates on Screenable Cancers <i>Monica Yellowhair, PhD</i>		
11:30-12:00	Finding Health Care App/ IHS Updates <i>Loretta Christensen, MD, MBA, MSJ, FACS; LCDR Shawnell Damon, DrPH, MPH, MSc; Carlynnne Worsham, MA, GISP</i>		
12:00-1:00	Lunch on Your Own		
1:00-1:15	Energy Boosters - Main Room		
1:15-2:05	101A - 101C COPE <i>TBD</i>	EARLY DETECTION - 102 A Research Strategies to Address Helicobacter Pylori-Associated Stomach Cancer in Tribal Communities <i>Dornell Pete, PhD, MPH</i>	PREVENTION - 102 B Taking a Shot at Cancer Prevention: HPV, HBV, and the Power of Vaccination <i>CAPT Holly Van Lew, PharmD, BCPS, AAHIVP</i>
	SURVIVORSHIP - 102 C Support Program <i>Melissa Buffalo, MS</i>	OTHER - 103 A Walking the Path Together: A CHR and Research Team Partnership, Adapting Care for Diabetes and Cancer Risk <i>Timian Godfrey, DNP, FNP-BC, FAAN Roberta Lyons, CHR</i>	OTHER - 103 B Environmental Exposures from Legacy Mining as a Social Determinant of Health Linked to Kidney Cancer <i>Jani Ingram, PhD; Tasha Nez, MS-ESP</i>
2:15-3:05	EARLY DETECTION - 102 A My Health, My Choice <i>Julie Armin, PhD Darold Joseph, PhD</i>	PREVENTION - 102 B Translating Liver Cancer Prevention into Practice <i>David Garcia, PhD, FACSM Priscilla Sanderson, PhD</i>	SURVIVORSHIP - 102 C Delivering Comprehensive Cancer Care in the Community: Needs, Gaps, and Opportunities <i>Tanya Riggs, MA, BSHS</i>
	OTHER- 103 A Using Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Research <i>Tommy Rock, PhD</i>	OTHER - 103 B Commercial Tobacco Cessation Workshop for Professionals Serving Native Communities Part 1 <i>Paula Carter, PhD; Lena Jaques, MPH; Joe Law, BS</i>	104 - Wellness Room Honor Board/Healing Space <i>Lucinda Charleston, MPH Anna Knight, MS, APRN, FNP-C, SANE-A/P</i>
3:15-4:05	EARLY DETECTION - 102 A Bridging the Cancer Care Continuum: A Tribal Partnership Model for Navigation, Education, and Access to Cancer Care <i>Kellen Polingyumptewa, BS</i>	PREVENTION - 102 B The Bidirectional Relationship Between Diabetes and Cancer: From Shared Risk to Integrated, Culturally Grounded Prevention <i>Melinda Smith, PhD</i>	SURVIVORSHIP - 102 C Cancer Support in Native American Communities <i>Cindy Payne, EdD</i>
	OTHER - 103 A Honoring Health, Expanding Access: Colorectal Cancer Screening in AI/AN Communities <i>Jess Jamison, MPH; Jonathan Stutzman; Beverly Baca</i>	OTHER - 103 B Commercial Tobacco Cessation Workshop for Professionals Serving Native Communities Part 2 <i>Paula Carter, PhD; Lena Jaques, MPH; Joe Law, BS</i>	104 - Wellness Room Honor Board/Healing Space <i>Lucinda Charleston, MPH Anna Knight, MS, APRN, FNP-C, SANE-A/P</i>
4:05-4:30	Emerging Scholar Cancer Health Equity Efforts - All Invited <i>Native American Student Webinar Advisory Coalition (NASWAC) panelists</i>		

2026 CANCER SYMPOSIUM

DAY 2 AGENDA

November 10, 2026

SESSION TRACKS:

1 |
PLENARY / GENERAL
101 A - 101 C

2 |
EARLY DETECTION
102 A

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PREVENTION
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OTHER
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103 B

6 |
WELLNESS
104

Concurrent breakout sessions are organized by track.

6:30-7:00 Total Body Cardio / Walk-Run
Elfrieda Barton, BS; Paula Carter, PhD; Theresa Clay, MS; Lena Jaques, MPH; Joe Law, BS

8:00-8:30 Registration

8:30-9:30 Cancer and Chronic Disease: Diabetes Panel
Jennifer Erdrich, MD, MPH, MFA, FACS, FSSO
Karen Foster-Schubert, MD, MPH
Timian Godfrey, DNP, FNP-BC, FAAN
Sheila Hammer, MSW, LCSW; Melinda Smith, PhD

9:30-10:30 Humor Healing: A Journey of Empowerment and Healing, My Cancer Road
James Junes

10:30-10:45 Energy Boosters and Networking - Main Room

10:45-11:30 Navigating Your Journey in Cancer Awareness and Prevention
Dan Calac, MD, MPH

11:30-1:00 Lunch (Provided by NAU) + Real Lives: Cancer Stories of Indigenous People Video
Presented by the American Cancer Society

1:00-1:10 Energy Boosters and Networking - Main Room

1:15-2:05	EARLY DETECTION - 101A - 101C Anal Cancer <i>Andrew Yu, MS, RN, ACRN</i> <i>(virtual)</i>	PREVENTION - 102 A Oral and Oropharyngeal Cancer: Risk Factors, Prevention, and Treatment <i>Nathan Mork, DDS, MPH</i>	SURVIVORSHIP - 102 B Advancing Survivorship in Native Communities <i>Emily Bobbyock, MPH</i> <i>Jenna Calder, MS</i>
	OTHER - 102 C Bridging Cancer Care and Community: Addressing Psychosocial Needs Patients <i>Sheila Hammer, MSW, LCSW, PhD(c)</i>	OTHER - 103 A From Molecular Data to Community Benefit: Indigenous Priorities in Cancer Genomics <i>Nicole Halmai, PhD</i>	OTHER - 103 B Commercial Tobacco Cessation Workshop for Professionals Serving Native Communities Part 3 <i>Paula Carter, PhD; Lena Jaques, MPH; Joe Law, BS</i>

2:15-3:05	PLENARY - 101A - 101C Mayo Clinic: Patient Navigation <i>Eva Bighorse,</i> <i>Silena Thomas</i>	EARLY DETECTION - 102 A One Stop Cancer Shop, Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition <i>Elizabeth Clifford</i> <i>Mark Darby, RN, APRN, MSN, FNPC, PMHNPBC</i>	PREVENTION - 102 B Roots of Resilience: Tulalip Tribes Cancer Survivorship and Cultural Healing Initiative <i>Karen Foster-Schubert, MD, MPH ; Gary Ferguson, ND; Veronica Leahy, DCES</i>
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	SURVIVORSHIP - 102 C American Indian Cancer Treatment Network <i>Jeff Tomhave, JD</i>	OTHER - 103 A American Cancer Society: Cancer Action Network <i>TBD</i>	OTHER - 103 B Commercial Tobacco Cessation Workshop for Professionals Serving Native Communities Part 4 <i>Paula Carter, PhD, Lena Jaques, MPH; Joe Law, BS</i>
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3:05-3:15 Energy Boosters - Main Room

3:20-3:50 Four Directions Discussion/Closing
Julie Armin, PhD; LCDR Shawnell Damon, DrPH, MPH, MSc; Carol Goldtooth, MPH

Healing Space - Room 104

This symposium is presented by the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation (TCRHCC), Northern Arizona University (NAU) and University of Arizona (UA) Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP), Center for Native American Cancer Health Equity (C-NACHE), and Arizona Biomedical Research Centre (ABRC) and the Indian Health Service (IHS).