



# Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center News

Epidemiology Project of Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

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Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in specified populations and the application of this study to the control of health problems.

GLTEC provides epidemiological services to the Tribes in the Bemidji Area (Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota). The services include training and technical assistance in many areas of public health, data management, program planning, and program evaluation.

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Greetings Everyone,

I hope you are taking time to relax and enjoy our fine summer months. For a change of pace, while you gaze at the summer sky, think about the following opportunity. A voice from our area would benefit us all. *-Kristin Hill-*

The Director of the National Institute of Health is seeking applicants to fill vacant appointments for the 2008 Council of Public Representatives (COPR) Roster. Applications are due Friday, September 14, 2007 and are available online at: <http://copr.nih.gov/application.asp>.

The NIH Director's Council of Public Representatives (COPR) is a federal advisory committee, made up of members of the public, who advise the [NIH Director](#) on issues related to:

- Public input and participation in NIH activities
- Public input and participation in the NIH research priority setting process
- NIH outreach programs and efforts

The COPR is made up of 21 people from across the country who have been chosen to represent the public through an open [application](#) process. They are patients, family members of patients, health care professionals, scientists, health and science communicators, and educators.

By serving as a public voice to the NIH, [COPR Members](#)

- Bring important matters of public interest to NIH leadership.
- Help increase public participation in the many NIH activities and initiatives that affect the public.
- Increase public understanding of the NIH and its programs.

The COPR meets two times a year on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland. COPR Members also participate in NIH initiatives and take part in public outreach activities throughout the year.

NIH is planning to hold a teleconference for potential COPR applicants in August, and will send a notice on the date and time in the coming weeks. Information about the date, time and dial-in information will be posted at <http://copr.nih.gov/application.asp>.

## What's New With the Epidemiologists?

### **Kimmine Pierce** Chronic Disease

The Bemidji Area Diabetes Coordinators conference is scheduled for September 18-20th. This two and a half day conference will focus on engaging the community. Day one is an optional day that will orient new Diabetes Coordinators to the resources available. The following day provides the latest information on maternal and child health issues such as gestational diabetes and diabetes during pregnancy, youth obesity and family nutrition. The last day of the conference will provide community engagement tools which Diabetes Coordinators can use to conduct talking circles, community assessments and focus groups. For registration materials, please see our website at: <http://www.glitc.org/epicenter/events> or email Jean Koranda, [jkoranda@glitc.org](mailto:jkoranda@glitc.org) or Kimmine Pierce Epidemiologist, [kpierce@glitc.org](mailto:kpierce@glitc.org)

### **Allison La Pointe** MCH

Two Healthy Native Babies (HNB) trainings were held in the Bemidji Area one in April (Traverse City, MI) and the other in May (Prior Lake, MN). These trainings help to identify risk factors for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and provide tools to create media raising awareness about healthy behaviors that communities can take to create safer environments for reducing the risk of SIDS in a culturally appropriate manner. For more information on HNB, please visit: [www.healthynativebabies.org](http://www.healthynativebabies.org).

The Clarion Airport Hotel in Milwaukee has been selected as the site for our American Indian Maternal, Child, and Women's Health Conference to celebrate and honor our area Tribes and Urban programs and their dedication to MCH. The conference will be held April 23-25, 2008. For more information, or to share your thoughts and ideas, please contact Allison La Pointe at (715)588.1012, or via email: [alapointe@glitc.org](mailto:alapointe@glitc.org).

### **Olivia Byron-Cooper** Behavioral Health

Much time has been spent addressing data infrastructure, gaps, and collection for the Tribes located in Wisconsin specifically surrounding behavioral health issues. The Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant that Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council received requires a five step process that recipients must go through to address AODA problems. While the current grant addresses Tribes located in Wisconsin, the process has been useful to others and we hope to share this knowledge to anyone interested. If you have any questions, please contact: Olivia Byron-Cooper, MPH, (715)588-1032, or email at: [ocooper@glitc.org](mailto:ocooper@glitc.org)



## Summer Intern

Kara Yaeger, intern with the Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center, is working towards a Masters in Public Health at UW La Crosse. She began working with the Epi Center in mid May and finds it is an invaluable experience into the world of public health.

Diabetes and diabetes prevention is an area of interest and seeing the impact of diabetes in a disproportionately affected population, such as the American Indian population, has been eye opening experience and made more of an impression on me than just reading about it. I have enjoyed the opportunity to visit different tribes and talk with both tribal and non-tribal employees to see firsthand a very diverse and valuable perspective about tribal politics and culture.

I will be returning to the UW Madison diabetes clinic where I currently work, but I look forward to more adventures with the Epi Center. The staff that I have met and work with at Great Lakes has been invaluable to my very positive summer experience..I am grateful for all of their insight and guidance.

## GREAT LAKES NARCH NEWS

The Great Lakes NARCH student development program had the annual summer internship orientation and retreat at UW Madison Trout Lake Research Station. The summer internship session is now in full swing. There are 13 student interns working with the program this summer. They are actively involved in research in a variety of fields including; mental health, genetics, traditional diets, community health, and cancer surveillance.



The annual Indian Health Service Research Conference took place in sunny Phoenix AZ, June 4-7. At the conference, the Great Lakes NARCH program, along with the Epi Center, was honored with an award from the IHS Division of Planning, Evaluation and Research Office of Public Health Support for exemplary performance in developing an outstanding research program.

Among the presenters at the research conference were two of the NARCH student interns, Isaiah Brokenleg and Andrew Ranallo. Isaiah and An-



The 2007 American Indian Science Scholars Program continues to grow in participants and success. The program, which runs from July 15 – 21 at the UW- Milwaukee campus, included a total of 19 students from Wisconsin, Michigan and even Arizona. The week began with a visit to the WATER Institute—a ride on the research boat Neeskay, the first session of their DNA lab work, Tuesday was filled working in the Microbiology lab and well posing as a Forensic Science Murder Mystery lab, Wednesday was spent exploring animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo with cultural teachings in the afternoon and evening. The students were back to the lab Thursday morning for more microbiology and work on Giant Microbes, the day was finished out with a visit to the Milwaukee Public Museum, IMAX theater, and the Pewaukee Ski Show. Friday was spent with the Hematology lab, presentations by Drew LaBelle, NARCH intern and Ron Morrison from UW-Green Bay. The group then got ready to cheer on the Brewers (and boo for Barry Bonds!) after a tailgate dinner at Miller Park Friday evening. Saturday morning was spent with a short awards ceremony and wrap up with everyone heading home. The week was successful with the students wishing our program was two weeks instead of one!



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Learn more about COPR at <http://copr.nih.gov/index.asp>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kelli L. Carrington, M.A. Acting Executive Secretary, NIH Director's Council of Public Representatives, Office of Communications and Public Liaison National Institutes of Health at phone: 301-594-4575, fax: 301-435-6372 or email: [carringk@mail.nih.gov](mailto:carringk@mail.nih.gov).

### Terms of Epidemiology—Social Marketing for Public Health

The use of marketing principles and techniques to influence a target audience to voluntarily accept, reject, modify or abandon a behavior for the health benefit of individuals, groups or society as a whole.

**Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center Mission:** To support Tribal communities in their efforts to improve health by assisting with data needs through: Partnership Development, Community Based Research, Education, and Technical Assistance.

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