

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK (IIDRN) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2026 PROGRAM



OCTOBER 19-22, 2026

Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa
2552 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815, USA



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A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE IIDRN CO-CHAIRS

KRISTEN JACKLIN, PHD & JENNIFER WALKER, PHD

To our Indigenous and non-Indigenous friends and colleagues: We are excited to welcome you to the 4th Annual International Indigenous Dementia Research Network (IIDRN) Conference!

The IIDRN has served the Indigenous dementia community since 2010 and has experienced rapid growth as a network since 2020. We aim to create spaces and opportunities to bring those with an interest in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) in Indigenous populations together to share ideas, knowledge, and experience and to inspire collaborations and ultimately to accelerate science in the field.

This year's theme, "Sharing Knowledge," is designed to continue important collaborations and conversations that began during the first three years of the conference. We will continue to share knowledge with one another through the showcasing of amazing research and community engagement work of our members, the wisdom of our Elders, and the lived experience of those caring for a person with dementia. Here are some important highlights in this year's program:

- An esteemed opening plenary speaker
- Expanded 2-part Elder panel discussion
- Caregiver panel discussion
- 9 scientific research sessions
- 17 poster presentations this year with 2 separate poster sessions to allow more time for attendees and poster presenters to talk and connect
- Continued networking, collaboration, and mentoring opportunities, including an expanded auxiliary mentor session with a visit to the land
- Return of an opening session for attendees to showcase and learn about each other's cultures – called "Rooted in Community: Celebration of Cultures" this year

We hope you will fully engage with the program and that you leave feeling better connected, inspired, and energized! Thank you for spending your time with us in Hawai'i, and we wish you all a productive conference.

Interested in getting connected with IIDRN and other conference attendees? Join our online community on [Wix Groups](#)!
www.iidrn.org/group/international-indigenous-dementia-research-network





MEET THE CO-CHAIRS

KRISTEN JACKLIN, PHD, IIDRN CO-CHAIR

Kristen Jacklin, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Biobehavioral Health as well as the Director of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus. Dr. Jacklin is a medical anthropologist with an extensive background in community-based Indigenous health research and health equity. She has worked avidly in Indigenous dementia research for the last 25 years. Dr. Jacklin leads the NIA-funded Indigenous Cultural Understandings of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias – Research and Exchange (I-CARE) program of research and the American Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (AMICA) grant. She also co-leads the Center for Community Engaged Rural Dementia and Alzheimer's Research (CERDAR). Dr. Jacklin is the founder and co-Chair of the International Indigenous Dementia Research Network (IIDRN) and the Indigenous Cognition Awareness and Aging Awareness Research Exchange (I-CAARE.ca).



JENNIFER WALKER, PHD, IIDRN CO-CHAIR

Jennifer Walker is a member of Six Nations of the Grand River (Haudenosaunee) and a Professor in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. She currently holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health Data and Aging. She has a PhD in Community Health Sciences with a specialization in Epidemiology from the University of Calgary. Jennifer is a founding member of the International Indigenous Dementia Research Network and currently co-leads the Indigenous Cognitive Health Program within the Canadian Consortium for Neurodegeneration in Aging.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

“As guests on this ‘āina, visiting for the purpose of this conference, we would like to begin by acknowledging that the ‘āina on which we gather, O‘ahu, is part of the larger territory recognized by Indigenous Hawaiians as their ancestral grandmother, Papahānaumoku. We recognize that her majesty Queen Lili‘uokalani yielded the Hawaiian Kingdom and these territories under duress and protest to the United States to avoid the bloodshed of her people. We further recognize that Hawai‘i remains an illegally occupied state of America. We recognize that each moment we are in Hawai‘i, she nourishes and gifts us with the opportunity to breathe her air, eat from her soils, drink from her waters, bathe in her sun, swim in her oceans, be kissed by her rains, and be embraced by her winds. We further recognize that generations of Indigenous Hawaiians and their knowledge systems shaped Hawai‘i in sustainable ways that allow us to enjoy these gifts today. For this we are grateful, and as guests, we seek to support the varied strategies that the Indigenous peoples of Hawai‘i are using to protect their land and their communities, and we commit to dedicating time and resources to working in solidarity.”

-Adapted from the suggested land acknowledgment language from the University of Hawaii

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5JLOptSDIU&ab_channel=UHMedJABSOM)



2026 IIDRN Annual Conference: Agenda At A Glance

	Monday 19 October 2026		Tuesday 20 October 2026	Wednesday 21 October 2026	Thursday 22 October 2026	
8:00am – 8:20am	Breakfast <i>(provided)</i>	IIDRN Exec Committee Meeting (invitation only)	Breakfast <i>(provided)</i>	Breakfast <i>(provided)</i>	Breakfast <i>(provided)</i>	
8:20am – 8:40am						
8:40am – 9:00am						
9:00am – 9:20am	Opening Protocol & Land Acknowledgment		Morning Announcements	Morning Announcements	Morning Announcements	
9:20am – 9:40am	Opening Remarks		Paper Session: Cultural Adaptation	Elder Panel, Part 1	Paper Session: Dementia Education	
9:40am – 10:00am	Rooted in Community: Celebration of Cultures					
10:00am – 10:20am						
10:20am – 10:40am						
10:40am – 11:00am			Caregiver Panel	Elder Panel, Part 2	Paper Session: Current Topics in Indigenous Dementia Research	
11:00am – 11:20am	Opening Plenary					
11:20am – 11:40am						
11:40am – 12:00pm				Closing Remarks		
12:00pm – 12:20pm	Lunch <i>(provided)</i>	Lunch <i>(provided)</i>	Lunch <i>(provided)</i>		Closing Protocol	
12:20pm – 12:40pm						
12:40pm – 1:00pm						
1:00pm – 1:20pm				Farewell Lunch <i>(provided)</i>		
1:20pm – 1:40pm	Paper Session: Dementia Prevalence	Paper Session: Dementia Caregiving	Paper Session: Risk & Protective Factors			
1:40pm – 2:00pm						
2:00pm – 2:20pm						
2:20pm – 2:40pm				Paper Session: Dementia Care		
2:40pm – 3:00pm	Paper Session: Grounded in Community	Paper Session: Biomarkers	Paper Session: Dementia Care			
3:00pm – 3:20pm						
3:20pm – 3:40pm						
3:40pm – 4:00pm	Poster Session 1	Mentoring Session	Poster Session 2			
4:00pm – 4:20pm						
4:20pm – 4:40pm						
4:40pm – 5:00pm						
5:00pm – 5:20pm	Welcome Reception <i>(refreshments provided)</i>		Elder Social <i>(refreshments provided)</i>			
5:20pm – 5:40pm						
5:40pm – 6:00pm						
6:00pm – 6:20pm						
6:20pm – 6:40pm						
6:40pm – 7:00pm						
7:00pm			Trainee Mixer <i>(refreshments provided)</i>			

CONFERENCE POLICIES

ID Badge Policy:

Please wear your IIDRN Conference ID name badge at all times while attending conference events, including during meals provided by the conference.

Code of Conduct & Safety Plan:

The IIDRN Annual Conference is committed to providing a safe, accessible, and equitable experience for all participants. Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. By attending this conference, participants agree to abide by the following code of conduct.

The following behaviors are examples of discrimination, harassment, or other inappropriate behavior and will not be tolerated:

- **Visual conduct** such as leering; making sexual or offensive gestures; displaying sexually explicit or suggestive images or objects; or displaying images or objects that show hostility towards, perpetuate negative stereotypes about, or could otherwise be offensive to groups of people, especially minoritized racial/ethnic groups, sexual or gender minorities, those living with disabilities, and other protected classes and minoritized groups
- **Verbal or written abuse or conduct** such as the use of epithets/slurs; sending or making sexual or suggestive comments/messages, jokes, or invitations; sending or making comments/messages about another's physical appearance; or sending or making otherwise derogatory, harassing, or threatening comments/messages, including those that show hostility towards, perpetuate negative stereotypes about, or could otherwise be offensive to groups of people, especially minoritized racial/ethnic groups, sexual or gender minorities, those living with disabilities, and other protected classes and minoritized groups
- **Physical abuse or conduct** such as assault; impeding/blocking movement; or any unwanted or offensive physical contact of a threatening or sexual nature, including touching another's body or touching/display of one's own body
- **Retaliation** of any kind, including retaliation for negative responses to sexual advances or retaliation for reporting, or threatening to report, harassment
- **Sustained disruption** of any portion of the event, such as, but not limited to, verbally or physically disrupting speakers or other attendees or damaging or taking property
- **Other behavior** that could reasonably impact the ability of other attendees to fully and freely participate in the event, regardless of whether the behavior occurs during the event, at one of the event's social functions, or on the event premises, such as, but not limited to, intoxication, loud use of electronic devices, and shouting

Any attendee who experiences or observes discrimination or harassment should report this behavior as soon as possible to a member of the IIDRN Annual Conference staff. Reports may be made in person to any conference staff member (wearing IIDRN conference T-shirts labeled STAFF), or by email to iidrn@d.umn.edu. Such reports will remain confidential and only be shared among the IIDRN

Annual Conference organizers (including the Conference Planning Committee and IIDRN Executive Committee) who will determine appropriate actions. Conference organizers will discuss further with the reporting party if needed and meet to assess the allegations and collect additional evidence as appropriate (e.g., copies of any harassing messages). Conference organizers will take all reasonable actions to manage attendees who are determined to violate this code of conduct during conference events, up to and including removal from the conference, cancellation of any membership in the IIDRN organization, and denying access to future IIDRN events.

Attendees may also file a complaint of discrimination or harassment with the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR):

<https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/filing-a-complaint/index.html>. Making a report to the IIDRN Annual Conference staff is not required in order to file a complaint with HHS OCR, nor does making a report to or seeking assistance from the IIDRN Annual Conference staff prohibit filing a complaint with HHS OCR. Attendees may also notify the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of any concerns related to discrimination or harassment at this conference online at <https://public.era.nih.gov/shape/public/index.era> or by phone at +1 (301) 480-6701.

If there is an immediate threat to your physical safety, or if you believe you have been the victim of a crime, contact local law enforcement by calling 911.

This code of conduct applies to all IIDRN Annual Conference events, including any preconference activities, all conference sessions, breaks, meals, and receptions. Any questions or concerns related to harassment or this code of conduct may be directed to IIDRN Annual Conference staff—either in person to any conference staff member or by email to iidrn@d.umn.edu—or to the HHS OCR (<https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/about-us/contact-us/index.html>).

Thank you in advance for creating a safe, accessible, and equitable environment to support the advancement of Indigenous dementia research worldwide.

Photo and audio-/video-recording policy:

Photographs and/or videos may be taken throughout the conference, both by IIDRN staff and by other conference attendees. Attendees and presenters may indicate their preferences for photography/videography in two ways:

1. If you prefer not to be photographed or recorded, you may place a “no photos” sticker on your conference badge. See the Check-In & Information Table (outside of the Kona Moku Ballroom) or a member of the conference staff for a sticker.



No photographs or videos of me

2. For presentations, presenters may indicate their preferences via verbal announcement or by displaying the following symbols:



No photographs or videos of my presentation/poster



Photographs or videos of my presentation/poster are okay for your own personal use



Photographs or videos of my presentation/poster and sharing are okay

If you indicate a preference for you and/or your presentation to not be photographed or recorded, IIDRN staff will not intentionally photograph or record you or your presentation. However, please note that we cannot guarantee the omission of your presence or your presentation from the background of all photographs or videos of the conference.

All conference attendees are asked to respect the wishes of their fellow attendees and presenters with regard to photography/videography. Because of the proprietary nature of data and the reporting of preliminary, unpublished research, any photography, filming, taping, recording or reproduction in any medium of any of the programs, talks or data/posters/slides presented at the IIDRN conference is prohibited unless the presenter clearly indicates their permission verbally or by displaying the appropriate symbol. If a presenter indicates that they are open to photography or recording, please use common courtesy and do not be disruptive or distracting, either to the presenter or fellow audience members. Similarly, the subsequent dissemination of any photograph, video, or other recording in any medium of any of the programs, talks, or data/posters/slides presented at the IIDRN conference is prohibited unless the presenter clearly indicates their permission verbally or by displaying the appropriate symbol.

Sharing your experience on social media is encouraged to add to the discussion and excitement of the IIDRN conference, as long as it complies with this and other conference policies. Sharing images on social media that contain discernible research data (i.e., an image of a poster or slide) is prohibited unless the presenter clearly indicates their permission verbally or by displaying the appropriate symbol.

Violation of this policy may result in appropriate penalties, up to and including removal from the IIDRN conference and denial of entry to future IIDRN conferences and events. Please direct questions regarding this policy to iidrn@d.umn.edu.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Presenters are asked to clearly disclose any potential conflicts of interest (COIs) that could be reasonably perceived as related to the content of their presentation. The purpose of COI disclosure is to improve transparency and allow the audience to make their own assessments about whether certain factors or relationships may increase the risk of bias in the work being presented. COI disclosures should name the conflicting organization and explain the nature of the potential

conflict and its relevance to the presentation content. The format of the disclosure may vary depending on the type of presentation.

Accessibility Best Practices:

It is our policy to make arrangements and accommodations such that no person feels excluded due to disabilities, allergies, or personal preferences. We recognize that some disabilities are invisible and that not all disabilities require accommodation. We do not require attendees to disclose their needs, but you are free to contact conference staff to request individualized support: Tracy Kemp may be reached by SMS, WhatsApp, or phone call at [REDACTED] or you may seek out a member of conference staff in person at the conference. We encourage attendees to make these requests prior to the conference to ensure appropriate accommodations, but we will do our best to fulfill requests made on-site.

We encourage attendees and presenters to consider the needs of others when planning their presentations, communications, and interactions. We promote the use of inclusive language throughout the conference and sponsored events.

As a courtesy to those with sensitivities to chemicals and scents, we ask that attendees refrain from using perfume/cologne or other scented products.

We ask that all attendees respect smoke-free environments, respect accessibility-designated rows in presentation rooms, and use a microphone when speaking publicly.

Conference Guests and Childcare:

To promote inclusivity for those attendees with caretaking responsibilities, we welcome children and adult dependents to attend conference sessions with registrants. Registrants may also bring other types of guests (including a spouse/partner, babysitter/caretaker, etc.) to conference sessions at no additional cost. **Please note that, while dependents or guests are welcome at all conference sessions, conference meals will be provided to registrants only.** Any dependents or guests must also be accompanied by a registrant who is wearing a conference badge at all times during conference sessions. For all conference attendees, we ask that you excuse yourself from any session if you or your dependent or guest needs space for activities that could be considered disruptive to presenters or other attendees.

The IIDRN Annual Conference does not directly provide childcare services. For registrants in need of childcare, several local options are available and able to come to the conference hotel, including those listed below. Please note that this list is provided as a courtesy only; this list is not comprehensive, nor is it an endorsement of any of the included childcare providers. Registrants must arrange and pay for childcare themselves.

- Aloha Sitters
 - Website: <http://alohasitters.com/>
 - Phone: +1 (808) 861-7294
 - Email: ContactAlohaSitters@gmail.com
- Island Kid Sitters
 - <https://www.islandkidsitters.com/>
 - +1 (808) 354-0585
- Hawaii [Poppins] Keiki Waikiki
 - Website: <https://www.poppins.co.jp/educare/english/hawaii/>
 - Phone: +1 (808) 931-8086
 - Email: hawaii-info@poppins.co.jp
 - Note: Located at the conference hotel, but is open to the public

CONTACT AND VENUE INFORMATION

How to identify/contact conference staff:

IIDRN conference staff will be present in and around the conference spaces during conference hours. Staff members will be wearing T-shirts with the conference logo and “STAFF” printed on the front and back of the shirt.

For urgent conference-related issues that arise outside of conference hours, please contact Tracy Kemp at [REDACTED] via SMS, WhatsApp, or phone call.

Social Media Information:

Be sure to tag us and use our hashtags throughout the conference!

IIDRNconference2026

IIDRN2026

LinkedIn: [@linkedin.com/international-indigenous-dementia-research-network](https://www.linkedin.com/international-indigenous-dementia-research-network)

Facebook: [@facebook.com/IIDRNConference/](https://www.facebook.com/IIDRNConference/)

BlueSky: [@umnmemorykeepermdt.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/umnmemorykeepermdt.bsky.social)

WiFi:

Please note that we do not have a dedicated conference WiFi network. The conference hotel offers free WiFi in public areas of the hotel (*MarriottBonvoy_Public*) which may be accessed by attendees without a password. For attendees staying at the conference hotel, free WiFi is also available in guest rooms (*MarriotBonvoy_Guest*).

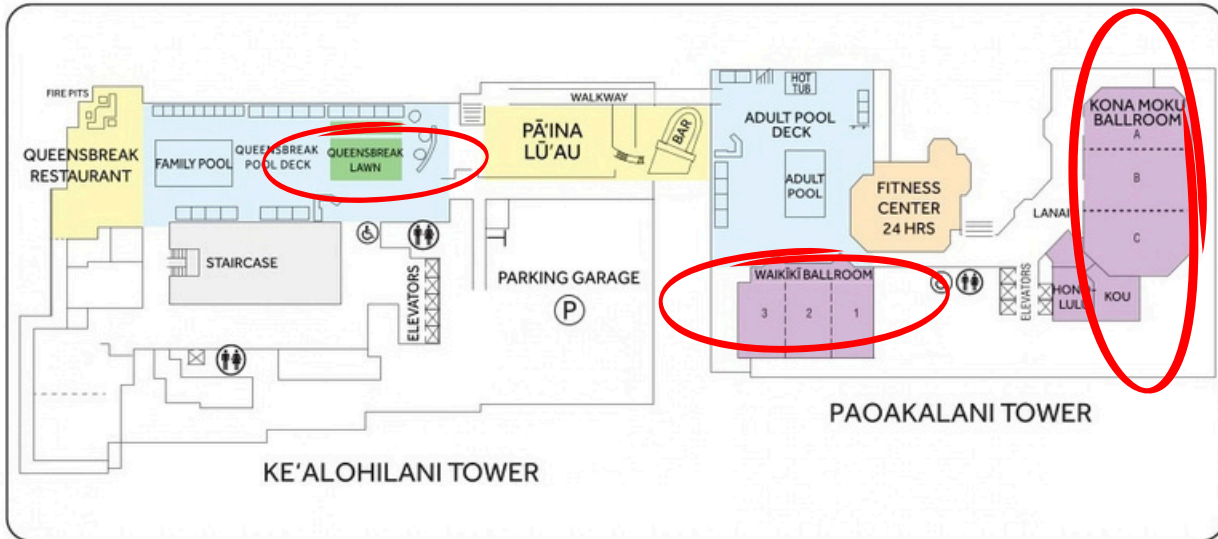
Wellness Room:

A hotel room has been designated as a private wellness room and is available to all attendees for lactation, quiet breaks, prayer, meditation, spiritual practices, or other wellness needs. This room may be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis for 30 minutes at a time. Go to the Check-In & Information Table outside of the Kona Moku Ballroom, or see another member of the conference staff, for access to this room.

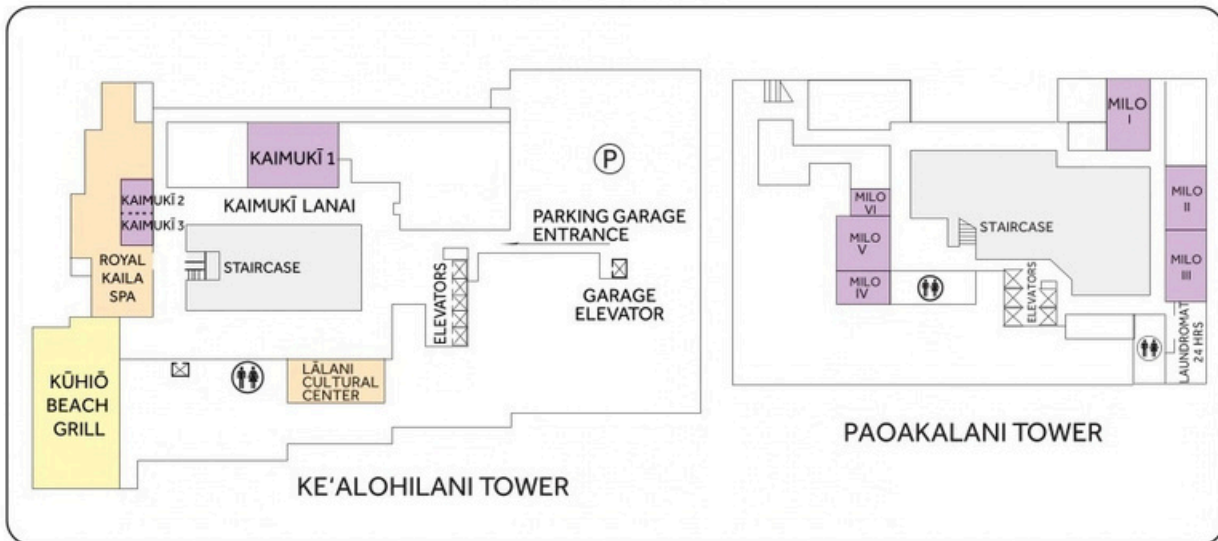
Emergency Information:

- **Hotel Security:** The conference hotel has a security team that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you have a security concern, please call the manager on duty at +1 (808) 721-1276. For attendees staying at the conference hotel, security may also be contacted using a room phone at extension 5208.”
- **Hotel Evacuation & Safety Procedures:** Please refer to the printout in your conference folder for hotel evacuation and safety procedures in the event of a fire, active shooter, or natural disaster.
- **For Other Emergencies:** Call 911 for any emergencies requiring the police, fire department, or emergency medical care.

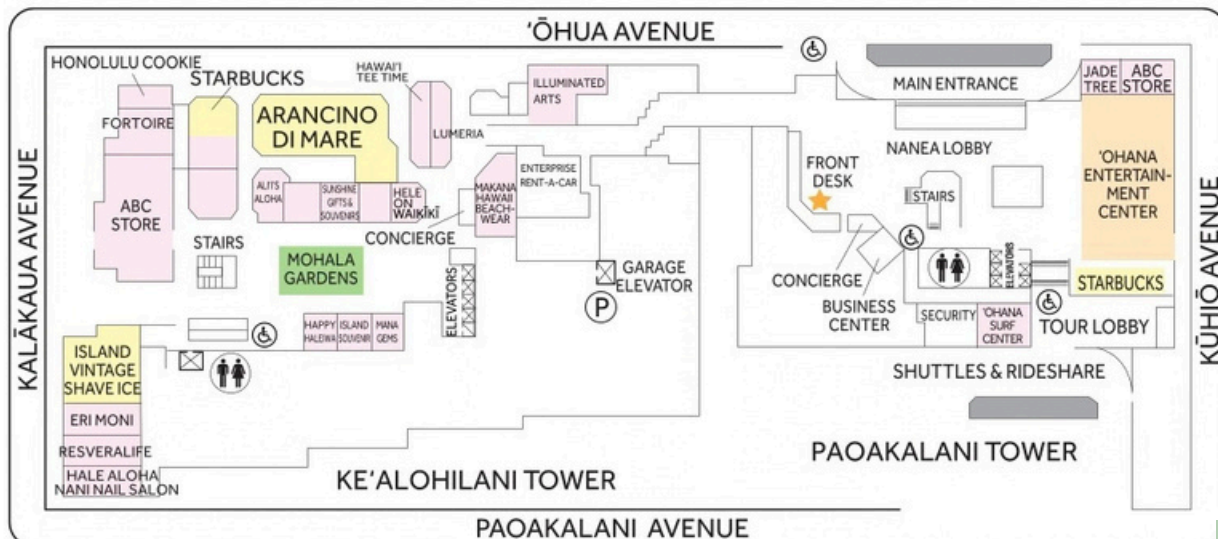
THIRD FLOOR - QUEENSBREAK ROOFTOP



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR





MARRIOTT RESORT
WAIKIKI BEACH

RESORT AMENITIES

'Ohana Entertainment Center

Games for the entire family to enjoy!
Daily 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

ABC Store

Deli, Sundries, Coffee, Gifts
Ke'alahilani Tower 1F
Daily 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Paoakalani Tower 1F
Daily 6:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Pools

Paoakalani Adult Pool & Hot Tub 3F
Ke'alahilani Family Pool 3F
Daily from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
No outside food or beverage allowed

Fitness Center

Paoakalani Tower 3F
24-Hour Access

Parking

Valet Parking (\$80.00 + tax)
Self Parking (\$65.00 + tax)



Ke'alahilani Tower 2F
Daily 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
(808) 369-8088

Hele on Waikiki

Ke'alahilani Tower 1F
Daily 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Laundry

Paoakalani Tower 2F
24-Hour Access

Scan Here for
Cabana Reservations:



Pā'ina Waikiki LŪ'AU

Everything that makes renowned Waikiki a unique and exciting place is celebrated at Pā'ina Waikiki! A unique dinner party lū'au setting where the vibrant stories of Waikiki's legendary eras come to life through festive nā mele (songs), hula, and the highest caliber of Polynesian performing arts.

Reserve now at the front desk,
or visit: Painawaikiki.com
M, W, F, Sat, Sun 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



RESTAURANTS



Queensbreak Restaurant 3F

Restaurant 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Happy Hour 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Queensbreak.com
No Reservations Necessary



Queensbreak Bar 3F

11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Happy Hour 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Queensbreak.com



Kūhiō Beach Grill

Ke'alahilani Tower 2F
Breakfast Daily 5:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
(808) 921-5171
No Reservations Necessary



Arancino di Mare (Italian)

Ke'alahilani Tower 1F
Nightly 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
(808) 931-6273



Starbucks Coffee (2 locations)

Ke'alahilani Tower 1F
Daily 5:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Paoakalani Tower 1F
Daily 4:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Sun 6 p.m. close)



Island Vintage Shave Ice

Ke'alahilani Tower 1F
Daily 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

RESORT FEE INCLUSIONS

\$59 + TAX DAILY

- Daily 1 hr Yoga/Strength & Cardio for two guests
- Daily Beach Chairs or Boogie Board Rental for two guests (2 Beach Chairs, OR 2 Boogie Boards, OR 1 Beach Chair and 1 Boogie Board from Hele on Waikīkī - 1st Floor Ke'alahilani Tower)
- Daily Cultural Classes taught by a professional instructor for two guests. Classes includes Hula, 'Ukulele, Lei Making, Kapa Making, Bamboo Stamping, Lauhala Weaving, and Island Painting for two guests.
- Daily Two Free Games (per room) at 'Ohana Entertainment Center - pick up coupon daily at the Lālanī Cultural Center between 1pm and 4pm
- Daily Enhanced Hi-Speed Internet Access (Wi-Fi)
- **Bonvoy Elite Amenity** (Gold members and above) - Two locally made cookies - pick up daily at the Lālanī Cultural Center
Mon-Sat 9am to 12pm/1pm to 4pm, & Sundays from 1pm to 3pm
** Please show your Bonvoy Member App*

Additional Added Value:

- Live Entertainment Tuesday & Thursday at Pā'ina Terrace
- Culinary demonstrations including Shave Ice, Mai Tai, and Poke Bowl
- Discounted Tee Times and 25% Off Golf Club Rentals and Virtual Golf at Hawai'i Tee Times
- **\$20 Off Your Electric Bike Ride at Hele on Waikīkī**

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CULTURAL & RESORT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Time	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
8:00 AM	Yoga	Strength Class	Yoga	Strength Class	Yoga	Yoga	Yoga
9:00 AM		Keiki Activities	Royal Pearl Charm	Flower Lei Making	Koa Keepsake	Flower Lei Making	'Ukulele Basics
10:00 AM		Hula & Oli (Chant) 'Ōlelo Hawai'i	Hula	Royal Pearl Charm	Ali'i Lei Making	Hula	Hula
11:00 AM		'Ukulele Basics	'Ukulele Basics Mai Tai Demo	Hawaiian Music	Royal Pearl Charm	Mai Tai Demo 'Ukulele Basics	Hawaiian Keepsake
1:00 PM	Hula Hālan Experience	Hawaiian Quilting	Koa Keepsake	Lauhala Weaving Shave Ice Demo	Monarchy History	Royal Pearl Charm	Shave Ice Demo Royal Pearl Charm
3:00 PM		Poke Demo Kapa Making	Hawaiian Keepsake	Hawaiian Keepsake	Ribbon Lei Making	Kapa Making	Poke Demo Bamboo Stamping
4:00 PM			Island Painting		Tote Bag Painting		

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS:

- **Lālanī Cultural Center 2F Ke'alahilani Tower** (Mon-Sat from 9am to 4pm):

Ali'i Lei Making, Bamboo Stamping, Flower Lei Making, Hawaiian Keepsake, Hawaiian Music, Hawaiian Quilting, Hula, Island Painting, Kapa Making, Keiki Activities, Koa Keepsake, Lauhala Weaving, Monarchy History, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Language), Oli (Chant), Ribbon Lei Making, Royal Pearl Charm, Tote Bag Painting, 'Ukulele Basics

- **Main Lobby 1F:** Poke Demo
- **Mohala Garden:** Yoga, Strength
- **Queensbreak Bar 3F:** Perfect Mai Tai and Shave Ice

Live "Waikiki Calls" Podcast every 4th Friday at 12pm

* Schedule subject to change. Lālanī Cultural Center space is limited - first come first serve. Classes start promptly.

Guest
Activities Hub:



9/7/2026

Pre-Conference: Sunday 18 October 2026

4:00pm – 5:00pm **Check-In & Information Table Open**
Outside Kona Moku Ballroom *(no on-site registration available)*

Day 1: Monday 19 October 2026

7:00am – 4:40pm **Check-In & Information Table Open**
Outside Kona Moku Ballroom *(no on-site registration available)*

8:00am – 9:00am **Breakfast**
Waikiki Ballroom *(provided)*

8:00am – 9:00am **IIDRN Executive Committee Meeting**
Kou *(for members of the IIDRN Executive Committee only)*

9:00am – 9:20am **Opening Protocol (Oli) & Land Acknowledgments**
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

To recognize and honor the historic and ongoing relationship of the Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian people) to the land on which this conference takes place, we are dedicating time for oli and formal land acknowledgments. Oli are Hawaiian chants that once served as the primary method of recording and memorizing oral history, tradition, genealogies, prayers, and more, prior to the introduction of written language in Hawai'i. Oli have persisted through time and great change, and although their role in the recording of history has diminished, they remain an essential part of Hawaiian culture and identity. Oli serve different purposes depending on the circumstances in which they are used. They tell us who someone is, where they come from, and whom they represent. They call upon the winds that blow and the rains that fall upon their beloved homelands. Regardless of context, oli represent a higher form of communication—one that fuses ancestral, spiritual, and cultural elements, and instills sanctity and ceremony in the hearts and minds of both the chanter and the listener. We invite you to enter this sacred space and allow our connection to form with openness, reverence, and aloha.

9:20am – 9:40am **Opening Remarks from IIDRN Co-Chair Dr. Jennifer Walker**
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Jennifer Walker, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada

9:40am – 10:40am **Rooted in Community: Celebration of Cultures**
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Interested conference attendees have an opportunity to represent their cultures, peoples, nations, or countries in this session. This is a space for attendees to celebrate and showcase something about who they are or where they are from—whatever it is they would like to share—such as stories, songs/chants, dances, teachings, etc.

10:40am – 11:00am **Break**

11:00am – 12:00pm **Opening Plenary: One Spoke in the Wheel: The Importance of Relationships and Identity in Indigenous Dementia and Brain Health Research**
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C



Pamela Roach, *University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada*

Dr. Roach's research is anchored in partnership with people living with dementia and families in order to influence care and improve the lived experience of everyone impacted by dementia. Her current research program has three critical and connected streams of work that advance community-based research to address gaps in the quality and availability of Indigenous-specific dementia care. These three areas address: i) prevention and risk reduction; ii) health services improvement; iii) measurement and evaluation of Indigenous patient experiences. Most importantly, the relationships formed along her career have

provided numerous opportunities to support communities to identify and communicate their own research priorities, engage in meaningful approaches to mentorship, and drive systemic and structural change.

Dr. Roach will reflect on her experiences of building and sustaining local, national and international partnerships in Indigenous brain health research and the importance of cultural identity and lived experiences to the health of communities, and our own wellness as researchers. Rooted in relationships and responsive mentorship, she will discuss how to stay true to yourself as through the ups and downs of navigating the tensions between Indigenous worldviews and the western research landscape.

Bio: Dr. Roach is a citizen of the Otipemisiwak Métis Nation within Alberta and is the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health Systems Safety with a focus on dementia and brain health. She works as an Associate Professor in the Departments of Family Medicine and Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. She also holds dual University leadership roles as the Research Director of Indigenous Engagement in the Vice President Research Office and is the Deputy Director of the O'Brien Institute for Public Health. She co-leads both the Indigenous Cognitive Health Program as part of the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA); and the Community-Centered Indigenous Cognitive Health Network (CICHN), a pan-Canadian and Indigenous-led research network of researchers, trainees, and community members. Her program of research is focused on co-developing Indigenous-specific approaches to dementia care, patient experience, and dementia risk reduction and prevention. Dr. Roach was recently elected to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists (Class of 2026) and was awarded the Emerging Indigenous Health Advocacy Award from the Association of the Faculties of Medicine of Canada in 2024.

12:00pm – 1:20pm **Lunch**
Waikiki Ballroom *(provided)*

1:20pm – 2:20pm **Paper Session: Dementia Prevalence**
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Moderator: **Nick Garrett**, *Auckland University of Technology (AUT), Auckland, New Zealand*

- 1. Power and Precarity: Indigenous Dementia Prevalence and Associated Factors in the All of Us Study**
Cliff Whetung, *Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA*
This study analyzed new data from the All of Us research program and evaluated its efficacy for use in dementia research with Indigenous peoples in the United States. While these data have some strengths including large sample sizes and linked electronic health record data, they also have limited potential for generalizability and require significant investment to analyze.

Day 1: Monday 19 October 2026

*This program contains lay summaries for paper & poster presentations.
For scientific abstracts & full author lists, see Online Appendix at iidrn.org.*

2. **He Rapunga Hauora mo te Mate Wareware: A Prevalence Study Protocol**

Meikyla Mason, *Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand*

This research outlines the first-ever study to measure the true rate and impact of mate wareware (dementia) within the Indigenous Māori population of Aotearoa New Zealand. By using an internationally recognised tool alongside a parallel study of other ethnic groups, the research allows for fair, direct comparisons while ensuring the data is entirely owned and governed by Māori. Ultimately, this work will create a gold-standard database to help design culturally appropriate healthcare services and reduce health inequalities for whānau.

3. **Estimating Mate Wareware (Dementia) Prevalence Among Māori: Preliminary Findings and Research Challenges**

Nick Garrett, *Auckland University of Technology (AUT), Auckland, New Zealand*

A study is underway to understand how common mate wareware (dementia) is among Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand. Early findings suggest that prevalence may be high. However, results about the impact on caregivers are mixed. This research also highlights challenges in engaging participants and collecting culturally appropriate data.

2:20pm – 2:40pm

Break

2:40pm – 3:40pm

Paper Session: Grounded in Community

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Moderator: **Lori Davis Hill**, *McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada*

4. **Supporting Tribal Communities in the Great Lakes Region Through Community-Engaged Brain Health Programming**

Michael Davis, *Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Lac du Flambeau, USA*

Kianna DuFault, *Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Lac du Flambeau, USA*

Amber Hoon, *Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Lac du Flambeau, USA*

The Together Strong: Brain Health Program at the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) provides culturally grounded brain health and dementia trainings to Tribal communities. The program is guided by community knowledge, lived experience, and a community first approach to data and engagement. As the program expands nationally, sustaining community driven brain health efforts remains central to its mission.

5. **Respectful Engagement with Indigenous Communities: Best Practices**

Marvina Chavez, *International Association for Indigenous Aging, Silver Springs, USA*

This work outlines respectful and effective ways to engage with American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. It emphasizes honoring Tribal sovereignty, respecting cultural traditions and knowledge, building long-term relationships based on trust, and working collaboratively with communities to support their priorities and strengths. The guidance is intended to help organizations, researchers, and partners create more ethical, inclusive, and community-centered relationships.

6. **Rooted in Relationship: Gathering, Growing, and Sharing Food, Memory, and Care**

Adrienne Lickers Xavier, *McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada*

Kitty RLynn, *McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada*

Lori Davis Hill, *McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada*

The act of growing and harvesting food supports brain health through physical activity, sensory engagement, and time on the land, all of which are associated with reduced stress and improved cognitive function. Preparing and preserving food—through practices such as drying, canning, and cooking—engage fine motor skills, attention, and cultural memory, reinforcing neural pathways while maintaining continuity of knowledge across generations. These practices are not isolated tasks but are embedded within systems of care, teaching, and reciprocity.

3:40pm – 4:40pm Poster Session 1

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon A

Refer to the list of poster presentations on pages 32-25 Presenters should be physically present at their poster during the poster session to answer questions and talk with attendees.

4:40pm – 5:00pm Break

5:00pm Welcome Reception

Queensbreak Lawn

(refreshments provided)

Day 2: Tuesday 20 October 2026

7:30am – 4:40pm **Check-In & Information Table Open**
Outside Kona Moku Ballroom *(no on-site registration available)*

8:00am – 9:00am **Breakfast**
Waikiki Ballroom *(provided)*

9:00am – 9:20am **Morning Announcements**
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

9:20am – 10:20am **Paper Session: Cultural Adaptation**
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Moderator: **Sheamus Cavanaugh**, *Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA*

7. **Culturally Safe and Clinically Sound: Adapting the American Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (AMICA)**
Sheamus Cavanaugh, *Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA*
Clinically available dementia screening tools have historically been developed for use with Westernized populations. This paper presents preliminary findings on the American Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (AMICA) project that aims to develop a culturally safe and clinically valid dementia screening toolkit. Indigenous community partners adapted the Canadian Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (CICA) to include cultural considerations like respect and altered question language to be more specific and clearer.
8. **The American Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (AMICA) Toolkit: Insights, Preparation and Community-driven Implementation with the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin**
Kala Cornelius, *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA*
Sierra Skenandore, *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA*
Indigenous populations experience high rates of dementia, yet existing dementia assessment tools are not validated for use with Indigenous people. The AMICA project aims to develop and validate a culturally safe dementia assessment toolkit for use with Indigenous populations in community and clinical settings. This presentation draws upon first-hand experiences with members of the Oneida, WI research team, and explores potential applications and outcomes of the AMICA toolkit in clinical and community settings.
9. **Culturally Grounded Adaptation of the Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms: A Tree-Based Framework Rooted in Indigenous Knowledge to Support Holistic Well-Being of Indigenous Elders**
Marvina Chavez, *International Association for Indigenous Aging, Silver Springs, USA*
This project adapts an elder care model called the “4Ms” (What Matters Most, Medicine, Memory, Mood/Thinking, and Movement) so it better reflects the values and knowledge of Indigenous communities. It uses a tree as a visual guide, showing that strong elder care must be rooted in culture, language, land, history, sovereignty, and community. The goal is to help health and community programs support elders in ways that respect who they are and keep their cultural connections strong while promoting overall health and well-being.

10:20am – 10:40am **Break**

10:40am – 12:00pm Lived Dementia Experience: Caregiver Panel

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

This panel will feature community members who are currently providing, or who have provided, care for a loved one with dementia. These caregivers will share their unique experiences, challenges, and insights into navigating the complexities of dementia care within their cultural contexts. The discussion will explore the roles of tradition, community support, and resilience in caregiving, offering perspectives on how cultural values influence care practices and impact the well-being of both caregivers and their loved ones.

Moderator: **Puni Kekauoha**, Kula No Nā Po'e Hawai'i, Honolulu, USA

Puni has been serving the Papakōlea Hawaiian homestead region since 1992. She is currently the Senior Vice President of Kula no na Po'e Hawaii (KULA). KULA is a Native Hawaiian beneficiary-serving organization that exists to promote cultural, educational, environmental and health equity for all. Puni also serves as the community investigator on the majority of CBPR projects conducted in Papakōlea. She is a strong supporter of a more inclusive and equitable research process. Through her work at KULA, they collaborate with the University of Hawaii- Department of Native Hawaiian Health to provide services to residents of Papakōlea, as well as providing care to kupuna (elders). In the context of CBPR, the involvement of the community and understanding the community's point of view is extremely important.



12:00pm – 1:20pm

Waikiki Ballroom

Lunch

(provided)

1:20pm – 2:20pm

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Paper Session: Dementia Caregiving

Moderator: **Va'atausili Tofaeono**, American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition, Pago Pago, American Samoa

10. Neekokaabjigan and Dignified Care: Growing a Place-Based Analysis of Indigenous Dementia Caregiving

Chantelle Richmond, Western University, London, Canada

Sharlene Webkamigad, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Canada

Liz Webkamigad, Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada

This research explores how the physical and cultural settings of care, including care homes, family homes, and hospitals, shape the dignity and wellbeing of Indigenous Elders living with dementia, and the people who care for them. Guided by an Anishinaabe concept called neekokaabjigan ("the string that binds us"), the authors draw on their own experiences as daughters, nurses, knowledge keepers, and researchers to examine how things like language, cultural roles, and a sense of belonging can be either protected or lost depending on where and how care is provided. Ultimately, the work asks an important question: what does it look like to truly dignify dementia care for Indigenous Elders, in all the places where that care takes place?

11. Navigating Advanced Dementia: Insights into Family Caregiving Across Diverse Indigenous Communities in the Great Lakes Region of North America

Dana Ketcher, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA

This study highlights the experiences of Indigenous family members caring for Elders with late-stage dementia across distinct communities in the US and Canada. While all communities view caregiving as a shared, multi-generational family responsibility, each faces unique local challenges ranging from geographic isolation to legal barriers. Ultimately, the findings show that health systems and policymakers cannot use a "one-size-fits-all" approach, but must instead provide financial and structural support for tailored, community-specific resources.

12. **A culturally grounded approach to understanding and improving Alzheimer's disease and related dementia knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors for American Samoan family caregivers**

Danielle Eakins, American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition, Tafuna, American Samoa; *Seven Directions, Indigenous Public Health Institute, University of Washington, Seattle, USA*

Va'atausili Tofaeono, American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Dementia is a condition that affects memory and thinking, and it is becoming increasingly common among older adults in American Samoa. Families there often provide care on their own, with little outside support and limited information about dementia. This study worked directly with Samoan caregivers to understand their experiences and knowledge about dementia, and is using what we learned to create a culturally appropriate tool that better reflects Samoan values and ways of knowing — which can be used to improve care and support for families in the future.

2:20pm – 2:40pm

Break

2:40pm – 3:20pm

Paper Session: Biomarkers

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Moderator: **Carey Gleason**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA; University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

13. **Indigenous Dementia Diagnostic Biomarker (InDX) Workflow Project: An Oneida Tribal Effort to Ensure Accessible and Indigenous-Centered Dementia Diagnostics**

Cary Waubanasum, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, USA

Rachael Wilson, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA

Carey E. Gleason, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA; University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

The proposed Indigenous Dementia Diagnostic Biomarker (InDX) Workflow project represents a new approach to university-Tribal partnerships. This collaboration centers the work within the Tribe. In partnership with academic scientists, the Oneida Nation will co-design an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias biomarker collection workflow that honors Tribal sovereignty, reflects community priorities and values, and delivers direct benefits to the community. This Tribally owned and sustainable dementia biomarker testing infrastructure would improve access to dementia diagnostic services and could be used as a model for university-tribal collaborations.

14. **Biomarker Participation among American Indian and Alaska Native Participants in the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center Uniform Data Set**

Kyle Conniff, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA

Tia Petratos, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA

Carey Gleason, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA

This study looked at who takes part in Alzheimer's research that involves biological tests like brain scans, spinal fluid samples, or autopsies. It found that American Indian and Alaska Native participants were much less likely than non-Hispanic White participants to be included in these types of studies. Because of this gap, doctors may have less accurate tools for diagnosing and treating dementia in Indigenous communities, highlighting the need for more inclusive research.

3:20pm – 3:40pm

Break

3:40pm – 4:40pm Mentoring Session

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Moderator: **Pamela Roach**, *University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada*

This mentorship session is a place for IIDRN members to meet informally and introduce themselves. We will share some activities from the last year and discuss what topics the group wants to see for the next year. Anyone interested in mentorship (as a mentee or mentor) is encouraged to attend!

7:00pm Trainee Mixer

Location TBA

(refreshments provided)

This is an informal event to network with other IIDRN trainees. Join us - **all trainees are welcome to attend!**

Day 3: Wednesday 21 October 2026

7:30am – 4:40pm

Outside Kona Moku Ballroom

Check-In & Information Table Open

(no on-site registration available)

8:00am – 9:00am

Waikiki Ballroom

Breakfast

(provided)

9:00am – 9:20am

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Morning Announcements

9:20am – 10:20am

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C **(Part 1)**

Elder Panel Presentation & Discussion: Honoring Elders' Knowledge

Elders from different parts of the world will share their experiences with aging and dementia in their communities.

Moderator: **Rick J. Smith**, *Elder in Residence, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA*

Rick J. Smith, M.Ed., is the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team (MK-MDT) Elder in Residence. Elder Smith is a teacher and knowledge keeper who provides guidance, insight, and spiritual understandings to faculty, staff, and students of the MK-MDT. He has provided guidance on the formation of an Indigenous Advisory Committee for MK-MDT. Rick has been the Director of the American Indian Learning Resource Center at the University of Minnesota Duluth for over 30 years. He is a citizen of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. He has a Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Education degrees from the University of Minnesota. In addition, he has served as an Independent Consultant for the Blandin Foundation for 17 years, as a Cultural Liaison for the Blandin Reservation Community Leadership Program. He has been involved with Indian Education for over 35 years, regionally and nationally. Rick is a husband and has been married to Diana (Dede) for 50 years. Father to 3 highly successful adult children and Grandfather to 2 girls and a boy.



Elder Panelists:



Meauta Mageo

Talofa everyone, my name is Meauta Mageo. I am of Samoan/Chinese descent, the eldest of four children. I was born and raised in American Samoa, a United States territory 2600 miles southwest of Hawaii and about 3200 miles to New Zealand. After attending Southern Oregon University, I returned home in 2008 and became a teacher at my alma mater, Samoana High School - home of the Sharks. I also had the privilege of being the head coach for our football team and skippering the first and only high school long boat rowing team that competed against seasoned village crews in our island's annual Flag day celebrations - experiences that taught me leadership is about serving others. In 2014 I entered politics and served three terms as a district representative. I later earned my Masters degree in Organizational Leadership which took me to work with Homeland Security as manager of the Territorial Emergency Management Coordination Office. In 2023 I retired due to health challenges. In 2025 I was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease and our world turned upside down. This journey has not been easy, but I have learned I am still Meauta. I am still a husband to Sharmain, a father, a grandfather. I still have dreams, experiences, and wisdom to share and being diagnosed with Alzheimer's does not take away a person's identity, dignity, or worth. Faafetai Lava (Thank You)



Harry Douglas

Uncle Harry Douglas is a proud Gunnai man with more than 25 years of experience working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and aged care. Since 2018, he has built a strong research profile focused on improving the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, with particular interests in dementia care and LGBTQIA+SB ageing. A respected and trusted member of the Aboriginal community across Melbourne and Victoria, Harry brings extensive expertise in community engagement, advocacy, participant recruitment, data collection, and culturally safe research practice. He is passionate about ensuring the voices of Aboriginal Elders are heard and valued, and about using research to support equitable, community-led approaches to health and aged care. Harry is also an experienced facilitator and conference presenter who is committed to translating research into meaningful outcomes for Aboriginal communities



Brent Gish

Brent Gish is military veteran and enrolled member of the White Earth Ojibwe Nation. His professional career in public education has spanned over 50 years, serving districts located on the White Earth and Red Lake Ojibwe Nations in Minnesota. He continues to advocate for school funding for over 537 districts that serve children that reside on Indian treaty or federal trust land. As a member of the Indigenous Elder Advisory Council, he also provides guidance on brain health activities and research conducted at Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team. Brent is married, the father of two children and grand-father of 6 precious grandchildren.



Karen Pitawanakwat

Karen is an Anishinaabe Kwe from the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Ontario, Canada. She has lived her life in Wiikwemkoong leaving only to complete her nursing diploma at Cambrian College in 1994. Karen is the mother of two children, grandmother to three, and lives in Dowaaganing a satellite community in Wiikwemkoong with her dog, cat and many plants. She belongs to the Thunder Bird Clan and is an Anishnaabemowin language speaker. Karen has over 32 years' experience nursing in local First Nations on Manitoulin Island, focusing on care for the elderly. She is the Senior Community Based Researcher for Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team based out of Naandwechige-Gamig Wiikwemkoong Health Center Dementia Care Projects. Karen has been involved in community-based research projects concerning diabetes, dementia and cancer since 2006. Her work as a community researcher with First Nations on Manitoulin Island with the Perceptions of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias in Diverse Aboriginal Communities in Ontario study (2009-2013) and the CCNA Team 20 Indigenous dementia study in Ontario (2014-2019), and now Indigenous Cultural Understandings of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias – Research and Engagement (ICARE) study in Ontario (phase 1 – 2019 – 2021, phase 2 – 2021 - 2026) aims to address quality of life for Indigenous people living with dementia and their caregivers. Her commitment to advancing the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people can be seen in her various advisory roles and committee memberships. She has served continuously on the Wiikwemkoong Health Centre Diabetes Advisory Committee since 2005 and has served on the Manitoulin Hospice Palliative Care Working Group, the North East Hospice Palliative Care Steering Committee, and is an active member of the International Indigenous Dementia Research Network.



Kumu Hula Iwalani Kalima

Aloha mai kākou,

Kumu Hula Iwalani Kalima was born in Hilo and raised in the beautiful homestead of Keaukaha, Hilo. For over 26 years, she studied under renowned “Hula Loea” (master) George Lanakilakeikiahiali‘i Na‘ope and received her kumu palapala in 1982. Beginning her hula school in 1986, Hula Hālau o kou lima nani ‘e. She continues her ambition to perpetuate the Hula and Hawaiian culture by sharing her life experiences with people of interest in her hula lineage. Today celebrates 40 years of teaching hula. Kumu Iwalani has also extended her teaching into public elementary schools, known as the Hawaiian Studies Program for over 20 years. Iwalani enjoys teaching Nā Keiki.

10:20am – 10:40am Break

10:40am – 11:40am Elder Panel Presentation & Discussion: Honoring Elders’ Knowledge
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C **(Part 2)**

The Elder Panelists (above) will continue to share their experiences with aging and dementia in their communities.

11:40am – 1:00pm Lunch
Waikiki Ballroom *(provided)*

1:00pm – 2:00pm Paper Session: Risk & Protective Factors
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Moderator: **Cliff Whetung**, *Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA*

15. Reevaluating Modifiable Dementia Risk Factors in Indigenous Populations: An Analysis of American Indian and Alaska Native Participants in the All of Us Research Program

Carina Campbell, *University of California-Riverside, Riverside, USA; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA*

Kyle Conniff, *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA*

Cliff Whetung, *Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA*

Many dementia prevention studies are based on data from the general population and may not accurately reflect the experiences of Indigenous communities. Using data from Indigenous participants in the All of Us Research Program, we found that traumatic brain injury and low educational attainment were among the strongest contributors to dementia risk. These findings suggest that dementia prevention efforts may need to be tailored to better reflect the unique experiences and health factors affecting Indigenous populations.

16. Data as Medicine: Examining Indigenous Social Determinants of Health, Stress Embodiment Pathways, and Cultural Protection in Cognitive Vulnerability Among American Indian Adults

Laura Sawney, *Rising REZilience, LLC, Broken Arrow, USA; University of North Dakota Indigenous Health Doctoral Program, Grand Forks, USA; University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (PLAN Lab), Tulsa, USA*

Many Native communities experience stressors rooted in both historical and present-day conditions that can affect mental wellness, physical health, and memory over time. This project explores how culture, community belonging, and Indigenous strengths may help protect against these impacts while supporting healthy aging and cognitive wellness. The goal is to develop Indigenous-led approaches to understanding and promoting brain health that reflect Native experiences, values, and knowledge systems.

17. Interaction Between Diabetes Status and Intraindividual Cognitive Variability in Predicting Brain Atrophy and Cognitive Decline in American Indians

Lihui Tu, *The Krieger Klein Alzheimer's Research Center, Brain Health Institute, New Brunswick, USA*

High "cognitive variability"—fluctuating scores across different memory tests—is traditionally considered an early warning sign for dementia. However, our study of 375 American Indian older adults reveals that diabetes completely flips this rule. While highly fluctuating scores predict brain decline in healthy individuals, lower variability (a "rigid" brain) is the actual danger signal for those with diabetes.

2:00pm – 2:20pm

Break

2:20pm – 3:40pm

Paper Session: Dementia Care

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Moderator: **Kylie Sullivan**, *Neuroscience Research Australia, Sydney, Australia*

18. Walking Together on a Dementia Journey: Four Decades of Community Care Evolving towards Community-Led and Culturally Grounded Brain Health Care at Six Nations of the Grand River

Lori Davis Hill, *McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada; Six Nations of the Grand River, Ohsweken, Canada*

Jacqueline Powless, *Six Nations of the Grand River, Ohsweken, Canada*

Jill Monture, *Six Nations of the Grand River, Ohsweken, Canada*

Semiah Smith, *Six Nations of the Grand River, Ohsweken, Canada; McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada*

Joanne Osborn, *Six Nations of the Grand River, Ohsweken, Canada*

Andrea Smith, *Six Nations of the Grand River, Ohsweken, Canada*

Kitty RLynn Lickers, *Six Nations of the Grand River, Ohsweken, Canada; McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada*

This presentation shares how Six Nations of the Grand River has supported community members living with dementia over the past 40 years and how care has changed over time. It highlights the challenges Indigenous people face with diagnosis and stigma and how building relationships supports a move toward culturally safe, community-led approaches to care. Involvement with the Wholistic Brain Health Assessment bundle project aims to support this and other Indigenous communities with culturally grounded ways to assess and support brain health.

19. Beyond geography: A qualitative yarning study of Place in dementia diagnosis and care with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Antonia Clarke, *Monash University, Melbourne, Australia; The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia*

Across eight urban, regional, rural, and remote communities in Australia, this study highlighted the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander approaches to caring for people living with dementia through family, Culture, and connection to Country and Community. The findings propose that best-practice dementia diagnosis and care may not always sit within formal health services, but instead should adapt to the local supports, relationships, and cultural connections available in each Place.

20. Reflections on guiding culturally safe care in a mainstream residential care community in Australia

Lyn Goldberg, *University of Tasmania, Launceston, Australia*

Kylie Sullivan, *Neuroscience Research Australia, Sydney, Australia*

Aboriginal Elders developed innovative podcasts and complementary videos to educate non-Indigenous staff about culturally safe care. This presentation shares the Elders' reflections before and after the staff had listened to the podcasts and watched the videos and resulting changes in care.

21. Toward Culturally Safe Dementia-Friendly First Nation Communities in Northwestern Ontario: Identifying Key Components

Brittany Skov, *Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Canada*

There is limited research on the specific needs and perspectives related to culturally safe dementia care among First Nations in Canada. This research is needed to help inform culturally safe dementia-friendly communities. In partnership with Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, we examined the needs for culturally safe dementia post-diagnosis care among community-dwelling First Nations people living in Northwestern Ontario. Through interviews and

knowledge gathering circles, community members shared the importance of wraparound supports, culturally safe healthcare, supporting care partners, and strengthening community and kinship connections. The findings can help guide the development of dementia care and community supports that better reflect the needs, values, and experiences of First Nations individuals and families.

3:40 pm – 4:40pm Poster Session 2

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon A

Refer to the list of poster presentations on pages 32- 35. Presenters should be physically present at their poster during the poster session to answer questions and talk with attendees.

5:00pm Elder Social
Location TBA *(refreshments provided)*

We invite all Elders attending the conference to join us for a meet-and-greet. This is a space where Elders can visit with each other and share information about their home country, culture, or experiences.

Day 4: Thursday 22 October 2026

7:30am – 12:20pm **Check-In & Information Table Open**
Outside Kona Moku Ballroom *(no on-site registration available)*

8:00am – 9:00am **Breakfast**
Waikiki Ballroom *(provided)*

9:00am – 9:20am **Morning Announcements**
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

9:20am – 10:20am **Paper Session: Dementia Education**
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Moderator: **Megan O'Connell**, *University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada*

22. Simulated Based Dementia Training: Health Professionals, and Community Members Gain an Increased Awareness and Understanding of Dementia

Iris Walking Eagle, *Spirit Lake Senior Services, Fort Totten, USA*

Loretta Heuer, *North Dakota State University School of Nursing, Fargo, USA; Spirit Lake Senior Services, Fort Totten, USA*

Shaylynn Demarrias, *Spirit Lake Senior Services, Fort Totten, USA*

The Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT) is a training that builds an understanding of dementia by using sensory tools and education. Within an 8-minute timeframe, health care providers and community members experienced dementia like limitations when attempting to complete daily activities. The VDT training provided participants with insight into the cognitive and emotional challenges that people diagnosed with dementia encounter daily.

23. Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Memory Loss + Symptom Tracker for Indigenous Individuals, Families, and Caregivers

Marvina Chavez, *International Association for Indigenous Aging, Silver Springs, USA*

These “Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Memory Loss” materials help Indigenous individuals, families, and caregivers prepare for medical visits when they notice changes in memory, thinking, or behavior. The resources explain possible causes of memory loss, including dementia, and provide simple questions, symptom-tracking tools, and guidance to support respectful, informed conversations with healthcare providers. Grounded in the belief that memory and wisdom are sacred, the materials encourage early support, safety planning, and connection to community resources.

24. Building capacity of Alzheimer Society Staff and volunteers to co-design support groups with members of Indigenous communities

Megan O'Connell, *University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada*

We have co-designed education aimed at Alzheimer society staff and volunteers to increase their capacity to provide appropriate Indigenous dementia care.

10:20am – 10:40am **Break**

10:40am – 11:40am **Paper Session: Current Topics in Indigenous Dementia Research**
Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Moderator: **Antonio Paniagua Guzmán**, *Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA*

Day 4: Thursday 22 October 2026

*This program contains lay summaries for paper & poster presentations.
For scientific abstracts & full author lists, see Online Appendix at iidrn.org.*

25. Remember when...? Poetry, Culture, and Wellbeing in Indigenous Dementia Care

Antonio Paniagua Guzmán, *Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA*

Roger Smith, Sr., *Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA*

This study explores how a culturally-safe poetry program can support Indigenous people living with dementia and their caregivers. Working with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, researchers and community members held poetry sessions where participants shared memories, created poems connected to Anishinaabe culture, and supported one another. The program helped participants express emotions, strengthen cultural connections, preserve knowledge, and build support among families affected by dementia.

26. Identifying and analyzing Indigenous & Two-Spirit Persons in the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging

Skye Wilson, *The Community-based Research Centre, Vancouver, Canada*

There is little known about the aging experiences of Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Canada. We explored data from a large survey of Canadians to identify who in the sample might be Two-Spirit, and then examined whether their data differed from those who were unlikely to be Two-Spirit. There were very few Two-Spirit people in the large sample. Compared with non-Two-Spirit people, the groups differed in several ways.

27. Puipui Malu Manatu (Protecting Memories): Building the First Longitudinal Dementia Cohort in American Samoa

Va'atusili Tofaeono, *American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition, Pago Pago, American Samoa*

The Puipui Malu Manatu (Protecting Memories) study is the first large project in American Samoa to learn about memory loss and brain health in older adults. The study worked with families, villages, churches, and local health workers to make sure the research fit Samoan culture and values. What we learned can help other Indigenous communities create their own programs to support healthy aging and protect memories.

11:40am – 12:00pm Closing Remarks & Presentation of Trainee Paper/Poster Awards

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Jennifer Walker, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada

Pamela Roach, University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada

12:00pm – 12:20pm Closing Protocol (Oli)

Kona Moku Ballroom Salon B/C

Oli are Hawaiian chants that once served as the primary method of recording and memorizing oral history, tradition, genealogies, prayers, and more, prior to the introduction of written language in Hawai'i. Oli have persisted through time and great change, and although their role in the recording of history has diminished, they remain an essential part of Hawaiian culture and identity. Oli serve different purposes depending on the circumstances in which they are used. They tell us who someone is, where they come from, and whom they represent. They call upon the winds that blow and the rains that fall upon their beloved homelands. Regardless of context, oli represent a higher form of communication—one that fuses ancestral, spiritual, and cultural elements, and instills sanctity and ceremony in the hearts and minds of both the chanter and the listener. We invite you to enter this sacred space and allow our connection to form with openness, reverence, and aloha.

12:20pm – 1:40pm Farewell Lunch

Waikiki Ballroom

(provided)

Poster Presentations

1. **A Community Empowered Approach to Telehealth Dementia Care in an Indigenous Community in the United States**

Kala Cornelius, William S Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison, USA

The American Indigenous population is disproportionately impacted by dementia. This partnership between a Tribal Nation, a Veterans hospital, and a large university seeks to improve memory care in rural Indigenous communities using telehealth. This work will provide a roadmap for additional Tribal Nations to build similar programs in their communities.

2. **Relationships First: Community Engagement in Indigenous Brain Health Research**

Kara-Lyn Harrison, Maamwesying North Shore Community Health Services, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada

Many tools used to assess dementia and brain health are grounded in Western medical perspectives and may not reflect how Indigenous communities understand aging, memory, and wellness. During the first year of this six year project, the research team at Maamwesying North Shore Community Health Services focused on building relationships with the First Nations communities they serve. These relationships provide a foundation for the next phase of the project, creating a safe and welcoming space where community members can share their perspectives on brain health, memory, and wellness. Communities will play an active role in defining what brain health means to them and co-designing culturally safe assessments that reflect their knowledge, values and priorities, and lived experiences.

3. **Sustaining Community Engagement in Multi-Year Projects with Indigenous Communities Across Canada: A Scoping Review Protocol**

Brittany Skov, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Canada

Kara-Lyn Harrison, Maamwesying Northshore Community Health Services, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada

Kayla Kubinec, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Canada

This scoping review will examine existing published research to better understand how researchers can respectfully and meaningfully maintain engagement with Indigenous communities throughout long-term research projects. The review will identify practical strategies for sustaining relationships with community leaders and members over time. Findings will help support more respectful, reciprocal, and community-centered research practices with Indigenous communities.

4. **Pathways to community engagement in regional and multi-site dementia research with First Nation communities in Northwestern Ontario, Canada**

Brittany Skov, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Canada

Kayla Kubinec, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Canada

Katlynn Gustafson, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, Thunder Bay, Canada

This presentation explores ways of building and maintaining meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities across a large region in Northwestern Ontario as part of dementia and brain health research. Working alongside Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, the team developed community-based activities and engagement approaches that helped ensure the research remains relevant and responsive to community priorities over time. This work offers practical ideas for how long-term research with Indigenous communities can be carried out in respectful and relationship-centered ways.

5. **Coalition Building Across Distance: Establishing a Community Advisory Board for Dementia Support from 5,000 Miles Away**

Marika Humber, *Department of Veterans Affairs, Palo Alto, USA*

Our team at the Palo Alto VA is evaluating the virtual dementia care services the VA provides to Veterans in Guam. We worked to assemble a community advisory board made up of caregivers of people with dementia and people who work at dementia support programs. We describe the barriers we encountered conducting outreach to people 5,000 miles away, as well as factors that facilitated outreach and enabled us to recruit board members. This work was funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, Office of Rural Health, NOMAD PROJFY-010218; PROJFY-010925. The contents do not represent the views of Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States government.

6. **Pōmai and Her Papa: An Animated Story About Dementia**

Kalilinoe Detwiler, *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, USA*

Jena Funakoshi, *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, USA*

Shelley Muneoka, *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, USA*

Pōmai and Her Papa is an animated video resource teaching Hawai'i youth about dementia. Pōmai is worried as she sees Papa is beginning to show signs of dementia-related aging, so Pōmai's family and broader community come together in support and care for one another. This presentation reflects on the process of adapting the original storybook and the strengths of animation for sharing research and information.

7. **Enhancing food sovereignty and promoting healthy aging for Indigenous older adults through culturally responsive food programming in long-term care homes**

Anik Obomsawin, *Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, Canada*

This study explores how long-term care homes can better support Indigenous food sovereignty, meaning the ability of Indigenous communities to access and control their traditional foods and food practices. Sharing circles with Elders, food leaders, and Chief and Council in Millbrook First Nation highlighted how community leaders envision food sovereignty being upheld in long-term care, as well as the institutional and systemic barriers that limit its realization. The findings highlight the need for long-term care to move beyond basic nutrition and support culturally meaningful, relational, and self-determined food practices in later life.

8. **Exploring the Ethical Space Between Haudenosaunee and Western Biomedical Knowledge to Inform Culturally Safe Dementia Care in Six Nations**

Maya Lalji, *McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada*

This research explores cultural understandings of dementia from Six Nations, and how these can be bridged together with Western biomedical understandings of dementia to improve culturally safe care. Cultural safety is an approach that involves addressing and transforming power dynamics in health systems that often privilege biomedical understandings of health as superior and disregard cultural understandings of health. The research was conducted in collaboration with a research team from Six Nations led by Jacqui Powless and Lori Davis Hill and is part of a larger nation-wide "Bundle" project that is seeking to develop culturally relevant dementia assessment tools for Indigenous groups.

9. **Defining Success and Effectiveness in Community Advisory Boards: Insights from Community Members and Research Staff**

Alexis Nelson, *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA*

Tracy Smith, *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA*

Terry Hetzel, *Oneida CAB, Oneida, USA*

This study examines how community members and research staff define what makes a Community Advisory Board (CAB) successful, drawing on the experience of a partnership between University of Wisconsin-Madison and Oneida Nation. By gathering feedback and firsthand experience through interviews, surveys, and CAB related documents, we will identify key factors that contribute to a successful collaboration over time. The findings will help guide other communities and researchers in developing and maintaining stronger partnerships of their own.

10. Medicine Wheel: The Circle of Life

Iris Walking Eagle, Spirit Lake Senior Services, Fort Totten, USA

Shaylynn DeMarrias, Spirit Lake Senior Services, Fort Totten, USA

Loretta Heuer, North Dakota State University, Fargo, USA

This presentation was developed to enhance community awareness of dementia. It outlines the Dakota Medicine Wheel to help understand different aspects of dementia. It has been successful on Spirit Lake Nation.

11. Sex-Specific Pathways to Cognitive Health Among Indigenous Amazonian Older Adults: A Structural Equation Modeling Analysis

Arantxa Sanchez Boluarte, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru

This study explored how social and lifestyle factors affect memory and thinking skills in older adults from the Shawi communities of the Peruvian Amazon. We found that the pathways to healthy brain aging look very different for men and women; for example, formal education and daily physical abilities strongly protected memory in men, but the picture was more complicated for women. Understanding these unique, gender-specific patterns is essential for creating better, culturally appropriate programs to support brain health in indigenous communities.

12. Advancing Inclusive Health Research with Indigenous Populations: Findings from a Systematic Literature Review

Amanda Boyd, Washington State University, Pullman, USA

This systematic literature review examined studies about Indigenous participation in health research in the United States and Canada. Findings showed that Indigenous communities are more likely to participate in research when studies are trustworthy, culturally respectful, relevant to community needs, and provide clear benefits to the population. The results provide guidance for researchers seeking to build stronger partnerships and develop more inclusive and equitable health research practices.

Late-Breaking Poster Presentations:

13. Centering Indigenous voices to transform public health research practice: A cross-study qualitative synthesis

Amanda Boyd, Washington State University, Pullman, USA

We brought together what American Indian and Alaska Native community members, clinical trial participants, and people who recruit research participants said about how health research should be conducted. They emphasized lasting relationships, shared decision-making, transparency about how data and biological samples will be used, benefits for communities, and sharing research findings back with communities.

14. Black American Perspectives on Cultural Safety in Research: Physical, Emotional, and Interpersonal Safety

Hector Salazar, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, USA

This study examines how the Māori Indigenous concept of Cultural Safety can be used to help increase participation of Black Americans in Alzheimer's Disease research studies. However, before we can do that, we must identify what Cultural Safety means to Black Americans in order to create a plan forward.

15. Reimagining Dementia Prevention Through Lā'au Lapa'au: A Kānaka 'Ōiwi Framework for Brain Health

Makoa Miura, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, USA

Alzheimer's disease disproportionately affects Kānaka 'Ōiwi kūpuna, yet prevention efforts rarely reflect Indigenous understandings of health and wellbeing. This review explores how lā'au lapa'au may be incorporated into dementia prevention by combining emerging biomedical evidence with Kānaka 'Ōiwi knowledge and community-centered approaches to wellness. Implementing culturally grounded prevention strategies may strengthen brain health while supporting cultural continuity and community resilience.

16. Strengthening Retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Participants Through Community Partnership: Early Lessons from the CARE NHPI Working Group

Va'atausili Tofaeono, American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities have often been understudied in Alzheimer's disease research, making it difficult to ensure that research benefits everyone. This project describes how the CARE NHPI Working Group uses trusted community partnerships and culturally responsive approaches to improve participant recruitment and long-term engagement in research. Early findings suggest this community-led approach is helping strengthen participation, and additional results on its effectiveness will be presented at the conference.

17. Addressing Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Needs in Indigenous Populations: The Indigenous Behavioral and Cognitive Symptoms (IBACS) Checklists Project

Melissa Blind, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA

Sheamus Cavanaugh, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, USA

Indigenous populations have some of the highest rates of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). Valid, culturally safe tools for assessing the earliest stages of dementia—mild behavioral impairment (MBI) and subjective cognitive decline (SCD)—will be critical for timely detection of early stages of ADRD in these communities. In collaboration with six Indigenous research partners in North America, this project will adapt, pilot, and validate two tools assessing symptoms of MBI and SCD to create the IBACS Checklists. The resulting adapted tools will empower Indigenous populations with data and resources that facilitate early diagnosis, preventative interventions, and family education.

NOTES



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The vision for this conference has been years in the making. We began as a small group of Canadian researchers in 2010 and progressed to a group of international researchers in 2012. Meeting informally for many years, we are now proud to be able to expand our mission and host this annual conference. There are many people who have contributed over the years to the success of the International Indigenous Dementia Research Network. We would like to acknowledge those who have since stepped down from their executive roles: Drs. Leon Flicker, Dina LoGiudice, Wayne Warry, and Wendy Hulko. We are so grateful for their previous and ongoing support! Our conference this year would not be possible without the many generous donations we have received and the hard work of the Executive and Planning Committees. Please join us in thanking the following individuals:

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2. Kristen Jacklin (IIDRN Co-Chair)
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15. Va‘atausili Tofaeono
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The 2027 IIDRN Executive and Planning Committees look forward to seeing you in Hawai'i for the 2027 International Indigenous Dementia Research Network (IIDRN) Annual Conference.

Save the date: **October 18-21, 2027**



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