



December 9, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

The *National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC)* currently has vacancies for membership. I would like to solicit your recommendation for nominations to serve on this committee for the areas that have an open seat.

The NIH TAC was established in 2015 to provide a venue wherein tribal representatives and NIH staff can exchange information about NIH research policies and program priorities. As an advisory committee, the NIH TAC provides recommendations on the development of relevant NIH policies, programs, and priorities. The NIH TAC's tribal representation is comprised of seventeen positions: one delegate (and one alternate) from each of the twelve Indian Health Service (IHS) areas and one delegate (and one alternate) for five National At-Large Member positions.

We will be concluding the third year of staggered terms for our membership and have several vacancies to fill. **Vacancies open for nomination and their term end dates include:**

- Albuquerque Area (Delegate and Alternate); term ending December 2022.
- Billings Area (Delegate and Alternate); term ending December 2022.
- California Area (Alternate); term ending December 2022.
- Navajo Area (Delegate and Alternate); term ending December 2022.
- Oklahoma Area (Delegate and Alternate); term ending December 2022.
- National At-Large Members (four Delegates; terms ending December 2022) and (four Alternates; two terms ending December 2021 and three terms ending December 2022).

Each area representative must be an elected official or a tribal employee who is designated to act on behalf of a tribal leader and is qualified to represent the views of the Indian Tribes in the area for which he/she is being nominated. Each National At-Large representative must be an elected official or designated representative who is qualified to represent the views of tribes from a national collective perspective (for example, views of groups such as the National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Health Board, Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee, National Indian Child Welfare Association, National Indian Head Start Directors Association, or National Tribal Environmental Council).

Please submit nomination letters on tribal letterhead signed by tribal leaders and include contact information for the nominee and nominating tribal leader, along with a resume/CV and a letter of

intent from the nominee. Nomination packages should be submitted no later than **January 15, 2021** to:

David R. Wilson, Ph.D.
Director, Tribal Health Research Office
Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives
Office of the Director, NIH
Building 1, Room 260
1 Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892
Email: NIHTribalCommittee@od.nih.gov

Nominations will be considered for selection in the priority order listed below:

1. Tribal President/Chairperson/Governor
2. Tribal Vice-President/Vice-Chairperson/Lt. Governor
3. Elected or Appointed Tribal Official
4. Designated Tribal Official

In the event there is more than one nomination for a specific area, letters of support from regional tribal organizations will be taken into consideration when selecting the primary and alternate delegates.

We plan to notify those that are selected to serve as members on the NIH TAC in early February 2021. Monthly conference calls are scheduled to begin in late February. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings are on hold until further notice. Once in-person meetings resume, NIH will support the travel of these representatives and their technical advisors to attend two in-person meetings per year. Detailed information about the NIH TAC can be found at <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/thro>.

NIH is committed to continuing its efforts to improve relations with tribal nations and use the power of science to support healthier communities. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dr. David Wilson at Dave.Wilson2@nih.gov or by phone at 301.594.0717.

Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Tara A. Schwetz, Ph.D.
Associate Deputy Director