

ETHICS: Ethics Training for Health in Indigenous Communities Study

Abstract

Using a multi-level national CEnR approach, ETHICS bring together AIAN community members, policy makers, AIAN researchers and allies as well as IRB administrators to address ethical challenges in conducting AIAN-based research. ETHICS will adapt and validate the human subject research training (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative -CITI) to enrich informed community involvement in research oversight and engagement. Its significance lies in its potential to increase AIAN participation in federally-funded research through culturally adapted online research ethics training and by doing so enhance the responsible conduct of research in Indian Country. We anticipate that the results of the proposed research will have high impact by contributing to the development of community research capacity among AIANs across the U.S. and more effectively highlighting strengths and protective factors while reducing health disparities affecting AIAN populations.

The overarching goal of the proposed research is to strengthen research capacity and increase AIAN community involvement in NIH-funded research by developing and psychometrically validating a CITI module that is relevant, passable and accessible. This project aims to: **1.** Identify language, formatting and research examples in the current CITI “student in research” training module that require cultural adaptation for AIAN community researchers. Aim 1 will be achieved through an iterative process that draws on the expertise of AIAN community leaders, researchers, policy analysts, and ethicists with a wide range of experience in AIAN research. **2.** Develop and psychometrically validate a CITI research ethics curriculum that will increase AIAN community members’ involvement in research through increased research ethics knowledge, research efficacy, and trust. Aim 2 will be achieved through preliminary beta testing and a subsequent large scale two-arm randomized control trial among a national sample of AIAN potential research collaborators testing regional tribal differences and national Indian Country generalizability. **3.** Translate the findings into policy and practice guidelines, which will be achieved by disseminating the training for immediate use through the CITI, National Congress of American Indians, and American Indian Higher Education Consortium.

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