

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



NOVEMBER 2020

This special edition e-Newsletter celebrates Native American Heritage Month by highlighting several Minority Fellowship Program at the American Nurses Association alumni of Native American Indian descent.



Barbara K. Charbonneau-Dahlen
PhD, RN

Dr. Barbara K. Charbonneau-Dahlen is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. Though she was born, and spent her early childhood in Olga, North Dakota, she received her elementary and secondary education far, far from home, at a mission boarding school in South Dakota. As a young adult, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Nursing and was recruited by the University of North Dakota (UND) to develop the innovative Recruitment and Retention of American Indians into

Nursing (RAIN) Program. During this time, her heart became heavily burdened over the self-destructive behaviors of some of the American Indian nursing students, particularly those whose parents had been traumatized by boarding school experiences. In 1994, she became one of the first three American Indians to graduate with a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the UND. While working on her master's degree thesis, which focused on the role of hope in the retention of American Indians into Nursing, she developed the Dream Catcher-Medicine Wheel, a culturally relevant research method for use among American Plains Indians. This innovative method evolved into one of the distinguishing features of her research into historical trauma among boarding school survivors. She went on to earn a doctorate from Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing at Boca Raton—an accomplishment that distinguished her as the 15th American Indian in the US to earn a PhD in Nursing. For more than 30 years, Dr. Charbonneau-Dahlen has committed her life to active involvement in increasing public awareness of the suffering endured by mission boarding school survivors during their formative childhood years and the ongoing effects of that trauma reaching across generations. She has conducted professional and lay presentations regarding this issue to bring awareness to the public and has been featured in the legislature and news media of South Dakota for her efforts to revise laws barring boarding school victims of abuse from seeking social justice. Dr. Charbonneau-Dahlen is currently a tenured associate professor of Nursing at Minnesota State University Mankato where she continues her research while influencing a cadre of young professionals in the Dakotas who will carry on the work of eliminating health disparities among Indian populations. A sampling of her published work is found below:

Charbonneau-Dahlen,

B. K., Lowe, J., & Morris, S. L. (2016). Giving voice to historical trauma through storytelling: The impact of boarding experience on American Indians. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 25(6), 598-617.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2016.1157843>

Charbonneau-Dahlen, B. K. (2020). Symbiotic allegory as innovative Indigenous research methodology. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 43(1), E25-E35. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ANS.0000000000000257>



Eugenia Millender

PhD., RN, PMHNP-BC, CDE

founding director of the FAU Christine E. Lynn Community Health Center located in West Palm Beach, Florida. This innovative community-based practice provides integrated care for underserved and uninsured populations. At Florida State University she was an inaugural member of the Center for Indigenous Nursing Research for Health Equity with founding Director Dr. John Lowe. Dr. Millender is now the co-founder and associate director for the FSU Center for Population Sciences and Health Equity (C-PSHE). The mission of the C-PSHE is to implement community-engaged, scientific, operational research and practice using principles and tools of population sciences that promote health equity among marginalized, underserved vulnerable populations nationally and internationally. For over 20 years, Dr. Millender has worked with community partners to identify meaningful interprofessional collaboration opportunities to decrease

Dr. Eugenia Millender is an Associate Professor at Florida State University (FSU) College of Nursing. Dr. Millender is a Guna Tribe Member. As an indigenous Afro-Latina from the Republic of Panama who came to the United States at the age of 12, Dr. Millender's career has been dedicated to increasing access to community-based mental health and integrated care embedded in evidence-based and cultural humility practices. While at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), she was the

mental and physical health disparities. She understands that to change the status quo, nurses must have a seat at the table. Dr. Millender is currently serving on several national Boards of Directors including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Minority Fellowship Program at the American Nurses Association (MFP/ANA) and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA). She is also a member of the Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice and is an invited international guest editor for *Contemporary Nurse*, a journal focused on ensuring cultural safety in nursing and midwifery education and practice for Indigenous peoples. Dr. Millender's program of research investigates how social-cultural and economic factors over a life span increase stress, depression, and trauma impacting genetic expression that can result in cardiovascular disease. She is currently funded by the Indigenous HIV/AIDS Research Training (IHART2) Fellowship program (R25MHO84565), Native Center for Alcohol Research and Education (P60AA026112), and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute loan repayment program.



John Lowe
PhD, RN, FAAN

Dr. John Lowe is Professor and Joseph Blades Centennial Memorial Professorship Chair at the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing. He was the founding director of the Center for Indigenous Nursing Research for Health Equity (INRHE) at Florida State University College of Nursing, the first Center of its kind worldwide. He is a Cherokee Native American tribal member and has Creek and Lenape Native American tribal heritages. Dr. Lowe currently serves as a member of the Advisory Council to the National Institutes of Nursing Research (NINR). Dr. Lowe co-authored with Dr. Roxanne Struthers (Ojibwe) the Conceptual Framework 4

for Nursing in Native American Culture. He developed and studies interventions for the prevention and reduction of substance use, mental health disorders, and other risk behaviors among Native American and Indigenous youth and young adults globally. These studies and other health programs are guided by models that Dr. Lowe developed, which include the Cherokee Self-Reliance, Native Self-Reliance, and Native-Reliance Models. Dr. Lowe also developed the first manualized Talking Circle intervention to reduce substance use, mental health disorders, and other risk behaviors among Native American and Indigenous youth and young adults globally including Canada and Australia. He is currently the Principal Investigator of several National Institutes of Health funded research projects that study the effectiveness of these interventions. The Talking Circle intervention has been noted by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Programs as an Evidence-Based Program for the well-being of youth and is featured as one of the American Academy of Nursing's "Edge Runners." The Edge Runner award is given to nurses who have designed models of care and interventions that impact cost, improve healthcare quality, and enhance consumer satisfaction, and are innovators leading the way in providing new methods to eradicate a wide range of healthcare challenges. Dr. Lowe's work also has been acknowledged through numerous other awards such as the American Nurses Association Luther Christman Award, Florida Nurses Association Cultural Diversity Award, Great 100 Centennial Research Award, Nursing Educator of the Year Award, Nurse of the Year Award, Lifetime Achievement In Education & Research Award, and the Researcher of the Year at the Professor Rank Award. Dr. Lowe has presented nationally and internationally and has published numerous articles and books. He was the first Native American male to be inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Lowe is an alumnus of the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) at the American Nurses Association (ANA) and has served as the Chair of the National Advisory Council of the MFP/ANA.



Cynthia Taylor Greywolf
PhD, RN, DNP, PMHNP-BC, APRN

Dr. Cynthia Taylor Greywolf is currently employed at Southwest Care in Santa Fe, NM. She was born and raised in the high desert of northeastern New Mexico and the Boston Mountains of southeastern Oklahoma. She spent her formative years growing up as a member of the Cherokee Nation in rural Oklahoma where she developed a keen interest, love, and appreciation for cultural diversity. Dr. Greywolf completed her PhD in March 2020 at the

University of Hawaii Mānoa, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, in Honolulu, HI, where she won the Dean's award for moving science forward in her field of study. Her dissertation, "Exploring a Shared History of Colonization, Historical Trauma and Links to Alcohol Use with Native Hawaiians Living in Rural Hawaii in the 21st Century," focused on substance use treatment and prevention in underserved Pacific Islander populations in Hawaii. Her committee chair, John Casken, PhD, RN, MPH, stated that "Dr. Greywolf's defense was one of the best dissertation defenses he had heard since being on faculty." Dr. Greywolf has extensive advance practice nursing experience. She has served as the attending practitioner on a busy inpatient psychiatric unit in Boston, MA, where she provided mental health and substance abuse treatment to underserved ethnically diverse older adults. She has provided psychiatric and substance use direct care in homeless shelters and led teams of health professionals in community settings in the treatment, prevention, and recovery from mental health and substance abuse disorders. Dr. Greywolf has provided education to include the best evidence-based interventions to support recovery to varied medical teams on health disparities experienced by underserved minorities suffering from addiction to alcohol, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin. She is currently applying for a

post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Texas Austin.



Beverly Patchell
PhD, APRN, CNS, PMH-BC

Dr. Beverly Patchell is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, born and raised in the Cherokee Nation capital of Tahlequah, OK. Her family survived the Trail of Tears, Oklahoma settlement and land allotment, boarding schools, and the termination policies of the United States government and the State of Oklahoma. She has been reared in the traditional ways of Cherokee storytelling, ceremonies, and medicine. Through her work with

tribes from across the continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii, she has learned the ways of many tribal traditions from these diverse groups. In the mainstream culture, Dr. Patchell received her bachelor's and Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma. She has been a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing for 20 years and has certifications in the Psychiatric and Mental Health care of Children and Adolescents and in Nursing Administration, credentialed, through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Dr. Patchell is a Past President of the National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association (NANAINA) and received her PhD from the New Mexico State University School of Nursing with a focus on Health Disparities and Border Issues with vulnerable populations. Her research area of interest is in how cultural history, education, and belief systems interact and affect identity formation in American Indian children and youth and influence illness and disease.



Donna Grandbois
PhD, RN

Dr. Grandbois is an Associate Professor at North Dakota State University, College of Nursing, and the Department of Public Health. Dr. Grandbois graduated with her PhD in gerontology and counseling from North Dakota State University. She defended her dissertation entitled “An Exploratory Study of Resilience in the Lived Experience of Native American Elders”. Dr. Grandbois received a Master of Science degree in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing

and has taught both mental health theory and served as a psychiatric clinical instructor at University of North Dakota since 2001. She has been an outspoken advocate for minority people who must not only confront mental illness, but the stigma that is so prevalent in these close, usually rural communities. Dr. Grandbois was asked to be one of three American Indian Alaska Native presenters for a free teleconference training sponsored by the ADS Center at the SAMHSA Resource Center to Address Discrimination and Stigma Associated with Mental Illness. Her Power Point presentation was titled “Overcoming Barriers and the Stigma Associated with Mental Illness in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities.” She is the author of two published papers both discussing stigma and mental illness. They are “Stigma of Mental Illness among American Indian and Alaska Native Nations: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives” (2005) and “Perspectives on Suicide Prevention among American Indians and Alaska Native Children and Adolescents: A Call for Help” (2005). Dr. Grandbois was a panelist at the National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association (NANAINA) Conference in Washington, DC, and was a presenter at the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Brownbag Lecture on The Concept of Mental Illness and Stigma among American

Indian Communities. Dr. Grandbois was the co-investigator and tribal liaison on a three phase, four-reservation research project that sought to define health and illness among American Indians experiencing severe and persistent mental illness. It was in this capacity that Dr. Grandbois became acutely aware of the often insurmountable barrier that stigma can present for the American Indian client. Dr. Grandbois is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Belcourt, ND.



Gary Lawrence
PhD, RN, NREMT-P

Dr. Gary Lawrence is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. His family moved from Oklahoma to California during the “Grapes of Wrath” period and he was born and raised in a non-traditional home knowing only that he “had some Indian blood in him.” His indoctrination to being Native began when he met his wife’s father who was very traditional and took Lawrence under his wing and taught him about the culture, practices, the history and other significant

landmarks to being Choctaw and Native. Dr. Lawrence continued his education today in his effort to become a Native Scholar. Dr. Lawrence has 24 years of hospital and pre-hospital healthcare experience and has worked within the ten-and-one-half borders of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for the entirety of this time. For the last sixteen years he has worked for the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority. He has served the Choctaw people in a variety of roles including as a Paramedic, LPN, Educator, and currently as the Chief Nursing Officer (DON). Dr. Lawrence obtained his LPN and EMS training from the Kiamichi Technology Center in Wilburton, OK. He earned his Associate Degrees in Nursing, Allied Health and

Psychology/Sociology from Carl Albert State College, his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northeastern State University and his Master of Science was obtained from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Lawrence graduated in 2012 with his PhD in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma School of Nursing. His primary research focus was on conducting culturally relevant research and identifying interventions aimed at reducing disparities in Choctaw mental health patients managing comorbid diabetes.



Kathryn Aimee Fuller
PhD, RN, MS, PHN, FNP-BC

Dr. Fuller is a family nurse practitioner in Point Loma, California. Dr. Fuller has worked with migrant Hispanic families in public health and with several Native American tribes in the San Diego area. Her area of interest in research is improving Native American health outcomes. Dr. Fuller completed her PhD in 2011 from the University of San Diego Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science. She successfully defended her dissertation entitled “A Retrospective Study of Substance Use

and Mental Health Disorders in a Sample of Urban American Indian and Alaska Natives.” Dr. Fuller earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California. In 1999, she earned her master’s degree in Community Health Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, Illinois. During her master’s program her research focus was measuring depression in elderly Native Americans. Upon receiving her certification as a family nurse practitioner, she worked as the Community Health Director and Assistant Medical Director at Southern Indian Health Council (SIHC) in San Diego, California. Additionally, she also provided medical care and

health education for adolescents in treatment at the Youth Regional Treatment Center (YRTC) on the La Posta Indian reservation. Dr. Fuller has had a special interest in diabetes care of Native Americans. She wrote and managed the Indian Health Service "Special Diabetes Grant" for the Kumeyaay tribe. She worked with the medical facility at SIHC to spearhead the first diabetes care clinic in 2002. She collaborated with "Take Control of Your Diabetes" and assisted in the development of the first Native American diabetes conference held on the Barona Indian reservation. There were over two hundred Native Americans in attendance from various tribes. In 2000, Dr. Fuller was awarded "Excellence in Clinical Practice," from the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau in Chicago, Illinois. In 2002, she received the Council of Community Clinic's award, "Community Health Hero", for her work in diabetes care at SIHC. Dr. Fuller and her two daughters are members of the Delaware tribe of Northeastern Oklahoma.



Minority Fellowship Program
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