

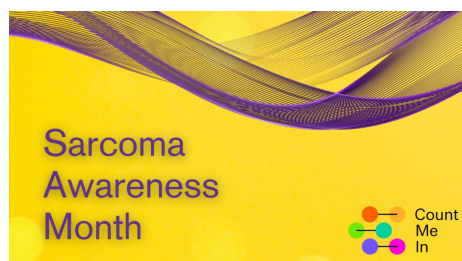
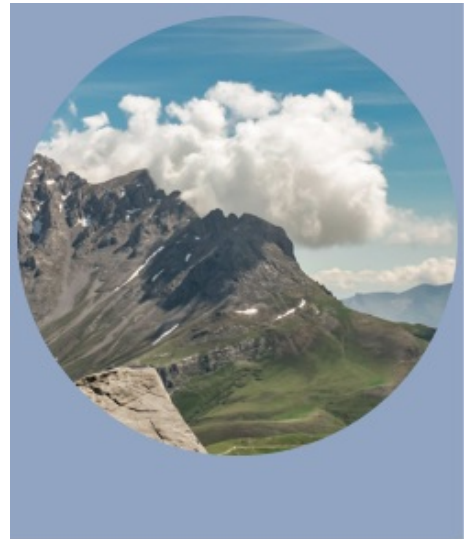
## Network News

### Research Center Spotlight: Engagement of American Indians of Southwestern Tribal Nations in Cancer Genome Sequencing

The NCI PE-CGS Center, Engagement of American Indians of Southwestern Tribal Nations in Cancer Genome Sequencing is dedicated to discovering the unique spectrum of germline and somatic mutations in cancers affecting underserved and understudied indigenous American Indians from the American Southwest (primarily Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache) and using this knowledge to overcome the tremendous cancer health disparities observed in these tribal communities.

Named the **JUNIPER** (Journey to **U**nderstanding - Indigenous **P**eoples **E**ngagement in Cancer **R**esearch) project, after the powerful indigenous healing plant, this PE-CGS Center is led by the University of New Mexico and Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Centers, the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), and the Black Hills Center for American Indian Health. Guided by a Tribal Advisory Committee, the center's Indigenous staff, and highly acculturated physicians and research teams are performing clinical grade germline and somatic genomic sequencing, returning clinically relevant results in real-time to consented participants and their healthcare providers, and assuring that participants are navigated to state-of-the-art cancer treatment and clinical trials and interventions. Working collaboratively with Tribal Councils and Indigenous cancer patients and advocates, the center has developed one of the nation's first frameworks for ethical genomic research with sovereign Tribal nations, addressing concerns over ethical research conduct, biospecimen sensitivities, and data privacy and sharing.

To date, 116 cancer participants have consented, with sequencing completed for 78 patients. The PE-CGS JUNIPER project integrates an Indigenous art and an Indigenous worldview into our work (termed Indigenous Ways of Knowing (IWK) and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)) which sees and cares for the whole person (physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual) as interconnected to land and in relationship to others (family, communities, nations).



### Count Me In - Sarcoma Awareness Month

Count Me In is honoring Sarcoma Awareness Month this July by sharing powerful project participant testimonials and raising awareness for their rare Osteosarcoma and Leiomyosarcoma direct-to-patient cancer research projects. Learn more by finding them on social media and at [OSProject.org](https://OSProject.org) and [LMSProject.org](https://LMSProject.org).

### Join us for the July 18 All Hands Meeting

All Network members are invited to join the All Hands Meeting **today at 3 pm ET** to learn about

the development and validation of the Research Engagement Survey Tool (REST), used in examining the level of partner engagement in research. [Use this Zoom link to join](#). The presenters will be Dr. Melody S. Goodman, Senior Executive Vice Dean of the School of Global Public Health, and Professor of Biostatistics, New York University, and Dr. Vetta Sanders Thompson, Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Washington University in St. Louis.



## Ways to Collaborate

### Subcommittee Updates

We invite all members of the PE-CGS Network to consider joining our scientific subcommittees; please discuss this opportunity with your team and contact the Coordinating Center to be added: [pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu).

- **Health Equity (7/9):** The subcommittee met and members from the Research Centers' Genomic Characterization Units gave informative presentations about their somatic analyses and approaches to genetic ancestry. This led to the identification of several topics relevant to future discussions and possible future activities for the subcommittee.
- **Participant Engagement:** The subcommittee did not meet this month.
- **Return of Results: (7/10)** The subcommittee met and discussed potential new manuscripts once the ongoing two manuscripts on returning somatic results and integrative reporting are completed. The subcommittee also discussed expanding the online FAQs on the PE-CGS website to include commonly asked questions from study participants about genetics and genomics.

## Ways to Communicate

### PE-CGS Publication and Conference Tracker

The Network has a [tracker](#) to document the status of PE-CGS-related publications from idea stage to completion. The tracker also provides option for you to request assistance from the Coordinating Center in finding collaborators. Please share information in the Tracker about your center's work you plan to publish.

We also have a dedicated [Conference tracker](#) to monitor the progress of PE-CGS-related abstract submissions for scientific meetings and conferences. Please update this Tracker with information about abstracts you plan to submit or have already submitted to conferences.

To request access, please enter your email address in the Tracker and notify the Coordinating Center by sending an email to [pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu).

## Upcoming Events

### Save the date for the 2024 PE-CGS Annual Meeting

The 2024 PE-CGS Annual Meeting will be held at the Eric P. Newman Education Center, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri from **Tuesday, October 8th at 8 am CT to Wednesday, October 9th at 4 pm CT**. We hope many people can attend in person, but a hybrid option will also be available. Please visit this [link](#) to see travel information and check back for additional meeting details as they are available. Meeting registration details will be shared soon. If you have any questions about the Annual Meeting, please contact the PE-CGS Coordinating Center at [pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu).

### Upcoming PE-CGS Network Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting
7/19	12 pm ET	Annual Meeting Planning
7/23	3 pm ET	Communications
7/25	3 pm ET	Network Managers
8/1	3 pm ET	Steering Committee
8/6	11 am ET	Health Equity
8/7	1 pm ET	Return of Results
8/8	1 pm ET	Participant Engagement

## Funding and Opportunities

### AIM-AHEAD Research and Fellowship opportunities in AI/ML and Health Equity

The Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity (AIM-AHEAD) program seeks to increase the participation and engagement of the researchers and communities currently underrepresented in AI/ML modeling and applications through mutually beneficial partnerships. The Program launched several open funding and fellowship opportunities at the intersections of AI/ML and health disparities. Find application deadlines for these opportunities on the [website](#).

### JNCI Cancer Spectrum Call for Papers on Social Determinants of Health

The Journal of the National Cancer Institute (JNCI) Cancer Spectrum invites [submissions](#) investigating how social determinants of health impact cancer care and outcomes. They are particularly encouraging studies that involve clinical trials or prospective data collection, or provide novel insights that go beyond the identification of disparity but instead describe potential actions and interventions that will improve health outcomes for cancer patients. The deadline for submission is **August 1, 2024**.

### Multi-Sectoral Preventive Interventions Research Network to Address Social Determinants of Health in Populations that Experience Health Disparities

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) and participating Institutes, Centers, and Offices are seeking applications for a new collaborative research network -- [UG3/UH3 research projects](#) and a [U24 Coordinating Center](#) -- to test multi-sectoral preventive interventions for health conditions in populations that experience health disparities. Applications are due **August 5**.

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#### PE-CGS SHORT READS submissions

Have news to share with the PE-CGS Network community?  
For consideration, send your news to [pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu).

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