

KEEPERS QUARTERLY

Official Newsletter of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team



Purpose of our MKMDT Newsletter

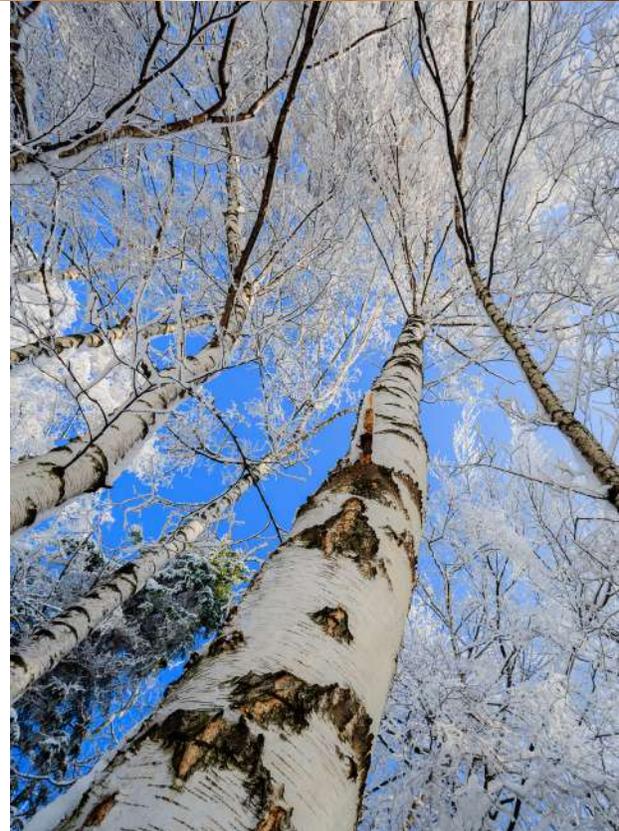
- Celebrate team members
- Highlight accomplishments
- Announcements & Updates
- Give motivation
- Provide support

INTRODUCING THE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the very first newsletter for Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team! We are very excited to launch our newsletter and each additional issue on a quarterly basis (Fall, Winter, Spring & Summer). We want to make sure we are hearing our partners, communities and organizations to better connect as a team and keep everyone informed with collective information such as new team members, future events, new publications/resources, and any accomplishments and celebrations.

We really appreciate your attention, and we invite you to leave comments, suggestions or submissions for the next issue by emailing Brooke Lees, Communications Specialist at leesx025@umn.edu.

It's easy to subscribe via the contact page in this newsletter and every Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team Newsletter email!



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. KRISTEN JACKLIN

Greetings and welcome to 2022! I am excited to see the launch of the Keepers Quarterly newsletter and want to congratulate the team on a job well done. I have been honored to have been leading the Memory Keepers MDT since June 2021. The past year was one of many transitions for our team.



We had a significant transition in leadership with my appointment to Executive Director and the appointment of Dr. Jordan Lewis to Associate Director; and we transitioned from 18 months of remote work to working back onsite at our lovely facility on 1st Street in Duluth. We completed renovations to the lower level of our building and opened an additional 8000 square feet of research space. We welcomed new staff and said goodbye to others. We have an excellent team of faculty and staff who have come through these challenging times together, supporting one and other and staying focused on our mission to serve rural and Indigenous people in Minnesota.

I have appreciated the dedication this team has shown over the last year. We have seen many successes, including the launch of the Centre for Community Engaged Rural Dementia and Alzheimer’s Research (CERDAR), the development of COVID resources for Indigenous elders, being awarded three research grants, and establishing an Indigenous Research Advisory Council and a Rural Research Advisory Council. In the months ahead we look forward to adding new faculty and staff to our team and expanding our collaborative partnerships within the University of Minnesota and beyond.

Kristen Jacklin
Executive Director

KEEPERS QUARTERLY is published quarterly for faculty, staff, community partners and friends of Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Kristen Jacklin
Jordan Lewis
Wayne Warry
Brooke Lees

PHOTOGRAPHY

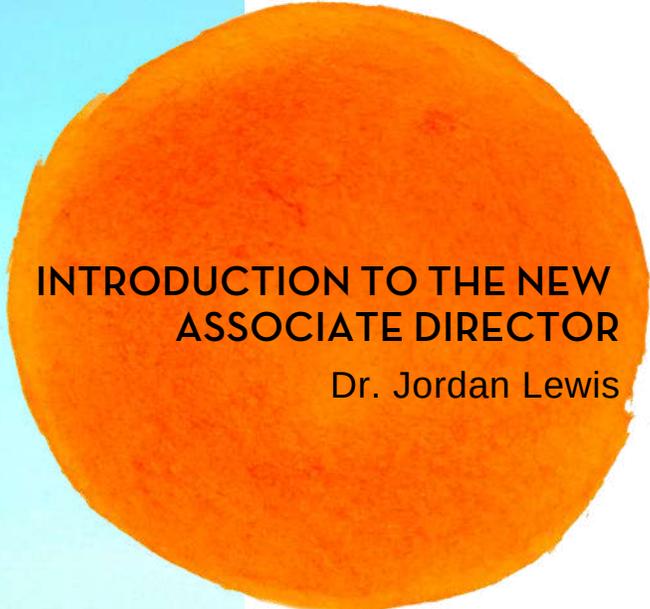
Pearson & von Elbe
Advertising
Derek Montgomery
Photography
Various

DESIGNER:

Brooke Lees

(218) 726-6801
memorykeepers@d.umn.edu
<https://memorykeepersmdt.com/>

Memory Keepers Medical
Discovery Team
624 E 1st St #201,
Duluth, MN 55805



INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Dr. Jordan Lewis



Jordan P. Lewis, Ph.D., is the Associate Director of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team and a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and BioBehavioral Health. Dr. Lewis is Aleut and moved to Minnesota from Alaska in 2020. His expertise is in Indigenous successful aging, generativity and healthy aging, and cultural constructions of Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (ADRD).

Over the past decade, Dr. Lewis's research agenda has significantly contributed to the field with community-based research discussions on culture-specific approaches in Alaska Native (AN) successful aging and ADRD among AN Elders, including the development of a model of AN successful aging, the concept of Indigenous cultural generativity, and cultural understandings and construction of ADRD among AN caregivers and providers across the State of Alaska. His research has identified Indigenous cultural generativity as a critical ingredient to healthy aging, a resilience resource, and has important implications for the wellbeing of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN), including those with ADRD, their caregivers, and family and community members. His work on Indigenous cultural generativity has important implications for the wellbeing of AIAN, including those with ADRD, their caregivers, and family and community members. His successful aging and generativity model has the potential to guide significant future research in the area of Indigenous health and dementia, with generalizability to aging theory among all marginalized groups.

Jordan Lewis
Associate Director

BUILDING EXPANSION AND RENOVATIONS

This is more than just a building. It is a place where connections are made, collaborative research is being done to improve dementia outcomes in Indigenous and rural communities and laughs are shared. We are growing and capable of so much more. Below are some pictures of our newly renovated office space, which added 8,000 square feet of space for research and collaboration.



Entrance view, remodeled lower level



Leadership from left to right: Dr. Jordan Lewis, Associate Director, Dr. Wayne Warry, Director of Rural Health Initiatives and Dr. Kristen Jacklin, Executive Director



Collaborative team science space, library and kitchen, with views of Lake Superior



Community-based participatory research training lab, remodeled lower level

NEW RESOURCES

The “Helping Indigenous communities stay connected in light of COVID-19” project worked with community partners to develop evidence-based and culturally safe and appropriate COVID-19 resources. An environmental scan of health promotion and informational materials was conducted early in the project to give a broader understanding of what health promotional materials were being developed for and with Indigenous communities internationally.

Community-specific needs were identified through key consultations with Indigenous advisors and local experts, Tribal leadership, Indigenous community researchers, and Indigenous community advisory groups. As a result of the environmental scan and the key consultations, we developed three factsheets that focus on healthy activities Indigenous people can safely do during a pandemic. These factsheets have been vetted with our Indigenous community advisory members in Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Grand Portage, and Red Lake, Minnesota.

We produced three factsheets.

1. COVID-19 Tips for Staying Healthy: Recommendations from Indigenous communities and partners in the Great Lakes area.
2. Health Activities in Light of COVID-19: Recommendations from Indigenous communities and partners in the Great Lakes area.
3. Staying Connected: Helping Indigenous Communities Stay Connected in Light of COVID-19.

*Supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health Award Number UL1TR002494 and by Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team – Health Equity.



AFFILIATE FACULTY MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Catherine A. McCarty, PhD, MPH, RD

Associate Dean of Research, Professor,
Department of Family Medicine and BioBehavioral Health



Catherine A. McCarty, PhD, MPH, RD, was born and raised in Duluth, MN. She received her B.S. and MPH degrees in nutrition from the University of Minnesota and her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh. She recently completed a master's degree in bioethics with an emphasis in clinical ethics at Clarkson University. After completing her PhD, she was the Head of the Epidemiology Research Unit in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Melbourne, Australia for eight years. During that time, she directed a population-based study of eye disease in Victoria, Australia and collaborated on similar projects in Hyderabad and Chennai, India and on Hong Kong. Dr. McCarty returned to the US in 2001 as a Senior Research Scientist at Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation where she was the Principal Investigator for the Personalized Medicine Research Project, a population-based biobank with more than 20,000 adult participants and 20 active research projects. She was the Director of the Research Division at Essentia Institute of Rural Health prior to taking up the position of Associate Dean for Research at the Medical School, Duluth campus, in February 2017. She leads community engagement efforts for a PCORI-funded research network and has active research projects in the areas of trauma, genetic epidemiology and pharmacogenetics. Dr. McCarty is a member of two clinical ethics committees at Essentia Health and teaches medical ethics.

As a Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team Affiliate Investigator, Dr. McCarty participates as a co-investigator on the Center for Community Engaged Rural Dementia and Alzheimer's Research (CERDAR) and lends her expertise to "The Dementia-Specific Epidemiological and Health Service Utilization Profiles in Rural Minnesota" project conducted in partnership with Essentia Health.



ADVISOR HIGHLIGHT

Rick Smith, M.Ed
Elder in Residence

Rick Smith received his Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1985 and his Master of Education degree in 1999 from the University of Minnesota Duluth. After working as a corrections agent and coordinator of Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program for St. Louis County, Rick joined UMD as an American Indian cultural competency trainer in 1987 to provide American Indian cultural competency training for UMD, local, state, regional, and national programs.

Rick had 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.

Mr. Smith joined Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team in July 2021 as our Elder in Residence. Mr. Smith is a teacher and knowledge keeper who provides guidance, insight, and spiritual understandings to faculty, staff, and students of the MK-MDT. He is currently providing guidance on the formation of an Indigenous Advisory Committee for MK-MDT and has been instrumental in the formation of Memory Keepers 11 member Indigenous Advisory Council.

STAFF MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Timothy J. Anderson, MA

Rural Community Engagement Specialist

Tim attended UMD and obtained a bachelor's degree in political science and later attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he received a master's degree in political science. In Milwaukee, Tim worked as a graduate research assistant and a teaching assistant.

As a research assistant, Tim worked on program evaluation for numerous organizations, including the Milwaukee Continuum of Care and Milwaukee Public Schools. He has worked in the clinical trials industry, published a paper on rural health disparities, and most recently worked for Vital Research administering surveys on well-being to the elderly and disabled throughout Northeast Minnesota.

Now, Mr. Anderson works with the MK-MDT CERDAR investigators within a community-based participatory research framework to develop and maintain respectful research relationships with rural communities and organizational partners.

Tim grew up in the Northland and coaches youth soccer. He enjoys playing hockey, being at the lake, and spending time with friends and family. He lives in Duluth with his dog, Milo.



EXTERNAL CONNECTIONS: IIDRN



IIDRN-The International Indigenous Dementia Research Network (IIDRN) seeks to highlight the profiles of researchers, students, Indigenous community members, and policy makers from around the world who share a commitment to research concerning Alzheimer's disease, dementia and healthy aging in Indigenous peoples. Researchers in the network support and inspire each other through an online discussion platform, sharing results and findings, collaborating, and occasional meetings.

Our ultimate goal is to enhance knowledge of how Indigenous peoples understand and experience dementia and the impact of dementia on Indigenous peoples and communities. In this way we hope to improve care and advocate for greater resources for culturally relevant care to assist Indigenous caregivers, communities and health care providers.

Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team provides direct support for the IIDRN. Dr. Kristen Jacklin founded the IIDRN in 2010 and has served as Chair and Convenor for over 10 years. Currently Dr. Jacklin serves as the Co-Chair with Dr. Makerna Dudley at the University of Auckland. Dr. Jacklin's research provides funding to support the IIDRN website, member's only portal and zoom and in-person meetings. Dr. Melissa Blind, Senior Research Associate at MK-MDT is a member of the IIDRN steering committee and serves as the secretary of operations. You can learn more about the IIDRN and join at <https://memorykeepersmdt.com/international-indigenous-dementia-research-network-iidrn/>.

OUR GROWING RESEARCH

CERDAR

The Center for Community Engaged Rural Dementia and Alzheimer's Research (CERDAR) has been established to tackle the growing challenge of dementia and dementia care needs in rural Minnesota. Current research projects address cultural factors in dementia care, rural dementia prevention, and technology to support caring for persons with dementia in their homes.

We are also interested in identifying factors that would increase rural and Native American participation in Alzheimer's Disease and dementia related clinical trials. Our long-term goal is to improve the quality of life for rural Minnesotans impacted by dementia.

CERDAR REGISTRY

We are building a registry to create a community of people interested in dementia research, and to provide opportunities for participation in research. The CERDAR Registry is an information exchange where rural residents will share their experience with the CERDAR investigators and they, in turn, will share new research findings with the community.

If you are interested in participating in our research, please call the CERDAR phone number or access the CERDAR Registry website to learn more about the project. The Registry website lists all active CERDAR projects, along with instructions for how to become a research participant in one of our studies and how to register for updates.

*Supported by: Academic Investment Research Program, University of Minnesota Medical School



FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR
ASSISTANCE

Email: CERDAR@d.umn.edu
Phone: (218) 726-8601



THANK YOU to everyone who donated and/or walked with us at the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Duluth, MN or virtually - Our team raised \$1,900!



Thank You!



CONTACT US



TWITTER: @MemoryKeeperMDT

LINKEDIN:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/memory-keepers-medical-discovery-team>



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**Medical School,
Duluth Campus**
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

MEMORY KEEPERS MEDICAL DISCOVERY TEAM
624 E. First St. Suite 201
Duluth, MN 55805



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