



NEWS RELEASE

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Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team

Monday October 23, 2023

Enhancing American Indian Caregiver Mastery through a Savvy Caregiver Program-Peer

Study to be conducted in collaboration with White Earth Nation

Duluth, MN, Oct 23, 2023. Jordan P. Lewis, PhD, Associate Director, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team (MK-MDT), has been awarded \$3.5 million over five years by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for his grant entitled “Enhancing American Indian Caregiver Mastery through a Savvy Caregiver Program-Peer” (1R01AG082074-01A1). Dr. Lewis (PI) will lead the the five-year project (2023-2028) to address the unique needs of American Indian dementia caregivers and the experiences of previous dementia caregivers.

Dr. Jordan Lewis shared that, “I am really honored that NIA funded this project, and they see the value of caregivers in supporting those community members living with dementia. This project is an exciting opportunity to tap into the wisdom and experiences of previous dementia caregivers to support current caregivers of people living with dementia. This is one of the first dementia caregiver studies to be conducted with White Earth Nation, and we look forward to starting this research project to establish a long-term relationship to support dementia caregivers, who are the foundation of our families, dementia care supports, and keepers of our family systems and knowledge.”

This research aims to enhance the Savvy Caregiver Program to include a peer mentor component, referred to as the Savvy Caregiver Program-Peer. This project will host talking circles with previous American Indian dementia caregivers to guide the enhancement in order to pilot the Savvy Caregiver Program-Peer with current caregivers and peer mentors. Caregivers and peer mentors will be engaged in talking circles to evaluate the Savvy Caregiver Program-Peer and refine as needed for future use in a larger study.



About Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team:

The mission of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team is to support an environment of Team Science to conduct community-based participatory action research on dementia in Indigenous and rural communities with the aim of achieving health equity.

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