



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team

Tuesday November 21, 2023

The International Indigenous Dementia Research Annual Conference

Duluth, MN, Nov. 21, 2023. Dr. Kristen Jacklin, Executive Director at the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team, has been awarded \$249,215 over five years by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for her grant entitled, “The International Indigenous Dementia Research Annual Conference” (R13AG085939).

Regarding the relevance of this conference, Dr. Kristen Jacklin shared that, “In our experience research on dementia with Indigenous populations is not typically prioritized in larger mainstream conferences for either keynotes, featured research sessions or oral presentations. Last year the IIDRN executive decided it was time for us to create an equitable venue for academics, community members and elders working in the field to come together and share scientific and Indigenous knowledge in a way that is comparable to other disciplines or disease focused research areas.”

She also shared that, “Without this form of knowledge sharing, we could continue to expect slow progression of the field and researchers working in isolation. We anticipate that our efforts will accelerate Indigenous dementia research and make a significant impact in advancing equity in ADRD research for Indigenous populations.”

The first IIDRN Conference took place in Honolulu, Hawaii on November 7-9, 2023, and the next conference will be October 21-23, 2024. For more information, visit our website at <https://med.umn.edu/memory>.

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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Media Contact:




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

Brooke Metz
Communications Manager
bmetz@umn.edu