

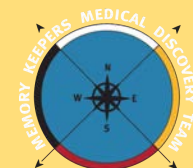
KEEPERS QUARTERLY

Official Newsletter of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team (MK-MDT)

Purpose of our MK-MDT Newsletter

- Highlight accomplishments
- Announcements & updates
- Celebrate team members
- Give motivation
- Provide support
- Connect to community

WELCOME TO OUR FOURTH
ISSUE OF KEEPERS QUARTERLY!



MEMORY KEEPERS



VISION

Transformative research for brain health equity.



MISSION

Our mission is to engage Indigenous and rural communities in culturally meaningful research to improve dementia and brain health outcomes for all.



VALUES

- Strengths-based lens
- Two-eyed seeing
- Team science
- Community-based participatory research
- Four R's of research: Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility

02 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Kristen Jacklin, PhD

03-07 RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS

IIDRN Conference, Dr. Lewis GSA Nomination, Four Grants Awarded, Community Events & CERDAR Newsletter

08 STAFF MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

[Sasheen Goslin, BS](#), [Indira Galeeva](#), [Ashley Xiong](#)

09 CONTACT US

Contact Us, Upcoming Events & Careers

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Kristen Jacklin, PhD, Executive Director

The MK-MDT team continues to astonish me. They are always prepared to pivot for a grant application, a conference presentation, conference planning and surprise visits from guests while they each continue their specific roles and duties in the background never missing a beat. This fall was packed with many events that have helped solidify the team and set the tone for continued success. We held our second annual staff retreat where our community-based researchers shared their experiences doing research in their home communities. We heard inspirational stories of the meaning of our research to the rural and Indigenous partners and what a 'day in the life' of a community-based researcher looks like. They also shared challenges and the ways they have addressed them. This was an interactive panel where university-based staff and faculty could ask questions to better understand the needs in their communities from their community-based research lens.

In the last newsletter, I wrote about our new approach to team grant writing and some early signs of success. You will read more about our grant success applying this model in this newsletter. Team grant writing is not easy to coordinate and requires extra efforts from everyone involved and our staff and faculty have clearly demonstrated that our model works! Special congratulations to Dr. Jordan Lewis and Dr. Antonio Guzmán on their recent awards!

The efforts of all the team over the last year have contributed to MK-MDT establishing itself nationally and internationally as a leader in the field of Indigenous and rural brain health equity research. Notably, Dr. Lewis has been elected to the Gerontological Society of America's Board of Directors, which is arguably one of the most influential aging research organizations in the world. I continue in my leadership role with the International Indigenous Dementia Research Network, and with the support of the MK-MDT team and funding from the National Institute on Aging, our staff made a significant contribution to the first-ever international conference on dementia in Indigenous populations.

I started off by saying that our staff easily pivot to take these opportunities to contribute to our success, but most of our time is spent working on our grant-funded research with community partners in rural and Indigenous communities in Minnesota. Our mission starts here in Minnesota and is enhanced and shared through our national and international efforts.

I wish you all the best in this fall season, and as we near the holiday season, I wish you and your families happy holidays and all the best for the New Year.

Kristen Jacklin, PhD
Executive Director, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team

RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS

THE MK-MDT AT THE INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK (IIDRN) ANNUAL CONFERENCE



#IIDRN23 WEAVING KNOWLEDGE

#IIDRN24
OCT 21-23, 2024

We had five presenters from MK-MDT:

Featured Trainee Poster Presentations

“Therapeutic poetry program for Indigenous people living with dementia”

- Antonio Paniagua Guzmán

Paper Presentations: Current Topics in Indigenous Dementia Research

“Identifying ways to make dementia diagnosis culturally safe among Indigenous communities in the Great Lakes Region of North America: Evidence from the ICARE project”

- Kristen Jacklin and Dana Ketcher

Regular poster presentations

“An ethnographic community-based participatory research dementia study with diverse Indigenous populations: Indigenous Cultural Understandings of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias – Research and Engagement (ICARE) project”

- Kristen Jacklin

We are especially proud of our Community Based Researchers, January Johnson (Red Lake Nation, MN) and Karen Pitawanakwat (Manitoulin Island, ON) who presented **Paper Presentations:**

Community-Based & Indigenous Methodologies in Dementia Research

- Karen Pitawanakwat presented, “The richness of Indigenous languages in explaining concepts around aging and dementia: Examples from the Indigenous Cultural Understandings of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias – Research & Engagement (ICARE) project.”
- January Johnson presented, “Traditional Knowledge Keepers understandings of dementia and the medicine wheel teachings: Perceptions on aging, caregiving, and the four stages in the circle of life.”

RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS CONTINUED...

GSA NOMINATION, DR. JORDAN LEWIS

Dr. Lewis has been elected as the Secretary to the Board of Directors for the Gerontological Society of America! He has started his role in November.

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) – the nation’s largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to the field of aging has announced their newest elected officers. These individuals were chosen by GSA’s membership, which consists of more than 5,500 researchers, educators, and practitioners.



Dr. Jordan Lewis and Dr. Sarah Neller (co-chairs) kicked off the very first Generativity and Aging Interest Group meeting during the GSA conference. “It was well attended and we had an incredibly rich and engaging discussion on Generativity and the different studies being conducted on this topic across the globe,” said Dr. Lewis.

Dr. Lewis also said, “It is also important to note that the CEO and new President of the Gerontological Society of America are particularly interested in the concept of Generativity and want to make it more a priority at GSA, so they will be working closely with our Interest Group to write a position paper and host sessions on this topic at future GSA conferences.”

His other presentations at the GSA Conference include:

1. “Caregiving Made Me Grateful”: The Unexpected Blessings of Dementia Caregiving
2. Forward Steps and Missteps: What We’ve Learned Through the Process of Community-Engaged Research
3. The Challenges of Large Qualitative Datasets and Meeting the Expectations of Indigenous Communities and Funders
4. “Caregiving Made Me Grateful”: The Unexpected Blessings of Dementia Caregiving
5. Indigenous Cultural Generative Acts to Reduce Generative Mismatch and Improve Health of All Generations
6. Cyclical Migration in Alaska Native Elders and its Impact on Elders’ Identity and Later Life Well-Being
7. Alaska Native Dementia Caregivers and the Increasing Need for Culturally Safe Resources

CONGRATULATIONS

RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS CONTINUED...

FOUR GRANTS AWARDED!!!!!!



Kristen Jacklin, PhD
Executive Director

Our Director, Dr. Kristen Jacklin, has been awarded \$249,215 over five years by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) which supports, "The International Indigenous Dementia Research Annual Conference" (R13AG085939).

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>.



Jordan Lewis, PhD
Associate Director

Our Associate Director, Dr. Jordan Lewis, 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 five-year project (2023-2028) to address the unique needs of American Indian dementia caregivers and the experiences of previous dementia caregivers. Study to be conducted in collaboration with White Earth Nation.



Antonio Guzmán, PhD
Post Doctoral Associate

Our Post Doctoral Associate, Dr. Antonio Guzmán, has been awarded 2 grants: 1) \$50,000 over two years by the Center for Chronic Disease Reduction and Equity Promotion Across Minnesota (C2DREAM). This grant will be used to develop and implement his project entitled "The Impact of Colonization in Indigenous Cardiovascular Health in Minnesota: Developing a Conceptual Framework" (CON00000094340) in collaboration with one of the six Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

2) \$183,000 over three years by the Alzheimer's Association for his project entitled, "Therapeutic Poetry Program for Indigenous People Living with Dementia" (AARFD-23-1151307). As awardee of the Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship to Promote Diversity (AARF-D), Dr. Paniagua Guzman (PI) and his study team will seek to work in collaboration with one of the six Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to develop and implement the first sustainable, replicable, and culturally safe poetry-based therapy program for Indigenous people living with dementia, the first of its kind in the United States.

RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS CONTINUED...

ICARE TEAM RETREAT, ONEIDA NATION

The yearly ICARE Team Retreat was held at Oneida Nation, WI with multiple goals:

1. Team building/deepening relationships
2. Insights to Oneida culture and history
3. Planning for year four of our ICARE grant

Thank you for hosting us Oneida Nation!



ELDER ADVISORY MEETING, PRAIRIE ISLAND

The Elder Advisory Fall Meeting was held at Prairie Island Indian Community with a tour of the Buffalo Ranch and Birch Bark Lodges. We also shared community, grant and outreach updates.



RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS CONTINUED...

C. FASTER DIABETES, MEMORY, AND AGING SCHOLAR RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

We are excited to share that Dr. Abigail Johnson, Assistant Professor, Division of Epidemiology & Community Health, is the inaugural recipient of the C. Faster Diabetes, Memory, and Aging Scholar at the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team!

Dr. Johnson has been awarded \$40,000 to support her research on "Diet in Rural, Elderly, Arrowhead Microbiome Study (DREAMS)" while serving as our guest scholar over the next year.



TEAM BUILDING RETREAT

Memory Keepers hosts a team building retreat at Fitgers Inn to share Community Based Researchers knowledge and the latest MK-MDT research updates and events.



CERDAR NEWSLETTER

The Center for Community Engaged Rural Dementia and Alzheimer's Research releases their fourth newsletter. ISSUE 04

<https://memorykeepersmdt.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/CERDAR-Newsletter-Issue-4-FINAL-Compressed.pdf>



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

More additions to our team!

SASHEEN GOSLIN, BS

Indigenous Community Health Researcher

Sasheen (pronounced: SAH-sheen) is a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and a descendent of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Sasheen joined Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team in November 2023 as the Indigenous Community Health Researcher and is a joint hire with Center of American Indian and Minority Health. She received her B.S. in Environmental Science from Haskell Indian Nations University and is currently pursuing her Masters in Tribal Administration and Governance at the University of Minnesota Duluth.



INDIRA GALEEVA

Graduate Research Assistant

Indira was born in Ufa, Russia but moved abroad to pursue secondary education. After receiving her B.A. in Psychology at St. Olaf College, she is currently pursuing a Masters in



Experimental Psychology at University of Minnesota Duluth. She joined the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery team in October 2023 as a Graduate Research Assistant to pursue her passion for research.

ASHLEY XIONG

Graduate Research Assistant

Ashley is a member of the Successful Aging for Alaska Natives team with Dr. Jordan Lewis. She is focused on generating



research that is returned to the community for use as it sees fit. She is also working on her Masters of Biomedical Sciences with the University of Minnesota Medical School.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Elder Advisory Council Meeting - January 11, 2024

Honoring Elder Wisdom Conference - April 15-17, 2024

ICARE Retreat - June 24-28, 2024

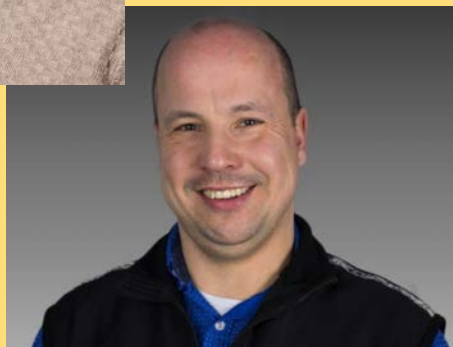
WANT TO BE A PART OF OUR TEAM?

We are hiring!

<https://memorykeepersmdt.com/careers/>

<https://med.umn.edu/memory>

LEADERSHIP TEAM



CONTACT US



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