



SEP 11 2014

National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Tribal Leader:

I take great pleasure in announcing the establishment of the *National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC)* as an important step towards improving consultation efforts and outreach with you, our tribal partners. I consider this a major development in reshaping how the NIH works with tribes, and I write to solicit your participation in identifying leaders to serve on this committee.

The NIH TCAC will provide a venue wherein tribal representatives and NIH staff can exchange information about NIH research policies and program priorities. As an advisory committee, the NIH TCAC will provide recommendations on the development of relevant NIH policies, programs, and priorities. The NIH TCAC will also seek to ensure that NIH policies or activities that affect Indian Country are brought to the attention of tribal leaders.

I seek nominations for one representative from each of the twelve areas of the Indian Health Service, as well as five national at-large representatives. The NIH will support the travel of these seventeen representatives to attend in-person meetings of the TCAC. Each area representative must be an elected official or a tribal employee, who is designated to act on behalf of a tribal leader and is qualified to represent the views of the Indian Tribes in the area for which he/she is being nominated. Each national at-large representative must be an elected official or designated representative who is qualified to represent the views of tribes from a national collective perspective (for example, views of groups such as the National Congress of American Indians or the National Indian Health Board). I encourage you to submit your nomination letter no later than October 17, 2014, to:

Kathy Etz, Ph.D.  
Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs to the NIH Principal Deputy Director  
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 108  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892  
E-mail: NIHTribalCommittee@od.nih.gov

We plan to notify members in November 2014 and convene the first TCAC meeting by February 2015. We are committed to continuing our efforts to improve relations with Indian Country and to build healthier communities. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kathy Etz. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis S. Collins".

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director