

KEEPERS QUARTERLY

Official Newsletter of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team



Purpose of our MK-MDT Newsletter

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

**WELCOME TO OUR THIRD ISSUE
OF KEEPERS QUARTERLY!**



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DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Kristen Jacklin, PhD, Executive Director

It has been far too long since our last newsletter! The staff and faculty at Memory Keepers have been very busy in 2023 with research projects, grant writing and community outreach activities. Dr. Lewis submitted an R01 to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) (5-year project grant) to support a community and culturally appropriate adaptation of a caregiving program for White Earth Nation (pending). I submitted an R13 to NIH (conference grant) to support a 5-year annual conference for the International Indigenous Dementia Research Network. Both grants received exceptional scores and are likely to be officially awarded soon. Dr. Guzmán submitted (and was awarded) a 3-year Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship to Promote Diversity to support his research project titled: "Therapeutic Poetry Program for Indigenous People Living with Dementia." Our team now holds several NIH, National Science Foundation (NSF), Alzheimer's Association and other awards and have been working with staff and rural and Indigenous community partners on implementation.

I credit the surge in our grant productivity and success to our recent implementation of a team science approach to grant writing at the MK-MDT. This approach leverages the expertise of our staff, faculty, and partners in a coordinated effort to respond to the various components required in the application. I am grateful for Dr. Radovich who has been central to coordinating this team science approach, and to the staff and faculty on the grant writing teams, who without hesitation give their best efforts to this process every time! The implementation of this new model has resulted in new ideas, more innovative approaches, better science and improved scores on our submissions!

As we edge closer toward the end of the summer in Minnesota, we have been reflecting on how privileged our team is to work with rural and Indigenous communities across the northland. Research and Community Engagement team members have spent considerable time over the last several months traveling to health fairs, seniors and Elders events, and county fairs to talk to community members about aging and dementia and our work at the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team. In recent months our Community Engagement team has grown, and we have been able to expand our outreach and engagement efforts with the Dakota Tribal Nations and have enhanced our efforts in northern rural Minnesota. Community engagement and relationship development are truly at the root of our mission. Relationships and the building of trust with Indigenous and rural partners serves as the foundational structure we need to conduct ethical and appropriate research to improve healthy brain aging in northern Minnesota!!

Sincerely,

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

IN MEMORY

JIM BOULGER, PhD



IN MEMORY OF DR. JIM BOULGER

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge that the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team's Rural Advisor, Dr. Jim Boulger, passed away on Saturday, January 14th, 2023, at the age of 81.

Dr. Boulger's legacy in helping to build a medical school curriculum that focused on the training of rural and Indigenous physicians will not be forgotten. After his retirement from the UMN Medical School, Duluth Campus, Jim lent his pragmatic wisdom, experience and expertise in rural health, medical education and research mentoring to the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team (MK-MDT) and to the development of the Center for Community Engaged Rural Dementia and Alzheimer's Research (CERDAR).

Above all, Jim was a gentle, kindhearted colleague who was always concerned for the welfare of others. Many in the Memory Keepers family were very close to Jim and all of us have been touched by him in some way. His presence in this world and with our team will be missed.

RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK (IIDRN) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WEAVING KNOWLEDGE

We are excited to announce the date for the first International Indigenous Dementia Research Network Annual Conference to take place at the Marriott Beach Resort, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, from November 7-9, 2023. Save the date! (The conference will be held in person only)

The aim of this conference is to advance research in the area of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) in Indigenous populations worldwide. We will bring together leading scientists, policy makers, Indigenous Elders, Indigenous communities and organizations, people living with dementia, and trainees to exchange information on current research and advancements concerning ADRD in the context of health equity. Other aims are to support collaboration, career development, and relationship building to grow the scientific community to address the increasing dementia disparities in Indigenous populations.

More information at:
<https://memorykeepersmdt.com/iidrn-conference/>

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027 HAS BEEN LAUNCHED!

Our strategic priorities:

- Strategic Initiative 1: Excel in community engaged dementia research
- Strategic Initiative 2: Build robust infrastructures at the MK-MDT and in the communities we work with to support community engaged dementia research
- Strategic Initiative 3: Expand Academic and Organizational Partnerships
- Strategic Initiative 4: Build and expand knowledge translation

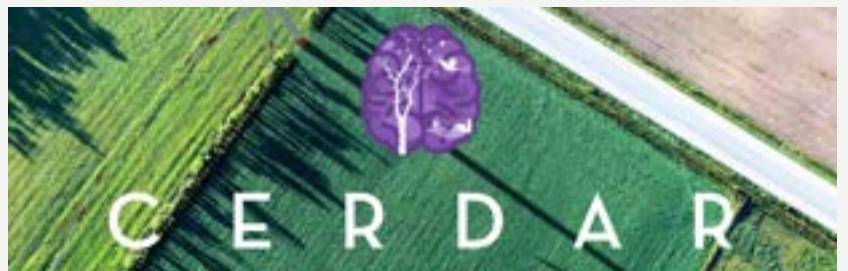
See full 2023-2027 Strategic Plan at
<https://memorykeepersmdt.com/strategic-plan-23-27/>

C. FASTER DIABETES, MEMORY, AND AGING SCHOLAR AT THE MEMORY KEEPERS MEDICAL DISCOVERY TEAM Apply now to be our Inaugural scholar!!!

More information at https://memorykeepersmdt.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/C.-Faster-RFA-Final_15May2023.pdf

THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGED RURAL DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH (CERDAR) RELEASES A NEW VIDEO INTERVIEW

With Lora Bertelsen, PhD, LP, Community Advisory Group Member



Watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4nUM6CWTDg>

RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS CONTINUED...

END OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION DINNER

Glensheen Mansion, January 4, 2023

Thank you to Memory Keepers leadership for throwing the team a recognition dinner and tour at the Glensheen Mansion!



MEMORY KEEPERS HOSTS NEUROSCIENCE NORTH SYMPOSIUM

May 2, 2023

The vision of Neuroscience North is to facilitate research collaborations in the Duluth Area, including the University of Minnesota and healthcare systems. Neuroscience North will provide the framework for the University of Minnesota as a leader in neuroscience-based training, healthcare initiatives, education and scholarly research.



LUNCH AND LEARN, SEMINAR SERIES AND WORK IN PROGRESS WEDNESDAYS CONTINUE!

From Dr. Jordan Lewis giving an update on the Indigenous ADRD data sovereignty working group with National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to a run-through of the team grant application process, we are coming together and learning every Wednesday.



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

More additions to our team!

LYNSIE RADOVICH, PH.D.

Research Manager

Dr. Radovich received her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Colorado State University (2012) and joined the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team in June 2022. Her research administration expertise includes project development and management as well as compliance including Institutional Review Board documentation, training requirements, and other oversight needs.



LENA THOMPSON, PH.D.

Post-Doctoral Associate

Dr. Thompson's dissertation work was in disaster management among Indigenous Elders and she is excited to be working with the Alaska Native Successful Aging Team.



Dr. Thompson's research interests include disaster management, dementia caregiving, and designing and implementing culturally-adapted interventions.

NATASHA JAUSS

Research Admin Support

Natasha provides administrative support to the Memory Keepers research staff.



She also works closely with the research manager and coordinators to support brain health equity research studies in both rural and Indigenous communities.

BEN ROSAASEN, MBA

Community Based Researcher



Ben Rosaasen is a member of the Upper Sioux Community and United States Air Force Veteran. His passion is for improving Native communities by addressing health disparities.

NATALYA WALKER, BA

Community Engagement Coordinator Manager



Natalya oversees and coordinates relationship development with rural and Indigenous communities in Minnesota.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

More additions to our team!

SHEAMUS CAVANAUGH, MA

Research Associate

Sheamus joined the team in May 2023. He holds a MA in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin Madison and is finishing his joint PhD in Environmental Studies and Anthropology (UW-Madison).



He has a background in environmental anthropology and the effects of climate change on maple sugaring in the Midwest. Sheamus is working on the American Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (AMICA) project.

KELSIE LARSON

Community Based Researcher

Kelsie joins the CERDAR team as a Community Based Researcher in northwest Minnesota.



Kelsie is passionate about wellness in aging populations and health in rural communities. She looks forward to having an impact on the different community needs related to age and memory. She enjoys cross-country skiing, swimming, and spending time on the lakes throughout the year.

CLAIRE SARA ERICKSON VANYO, MPH

Qualitative Analyst



Claire Sara Erickson Vanyo joined our team as a qualitative analyst. She recently graduated with a Master of Public Health in Policy and Management with certificates in Population Health Analytics and Research and American Indian Public Health.

She is passionate about health equity and justice and hopes to continue her education and work in public health. Her husband is a medical student at the University of North Dakota and they have a red heeler named Cali.

MIKAELA WILLIAMS, BA

Qualitative Analyst



Mikaela is a qualitative data analyst with a background in Anthropology. She completed her BA in Anthropology with a minor in French.

Currently, she is finishing her MA in Applied Anthropology at the University of North Texas. Her thesis focuses on media literacy among older adults. She's passionate about applied approaches to research that create deliverables and outcomes that benefit the individuals/communities involved.

JOIN US!

MEMORY KEEPERS IS CO-SPONSORING THE

"2023 UNITED STATES HEALTH LITERACY POLICY AND PRESS EVENT"

Monday, October 2, 2023

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT



Minnesota
Health Literacy
Conference

**"We all live healthier when we
understand health information"**

Register at

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/WEBINAR/REGISTER/WN_SB7RGDWTQE2C_ZDHCEXELAA#/REGISTRATION](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/wn_sb7rgdwtqe2c_zdhcexelaa#/registration)

LEADERSHIP TEAM



CONTACT US



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@MemoryKeeperMDT

LINKEDIN:

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

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