

FALL | 2024

ISSUE NO. 7

# 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 SEVENTH  
ISSUE OF KEEPERS QUARTERLY!



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

# 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
- Six R's of research: Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility, Relationships and Representation

## 02 DIRECTOR'S HOLIDAY MESSAGE

Kristen Jacklin, PhD

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## 03-04 RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS

The International Indigenous Dementia Research Network (IIDRN) Conference  
Nonviolent Communication Workshop  
Twin Ports Walk to End Alzheimer's  
Research Retreat & Team Building  
Staff Meeting and Course Discussion  
Staff Bridal Shower  
Tribal Data Sovereignty Training

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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## DIRECTOR'S HOLIDAY MESSAGE

**Kristen Jacklin, PhD, Executive Director**

We are approaching the holiday season after a very busy fall! I know everyone at Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team will be taking some well-earned rest and downtime to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. We hope that you do, as well!

This fall was all about getting the word out about all the great work that the Memory Keepers team has been doing. Staff and faculty were busy attending national and international conferences to share findings and updates about our several projects (see pg. 3). The community engagement team has been very active attending community events, and is currently conducting a listening tour with Tribal Nations across Minnesota. Listening sessions are an important avenue for relationship building, discussion, understanding community needs, and (re)establishing connections. As always, we continue to meet with our rural and Indigenous Advisory Group members on a regular basis for guidance and advice on research impacting their communities. You can find our Advisory Members listed on pgs. 6-7. We are so grateful for their time and feedback!

From all of us at Memory Keepers, we are wishing you the best over the upcoming holiday season!

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

# RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS



## THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS DEMENTIA RESEARCH NETWORK (IIDRN) CONFERENCE

October 20-23, 2024

Our 2nd annual conference took place at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa on October 20-23, 2024. Thank you to all who made this conference a great success! We look forward to seeing everyone next year for #IIDRN25 on October 19-22, 2025. Learn more at <https://www.iidrn.org/>.



## NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

September 3, 2024

Memory Keepers hosted a nonviolent communication workshop to transform how we speak to ourselves and one another.



## TWIN PORTS WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

September 7, 2024

Thank you to all who supported our team to #EndAlz.





# RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS

## RESEARCH RETREAT & TEAM BUILDING

September 23, 2024

Memory Keepers hosted a Research Retreat as a way for faculty, staff, and partners to learn and celebrate each others' research efforts. This was held at Fitger's Inn in Duluth, MN, followed by a team building activity at Memory Keepers.



## STAFF MEETING & COURSE DISCUSSION

December 5, 2024

Memory Keepers' monthly staff meeting showcased a course that provided an introduction to relationships between the University and Native Nations (administered by Native American Affairs).



## STAFF BRIDAL SHOWER

September 24, 2024

Congratulations to our Community Engagement Coordinator, Natalya Walker-Muller, on getting married in October!



## TRIBAL DATA SOVEREIGNTY TRAINING

September 25, 2024

Memory Keepers hosted a training where participants gained an applied understanding of Indigenous data sovereignty, design justice, and Indigenous computing by engaging in design activities from Sean Dorr (Marten Clan and an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe).

# TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

More additions to our team!

## EMILY ONELLO, MD

### Associate Professor

Emily Onello, MD, joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus in 2012. She directs and teaches several medical student courses, serves as a faculty advisor to medical students, and helps to develop and evaluate curriculum. She focuses on the rural preceptorship experience for students. Current research interests include rural physician workforce challenges, vaccination attitudes and environmental health. She has practiced as a family physician at Bay Area Health Center in Silver Bay, MN as well as at Lake Superior Community Health Center in Duluth, MN. Dr. Onello participated in immunology research involving cellular inflammatory mechanisms at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Onello has joined our team and will be at Memory Keepers once a week. Welcome, Dr. Onello!



## ROGER SMITH

### Fond du Lac Community-Based Researcher

Roger is an Enrolled Member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. He has served on the Tribal Council at Fond du Lac for 12 years, serving as a District Representative (Brookston) and Vice Chairman. He has a background of nearly 20 years in Law Enforcement with Fond du Lac Tribal Police Department (Chief of Police) to Deputy Sheriff (St. Louis County). He and his wife Victoria have two sons and three grandchildren and have raised several nieces and nephews.





# RURAL ADVISORY MEMBERS

## Advisory group highlights

The Rural Advisory Group is focused on understanding the dynamics of diabetes and dementia among people living in tribal and rural communities.

- **Shawn McMahon**, MD, Rural Advisor, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team
- **Terry J. Hill**, MPA, Executive Director, Rural Health Innovations, Senior Advisor for Rural Health Leadership and Policy, National Rural Health Resource Center, Duluth
- **Kristi Kane**, Executive Director, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC)
- **Kasey Kapella**, MD, Gerontologist, Fairview Virginia Clinic
- **Emily Onello**, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Biobehavioral Health, UMN Medical School, Duluth Campus
- **Megan O'Connell**, PhD, Department of Psychology, Rural Dementia Action Research (RADAR) Centre, Rural and Remote Memory Clinic, University of Saskatchewan College of Arts and Science.
- **Heather Pender**, Aging Program Director, Dancing Sky AAA



# INDIGENOUS ADVISORY MEMBERS

## Advisory group highlights

The Indigenous Elder Advisory Group helps guide the activities of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team and includes representatives from all 11 Tribal Nations in the state of Minnesota. Rick Smith is the Chair of the Indigenous Advisory Group.

- **Rick Smith**, Elder in Residence, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team
- **Patty Baker Dupuis**, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Representative
- **Linda Tibbetts-Barto**, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Representative
- **Lee Staples**, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Representative
- **Linda Bedeau**, Red Lake Nation Representative
- **Anne O'Keefe**, Lower Sioux Indian Community Representative
- **Sharon Pazi Zea**, Upper Sioux Community Representative
- **Paul Dressen**, Prairie Island Indian Community Representative
- **Patty Winchell-Dahl**, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Representative
- **Brent Gish**, White Earth Nation Representative
- **Rose Robinson**, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Representative
- **Barry Welch**, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community Representative





## INTERESTED IN SPONSORING?

Email: [memorykeepers@d.umn.edu](mailto:memorykeepers@d.umn.edu)

Phone: (218) 726-6801

## WANT TO BE A PART OF OUR TEAM?

Look out for job openings here:

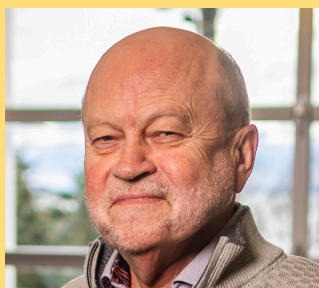
<https://memorykeepersmdt.com/careers/>

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

### LEADERSHIP TEAM



DR. KRISTEN JACKLIN



DR. WAYNE WARRY



DR. GENELLE LAMONT



DR. MELISSA BLIND



DR. CLIFF WHETUNG

### CONTACT US



**X (TWITTER):**

**@MemoryKeeperMDT**

**LINKEDIN:**

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

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**QUARTERLY HERE**

