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Research Collaboration Agreement

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, by and through its American Indian Collaborative Research Network (AICoRN), and [PARTNER FACILITY] ("Partner") agree to respectfully explore partnership in order to create a primary care practice-based research network (PBRN) to be hosted by AICoRN that will be mutually beneficial and identify health needs through community partnership and engagement in order to facilitate studies that ultimately improve overall health, particularly for American Indians (AI), in the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. (Each entity or individual may be referred to as a "Party" and collectively as "Parties".)

1. Recitals

WHEREAS, the University of North Dakota is a public research university committed to scholarly activity, utmost ethical practices, service and inclusive education and training of the residents of North Dakota and the surrounding region, including through its School of Medicine and Health Sciences and AICoRN, and is compelled to create a primary care PBRN through collaborating with Partner and others;

WHEREAS, PBRNs – typically groups of practices and facilities devoted principally to the care of patients, associated with each other and academic institutions – are an effective model to engage providers in scientific study and improve delivery of high-quality primary care;

WHEREAS, PBRNs draw on the experiences and knowledge of practicing clinicians to identify and frame research questions whose answers can improve the practice of primary care, our PBRN would integrate community perspectives, facilitate trust and respect to identify priorities and include indigenous voices and experience, into the development of scientific inquiry in a manner relevant to the stakeholders to the best of our ability;

WHEREAS, Partner is [a facility that provides primary care, located in the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana][other identified relevant stakeholder], and is dedicated to improving the quality of services particularly for AIs and other underserved populations with emphasis on rural health;

AND WHEREAS, in view of the Parties' overlapping missions and goals dedicated to improvement of health and well-being of individuals and populations, especially those who identify as AI, the Parties wish to explore collaborating in the creation of a primary care PBRN to engage with communities to allow inclusivity of necessary perspectives and priorities to effectively improve our overall health; and to facilitate dialogue between individuals, communities, providers, and institutions to identify specific goals and needs in order to investigate meaningful questions with a goal of improving health status, outcomes, and further

eliminating health disparities for AIs in tribal, urban and Indian Health Service sites, with consideration of inclusivity for other urban underserved and rural residents.

The Parties hereby declare their intent in this Research Collaboration Agreement (Agreement) to promote closer and inclusive collaboration.

2.   Purpose

This Agreement provides a foundation and framework for building trust, collaboration, cooperation, and maximizing utilization of resources between the Parties to improve health and health outcomes of AI, rural and underserved populations. AICoRN and Partner are each uniquely positioned within their respective cultural, professional, scientific, and community perspective to create a PBRN by utilizing their respective strengths and expertise to effect health outcomes but exploring our shared interests in advancing and improving the practice and delivery of primary care through scientific inquiry in a way that is relevant to the Parties.

3.   AICoRN Resources

The PBRN will endeavor to provide support in areas such as identifying priorities, elucidating goals, effectively developing study and trial designs, implementing appropriate inquiry that translates results of publications into meaningful practice. This may include specialized consultation in areas such as biostatistics, library services, ethics including diversity and inclusion, practice transformation, and support for federally and privately funded work, pre- and post-award support, in addition to facilitating other necessary training and work deemed imperative to ensure the success, and to optimize the effectiveness, of the PBRN. Additionally, the PBRN and its collaborators can facilitate unique studies and novel approaches that incorporate AI self-identified needs to address those challenges faced by AI and rural populations. This includes clinical and staffing issues common in primary care settings. These studies and resource allocation will help to address historical lack of AI and rural inclusion in studies and further delineate ways to address health disparities that continue to effect indigenous and rural populations.

4.   Partner Resources

Partner has access to patient populations and their individually identifiable health information and service delivery data that will greatly aid the PBRN. Partner also has the experience of delivering health care services to rural, tribal, or urban underserved communities, including populations that: experience significant health disparities; have low socio-economic status; reside in federally designated health professional shortage or medically underserved areas; and may have few community-based support systems and resources available. Partner, as a founding collaborator, can help identify needs, goals, barriers and facilitators in the delivery of primary care services in these populations and can provide associated information and data so applied research, including that conducted through the PBRN, will result in innovative solutions to improve the delivery of primary care services in these communities. This data will be respected and utilized only upon agreement within the PBRN to benefit AI and rural peoples.

5.   Non-Binding Nature and Costs

This Agreement is intended to only set forth the general understanding of the Parties with respect to creating a PRBN and does not contractually bind the Parties. It is envisioned that the Parties may set forth in writing the details of any specific arrangement in one or more contracts at a later

time. Each Party is solely responsible for any and all expenses and/or costs that Party incurs for fulfilling the intent of this Agreement.

6.   Cooperation

To meet the intent of this Agreement, the Parties agree to collaborate and cooperate, and among other things, develop a written framework to create a primary care PBRN. The Parties agree to work in good faith employing utmost mutual respect and cultural sensitivity to maintain open communication, a timely schedule, attendance, and participation in meetings to create this mutually beneficial PBRN and to advance the presence of AI perspectives and priorities in scientific inquiry and publications, including identifying and facilitating pursuit of necessary grants and funding.

7.   Non-Exclusivity; Relationships among Collaborators

This Agreement is non-exclusive in nature. AICoRN may associate with one or more third-parties in the creation (i.e., founding collaborators) and future support and maintenance (i.e., prospective collaborators) of the PBRN envisioned hereunder, as well as for other research and service activities. Likewise, Partner may associate with third-parties for other research and service activities, including other PBRNs. Agreements between AICoRN and other collaborators related to the PBRN shall be substantially similar in scope to this Agreement. Nothing herein shall prevent further agreements between and among AICoRN and/or collaborators. As a founding collaborator, it is anticipated that Partner will enjoy special and ongoing recognition for its contributions.

8.   Term; Termination; Effect of Termination

This Agreement shall become effective on the date last signed below and remain in effect until terminated in writing by either party, at which time neither party shall have any further obligation hereunder. The sole authority to terminate, decommission, or disband the PBRN shall rest with AICoRN, provided that Partner and any other active AICoRN collaborators shall have a right to participate in an orderly wind-down of PBRN activities and equitable disposition of accumulated resources, data, materials, tangible assets, or any other things acquired through its operation. Any notice of termination shall be directed to the designated contact person for each Party as stated herein:

AICoRN	**Partner**
NAME: Allison Kelliher, MD	NAME
MAILING ADDRESS:	MAILING ADDRESS
School of Medicine & Health Sciences	PHONE
1301 N. Columbia Rd. Stop 9037	EMAIL
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037	
PHONE (701) 777-3037	
EMAIL Allison.kelliher@und.edu	

The Parties hereby execute this Research Collaboration Agreement, to become effective on the date last signed below.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES	PARTNER
By:	By:
[NAME]	[NAME]
Its [TITLE]	Its [TITLE]
Date:	Date: