

Bonnie Duran Dr.PH is an associate professor in the Department of Health Services, University of Washington School of Public Health and is also Director of the Center for Indigenous Health Research at the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute ([www.iwri.org](http://www.iwri.org)). She received her DrPH from UC-Berkeley's School of Public Health in 1997.



Bonnie teaches graduate courses in Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), Health Promotion/Disease Prevention and critical theory. She has worked in public health research, evaluation and education among Native Americans and other communities of color for over 30 years.

Using indigenous theories to guide her work, Bonnie's research includes intervention and prevalence studies of substance abuse and other mental disorders, violence, and treatment seeking in Native communities. Currently, Bonnie is Principal Investigator of three NIH-funded studies: (1) Working with Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU), Bonnie and the research team are assessing alcohol and drug use and capacity at TCU; (2) Working with the National Congress of American Indians, the team is assessing the barriers to and facilitators of authentic community-engaged research; and (3) As the next logical step of the TCU alcohol and drug needs assessment study, the research team will commence an epidemiological study of the prevalence of behavioral health problems at TCU. With Dr. Karina Walters, Bonnie is Co-PI of

the NIMH funded IWRI Indigenous HIV/AIDS Research Training Institute (IHART) Bonnie is also the Community Engagement Director and on the Executive Core of the IWRI NIMHD Center of Excellence (P60).

Dr. Duran has served on the editorial boards of the American Journal of Public Health and Health Education and Behavior, and currently serves on the editorial boards of Progress in Community Health Partnerships and Critical Public Health. She is on the CDC Health Disparities Advisory Board and in April 2013, was named the CDC *Health Equity Champion*. The overall aims of her research are to work with communities to design public health treatment and prevention efforts that are empowering, culture-centered, and sustainable and that have maximum public health impact. She has over 50 publications including articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters and books. In her free time, Dr. Duran teaches mindfulness/Indigenous presence meditation.

At the Center for Indigenous Health Research, our goal is to work with Tribes, Native organizations and allies to design and implement culture-centered descriptive and intervention studies to bring evidence to indigenous knowledge's and methods. Many present-day health disparities can be traced back through epigenetics to a "*colonial health deficit*"; the result of colonization and its aftermath. Working in "Indian country" is rewarding, with tremendous opportunity for positive change. It is rewarding because many Tribes and Native organizations believe deeply in equity, culture-centered interventions and the truth of interconnectedness. Many fundamental Native values and ideas are at the forefront of sustainability efforts and community-level wellness. Working with Indigenous Peoples also provides an opportunity for tremendous change—Native community wellness is intertwined with issues of social justice and communities are working diligently for change. Bonnie's future plans are to develop mindfulness/indigenous presence based interventions in collaboration with her community partners.