



# **WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE**

## **A Sovereign Tribal Nation**

**(Authorizing Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health Research Entitled:  
“Investigating the Burden and Molecular Epidemiology of Group A  
*Streptococcus* Infections in Indigenous Children and Adults in the Southwest  
United States”)**

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- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”) provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a), that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “[t]o represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe...”; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe and Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Indigenous Health (“JHU”) have a long history of conducting studies to address infectious diseases that occur at higher rates among the White Mountain Apache and other Indigenous populations; and
- WHEREAS,** Group A *Streptococcus* (“GAS”) is a germ that commonly causes mild illnesses, such as skin and soft tissue infections (“SSTI”) and pharyngitis (sore throat), but sometimes causes more invasive severe infections, including pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis, among children and adults; and
- WHEREAS,** Native American communities remain disproportionately affected by GAS disease compared to the general US population; and
- WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Resolutions No. 04-2017-71 and No. 08-2022-210, JHU has partnered with the Tribe to monitor GAS disease and has conducted several studies over the past decade to understand the burden within the community; and
- WHEREAS,** Updated data is needed to understand the epidemiology of GAS and the drivers of disease transmission as well as prevention strategies, such as new vaccines; and
- WHEREAS,** JHU, this day, requests permission from the Tribe to submit a new grant application to the National Institutes of Health to conduct a study to:
- 1) Continue monitoring the burden of invasive GAS disease among Indigenous children and adults in the WMA Tribal lands through the ongoing surveillance project; and
  - 2) Continue monitoring and comparing the GAS strains causing invasive infections and pharyngitis, and start monitoring the GAS strains causing skin and soft tissue infections; and
  - 3) Start monitoring a cohort of households to understand the burden of GAS pharyngitis and skin and soft tissue infections among Indigenous children and adults in the Tribal lands; and
- WHEREAS,** The Council has reviewed JHU's request and finds that approving it to conduct this study is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

***Resolution No. 01-2025-04***

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes Johns Hopkins University's Center for Indigenous Health to submit a grant application to the National Institutes of Health to continue the above listed activities and to conduct research entitled "Investigating the burden and molecular epidemiology of group A *Streptococcus* infections in Indigenous children and adults in the Southwest United States".

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on JANUARY 08, 2025 duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT for, ONE against, and ZERO abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1, of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on November 10, 2021, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

Kasey Velasquez  
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman

1.10.25  
Date

Vaneysa Johnson  
Vaneysa Johnson, Tribal Secretary

01/14/2025  
Date