

Biographic Sketch: Dr. Jim Jarvis

Dr. Jim Jarvis is a pediatrician who has been working in the area of indigenous children's health for more than 15 years. He is currently professor of clinical pediatrics at the State University of New York in Buffalo. Dr. Jarvis, who is of French Canadian and American Indian (Mohawk) ancestry, was raised in Vermont. After completing medical school at the University of Vermont in 1979, Dr. Jarvis spent most of his career in the Midwest, particularly at the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, where he was section chief of pediatric rheumatology. While in Oklahoma, Dr. Jarvis held the Children's Medical Research Institute's endowed chair in pediatric rheumatology, was president of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center's American Indian Association, and was awarded an American College of Rheumatology Clinician Educator Award for his work with American Indian students. Dr. Jarvis's list of trainees is a "Who's Who" among young Native American physician now practicing in Oklahoma.

Dr. Jarvis did research training in rheumatology and genetics at Washington University in St. Louis. His ongoing research includes investigations into why rheumatic disease like rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis are so common in indigenous Americans. This work is expected to cast light on how diet change and chronic, intergenerational trauma lead to so-called epigenetic changes that re-program cells of the immune system. He is a widely sought consultant in areas relevant to protecting indigenous peoples' rights in research (especially genetic research) and is author of the American Academy of Pediatrics' policy statement, "Ethical Considerations in Research With Socially-Identifiable Communities."

Dr. Jarvis has broad interests in child health in indigenous communities. He is currently chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Native American Child Health and a liaison to the Canadian Pediatric Society's Committee on First Nations/Inuit Health. He was the founder and first co-chair of the now bi-annual International Meeting on Indigenous Children's Health, which brings together researchers and community advocates committed to advancing the health of indigenous children throughout the western hemisphere, Pacific Islands, and Australia.