



# AAIP

## Association of American Indian Physicians

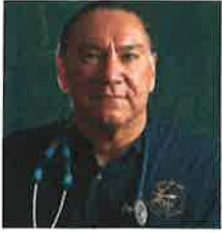
### Thank You to AAIP Board Members

This past Thursday, and Friday, following an empowering women's retreat on Wednesday evening the Association of American Indian Physicians held its 49<sup>th</sup> annual business meeting. I am happy to report that despite the limitations of not meeting in person, we had a robust and informative meeting that served to energize those present for the coming year. We elected four new members to our board to join myself, Dr. Kim Hartwig and Dr. Jonathon Baines.

The first meeting of the new board will be within the next two weeks. The agenda will be posted on our website. Please also look to our website and social media sites for more information on our new AAIP board. However, before we welcome the new board, I want to celebrate and honor the work of our outgoing board. We had a rough year but despite all that happened to the world, our board remained on course and kept on working. I believe the four board members who are leaving were instrumental in helping us maintain our stability. We had a chance at the annual meeting to recognize and thank Dr. Hollow who served us as AAIP President for two years. I'd like to now recognize and thank Drs. Day, Vainio, and DeLong.



Dr. Lukejohn Day (Oglala Sioux) is leaving the AAIP board after having served a total of four years, two years as At-Large-Director followed by two years as Secretary. During his four-year tenure on the AAIP board, he served on the membership, governance committee, and the Policy and Legislative committee. I know for a fact that he also volunteered for and probably did work for nearly every committee. While on the membership committee, Dr. Day developed and distributed a membership survey to elicit all of our ideas on attracting and retaining AAIP members. He was the primary physician organizer for the 2020 Cross Cultural Medicine Workshop and has shared with me that he is happy to carry that work over into 2021. For the past six years Dr. Day has also assisted with the preadmissions workshop preceding the annual meeting. I also know that he has graciously given his time to present for at least three, *Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians* workshops, a program to increase the numbers of diverse medical school faculty members. So, it's clear as day that Dr. Day is a committed member of our community of Native physicians and we were lucky that he took four years out of his very busy life as one of less than five Native American gastroenterologists, to work with us to improve the health and welfare of Native peoples. Gunalcheesh', Dr. Day.



Dr. Arne Vainio (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe) wraps up two years as an AAIP board, At-Large-Director and as Chair for both the Rites & Ceremonies and Public Relations and Marketing committees. I don't know that we could have had a better fit these past two years than Dr. Vainio for both of these committees. He gave us a glimpse of his passion for preserving our traditional ways at this past annual business meeting when he introduced us to the seven traditional teachings of the Anishinaabe. I think that many of us also truly appreciated his gentle approach in reminding us that our cultures and traditions are alive and that we can and should review them periodically to ensure they incorporate the values we hold important today. I also can't say enough about the expanded social media and web presence that we've had while Dr. Vainio has been leading the charge of public relations and marketing. He has shared that he is willing to continue the good work but is happy to pass off a significant portion to the next willing worker-bees. As a co-worker to Dr. Vainio, providing health care for the Fond du Lac Nation, I can tell you that he maintains a brutal schedule as clinician, hospitalist and busy community volunteer. We have been very fortunate indeed to have had two years of his time to further our efforts for the wellbeing of Native peoples. Gunalcheesh', Dr. Vainio.



Dr. Amy DeLong (Ho Chunk) also leaves the AAIP board after serving two years as, At Large Director. She served as the ANAMS representative. The ANAMS membership and board were so happy with her that they asked her to be their keynote speaker for their 2020 Virtual Graduation Ceremony. Throughout her tenure on the AAIP board, Dr. DeLong ensured that we never forgot our upcoming physicians and future AAIP members in any of our work. This didn't surprise me at all as a fellow board member since I had the privilege of attending medical school with her and know firsthand of her longstanding commitment to Native youth. Dr. DeLong also worked with Dr. Hollow to plan for our 2020 annual meeting in Tacoma. I hope to reassure her that her work will be carried on to this coming year. Dr. DeLong doesn't just work in one of our tribal clinics, she leads as the Medical Director for the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health. She does so while raising three young Natives. Dr. DeLong (Amy) and I both knew in medical school that we would return to work for our communities and would be committed to serving Native people for our careers. Serving on the AAIP board with her has been a true joy and privilege. Gunalcheesh', Dr DeLong.

Mary Owen, MD  
2020-2021 President, AAIP