



**Institute of Public Health/SARG**  
**Critical Issues in Minority Health Symposium**

**“The People Awakening (PA) Multi-Site, NIH Participatory Research Project Focused on Substance Use in Alaska Natives: An Investigation of Factors that Protect Alaska Native People from Developing a Problem with Alcohol Abuse or Allow for Recovery.”**

**Gerald Mohatt, PhD**

**Director, Center of Alaska Native Health Research,  
Professor of Psychology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks**

Gerald Mohatt is a Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Alaska Native Health Research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has worked with American Indian, Canadian First Nations, and Alaska Natives communities since 1968. He helped to establish Sinte Gleska University (Tribal College). Since 1983 his work has been in Alaska where he has maintained a clinical practice while continuing his research and writing. His current work and interests are to establish a permanent center for interdisciplinary research on health disparities of Alaska Natives focusing on obesity, diabetes and heart disease and in translating research into effective treatment and prevention approaches for rural Alaska Native and American Indian communities.

**Lisa Thomas, PhD**

**Research Scientist, University of Washington**

Dr. Lisa R. Thomas (Tlingit, Eagle, Dog Salmon) is a Research Scientist at the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute at the University of Washington. She has a doctorate in clinical psychology with a background in sobriety and wellness oriented prevention and intervention programs in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Dr. Thomas has been involved in many projects that promote wellness in tribal communities in the Northwest and Alaska. She is a member of the American Psychological Association’s Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, and is involved at the national level to work toward cultural competence and relevance at all levels of Mental Health research and service provision.

**April 19, 2006**

**3:30pm – 5:00pm**

**University of New Mexico**

**Basic Medical Science Building – Room #303**

**Sponsors: Masters in Public Health Program, Institute for Public Health, Southwest Addictions Research Group (SARG), New Mexico Public Health Association, New Mexico Department of Health, Mental Health Mentorship and Education Program, Institute for Ethics, Center for Native American Health (CNAH), CASAA, Departments of Family and Community Medicine, Psychiatry, Division of Epidemiology, Medicine, Peace Studies, Anti-Racism Training Institute of the Southwest, University of New Mexico Office of Diversity.**

