World Indigenous Cancer Conference (WICC)
12th - 14th April 2016
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
Queensland, Australia

Pre-conference workshop 11th April 2016: Racism and Health

Professor David R Williams
Florence Sprague Norman & Laura Smart Norman
Professor of Public Health; Professor of African and African American Studies and of Sociology; Co-Leader, Cancer Risk Reduction and Disparities Program, Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center; Harvard University, USA

Professor Williams is the Florence and Laura Norman Professor of Public Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Professor of African and African American Studies and of Sociology at Harvard University. Previously, he served 6 years on the faculty of Yale University and 14 at the University of Michigan. He holds an MPH from Loma Linda University and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan.

Prof. Williams is an internationally recognized authority on social influences on health. His research has enhanced our understanding of the complex ways in which socioeconomic status, race, stress, racial discrimination and religious involvement can affect physical and mental health. The Everyday Discrimination scale that he developed is currently one of the most widely used measures to assess perceived discrimination in health studies. In recent years, Prof. Williams has been very interested in social inequalities in cancer. He directed the Lung Cancer Disparities Center at Harvard and serves on the Steering Committee for the California Breast Cancer Research Program’s Special Research Initiative on disparities in breast cancer and the environment and breast cancer. He is the author of more than 365 scholarly papers and he was ranked as one of the Top 10 Most Cited Researchers in the Social Sciences in the world in 2005 and as the Most Cited Black Scholar in the Social Sciences in 2008. In 2014, Thomson Reuters ranked him as one of the World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds.

He has received numerous honors and awards. He is an elected to member of the Institute of Medicine and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has also received an inaugural Decade of Behavior Research Award, the Leo G. Reeder Award from the American Sociological Association, and the Stephen Smith Award for Distinguished Contributions in Public Health from the New York Academy of Medicine.
Dr Naomi Priest  
Research Fellow, Centre for Social Research and Methods, Australian National University, Australia.

Dr Naomi Priest leads a research stream on social science and health in her role as Research Fellow in the Centre for Social Research and Methods at the Australian National University. Her broad research interest is to integrate social and epidemiologic methods to examine and address racial-ethnic inequalities in child and youth health and development across populations and place. This includes social epidemiology and qualitative research to understand racial-ethnic differences in child health and development and explanations for observed differences, particularly the patterns, mechanisms and prospective influence of adverse early life exposures and stressors, including racial discrimination. She is also interested in ethnic-racial socialisation processes and outcomes among children from stigmatised and non-stigmatised groups, including development of racial/ethnic attitudes, bias, stereotypes and prejudice. A third area of her research is focused on initiatives to counter discrimination and promote diversity and inclusion.

Naomi received her PhD in population health at the University of Melbourne, conducting a qualitative participatory study exploring Aboriginal perspectives of urban child health and wellbeing. She then completed an NHMRC post-doctoral fellowship also at the University of Melbourne with training in social epidemiology. She was leader of the VicHealth funded Anti-Racism and Diversity program at the University of Melbourne from 2012-2015, and also a Senior Research Fellow in the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation from 2014-15. In 2014-15 she was a Visiting Scientist at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.