

Episode: *Author Interview: “Arts-Based Research Methods to Explore Cancer in Indigenous Communities”*

Guests: Aislinn C. Rookwood, MPH, and Mariah Abney

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript by: Cheryl Green

[Access the podcast.](#)

[bright theme music]

TIM HOFF: Welcome to another episode of the *Author Interview Series* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*. I'm your host, Tim Hoff. This series provides an alternative format for accessing the interesting and important work being done by Journal contributors each month. Joining me on this episode is Mariah Abney, a Media Communications student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Metropolitan Community College, and Aislinn Rookwood, the program manager for the National Cancer Institute-funded Youth Enjoy Science Research Education Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, where she is currently a doctoral student in the Department of Health Promotion in the College of Public Health. They're here to discuss their article, coauthored with Hannah S. Butler-Robbins, Danielle Marie Westmark, and Dr Regina Idoate, *Arts-Based Research Methods to Explore Cancer in Indigenous Communities*, in the July 2022 issue of *The Journal*, [Arts-Based Research in Health Care](#). Aislinn, Mariah, thank you so much for being on the podcast.

MARIAH ABNEY: Yeah, thanks for having me.

AISLINN ROOKWOOD: Thank you for having me.

HOFF: Aislinn, if you can start us off, what is the main ethics point that you and your coauthors are making in this article?

ROOKWOOD: Yeah, I think the main ethics point we were really trying to get across with this scoping review was, how do we support research that examines health care disparities that is in a culturally relevant way, specifically for Indigenous communities who experience significant cancer disparities globally, really. Here in the U.S., we see that American Indians and Alaska Natives have much higher rates of cancer than other groups, as well as those rates are actually increasing, while for many other groups, and specifically certain cancer types, they're decreasing. So, it's something that needs to be investigated further, and we really need to be doing that in a culturally relevant way like we can with arts-based cancer research.

HOFF: Mariah, what is the most important thing for health professions students and trainees to take away from this article?

ABDI: There's a need to integrate art-based cancer research to increase the cultural relevance of cancer research, education, and interventions for Indigenous people. And after reading our article, you'll see that it's important to integrate art-based cancer research, and that it's already being utilized right now in those areas. So, all of this can potentially address the significant cancer disparities seen amongst these Indigenous people globally.

HOFF: And finally, Aislinn, if you could add a point to this article that you didn't have the time or space to fully explore, what would that be?

ROOKWOOD: So, I think one thing we didn't go into as much in the scoping review, although it's mentioned in the discussion, is kind of the significance of ethical practices in research that acknowledge and respect tribal sovereignty and mitigate or address the historical and ongoing research abuse that has occurred amongst many Indigenous communities. So, there's significant healing and trust building required before any research can really be initiated, and that's something that should be done prior to any arts-based research projects beginning. [theme music returns]

HOFF: Aislinn and Mariah, thank you so much for being on the podcast with me today.

ABDI: Yes, thank you. We're very honored.

ROOKWOOD: Yeah, thank you.

HOFF: To read the full article as well as the rest of the July 2022 issue for free, visit our site, [JournalofEthics.org](https://www.journalofethics.org). We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.