

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Creighton University Clinical Faculty to Present at Indian Health Service Research Conference

Omaha, Nebraska (March 30, 2006) --- Dr. Sophia Chao, PT, and Reva Fredericksen, OTR/L have been accepted to present at the 18th Annual Indian Health Service Research Conference taking place in April 2006 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Chao and Ms. Fredericksen's presentation is entitled *A Multidisciplinary Approach in Weight Management for Native Americans in Rural Area*.

Both therapists work at the Winnebago Public Health Service Hospital, an Indian Health Service Facility, in Winnebago, Nebraska. The hospital primarily serves the Omaha and Winnebago Tribes of Nebraska and provides a wide variety of health services including inpatient services, pharmacy, dental, and rehabilitation services. Rehabilitative services, including physical and occupational therapy, grew out of a desire from the communities to offer these services to the people. Over twelve years ago, the Tribe came to Creighton University requesting services and Creighton answered the call by having faculty provide physical therapy twice a month. The demand increased and the benefits to the community became evident leading to a clinical contract between Creighton University and the Indian Health Service from 2005-2010 to provide PT and OT.

Occupational and physical therapy have become valuable members of the health care team at the Winnebago Hospital and Dr. Chao and Ms. Fredericksen have become involved in the Weight Management Program at the hospital. This includes educating patients on exercise, engaging patients in endurance training and building the skills needs for healthy engagement in daily activities. Both therapists have become active in assisting people lose weight and prepare for bariatric surgery which requires a lot of patient autonomy and a lifelong commitment to healthy habits. Dr. Chao and Ms. Fredericksen will present the results of their weight management program at the Indian Health Service Conference.

The School of Pharmacy and Health Professions' Office of Interprofessional Scholarship, Service and Education (OISSE) has a long standing partnership with the Omaha and Winnebago Tribes. For more on this partnership visit <http://oisse.creighton.edu>.