

## Dean's Lecture Series Presenter Bios

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Presentation: "A Partnership Between the Center of American Indian and Minority Health and the Masonic Cancer Center to Improve Health Outcomes in Indian Country: A Novel Approach to Community— Building Across Cultures"

Presenters: Mary J. Owen, MD, Tlingit; Rahel Ghebre, MD, MPH; Amanda Dionne; & Daanis Chosa

**Dr. Mary Owen** is a member of the Auk Kwaan Tribe of the Tlingit people. She is the Associate Dean of Native American Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School. On graduation from the University of Minnesota Medical School and Family Practice Residency Program, she returned home to work for her tribal community in Juneau, Alaska. In 2014, after eleven years of full-scope family medicine, she returned to the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, as the Director of the Center of American Indian and Minority Health (CAIMH). Her work includes developing regional and national programs to increase the numbers of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) students entering medical careers, outreaching to local and national Native leaders to ensure that the University of Minnesota Medical School remains in tune with AIAN healthcare and education needs, teaching medical students and health care providers important components of providing healthcare to AIAN communities, and developing research efforts to address AIAN health disparities. As the 2020-22 president of the Association of American Indian Physicians, she created the Indigenous Health, Education, and Resource Task Force, a multi-institution collaborative effort to create networks of educational pathways for AIAN students throughout the United States. Dr. Owen continues to provide clinical care at the Center of American Indian Resources in Duluth.

**Dr. Rahel Ghebre** is a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Gynecologic Oncology and is the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the University of Minnesota Medical Center. She is a practicing gynecologic oncologist at M Health Fairview. She gained her MD from the University of Michigan and MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Ghebre is board certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology and Gynecologic Oncology. She is an expert in the surgical and medical management of women diagnosed with ovarian, endometrial, cervical and vulva/vaginal cancers. Her research is focused on improving cancer care for women with gynecologic cancers in the US and globally by increasing access to quality care and clinical trials. She serves as chair for gynecology oncology special interest group

under AORTIC (African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer), as panel member of NCCN Harmonized Guideline committee for sub-Saharan Africa, ASCO resource stratified guideline and African Cancer Coalition, an initiative supported by the American Cancer Society. Dr. Ghebre is an internationally recognized educator in gynecologic oncology and received the 2020 International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS) Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Ghebre co-leads the Early Pathway to Success Program for women faculty through the Center for Women in Medicine.

**Amanda Dionne** is a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. She graduated from Augsburg University in 2011 with a degree in Business Management and Business Economics while completing two years of service as an Americorps member. Throughout her career, Amanda has served in various roles serving Native communities in the areas of community development, public health, tribal policy, community outreach and engagement, K-12 education, and student support. Amanda is now at the University of Minnesota Medical School in the role of Assistant Director of the Center of American Indian and Minority Health (CAIMH).

**Daanis Chosa** is from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in Michigan and is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa in Minnesota. She is the American Indian and Alaska Native Training Navigator at the Center of American Indian and Minority Health in partnership with the Masonic Cancer Center. Mx. Chosa has her A.S. in Community Development from the Minneapolis College, B.S. in Sociology from the University of Minnesota (UMN) and has recently completed her M.A. degree in Leadership at Augsburg University and was recently accepted into the UMN's Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development Higher Education PhD Program. She has worked in public health for over 10 years, starting her career with Bois Forte Tribal Health and Human Services developing health and tobacco-related policies for the Tribe and working for several years with the American Indian Cancer Foundation engaging and empowering tribal communities throughout Indian Country to implement policy, systems, and environmental change solutions that improve health outcomes for Indigenous people. Before coming to the Center, Mx. Chosa worked in municipal government working towards racial equity by eliminating socio-economic disparities among marginalized communities. Mx Chosa's role is to recruit and engage AI/AN students into health professions, workforce development and research opportunities.