William Freeman

William L. Freeman, MD/MPH, has been in Indian health his entire medical career. In his summer between first and second years of medical school, he worked for the Swinomish Indian tribal community to develop and do a health survey of its members, as requested by the tribal chairman. After his residency (family medicine) and MPH (health services research), he served in the Indian Health Service (IHS) for more than 25 years, first at the Lummi Indian Tribal Health Center (1977–1990) then director of the IHS Research Program (retired 2002).

He supported and promoted communitybased participatory research (CBPR) with American Indian and Alaska Native people and tribes, and did qualitative and quantitative research. He also was chair of the IHS Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Since "retirement," he serves Northwest Indian College, a tribal college and university (TCU), as human protections administrator and program director for its Center for Health.

His research and professional interests include: resiliency and strengths of Native people; CBPR; ethics of research involving Native people and communities; research by, with, and for TCUs; and the concerns and desires of individual and community participants in research.



Because he is a living kidney donor (nondirected, 11/2008), he also has both a professional and personal interest in the care of living organ donors before and after donation and the ethics of living kidney donation. He currently serves on the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) Living Donor Committee, and will soon serve on UNOS's Ethics Committee.

He and his wife, Carolyn Robbins, are privileged to live on the Lummi Reservation, with the proud Lummi people.