



Richard M. Church, Pharm. D.
Director
Office of Public Health Support
Indian Health Service

Richard M. Church, Pharm. D., was appointed Director of the Office of Public Health Support for the Indian Health Service (IHS) in 2004. The IHS is the principal agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive public health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Dr. Church is a native of Michigan and an enrolled member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Over his 36 year Public Health Service (PHS) career, Dr. Church has served in a variety of clinical and managerial positions at the local, regional, and national program levels. After serving in clinical practice assignments in the Navajo, Bemidji, and Oklahoma City Areas of the IHS, he assumed the Chief Pharmacist position for the Oklahoma City Area IHS. His national leadership assignments have included Chief Pharmacist for the IHS, Chief Pharmacist Officer for the PHS, Director of the Division of Information Resources, and Chief Information Officer for the IHS, as well as concurrent short-term national leadership assignments.

Dr. Church's career accomplishments include developing mission-oriented clinical service and practice roles for pharmacists. He played an active part in advancing progressive pharmacy practice positions that grew out of the IHS and were incorporated into the pharmacy profession at large. Building upon his clinical service foundation, he devoted another career segment to building an information technology infrastructure that positioned the IHS to take advantage of future technology innovations to support public health programs. In his present senior management roles, he provides national leadership in several critical public health support areas, including medical epidemiology; program statistics; planning, evaluation, and research; and health professions support.

He earned his bachelor of science and doctor of pharmacy degrees from the University of Michigan, College of Pharmacy, and he completed his residency at the University of Michigan Medical Center.

Dr. Church has been recognized for service as the recipient of a number of awards and honors. These include the Surgeon General's Medallion and the Distinguished Service Medal, as well as many other PHS and professional awards.

June 2009